

Contributors

Nana-Anna Abaka-Cann is a doctoral candidate in Education Policy and Leadership with a minor in Africana Studies at The Pennsylvania State University in the US. Prior to her doctoral studies, she served as a legal officer at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, where she drafted and reviewed institutional policies and navigated complex regulatory environments in higher education. Her research examines how gender equity is and is not integrated into institutional governance structures, with a particular focus on the legal and policy mechanisms that enable or foreclose equity. Drawing on law, policy implementation, gender studies, and Africana Studies frameworks, her work attends to how race, gender, ethnicity, class, and nationality shape the conditions under which equity is pursued.

Oláyínká Àkànlé is a professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria; a senior research associate in the Department of Sociology in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa; and a research associate at the Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research. He is a recipient of the Folke Bernadotte Academy Certificate of Achievement from the Swedish Agency for Peace, Security and Development. His research interests span migration and diaspora studies, gender, family, youth, childhood, health and sustainable development. He is the author and editor of several books, including *The Development of Africa: Issues, Diagnosis and Prognosis* (Germany: Springer Publishing, 2018), *Corruption and Development in Nigeria* (UK: Routledge Publishing, 2022), *Youth Exclusion and Empowerment in the Contemporary Global Order: Contexts of Economy, Education and Governance* (UK: Emerald Publishing, 2022), *Youth Exclusion and Empowerment in the Contemporary Global Order: Existentialities in Migrations, Identity and the Digital Space* (UK: Emerald Publishing, 2022) and editor of the *Ibadan Journal of Sociology*.

Christian Emmanuel Bruku is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Geography, Environmental, and Urban Studies at Temple University in Philadelphia in the US. He is an energy-environment geographer with research experience at the intersections of political ecology, political economy of development, and postcolonial studies, where he shows how peripheralisation is reproduced by different factors across radically distinct spatial scales. He closely engages power theories, including biopower and governmentality, inspired by the work of French philosopher Michel Foucault, and subaltern theory, inspired by Italian Marxist Antonio Gramsci, to examine these intersections. Christian is generally interested in how power asymmetries, path dependencies, socio-spatial justice, and equity issues are navigated through subaltern mobilisations, negotiations, participation, and resistance.

Olivia Burton is a feminist social scientist, focused on issues related to sexual violence, gender and migration, and citizenship from an anticolonial perspective. She holds a master's in Global Studies from the University of Cape Town in South Africa and a master's in Gender and Development from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex in the UK. Olivia has experience in women's empowerment, including working with girl survivors of gender-based violence and has a strong background in human rights research and policy advocacy. Her recent work has focused on resource mobilisation for gender-based violence prevention and supporting ethical storytelling for peacebuilding initiatives in Central Africa.

Lena Diakite is a third-year Liberal Arts and Sciences student at the University of Freiburg in Germany, majoring in Governance. Her academic focus lies at the intersection of inferential statistics and migration studies, with an emphasis on understanding population dynamics through quantitative methods. She is interested in how statistical modelling can inform policymaking on mobility, social inequality, and demographic change. With a decolonial orientation, Lena engages critically with Global South studies and international relations, centring historically marginalised perspectives. She aspires to a career in demography that combines rigorous data analysis with socially engaged policy-relevant research.

Faisal Garba is an associate professor of Sociology at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. His research focuses on African mobility, political economy, and social theory. He leads the Migration and Mobility Hub at the University of Cape Town. He holds a PhD in Sociology from the universities of Freiburg and Cape Town.

Oláyínká Damilola Ola-Lawson is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. Her research interests include migration, development, gender, family, and rural and urban sociology. She engages in critical research and analysis contributing to academic and policy discussions. Her works emphasise teaching and knowledge dissemination, aiming for impactful scholarship. She collaborates actively in academic settings and has published in numerous journals and books.

