

## Contributors

**Akosua K. Darkwah** is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Ghana. Her research interests are gender and work and gender and the media. Since the pandemic began, she has turned her attention to the ways in which it has reshaped the nature and character of women's work. In addition to editing and contributing a chapter to this Special Issue, she has, together with Melanie Heath, Josephine Beoku-Betts and Bandana Purkayastha, co-edited a collection on women academics' experiences with COVID-19 titled *Global Feminist Autoethnographies during COVID-19* (Routledge, 2022). She currently serves as the Convenor for the Network for Women's Rights Ghana, Ghana's largest organisation of women's rights groups and individuals.

**Azeenarh Mohammed** is a trained lawyer and a queer, feminist, holistic security trainer who specialises in training not-for-profit organisations on tools and tactics for digital security, physical security and psycho-social wellbeing. She has worked as a state counsel, prosecuting gender-focused crimes against the state; brand manager for LoveNigeria Foundation; Project Manager for Gender Democracy at Heinrich Böll Stiftung, and as a digital security fellow at Open Technology Fund. Azeenarh is active in queer women's issues in Nigeria and has written on gender rights, queerness and technology for publications like The Guardian, This is Africa, Perspectives, and Premium TimesNG.

**Chitra Nagarajan** is an activist, researcher and writer who works to build peace and promote and protect human rights, particularly those of women and girls, predominantly in West Africa. She has been working in civilian protection, climate security, conflict analysis, gender, human rights and peacebuilding in northern Nigeria and the wider Lake Chad Basin since 2013. She integrates feminist methodologies and social inclusion throughout her work and is involved in anti-racist, anti-fundamentalist, queer rights and women's rights movements.

**Comfort Mussa** is a prolific multi-award-winning journalist with a keen eye for stories that expose social injustice. She is an advocate for women's and disability rights. For over a decade, Comfort has worked as a reporter, facilitator and strategist

on diverse women's rights, social justice and health issues. Most recently, she received the Commonwealth Point of Light Award from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom for her exceptional voluntary service supporting the most vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her writings have brought to centre stage many critical stories that would otherwise go unreported in mainstream media in Cameroon and abroad. These stories have inspired change and many important conversations. They have also earned her several global and local recognitions for her brand of journalism. To further amplify the voices of women and minority groups in Cameroon, she founded the platform Sisterspeak237 in 2014.

**Deborah Atobrah** is the Director of the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy, and a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of African Studies, both at the University of Ghana. She holds a PhD and an MPhil in African Studies from the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana. Deborah won the Rockefeller Residency Award at the Bellagio Center of the Rockefeller Foundation in 2012 and the Duke University Provost Travel Award in 2013. In 2015, she became a fellow of the prestigious Takemi Program in International Health of the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. She is also a Catalyst Fellow at the Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh. She contributed a chapter on Ghana to *Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World*, commissioned by UN Women. She is the treasurer of the African Studies Association of Africa.

**Dorte Thorsen** is Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. She holds a PhD in African Studies from the University of Sussex and works across the disciplines of Anthropology and Social Geography. She has done research in West Africa since 1997, starting with research on gender relations in rural households in Burkina Faso and moving towards urban areas, following in the footsteps of adolescent migrants, since 2005. Her current work focuses on gender and generational dynamics in mobilities and work, exploring migration patterns, aspirations for a different life and social change. She is the co-author of *Child Migration in Africa* (Zed Books, 2011) and co-editor of *Hope and Uncertainty in Contemporary African Migration* (Routledge, 2017).

**Fatimah Kelleher** is a pan-African feminist engaged in activism, advocacy, research, programming and advice across economic rights and justice, and education and

health. Her work in the economic space looks at African development trajectories. A dual national Nigerian, she has worked extensively on northern Nigerian women's feminist futures, but as a pan-African has worked across the continent. Fatimah works with varied stakeholders, including women's groups, wider civil society, NGOs, UN bodies, national/subnational government bodies and bilateral organisations. She works and publishes at the international level, with additional expertise in South Asia and the Caribbean. She is an Associate of the Nawi Afrifem Macroeconomics Collective. A published author of several books, technical studies, and articles, her work has been published by UNESCO, the Commonwealth and *Feminist Africa*, and her writing can be found in *The Guardian*, *openDemocracy*, *African Arguments*, *Equal Times*, and *Wasafiri*. She also writes and commentates on the African diaspora, political, economic and literary issues in the UK, and is a creative writer and scribbler of verse.

