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DAAD ALUMNI INTER-DISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

*Theme: FALL[ING] APART? Inclusion As Intervention
Into The Nigerian Experience*

December 9 -10
2021

Day 1: Lady Bank Anthony Hall, Institute of African
Studies, University of Ibadan, Ibadan

Day 2: Initiative for Information, Arts and Culture
Development (IACD), Jericho, Ibadan.

DAAD Alumni Conference, Ibadan, 2021

FALL(ING) APART? INCLUSION AS AN INTERVENTION INTO THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE

In 2020, a DAAD Alumni Conference was held at the Initiative for Information Arts & Culture Development (American corner), Ibadan. The interdisciplinary conference brought together academics and other professionals to address amongst others the themes of insecurity and social cohesion in Nigeria. The state of insecurity in Nigeria is explored as multidimensional, thereby reaching a conclusion that Nigeria is indeed a risk society. As 2021 winds down, the socio-political and economic conditions defining the experiences in/of Nigeria(ns) as risk society has not subsided. Rather, there are new dimensions to this reality. Against this backdrop, and critical assessment of socio-political events in Nigeria, another interdisciplinary conference is conceived to engage and evaluate events in Nigeria like the October 2020 #Endsars protest, incessant killings and insecurity, widespread kidnappings, underperforming economy indices, and new waves of middle-class migration (quests). The living conditions of Nigerians and the volatility in the Nigerian space are often reflected via numerous public discourses and debates. As such, widespread agitations, rise of non-state actors and secessionism has become a prevailing experience.

In Partrice Nganang's "Une Question de generation" (2016), Nganang provides a nuanced way of reading the Rwanda genocide of 1994 as not exclusively or peculiarly Rwandan, he stresses that the Rwandan experience can be seen as a watershed moment in most postcolonial states of Africa. In this case, taking a reflective position, which rather than blame, acknowledges the conditions which led to the Rwanda genocide of 1994 as in fact still present in most postcolonial states of Africa.

As a further reflection of Nganang's argument, the protracted civil unrest being witnessed in the central Africa country of Cameroon since 2017 and known as "the Anglophone crisis" is a testament. Also relevant for critical reflection and reference is the revisit to the Nigerian civil war of 1967-1970. The Biafran war, for example, has become a recurring trope in the Nigerian public discourse - think of "dot in the circle"¹, #iamigbotoo², #NdiSpareparts. These discourses/hashtags are paradigmatic and representational imagery invoking discourses of collective memory, continuity, and ruptures. While the average Nigerian desires an improved social justice and greater

¹ 11th June 2021 - a Muhammed Buhari's reference to the agitating groups in south-eastern part of Nigeria during his interview with the Arise TV crew at the state house.

² Twitter Hashtag created by a Nigerian contemporary rapper M.I Ibagba in solidarity with the perceived marginalization of Igbos in Nigeria

inclusion on one hand. The ruling elite on the other hand complicates the everyday reality through sheer corruption and political impunity.

The objective of the 2021 conference is situated in the metaphor of the Nigerian as exhibiting elements of multi-layered tensions, disillusionment, and wide scale civil unrest. This conference takes the critical route to acknowledge and seek solutions to the conditions created by leadership and elite failure. Nigeria's challenges today are not merely the case of external aggressor or the colonial legacy, but rather is as a result of what Nganang refers to as cowardice, the vilest and the most inhuman conditions a government and the elite class can perpetuate on the citizens.

It is therefore relevant to discuss and provide another solution-driven intervention project under the framework of an interdisciplinary conference in December 2021. Within this framework, participants shall address the highlighted burgeoning anomalies from different perspective. The need to go beyond the existing and limiting methodologies that have given little or no attention to, for example, the inclusion of youth and women becomes relevant in the charting and envisioning an improved future. In practice, this interdisciplinary conference decentralizes the existing discourse formation and mode of knowledge curation by integrating local epistemologies as sources and centres to provide viable solutions to the different societal challenges.

More so, these attempts at alternative methodologies towards pragmatic solutions beyond the usual academic practice initiated the maiden edition of the Ibadan Knowledge Hub, which is a conscious curation of a symbiotic knowledge exchange between the facilitators and the participants. With 10 facilitators and 35 participants, the Ibadan Knowledge Hub aims to provoke a problem-solving mindset amongst the young generation of Africans towards a purposeful re-invention of Africa. Therefore, the participants of the Ibadan Knowledge Hub are carefully selected from over 100 applicants of different tertiary publication institutions in Nigeria, while the facilitators are both emerging scholars and young professionals drawn from different fields to facilitate a 48-hour intensive knowledge and experience exchange. Kindly visit the Ibadan Knowledge Hub webpage for more information: <https://ibadanknowledgehub.com/>

The thrust of this proposed conference is, therefore, to be a platform that formalizes and prioritizes voices from the margins, creating alternative and counter discourses towards creating a sustainable and preferable Africanfuture/society.

