



Women of Colour Researchers in Scotland: A Mentoring Symposium

BSA Early Career Forum Regional Event

22nd September 9am-4pm

The Senate Room, University of Glasgow

Welcome, Registration & Coffee	9:00 – 9.30
Introduction – Dr. Ima Jackson (Glasgow Caledonian University)	9.30 – 9:40
Theme 1: <i>Social History, Politics and Movements</i> Discussant: Prof. Akwugo Emejulu (University of Warwick)	
The Politics of Sexuality in the LGBT movement in Nepal – Kumud Rana (University of Glasgow)	9.40 – 9.50
Transnationalism and Gender Relations and Ideologies – Jamila Hassan (The Open University)	9.50 – 10:00
Learning and Sharing Slavery History – Adebisola Debora Ramsay (Independent Researcher)	10:00 – 10:10
Displacement of Indigenous Communities from Protected Areas (PAs) of India – Shubhi Sharma (University of Edinburgh)	10:10 – 10:20
Roundtable Discussion	10.20 – 10.50
Break	10.50 – 11:10
Theme 2: <i>Media and Representation</i> Discussant: Prof. Heidi Mirza (Goldsmiths College, University of London)	
“I’m a Pak-American, Part Alien, Morphogenic Nerd”: The Importance of Being Ms. Marvel – Nyla Ahmad (University of Glasgow)	11:10 – 11:20
“By Us and for Us”: Black Women’s Media Usage in Britain – Francesca Sobande (University of Dundee)	11:20 – 11.40
Roundtable Discussion	11.40 – 12.00
Lunch	12:00 – 12.40
Theme: <i>Education and Labour Markets</i> Discussant: Prof. Vini Lander (University of Roehampton)	
Developing Employability during Study Abroad: The Perception of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Masters-level Students at a Scottish University – Omolabake Fakunle (University of Edinburgh)	12:40 – 12:50
Learning to Facilitate Musical Learning: Exploring the Attitudes, Perceptions, Opinions and Experiences of Teachers and Practitioners in Scotland – Diljeet Bhachu (University of Edinburgh)	12:50 – 13:00

The Immigration and Employment Experiences of Professional Nigerian Women in the UK – Joy Ogbemudia (University of York)	13:00 – 13:10
Roundtable Discussion	13:10 – 13:30
Theme: Healthcare and Support Discussant: Dr. Ima Jackson (Glasgow Caledonian University)	
Feels Like That Moment When the Waves...Constantly Tagged as Hard to Reach and Constantly Researched – Mildred Zimunya (Glasgow Caledonian University)	13:30 – 13:40
The Intergenerational Contract: Are Obligations and Expectations in the Provision of Conventional Filial Care Shifting? – Meanaz Akhtar (University of Birmingham)	13:40 – 13:50
Lonesome African Voice Investigating FGM in Scotland – Judy Wasige (Glasgow Caledonian University)	13:50 – 14:00
The extra that we bring - African researchers in Scotland researching the experience of Africans caring for Africans with HIV in Scotland – Miura Suazi Da Costa Lima (Glasgow Caledonian University)	14:00 – 14:10
Group Discussions	14:10 – 14:40
MENTORING CAFE	14:40 – 15:40
Closing Remarks – Dr. Geetha Marcus (University of Glasgow) and Francesca Sobande (University of Dundee)	15:40 – 16:00

Discussants:

Prof. Akwugo Emejulu (University of Warwick)

Prof. Vini Lander (University of Roehampton)

Prof. Heidi Mirza (Goldsmiths College, University of London)

Chair: Dr. Ima Jackson (Glasgow Caledonian University)

Social History, Politics and Movements

The Politics of Sexuality in the LGBT movement in Nepal.

Kumud Rana (University of Glasgow)

My project looks at LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) politics in South Asia with a case study of the LGBT movement in Nepal. The project uses in-depth interviews and participant observations among activists working on LGBT rights in Nepal as well as their allies within and outside the country to help understand how activism is shaped by these varied processes.

Transnationalism and Gender Relations and Ideologies

Jamila Hassan (The Open University)

The aim of this study is to understand the nexus between migration, development and gender. Using a gender sensitive approach, the study answers the question: how are the gender relations and ideologies (GRIs) of Sudanese women and men in Glasgow shaped by migration spaces. It draws on ethnographic material, and applying triangulated data collection methods: in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and participant observation. Reflexivity, however, is central in the research method.

Learning and Sharing Slavery History

Adebusola Debora Ramsay (Independent Researcher)

I am a Black woman, an African migrant living in a predominantly white space and I chose to revisit the history of slavery and share it with others. Researching and sharing this history has required emotional and physical labour, from which there is a tale to tell and more questions to ask – how accessible is this history and who gets to tell the stories?

Displacement of Indigenous Communities from Protected Areas (PAs) of India

Shubhi Sharma (University of Edinburgh)

My research focuses on displacement of indigenous people from PAs of India. Gender and environment as an issue has very limited literature available. I would look at implications of displacement in terms of gender roles and space and the role of agency in resisting the changes brought about by PAs. Site would be chosen based on recent cases of displacement and ensuing conflicts. Ethnography, interviews and document analysis methods would be employed.

Media and Representation

“I’m a Pak-American, Part Alien, Morphogenic Nerd”: The Importance of Being Ms. Marvel

Nyla Ahmad (University of Glasgow)

My current research focuses on the representation of Muslims in comics, specialising in Kamala Khan as Ms. Marvel. Khan not only contrasts the typical comics Muslim by being Pakistani, but also by being a positive representation. Provisionally, my thesis is divided into 4 sections. My final section discusses how Kamala Khan as Ms. Marvel has been received and considers the future of Muslim representation in comics.

