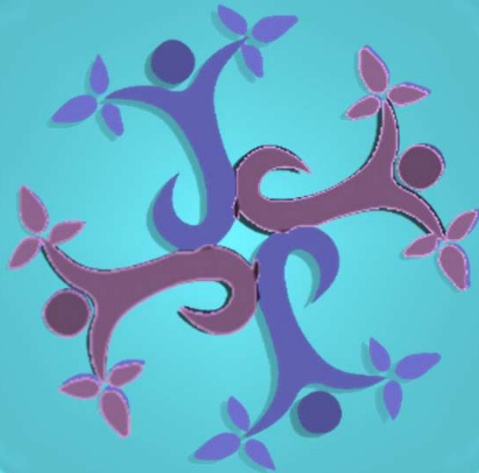


The Africa Multiple Cluster Gender and Diversity Office
presents an ICDL Round Table

Queer African Citizenship: Working through Unbelonging and Unhoming



Thursday, 1 February 2024
2 – 4 PM, CET

Cluster Knowledge Lab
Room S 58, RW I,
University of Bayreuth, Germany

This is a hybrid event.

Link: <https://uni-bayreuth.zoom.us/j/66815848399?pwd=bFAyQ0Uyb1RNOFdvT09oRVc3MXoyUT09#success>

Meeting ID: 668 1584 8399
Passcode: 897688

Invited Speakers:

*DeLovie Kwagala
Photographer and Artist*

*Dr. Anima Adjepong,
University of Cincinnati, Ohio,
USA*

*Dr. Stella Nyanzi,
Academic / Poet / Activist*

The questions of citizenship, belonging and rights are writ large in queer African lives, whereby Africanness and African values are sites of contestation and reflection as regards voice, agency and sociopolitical visibility. Anti-homosexual legislation and general social hostilities towards queer Africans (i.e. those identifying as gay, lesbian, queer, and numerous other non-normative gender positions) have contributed to large-scale unhoming of these citizens, through state-approved measures. Among the numerous unhoming discourses is the claim that homosexuality is 'unAfrican' and a 'Western import' threatening 'African values' (see Nyanzi, 2013 and Tamale, 2007) – an argument consistently roped in to justify anti-homosexual and queer-phobic criminalization, claiming that homosexuality and other queer identities were against 'tradition' (see Nyanzi, 2013: 957). Especially Sylvia Tamale's and Stella Nyanzi's scholarly works have demonstrated how heteronormative disciplining of queer African bodies serves to underscore patriarchy's use of sexuality as a tool to sustain gender hierarchies, while erasing queer identities in African contexts. Such attempts at erasure then renders questions of human rights and citizen rights for LGBTQI citizens precarious in that the status of the human being and the citizen are entrenched in heteronormative understandings of Africaness, which do not leave room to consider the humanity of LGBTQI citizens. This Round Table aims to address how these questions impact on queer-identifying African citizens in the wake of recent anti-homosexuality legislations in a number of African countries like Uganda, Ghana, Kenya and several others. Aside from addressing current intersectional oppressions faced by LGBTQI citizens in Africa, the three invited speakers will consider how the coloniality of gender (described as cis-heteropatriarchal constructions of sex/gender as integral to the racialised apparatus of violence in the service of colonialism - see Lugones, 2016 [2008], 2010) is critically challenged in efforts to acquire recognition of citizen rights for queer-identifying Africans.

Chaired by: Dr. Christine Vogt-William

Director of the Gender and Diversity Office

Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, UBT Germany



GUEST SPEAKERS, ICDL Round Table, 1 February 2024



DeLovie Kwagala (Papa De) is the founder of *Hashtagwhatnext*, a nonprofit community-based queer organisation that is focused on empowering queer youth migrants and refugees through activism, collective wellness and exploring safe pathways to safety through international collaborations and fundraising. East African Photography Award winner of 2021, DeLovie is deeply passionate about documenting African Queer realities and experiences with the dignity and respect that they deserve to defy stereotypes and provoke conversations around gender identity and inequality, notions of home and belonging, displacement and migration, and how all these impact the global climate change and human rights.



Dr. Stella Nyanzi is unconventional, anti-establishment, and a feminist activist against gender oppression and patriarchy. She advocates for human rights, gender justice and queer rights. Nyanzi completed her PhD in Anthropology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2008. Her widely cited research centres social anthropology, sexuality, youth and health policy, and she was one of the first scholars to publish research on African homosexuality. As a poet, she regards writing to be her greatest weapon against the oppressive order.



Dr. Anima Adjepong is the author of *Afropolitan Projects: Redefining Blackness, Sexualities and Culture from Houston to Accra*, founder of Silent Majority, Ghana, a nonprofit that engages indigenous Ghanaian knowledge and collective organizing to champion queer freedom in Ghana and Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Cincinnati.