



GENDER STUDIES SEMINAR

FROM SILENCE TO SALIENCE

The University of Malawi cordially invites you to attend and contribute to a seminar on the salience of gender as a field of study in Africa and academia. This seminar investigates the ways in which gender identities are understood, conceptualised and constructed in African communities. Gender roles and inequality are often believed to have persisted in Africa from the pre-colonial era. It is consistently argued that gender barriers hinder women's development and advancement in all aspects of life, whereas existing social organisations and structures favour men's interests. In most cases, gender relations in Africa are presented against this backdrop of inequities and discrimination against women.

This seminar aims at dissecting these presumptions and common preconceptions to ascertain how they shape gender identities and how people think about the dynamics between the sexes. In addition to this, it intends to make a contribution to the discussion regarding the successful institutionalisation and mainstreaming of gender issues. We intend to focus on how gender interacts with the myriad of societal institutions, structures, and social issues including but not limited to politics, policies and laws, the economy, environmental management, climate change, food security, education, culture, and religion. We hope to encourage conversations and collaboration on research in gender studies.

AIMS AND RATIONALE

The field of gender studies in Africa can be viewed within the context of the global gender and feminist movements that originated in Western countries. This seminar recognises the existence of such histories. Still, its overarching goal is to encourage contextual research to provide answers to the challenges faced by both men and women, including the youth, in African contexts. This consideration reflects the sustainable development goals' motto of "leaving no one behind". This seminar will bring together researchers, students and activists working in the area of gender and women's history, sexuality studies, and queer studies to examine myths, traditions, and customs that influence the construction of gender identities and promote gender sensitisation. This seminar is being organised to contribute to the existing body of knowledge and raise awareness about the significance of gender in social systems. The seminar aims at promoting research and discussion on the history of gender in Africa. We want to develop fresh evidence that will shape the conversations and debates that are happening right now around gender theory and policy.

We, therefore, encourage submissions of papers that take a transdisciplinary approach to the interconnectedness of these broad areas and gender studies in Africa. The papers should respond to the following thematic areas:

- Historical considerations of gender
- Gender and intimate violence
- Gender and health
- Gender and development
- Gender and pandemics
- Gender and religion
- Gender and literature
- Gender and sexuality
- Gender and human rights
- Gender equality and representation
- Gender and the construction of the private and public spheres
- Gender and education/curriculum
- Gender and climate change/disasters
- Gender and environment
- Gender and food security
- Gender and the mining industry
- Gender and energy security
- Gender and water governance
- Gender and disability
- Gender and access to land and its associated rights
- Gender and sustainable livelihoods
- Gender and Social protection
- Gender and law

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Scholars and researchers are invited to submit a 300-word abstract. Authors should therefore submit a title page indicating the title of the proposed paper, author(s), affiliation and corresponding author's email address. Authors of accepted proposals will be notified and sent paper guidelines. All submitted abstracts will be double-blind peer-reviewed.

Please send your abstracts (word format only) through email to genderseminar@unima.ac.mw copied to Dr Dorothy Tembo at dtembo@unima.ac.mw and pchiwaya@unima.ac.mw

TIMELINE

Deadline for the submission of abstracts is **31st May 2023**

Notification of abstract decision by **30th June 2023**

Paper submission by **31st August 2023**

Seminar will take place on **19th October 2023**

SEMINAR ORGANISERS

Dr Dorothy Tembo, Senior Lecturer, Theology and Religious Studies Department, University of Malawi.

Prof. Isabel Apawo-Phiri, Emeritus Professor, Theology and Religious Studies Department, University of KwaZulu Natal

Dr Elizabeth Tikondwe Kamchedzera, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Foundations, University of Malawi.

Dr Miriam Dalitso Kalanda-Joshua, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Earth Sciences and Environment, University of Malawi

Dr Wesley Macheso, Associate Professor, Department of Literary Studies Department, University of Malawi

Dr Tiyesere Chikapa-Jamali, Senior Lecturer, Department of Management and Leadership Studies, Department, University of Malawi

Dr Chrispin Mphande, Lecturer, Department of History and Heritage Department, Mzuzu University

Paul Chiwaya, Lecturer, Department of Education Foundations, University of Malawi.

Ms Theresa Chome, Lecturer, Department of Practical Legal Studies Department, University of Malawi