Oladapo Ajayi

(Conference convener)

Ibadan, Nigeria

December 2021

The Ibadan Knowledge Hub: Now is the Time to Cerebrate!

The fact that Africa is a continent of mainly youthful population is not *ipso facto* a cause for celebration if those youth become cogs in the wheel of political sycophancy, vectors of religious bigotry, subservient consumers of western culture and victims of inertia and deep-rooted neo-colonial inferiority complex. The Ibadan Knowledge Hub interjects and contributes to the growing trend of dynamism amongst contemporary African youth by bringing together a variety of skilled experts willing to engage in purposeful brainstorming and skills sharing/transfer. All over Africa, the youth have begun to subvert the oft-repeated mantra that they are the leaders of tomorrow and are rather positioning themselves as today's locomotive and purveyors of innovation, change, sustainable development, the quest for a just and equal society as well as contributing to decolonized global relations at the political, economic, and cultural levels.

On the continent, youth are forming synergies to turn the African renaissance ideology into a reality, appropriating the opportunities of globalization to foreground a society that responds to the challenges that are peculiar to the historicity of African societies as well as issues of a global nature. The Ibadan Knowledge Hub thus posits as a nodal point of cerebration aimed at engineering a pan-African transformation that is not decreed during the Head of State summits, but through the purposeful creativity of proactive youth working towards positioning Africa as a major player in the march towards modernization. And the axes of change and modernization are varied: from waste management, food processing, medical entrepreneurship, futuristic creative fiction, gender justice advocacy, responsible/purposeful utilization of social media technology, culturally tailored fashion, to soft and green skills development.

The transdisciplinary dimension of the workshop is quite promising and provides the participants with both conceptual framework as well as hands-on approaches to developmental initiatives with clearly defined outcomes. Through these workshops, the facilitators attempt to reinvent futures, brainstorm on the role of youth in national development, and redefine Africa as a locus that needs to chart its own path to progress. The workshop provides participants with conceptual tools for critical literacy, tertiary industry as well as other pertinent domains that drive self-enhancement, collective responsibility, and sustainable development in the 21st century.

The workshops equally encourage youth to envision new prospects beyond the frames of thinking provided by formal education, religious dogma or reigning political ideologies. The fact that the programme is led both by young dynamic experts who straddle the boundaries between diaspora and home, reflects a new breed of African youth whose quest for education is not the pursuit of individual comfort, but rather the convivial sharing of transnational experiences. I have no doubts that the Hub would be a lifetime experience for many of its participants. Its collegial format of the hub constitutes an African baobab tree under which members of the African society sit together to talk and concert eyeball to

eyeball over to issues of collective concern as well as an Athenian symposium whereby the facilitators serve as mid-wives of knowledge creation that combine theoretical reasoning with practical solution-oriented methods.

Undoubtedly, the hub will further birth joint projects amongst members to foster the agenda of its initiators and broaden the network within and outside Nigeria. While being a space, the Hub concept also underlines a temporal meeting point where undercurrents of thoughts find their appropriate vent as a matter of urgency. As Frantz Fanon puts it: “each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfill it or betray it.” Now is the time to celebrate!

Dr. Gilbert Shang Ndi

University of Bayreuth

December 2021

**FALL(ING) APART? INCLUSION AS AN INTERVENTION IN THE NIGERIAN
EXPERIENCE**

DAY ONE – 09.12.2021 (Venue: Lady Bank Anthony Hall, University of Ibadan)

Agenda/Speaker	Topic/Title	Participant(s)/Discussant (s)	Time
Arrival and Registration			09:00 – 09:30
Welcome Address and DAAD Remark		Oladapo Ajayi DAAD Lektor	09:30 – 09:50
Interlude (Performance)	Cultural Troupe	Curated by Akin Adejuwon (Obafemi Awolowo University)	09:50 – 10:10
Recitation of Keynote’s		Olamide Awoyemi (Knowledge Hub Participant)	10:20 – 10:25
Keynote Speech	“Our Ceiling is Not Made of Glass: Breaking Through Barriers to Women’s Inclusion in Political Leadership in Nigeria”	Prof. Remi Sonaiya (Former Presidential Aspirant)	10:25 – 11:05
Question(s) and Answer		Charity Jerome Abiola Oladimeji	11:05 – 11:30
Tea Break			11:30 – 11:50
Panel by Knowledge Hub Participants (Undergraduates)	Youth Inclusion and Representations	Abisola Lawal and Oladapo Ajayi	12:00 – 12:45

