

Contributors

Editor

Amina Mama is a Nigerian-British feminist activist, researcher and scholar, who has lived and worked in Nigeria, South Africa, Britain, the Netherlands and the USA. She spent 10 years establishing the University of Cape Town's African Gender Institute and is founding editor of the African journal of gender studies, *Feminist Africa*. She authored *Beyond the Masks: Race, Gender and Subjectivity* (Routledge 1995), *Women's Studies and Studies of Women in Africa* (CODESRIA, 1996), and co-edited *Engendering African Social Sciences* (CODESRIA 1997). She is currently developing a transnational activist research initiative on gender and militarism and pursuing her interest in documentary film. She currently lives in Berkeley with her two teenage children, while working at University of California, Davis as Professor and Director of Women and Gender Studies.

Issue Editors

Yaba Badoe is a Ghanaian-British documentary filmmaker and writer. A graduate of King's College Cambridge, she worked as a civil servant in Ghana before becoming a General Trainee with the BBC. She has taught in Spain and Jamaica and has worked as a producer and director making documentaries for the main terrestrial channels in Britain and the University of Ghana in Accra. Her short stories have been published in *Critical Quarterly* and in *African Love Stories: an anthology* edited by Ama Ata Aidoo. In 2009, her first novel, *True Murder* was published by Jonathan Cape. Her TV credits include: *Black and White*, a ground-breaking investigation into race and racism in Bristol, using hidden video cameras for BBC1; *I Want Your Sex*, for Channel 4 and a six-part series, *VSO*, for ITV. She directed *The Witches of Gambaga*, Fadoa Films 2010 and is currently making a documentary about the life and work of iconic African writer, Ama Ata Aidoo, with co-producer, Amina Mama.

Salem Mekuria is the Luella LaMer Professor of Women's Studies in the Art Department at Wellesley College. She is also an independent writer, producer, director, videographer, and a video installation artist. Her award winning

documentary films and video installations feature Ethiopian subjects and have been shown internationally. Among the numerous honours she has received are: a Fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, 2005-06; Fulbright Scholar award, 2003-04; The New England Media Fellowship, 2001; the Rockefeller Foundation's Intercultural Media Fellowship, 1995; Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest International Artists Residency Fellowship in 1993; a fellowship at the Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College, Harvard University, 1990-92; the Massachusetts Artists Foundation Award in 1991. <http://www.salemmekuria.com/>

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French-born **Françoise Bouffault** has been employed by the United Nations in New York for most of her career. She is a writer and has also produced and directed a documentary about the Sabar dances of Senegal.

Abena Busia is an associate professor of the Departments of English, and Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, where she has taught since 1981. Born in Accra, Ghana, she settled with her family in the United Kingdom where she earned a degree in English language and literature at St. Anne's College in 1976, and a Ph.D. in social anthropology at St. Antony's College in 1984. Professor Busia is the co-editor of *Theorizing Black Feminisms: The Visionary Pragmatism of Black Women*, and *Beyond Survival: African Literature & the Search for New Life*.

Tsitsi Dangarembga, intellectual, writer, filmmaker, producer, culture critic, created the film production company, Nyerai Films based in Harare in 1992. Founder and director of the International Images Film Festival for Women, she is also a member of Women Filmmakers of Zimbabwe.

Lindiwe Dovey, born and raised in South Africa, is an academic, film curator, fiction writer, and filmmaker. She is Senior Lecturer in African Film at SOAS, University of London, and her book *African Film and Literature* (Columbia UP, 2009) won a Choice Outstanding Academic Title. She is also Co-Director and Film Programme Director for Film Africa, London's largest festival of African cinema and culture (www.filmafrica.org.uk).

Sokari Ekine is an educator and writer who has been active in social justice issues around education, race, sexuality, gender, militarization and technology for over twenty years. Sokari has been a regular contributor to Pambazuka News since 2005 and she has published both as editor and author on social media, militarization, gender and human rights. Most recently she co-edited *African Awakening: The Emerging Revolutions* and is co-editor of the forthcoming *Queer African Reader*.

Beti Ellerson is the founder and director of the Centre for the Study and Research of African Women in Cinema, a virtual environment which also features the influential African Women in Cinema Blog. She has published extensively and spoken widely on the topic of African women and the moving image and has taught university courses on African cinema, African women in cinema, Black women in visual culture and African visual culture. Her film documentary, *Sisters of the Screen: African Women in the Cinema*, is a seminal work on African women of the moving image. She was the 2011 laureate of the Distinguished Woman of African Cinema Award presented by Women Filmmakers of Zimbabwe and a member of the main jury of the 2011 edition of the International Images Film Festival for Women held in Harare.

Jihan el-Tahri is an Egyptian-born French writer, director and producer of several award-winning documentary films. Her most recent films are: *Behind the Rainbow* (2009) a documentary about the transformation of the ANC from a liberation movement to a ruling party; *Requiem for Revolution: Cuba's African Odyssey* (2007) and *The House of Saud* (2004).

Iman Kamel was born in Cairo and has followed interdisciplinary studies in art, dance and film at the Berlin School of Arts. She has travelled extensively in southern Africa and China. Her short films include: *Noara* (1995) *Khadega* (1995), *Hologram* (2002) *Nachiket* (2004) and *The Clouds Are There* (2006). Iman founded the Initiative Film Aktiv in Berlin to work creatively on projects with young people and immigrants.

Kwamena Kwansah-Aidoo (PhD, Queensland University of Technology, 1999) is Associate Professor of Marketing/Public Relations at the Faculty of Higher Education, Lilydale, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia. He has held full-time and Visiting Scholar positions at a number of universities (within and outside of Australia). His research and teaching interests span the fields of Communication, Media Studies/Campaigns, Risk Communication and Public Relations. He is the editor of the book *“Topical Issues in Communications and Media Studies”* (Nova Science Publishers, 2005). His current research focuses on issues of identity and belonging within the new African Diaspora in Australia.

Joyce Osei Owusu is a PhD candidate in Media Studies at the Faculty of Higher Education, Lilydale, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia. Her doctoral research explores the works of four Ghanaian women filmmakers; their contributions to Ghanaian filmmaking and African filmmaking in general. She holds an MA in Media Studies from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, and currently tutors in the Media Studies Program at the Faculty of Higher Education where she studies.

Sandra Mbanefo Obiagwu is a woman of many creative talents. She is a poet, writer, film producer, director and a communications teacher. Sandra is passionate about creating documentaries and has a special interest in portraying African women’s stories and images.

Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah is Communications Officer at the African Women’s Development Fund (AWDF), and curates ‘Adventures from the Bedrooms of African Women’, a highly acclaimed and widely read blog on African women and sexuality at www.adventuresfrom.com

Nana has authored a Communications Handbook for Women’s Rights Organisations, is co-author of *Creating Spaces and Amplifying Voices: The First Ten Years of the African Women’s Development Fund*, and editor of the forthcoming book, *Women Leading Africa: Conversations with Inspirational African Women*. She has also written for a number of journals locally and internationally including BUWA! Feminist Africa, and Dust magazine.