Indiana University’s Graduate Students in African Studies presents its Eighth Annual Graduate Symposium

Non-Europhone Sources and Knowledge Production about Africa in the 21st Century

March 23 – 24, 2018

Featuring as Keynote: Dr. Fallou Ngom
Professor of Anthropology; 2017 Melville J. Herskovits Book Prize Winner & Director of the African Studies Center, Boston University.

Indiana University Graduate Students in African Studies (GSAS) invite proposals that explore the strategies and products of researching Africa within diverse global contexts.

This conference seeks to examine the many ways Africanist researchers address perspectives on knowledge production through theoretical, methodological, and topical approaches. How can and do researchers address the everyday lives of African men and women within the ever shifting global, political, economic and social orders? What conversations are needed between Africanist scholars about the western construction of knowledge about Africa? How can funding and collaboration on knowledge production about Africa help in the advancement and development of Africa? Arnold Temu’s (2000) questions at the turn of the millennium is very much relevant today. He asks, “Who then will write and speak for the African pasts in the next millennium? Who are…going to continue reproducing the guild in the continent?” What roles can Africanists play to strengthen literacy for Africans and about Africa? How can scholarship about Africa as a place in the world contribute to broader theories and methodologies of research? Can scholarship take new forms—through new media, literature, technology, or art—to address complex realities and combat traditional rhetoric? What kinds of sources, including ethnographic, archival, oral histories, clinical and cultural among others, are used to interrogate the relationships between Africa and the West?

Given the scope of these potential inquiries and the conference theme, this symposium encourages paper proposals from a wide variety of methodological, theoretical, and disciplinary backgrounds.

Possible topics may include but are not limited to:

- Postcolonial studies and theories
- Artistic and cultural representational practices
- Excavations, history and historiography of Africa
- Trade, business and economy about Africa
- Studies on Diasporic Policies
- Environmental Challenges and Global (In)securities
- Studies on documentation and translation
- Literature, media, and communication
- Language endangerment and maintenance
- Dynamics of social movements
- Development and Sustainability
- Politics, Religion and Migration

Submission Guidelines:
Please submit a 200-300 word abstract and current CV to: iu.gsas.symposium@gmail.com By February 20, 2018.