Stefan Ouma is a professor of economic geography in the Department of Geography at the University of Bayreuth in Germany. He currently serves as the director of the Institute of African Studies at the university and is a principal investigator in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence, where he is the spokesperson for the research section, Accumulation. His current research interests include inequality research, critical agrarian studies, African economic futures, and research on digital capitalism. Notable books include *Assembling Export Markets: The Making and Unmaking of Global Food Connections* (Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, 2015) and *Farming as Financial Asset: Global Money and the Making of Institutional Landscapes* (Newcastle, Agenda/Columbia University Press, 2020). Together with Christine Vogt-William, have published “Reconfiguring African Studies, Reconfiguring Economics: Centring Intersectionality and Social Stratification” in *Critical African Studies*.

Malaika Selasie Patel is an environmental and safety officer with a mine contracting firm, bringing a strong foundation in both field operations and

research. She has served as a research assistant across multiple projects, including JobAgri (with the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research or ISSER at the University of Ghana); the MecaWAT collaborative research initiative, Mechanisation of crop production operations and organisation of agricultural labour for the agroecological transition, involving ISSER and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development; and the INCLUDE Platform project, Equity in COVID-19 Mitigation and Policy Responses in Ghana, at the University of Ghana. Her contributions span qualitative and quantitative data collection, literature reviews, transcription, qualitative coding, and archival research. On selected projects, Malaika has taken on leadership responsibilities, overseeing the recruitment of transcribers and managing transcript review processes.

Mary Setrana is an associate professor of migration and social change and director of the Centre for Migration Studies at the University of Ghana. She is the International Development Research Centre Research Chair on Forced Displacement in Anglophone West Africa and serves on the Scientific Committee of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa. She has led major EU-, UK Research and Innovation- and UN-supported projects, contributed to national migration policies in Ghana and Botswana, and supported African Union frameworks. Her research focuses on migration governance, forced displacement, gender, and climate-related mobilities.

Dorothy Takyiakwaa is an assistant teaching professor of Africana Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at The Pennsylvania State University in the US. Her research focuses on African urbanities, migration and social mobility, social networks, gender, and sexualities. She explores these areas primarily from critical perspectives. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. Dorothy has published on the relationship between gender socialisation and gender-based violence, narratives and hegemonies within feminist discourses, issues of women's economic empowerment, women's leadership in education, commercialisation and agricultural livelihoods, African urbanities, and migration and social mobility.

Christine Vogt-William is a graduate of the University of York, England and a literary and cultural studies scholar active in the fields of gender studies, postcolonial studies, and decolonial theory. Her research interests include Black and South Asian diasporic literatures, science fiction and fantasy, and critical diversity approaches in higher education institutional cultures and contexts. She was director of the Gender and Diversity Office with the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence (2019–2025) at the University of Bayreuth in Germany. She recently co-edited and contributed to a volume on decolonising gender studies in German higher education, *Gender Studies otherwise?* (Wiesbaden: Springer Verlag, 2025). Her current research project concerns intersectional perspectives on biological twinship and complex embodiments in contemporary Anglophone novels.

Madeleine Wong holds a PhD in Geography from York University in Canada, specialising in gender and migration. She is an associate professor in Global Studies at St. Lawrence University in the US, where she engages in transdisciplinary teaching and research on gender issues in population and migration studies, and the political economy of development and migration. Her research interests focus on the gendered dimensions and experiences of skilled and professional Ghanaian migrants, especially their diasporic and transnational experiences.

Afua A. Yeboah holds a PhD in Higher Education from The Pennsylvania State University in the US and has over 15 years of professional experience in higher education administration at the University of Ghana. Her research sits at the intersection of postcolonial feminist theory and Black feminist epistemology to interrogate how colonial legacies impact the experiences of women, especially those who work in non-academic roles in African universities. Broadly, her research explores how colonial logics persist in contemporary African universities as living structures that continue to determine whose knowledge is recognised as legitimate, whose expertise is valued, and whose voices are permitted to shape institutional life.

Franziska Zanker is the deputy director of the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute in Freiburg, Germany, where she also heads the research cluster on Patterns of (Forced) Migration. She is the co-founder of the AEGIS Collaborative Research Group on African Migration, Mobility, and Displacement. Her research interests include migration and refugee governance, peacebuilding, and civil society, and she has carried out research in Liberia, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, and The Gambia. She currently leads a European Research Council-funded project on the political lives of migrants.