Feedback, Questions and Answer			12:45 – 01:00
Lunch Break			01:00 – 01:20
First Paper Presentation Abiola Oladimeji	“Inequality and Youth Inclusion in Nigeria: A World-Systems Approach”	Dr. Cyrielle Maingraud-Martinaud (IFRA, Ibadan)	01:30 – 01:50
Question and Answer			01:50 – 02:00
Roundtable Discussion Oba Badru Olawuni Bamijogbin (the Spiritual Head, Orisa Akire Temple, Ikire) Chief (Mrs) Aderonke Olawunni (Iyalaje and Yeye Osun, Akire) Araba Ifasunmade Olapade Asamu (Spiritual Head and Founder, Idi-Ikan Temple) Mosobolaje Ayoade Awogbade (Jagun Obaluaye)	“Reflection on Indigenous Systems of Inclusion: An Intergenerational Dialogue”	Dr. Alimi (Obafemi Awolowo University)	02:05 – 03:05
Question and Answer		Prof. Dr. Alena Rettova (University of Bayreuth)	03:05 – 03:35
Third Panel	The National Question and a Collective Future	Dr. Babajide Ololajulo (University of Ibadan) Dr. Jimam Lar (University of Jos) Dr. Adeyemi Balogun Dr Lohna Bohnkat	03:35 – 04:35

		Adeola Adelabu	
Question and Answer		Olalekan Oladipupo (Ajayi Crowther University) Micheal Olatunbosun (Splash FM)	04:35– 05:05

FALL(ING) APART? INCLUSION AS AN INTERVENTION IN THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE			
DAY TWO – 10.12.2021 (Venue: Initiative Information, Arts and Culture Development, IACD)			
Agenda	Topic/Title	Name of Speaker(s)/Participant(s)	Time
Arrival, (Registration) and Announcement			09:00 – 09:40
Paper Presentation Dr. Umar Ahmed (UDUK)	“Entrenching Culture of Peace and Inclusion Religious Tolerance”	Dr. Adeyemi Balogun	09:40 – 10:00
Question(s) and Answer		Dr. Chikas Danfulani (UNIJOS) Dr. Adeyemi Balogun	10:00 – 10:15
Roundtable Discussion Chief Ifamoriyo Ojoawo Agboola (Oluawo Ifa of Ile Tuntun, Nigeria) Araba Akinyele of Ibadanland	Indigenous Solutions in Times of Pandemic: Lessons Through Covid19	Prof. Felix Omidire (OAU) Abiola Oladimeji Prof. Debbie Klein (Gavilan College)	10:15 – 11:15

Questions and Answer		Prof. Dr. Alena Rettova (University of Bayreuth) Oladapo Ajayi	11:15 – 11:45
Tea Break			11:45 – 12:00
Paper Presentation Dr. Olusegun Oladeinde (Bells University of Technology)	“COVID19 Pandemic and Social Fracture in Nigeria: The Challenges to Building Gender Inclusive Social Policies”	Dr. Adewale O. Owoseni (University of Ibadan)	12:00 – 12:20
Question and Answer			12:20 – 12:35
Reflections: Gender: Alliances and Solidarity Oladapo Ajayi Charity Jerome		Ms. Temilola Ololajulo Dr. Lohna Bohnkat Dr. Chikas Danfulani Olamide Awoyemi Dr. Nikitta Dede Adjirakor	12:35 – 01:10
Question and Answer			01:10 – 1:30
Lunch Break			01:30 – 02:00
Paper Presentation Edmund Obilo			02:00 – 02:30
Question and Answer		Aderemi Ojo	02:30 – 02:45
The African Rising Narrative and New Wave of Middle-Class Migration		Prof. John Oyefara Ralph Oloke Dr. Nikitta Adjirakor	02:45 – 03:15

Abiola Oladimeji Seun Akinola			
Questions and Answer			03:15 – 03:30
Academics and Activism: Towards the Search for Pragmatic Solutions Oladapo Ajayi Dr. Nikitta Dede Adjirakor Mingqing Yuan Alice	Introduction: Featuring Research and Activism: Afrikanists Assemble Episode 7	Kaitlyn Blackburn Brady Blackburn Dr. Gilbert Ndi Shang Ghadafii Saibu Dikko Mohamed	03:30 – 04:30
General Reflections and Closing Remark(s)			04:30 – 05:30



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