"By Us and for Us": Black Women's Media Usage in Britain

Francesca Sobande (University of Dundee)

My research explores how Black women in Britain engage with media, as content producers and spectators, including in self-empowering ways which involve them creating images "by us and for us". This presentation focuses on issues related to the themes of "belonging" and "power", which emerged as part of this research, whilst reflecting on the experience of conducting this work.

Education and Labour Markets

Developing Employability during Study Abroad: The Perception of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Masters-level Students at a Scottish University

Omolabake Fakunle (University of Edinburgh)

Internationalisation and employability are two key concepts in higher education that attract the attention of educators, policy makers and practitioners worldwide. Tertiary-level student cross-border mobility is a main aspect of internationalisation and large surveys suggest that developing employability is one of the main motivators for students who seek to study abroad. Yet, there is a dearth of research exploring student perception of developing their employability during their study abroad. My PhD seeks to contribute to this under-researched aspect of internationalisation, with a focus on non-EU Masters-level international students studying in the UK.

Learning to Facilitate Musical Learning: Exploring the Attitudes, Perceptions, Opinions and Experiences of Teachers and Practitioners in Scotland

Diljeet Bhachu (University of Edinburgh)

My PhD research explores how different individuals tasked with the delivery of musical activities, where learning may occur, experience music in their lives and practice. I am focussing on activity in Scotland, in particular, primary schools as the site where most learners are accessed, and community music settings as similarly inclusive, group-based environments for learning. As a woman of colour in music and music education in Scotland, I have always been very aware of being the only person of colour in the room. As I work through the latter stages of my PhD research, I find myself challenged by my own complacency towards ethnic diversity in the earlier stages of the research process. I also find myself considering how I might begin to de-compartmentalise my life, moving forward, bringing my status as a woman of colour more consciously into my research and relationship with music.

The Immigration and Employment Experiences of Professional Nigerian Women in the UK

Joy Ogbemudia (University of York)

My research critically explores the experiences of Professional Nigerian women who migrated either as dependent or independent economic migrants, to work and settle in the UK. I examine why and how these women migrate, their experiences of integrating into the UK labour market, and their present situation under the global geo-political atmosphere where Brexit and Trump's war against immigrants seems to be the order of the day. I interviewed 30 women who were professionals while in Nigeria. The big question is "are we not globally missing out on talent and GDP because of lack of support for these women?"

Healthcare and Support

Feels Like That Moment When the Waves...Constantly Tagged as Hard to Reach and Constantly Researched

Mildred Zimunya (Glasgow Caledonian University)

There is funding and support there for when we are needed to fill identified gaps in access to services, in working to fill these gaps into services we are noticing what works – but when 'what works' moves from focusing on the people described as a 'hard to reach' to looking at the structures that maintain them 'as hard to reach' then there is problem. Stigma within and toward African community also represents one of the barriers for not testing; late stage of HIV presentation and discrimination against those individuals infected (Kasengele & Baillie, 2011). Disengagement may be further compounded by the way public sector health professionals approach ethnic minorities and asylum seekers (AS) living with HIV/AIDS (Bharat & Mahendra, 2007; Dodds et al., 2008; Karanwal, 2013; Irving, 20110).

The Intergenerational Contract: Are Obligations and Expectations in the Provision of Conventional Filial Care Shifting?

Meanaz Akhtar (University of Birmingham)

A considerable body of evidence suggests care provision for the elderly and disabled amongst South Asian communities is by large delivered by family members, mainly women of the household and supported by their social networks. Thus far, we have minimal understanding of if such customary filial care models are changing in contemporary western societies. As such my research examines cultural transmissions taking place within multi-generational households, with a particular focus on how young women experience the role of obligation and expectation allied to filial caregiving and the influencing factors in decision making when engaging in higher education and labour markets

Lonesome African Voice Investigating FGM in Scotland

Judy Wasige (Glasgow Caledonian University)

An African woman researching FGM in Scotland can be lonesome and emotionally draining. The demonisation and infantilization of African women and their cultures by white feminism is inflammatory (1) and can divert attention from the issue (2). Instead of addressing the violence subjected to women by FGM, one can be trapped in acrimonious debate over FGM (3). Once Hosken's publications (4) describing the horrors of FGM reached wider audiences in the West, it seems as though a voyeuristic obsession with exotic sexual cultures and an inspiration to save helpless African women from self-inflicted barbaric practices were initiated (5) and now omnipresent. The approach to my research has developed from working with African communities and is intended to investigate through continued engagement with FGM affected communities, as well as investigating the policymakers themselves (247)

The extra that we bring - African researchers in Scotland researching the experience of Africans caring for Africans with HIV in Scotland

Miura Suazi Da Costa Lima (Glasgow Caledonian University)

African health project was launched by Waverley Care, an organisation that provides support to people living with HIV and hepatitis in Scotland. The project started in 2006 and represents a unique approach to tackle Sexual Health and HIV issues among African communities in Scotland. The project has made significant inroads in reaching this unique community which often is subsumed within the banner of Black and minority ethnic communities but which faces multiple specific challenges. It is therefore proposed to explore the uniqueness of the approaches and interventions of the African Health Project which have enabled them to deliver this project. This research will contribute to the developing body of evidence which engages from a community perspective towards policy makers and health practitioners involved in developing services and workforce competence in the area of HIV care for the general population.