**Irene Appeaning Addo** is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana. Her research areas are Urban Housing Studies, Traditional Architecture and African Urbanisms. She is involved in several projects, including the Andrew Mellon-funded project on *Entanglement, Mobility and Improvisation: Culture and Arts in Contemporary African Urbanism and its Hinterlands*; the ODA-funded project on *Keeping Your Cool: Modern Architectural Heritage and Climatic Comfort in Ghana*, and the British Academy-funded project on *Adaptation and Self-Recovery Solutions for Housing Flooding Resilience in Ghana*. Irene has several journal publications and book chapters to her credit. Her recent publications include *Genealogies of Ghana's Housing Crisis: The Role of Colonial Interventions and Neoliberal Reforms* (International Journal of Housing Policy, 2021) and *New Homes for a New State: Foreign Ideas in Ghana's Public Housing Programmes*.

**Jacqueline-Bethel T. Mougoué** is an interdisciplinary historian and Assistant Professor of African Cultural Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, with additional affiliations in the Department of History and the Department of Gender and Women's Studies. She is the author of *Gender, Separatist Politics and Embodied Nationalism in Cameroon* (University of Michigan Press, 2019). Mougoué sits on the editorial boards for *Feminist Africa*, *Journal of Women's History*, and *Gender & History*.

**Leah Eryenyu** is an emerging political economy analyst deploying pan-African and intersectional feminist tools of inquiry to examine and understand systemic injustices and their manifestations. Her work looks at the intersection of economic exploitation and gender oppression, focusing on illicit financial flows and decent work for women. She is interested in challenging and dismantling structural inequalities in a world increasingly controlled by plutocrats. She presently serves as Head of Programmes at Akina Mama wa Afrika, where she provides strategic leadership to three programmes across seven African countries in the thematic areas of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Women's Economic Justice and Climate Action, and Women's Political Leadership. She has a proven track record in strategy development, conceptualising and convening spaces for debate and critical inquiry, and providing thought leadership through research and writing.

**Madeleine Wayack-Pambè** is an Associate Professor of Demography at the Institut Supérieur des Sciences de la Population, Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Ouagadougou. Her research covers a wide range of topics related to the demographic and social transformations of modern African societies, with a common thread of questioning and analysing from a gender perspective. Her research also addresses methodological and ethical issues related to research in sensitive or fragile contexts. She is particularly interested in understanding the interrelationships between these transformations, education and gender-based violence. Recently, her work has focused on gender socialisation, the impact of gender-based violence on women's economic empowerment and mechanisms for responding to sexual violence against adolescent girls and women.

**Mjiba Frehiwot** is a Research Fellow at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana. She received her PhD from Howard University, where she focused her research on the role of formal and informal education in building pan-African consciousness in Ghana from 1957 to 1966. Her primary research focuses on pan-Africanism, African political thought, decolonising evaluation and social movements in Global Africa. She is involved in several projects, including the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation 30th Anniversary Early Career Scholar Program initiative, *Afro-Asian Futures Past*, and *Re-Invigorating Humanities Research at The University of Ghana (Rehure)*, also funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. She released her documentary, "Umoja: Africa Must Unite Now" (2021) at the Kwame Nkrumah Intellectual Festival.

**Monique Kwachou** is a writer, youth worker and researcher of gender studies and education for development. She holds a dual honours BSc in Gender Studies and Sociology from the University of Buea, an MA in Education, Gender and International Development from University College London's Institute of Education, and a PhD in Development Studies from the University of the Free State (South Africa). Monique's research interests generally centre on African feminisms, engendering education, critical pedagogy and capabilitarian analysis of education and interventions for development. Prior to her current engagement as a postdoctoral research fellow with the Higher Education and Human Development Research Group of the University of the Free State, she worked at the University of Buea, Cameroon, as a full-time students' affairs officer and a part-time instructor for the Department of Women and Gender studies.

**Olabukunola (Buky) Williams** is currently the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Program Lead at Akina Mama Wa Afrika, a feminist pan-African leadership development organisation founded in 1985 by a group of visionary African women. She recently stepped down as Executive Director of Education as A Vaccine, an organisation that works with young people to advance their rights to health and protection from all forms of violence in Nigeria. She is a feminist and was named a Malala Education Champion in 2020.

**Oluwakemi M. Balogun** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Sociology at the University of Oregon. Her work focuses on gender, globalisation, nationalism, race, ethnicity and migration. She is the author of *Beauty Diplomacy: Embodying an Emerging Nation* (Stanford University Press, 2020). She is also the co-editor of *Africa Every Day: Fun, Leisure, and Expressive Culture on the Continent* (Ohio University Press, 2019). Her work has been published in outlets such as *African Studies Review*, *Ethnicities* and *Gender & Society*.

**Peace Kiguwa** is Associate Professor in Psychology at the School of Human and Community Development, the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. Her research interests include critical social psychology, affective politics of gender and sexuality, racism and racialisation, and the nuances of teaching and learning. She has served as Chair of the Sexuality and Gender Division of the Psychology Society

of South Africa and is recent recipient of the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Rising Star Fellowship at the University of the Witwatersrand.

