

DECOLONISATION, PLURIVERSALITY, AND AFRICAN-SITUATEDNESS IN SEXUALITY AND SEXUALITY-RELATED VIOLENCE RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Date: July 25, 2017

Time: 09:30 – 15:30

Venue: Conference Centre, Medical Research Council, Parow

**A colloquium co-hosted by the South African Medical Research Council-UNISA's
Violence, Injury and Peace Research Unit &
UNISA ISHS' Transdisciplinary African Psychologies Programme**

Colonisation, said Aimé Césaire, the anti-colonial Martiniquan poet, equals “thingification”. Sexual thingification – including sexual entitlement, rape and femicide – thus equates sexual and gendered colonisation. What is needed to truly decolonise knowledge and practice – that’s one question. In *Decolonising the mind*, the Kenyan writer Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o argued for African languages and cultures. Although imperialism may have introduced writing to many African languages, it denied many the means to master the world irreparably cracked by colonialism by restricting reading and writing to a small class of the colonised who preferred the colonisers’ cultures and languages. Concerned with the decolonisation of knowledge, the Beninoise philosopher Paulin Hountondji contended that the key problems of colonial science are “theoretical emptiness”, “scholarly extraversion” that tempts many African researchers to address themselves to non-African publics, and subordination to global markets of knowledge. Urging for decolonial delinking from the “colonial matrix” forms of power, the Argentine semiotician Walter D. Mignolo has suggested that decolonisation compels us to generate knowledge that supersedes the current Western hegemony. In light of such ideas by global antiracist, feminist, queer, and decolonial/ist thinkers, many issues confront researchers and advocates on sexualities and sexuality-related violence who perceive the fact of colonisation in knowledge making. These issues include how to share the knowledge and conceptual tools with the greatest number of people in order to enable them to live with dignity; how to conduct work that emboldens women, men and other genders of all sexualities to assert control over their bodies and decide on their desires; how to conduct research and advocacy that humanises rather than exploits. As such, the aim of this colloquium is to address these and other questions revolving around sexuality and sexuality-related violence in a context in which African-situated, pluriversal, and decolonial/ist thought is at once endorsed, weighed, and enlarged. The colloquium is intended to assist us to find ways to share the means and ways to work towards research and advocacy that are embedded in African publics, to overcome the dominant EuroAmerican hegemonic theories, research and ways of activation, to think in a world characterised by entanglement, to theorise from Africa for the world, as well as to control knowledge and the means of producing knowledge.

Please RSVP by 12h00 on Thursday, 06 July 2017.

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To RSVP and register (at no cost) for this Colloquium please [click here](#).