



Call for Papers

2022 Philosophy Day Conference

Philosophical Reflections on Pandemics and Women in Africa

**Main Conference, November 17-18,
2022 Harare, Zimbabwe**

Hosted by



with Arrupe Jesuit University, Great Zimbabwe University, Catholic University of Zimbabwe, Saints John Fisher and Thomas More Seminary and University of Zambia



www.aju.ac.zw/worldphilosophyday

The 2022 Conference is Funded by the Humbolt Research Hub at the University of Zimbabwe

Conference theme

The effects of three most devastating pandemics to hit the world, namely HIV/AIDS, COVID-19 and gender-based violence, have arguably been more debilitating on women. Women's capabilities to deal with pandemics have always been governed by their relative status in society. The pandemics are occurring at the same time women are in a protracted fight for political, economic and social equality. The conference theme explores pandemics as a dynamic challenge of human development and social change, together with the potential of philosophy to offer viable insights to advance gender justice in mitigating the impacts of these pandemics. Focus on women for this year's celebrations has been prompted by the observation that the circumstances of pandemics intensify inequalities related to gender, the outcome being that of disproportionate impacts. As Wenham et.al (2020) argue "women are affected more than men by the social and economic effects of pandemics. They bear the brunt of care responsibilities as schools close (as what happened with COVID-19) and when family members fall ill. They are at greater risk of domestic violence and are disproportionately disadvantaged by reduced access to sexual and reproductive health services". Arguably, the HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 pandemics exacerbated gender-based violence, which Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (2020) calls a shadow pandemic. The number of women who are killed, maimed and psychologically harmed by domestic violence is on the increase globally. Research and experience both agree that both HIV/AIDS and the COVID-19 pandemics fueled gender-based violence and the trampling of many other women's rights, property rights, in particular. In Africa, the patriarchal leanings of most cultures makes the situation of women vis a vis pandemics even more fragile. We therefore aim to share ideas on how we can deal with the gendered effects of these three pandemics using Africa as our case study.

Conference Aims and Topics

The conference aims to bring together people from all over the world and from different disciplines and fields interested in searching for solution to the gendered implications of pandemics for women, particularly in Africa. The role of philosophy in developing and proposing ideal responses to gender inequalities and the impact of pandemics on women cannot be underestimated. Papers on the 2022 conference theme "Philosophical Reflections on Pandemics and Women in Africa" may explore, amongst others, the following topics:

- How pandemics affect women differently than men
- The impact of pandemics on women in the labour market and in the workplace
- Pandemics and women's agency and capabilities
- Domestic violence as a pandemic
- COVID-19 and domestic violence
- The impact of pandemics on women's mental health
- Pandemics and women's reproductive health
- The impacts of religions on women's well-being and rights in the face of pandemics
- Ethical issues on women and pandemics
- Women in leadership positions' voices on pandemics
- Policy analysis and evaluation with regard to the protection of women's rights during pandemics

In addition to individual papers on the conference theme, presentations by interest and advocacy groups on the theme are welcome.

Keynote Speaker

Prof. Vasti Roodt (University of Stellenbosch)

Programme Committee

Dr Evaristus Ekwueme, Arrupe Jesuit University

Dr Isaac Mutelo, Arrupe Jesuit University

Dr Isaiah Munyiswa, University of Zimbabwe

Dr Joyline Gwara, University of Zimbabwe

Ms Gaudencia Mudada, University of Zimbabwe

Dr Elias Konyana, Great Zimbabwe University

Prof. Dennis Masaka, Great Zimbabwe University

Fr Henry Wasosa, Saints John Fisher and Thomas More Seminary

Fr Edward Bingare, Saints John Fisher and Thomas More Seminary

Mr Tauya Chinama, Catholic University of Zimbabwe

Mr Arnold Zhou, Catholic University of Zimbabwe

Dr Emmanuel Phiri, University of Zambia

Conference Structure

In the main conference, in addition to keynote lectures and other plenaries, the conference may also adopt some parallel sessions.

Please also note the following:

- Since we expect a large number of submissions for this conference in Harare, **each person is limited to only one individual paper presentation and participation in only one group presentation.** Thus, each person may only make two submissions and these must be to different types of sessions (e.g. full paper and interest/advocacy group)
- **Full academic paper sessions**, for which single papers can be submitted. They will be presented in a session with 2 or 3 research papers (25 minutes per paper including discussion/questions). Please send an abstract of 250-300 words, with a list of 3-5 keywords.

The main criteria for evaluating the various kinds of submissions will be: novelty/originality; clarity and structure; significance/impact/relevance to/engagement with the subject matter of the

conference theme.

While the papers may come from any discipline and may be theoretical, applied, or policy-based, every paper must engage with, apply, extend, criticize, or offer insights specifically relevant to the theme.

Publication of Presentations

We encourage papers presented at the conference to be submitted for publication in a book. The proposed publisher is Routledge. Fifteen (15) presentations adjudged to be the best will automatically form chapters of the book and will be awarded prizes by the Humbolt Research Hub at the University of Zimbabwe.

Conference Registration & Scholarships

Registration and scholarship details will be posted on the website in due course.

How to Submit Your Abstract

Please submit your abstract of 250-300 words via the submission email:

worldphilosophyday@aju.ac.zw

If you encounter problems with the online submissions system, please email the conference coordinator. (isaiah.munyiswa@aju.ac.zw)

In order to ensure academic quality, all submissions will be reviewed by two reviewers, at least.

Important deadlines

July 31, 2022 – Deadline for Submitting Abstracts

August 20, 2022 - Announcement of acceptance/rejection

October 31, 2022 – Deadline for the submission of full papers

N.B. Please note that only those that would have submitted full papers will feature on the final program.