**Shamillah Wilson** is a South African feminist consultant. Her areas of focus include movement building and feminist organisational development. She has worked with feminist organisations, movements and women's funds in Africa and other parts of the Global South.

**Simidele Dosekun** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Media and Communications at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her research centres black African women to explore questions of gender, race, subjectivity and power in a global context. She is the author of *Fashioning Postfeminism: Spectacular Femininity and Transnational Culture* (University of Illinois Press, 2020) and co-editor of *African Luxury: Aesthetics and Politics* (Intellect Books, 2019). She is a member of the editorial collectives for the journals *Feminist Africa* and *Feminist Theory*.

**Thobeka Nkomo** is an Associate Professor in Social Work. A researcher, author and academic at the University of the Witwatersrand, her research includes spirituality and health in the areas of forgiveness, gender dynamics, ethics and values, young women's leadership, HIV/AIDS and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights. She is an affiliated researcher with the Sex Rights Africa Network's menstrual hygiene project in partnership with the AIDS Foundation South Africa. She is actively involved in collaborative research with scientists across Africa. As a leader with a keen interest in developing the next generation of academics, Thobeka Nkomo is a member of the Women Intellectuals Transforming Scholarship in Education, a project which is part of a Southern African Development Community network of women academics.

**Tracy Jean-Pierre** is the founder of ENZA, an organisation that works to improve health and justice access for women in the Global South.

**Vainola Makan** is a feminist and gender and social justice activist who has worked in the non-profit sector for more than 25 years. She has a BA from the University of the Western Cape with Sociology and Psychology as major subjects. She is a Research Associate of Transformation of Education for Sustainable Futures. This research

was sponsored and coordinated as part of the South African hub of Transforming Education for Sustainable Futures projects based at Rhodes University. The research paper was delivered at the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa Conference, hosted by the Mauritius Institute of Education, and published as part of the conference proceedings. She has worked on gender training, participatory action research, women's empowerment, masculinity work with boys and young men, and the interlinkages of social justice, gender and environmental issues. During COVID-19, she initiated a Women Support Group and worked on a book project entitled *Web of Life Disrupted: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women in the Western Cape*. She was involved in building several grassroots women's movements, including New Women's Movement, and is co-founder of Sisterhood Movement. She is a member of the global network, International Network for Violence against Women, associate of Ubuntu Rural Women's Movement, and co-founder of the Grassroots Community Gender-Based Violence Alliance.

**Veronica Bekoe** was employed by the Ghana Ministry of Health in 1972 as a Biological Scientist. She was posted to the Public Health and Reference Laboratory (PHRL) and had the opportunity to work with diseases of public health interest, the main ones being Cholera and HIV. She acted briefly as Head of PHRL in 2005. Upon retirement in 2008, she joined the National AIDS Control Program (NACP) as the focal point for testing. At PHRL, she played a significant role in the training of health care workers nationwide in HIV testing and infection prevention and control. She was instrumental in the restructuring and establishing of public health laboratories under a USAID project. With the NACP, she played a major role in preparing several laboratories for accreditation of the WHO SLAMTA/SLIPTA program sponsored by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, USA.

**Vicci Tallis** is a lesbian feminist activist who is passionate about addressing women's rights. She is a Research Fellow, Humanities, University of Pretoria.

**Wangari Kinoti** is the Thematic Lead for Women's Rights and Feminist Alternatives at ActionAid International. She is a feminist and pan-Africanist who, over the last two decades, has worked in various programmatic and policy advocacy roles in national and regional women's rights organisations and in the international women's rights and social justice arena. She has led work on political participation, gender-based

violence, land rights, corporate accountability, extractives, unpaid labour and access to decent work, public services and social protection. Her research, analysis and ideas are anchored by feminist analysis and informed by feminist alternatives to redistribute power and resources to address global inequalities and achieve system change. Wangari is actively engaged in pan-African and South/Third World feminist activist spaces with an interest in contributing to shaping radical, transformative and caring futures. She is an Associate of the Nawi Afrifem Macroeconomics Collective.

**Wendy Pekeur** is a feminist and gender activist with 20 years of experience in land activism and labour rights. She served as General Secretary of the first women-led trade union in South Africa, Sikhula Sonke, for eight years. She is a Labour Law practitioner and does Arbitration and Conciliation at the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) for unlawful dismissals of workers across sectors. She serves as a Human Rights Monitor for the South African Human Rights Commission and is Human Rights Defender with the Women's Legal Centre. She is the Founder of Ubuntu Rural Women and Youth Movement, which is a vehicle for rural women's voices to be heard. She is co-founder of Sisterhood Movement, an organisation that builds leadership capacities of girls, and co-founder of the Grassroots Gender-Based Violence Alliance. She has won several international and national awards and recognition for her work. She was co-researcher for the research done by Ubuntu Rural Women and Youth during Covid-19.