

CAPE COAST SUMMER SCHOOL 2018

ENGENDERED POLITICS OF PLACE AND BELONGING

Call for Application

BACKGROUND

Rights to land are closely linked to the membership and identification in a specific group. This may be the family, the clan, ethnic group or nation state. Discourses on land and land legislations are therefore connected to politics of identity and belonging. Recent debates on belonging as well as national and ethnic identity stress the rights of the indigenous over newcomers, the rights of citizens over refugees and the rights of farmers over pastoralists. This leads to innumerable conflicts, including civil wars, over land, eviction and displacement. Thus, land ownership and land rights play a pivotal role in the processes of peace building, repatriation and reintegration of refugees and displaced people.

These processes are also crystallized in very gender-specific patterns which are often neglected in researches addressing politics of belonging and place and the way land rights are distributed along the membership to specific groups. For instance, in the context of border crossing and reintegration of both voluntary and involuntary return migrants, the role of gender is visibly displayed in access to land.

The recent shift away from a gendered focus in land research is conflicting with the increasing openness, particularly among young African academics, to include a gender-sensitive lens within their research. This is not saying that there is a complete lack of gender sensitivity among young researchers carrying out studies on land tenure reforms and land use in Africa. However, the dearth of epistemological underpinnings and their related methodological applications in highlighting gender dynamics within interdisciplinary researches seem to constrain many young researchers working on the African context to be open to gender sensitivity in their research. Thus the lack of knowledge about feminist methodology and theory tends to lead to a continuation of gender-blind research. A related challenge is the insufficient grasp of appropriate methodological tools to rigorously interrogate the intersection of gender and other forms of social relations that serve to further disadvantage marginalised groups. For instance, the World Bank induced land reforms that currently engage several African countries have been noted for their inability to incorporate the appropriate gendered dimensions usually blamed on the stress of economic efficiency to the detriment of social gender relations that underscore land relations in Africa. It is within this context that the University of Cape Coast Summer School is being conceptualized.

This Summer School, the third in the series, aims to look at the connection of land policies and politics of belonging and how these shape gender relations and influence women's access to land. It will also focus on the intersections of the different forms of belonging and how this is displayed in struggles over land. The 2018 Cape Coast Summer School, like the earlier two, is a partnership cooperation between the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, and Friedensau Adventist University, Germany, and sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation, Germany.



OBJECTIVES

The University of Cape Coast Summer School serves as an exploratory platform and seeks to:

- Enhance the ability of young academics to include gender-sensitive approaches and feminist analytical tools in their research endeavour.
- Provide young academics with relevant theoretical knowledge on the gender inter-relations of macro and micro-level land policies and local livelihoods, as well as legal pluralism and migration.
- Encourage young academics, especially on the pan-African level, to create networks for further cooperation on studies around gender and land tenure reforms.

WORKSHOP CONTENT

A. Framing the Analytical Contexts:

1. Social gender relations and Intersectionality
2. Feminists epistemology and the foundations of gender sensitive research
3. Gender-sensitive research methodologies

B. Gender and Politics of Land and Belonging in Africa

1. Global (gendered) trends in land and belonging politics
2. Land legislation, identity and belonging politics
3. Intersectional analysis on politics of land and belonging

TARGET

- PhD students from African countries, Germany and Ireland working on issues related to the Summer School
- Early career African Scholars and researchers within the social sciences (Sociology, Economics, Political Science, Anthropology, Migration Studies, Gender Studies)

APPLICATION FORMAT

Interested person should download the application form from [here](#)

The filled application form should be accompanied by the following documents:

1. Current CV, highlighting research work or ongoing research activities
2. A letter of support from Head/supervisor
3. A one-page statement on what you expect to achieve from attending the workshop

Application should be sent to apply@capecoastsummer.school

IMPORTANT DATES

Application Deadline

17th November 2017

Selected Applicant Notification

15th December 2017 (**Only successful applicants will be contacted**)

Summer School Period

16th - 27th July 2018