



African Studies Program

AFRICAN STUDIES GLOBAL VIRTUAL FORUM 2022-23: DECOLONIALITY AND SOUTHERN EPISTEMOLOGIES



ABOUT THE FORUM

The African Studies Global Virtual Forum 2022-23, led by Dr. Sinfree Makoni, seeks to decenter hegemonic epistemologies and to decolonize the Western canon to facilitate other ways/waves of knowing. Through a series of online conversations, participants in the forum will challenge the notion of the “universal truth” and discuss how the only truth that is universal is the truth of complexity. To decolonize knowledge, epistemic perspectives need to be pluralistic in ontologies, cosmologies, and insights, and the emergence of Epistemologies of the South is one such response to the decolonial turn.

Joining us from around the world, our speakers will discuss the multiple approaches taken in the humanities and social science scholarship to decolonize knowledges by paying attention to complexities and heterogeneities in disciplinary formations.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to our mailing list, please email ksh5415@psu.edu or vqm5235@psu.edu.

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RASHMI SINGLA JOHANNE ELBEK

**"A QUEST FOR EQUITY: DECOLONISING
GLOBAL HEALTH PROMOTION"**

Friday, May 5 | 9AM EDT



A central element of global health is the matter of equity; a discussion with roots in colonialist endeavours, equally relevant in all levels of the field today and in the future. By disassembling constituting elements of global health, it becomes clear how the contemporary field is based on and biased in Global North cultures and traditions, which frames the Eurocentric perspective as the neutral and the norm, and therefore solutions and strategies for combating global risks are customised to fit societies of the Global North. Contemporary interventions undertaken in the name of promoting global health represent enduring challenges and new trends relating to international efforts to improve health conditions, primarily in the Global South. This talk will focus on both sides of the encounter, the agents of intervention, health professionals and the targets, local populations emphasising ethno-racial representations and the burden of ‘otherness’ because the intervention power dynamics influence both. With a broad perspective on historical continuity and ruptures we will explore legacies of mistrust in colonial medicine, postcolonial approaches, and integration of the local, traditional health practices. In the quest for global health equity, we invite you to focus the decolonisation process through four levels: knowledge, leadership, policy, and praxis.

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