NIHSS CODESRIA: African Pathways Doctoral Scholarship Status Report

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Background

The NIHSS has partnered with CODESRIA to develop the *African Path-ways Programme* scholarship. The aim of the scholarship is in line with the mandates of the Institute and Council to promote and facilitate research in the humanities and social sciences as well as to explore new vistas in pan-African scholarship. Applications are invited from suitably qualified non-South African students to study full time towards a doctoral degree in the humanities and social sciences at any public university in South Africa. The scholarship, with a value of R126 000 and a maximum funding period of 3 years, is allocated to students whose research is focused on their country or a comparative project on the following broad themes:

- Pre and post-colonial states, institutions and local experiences
- Histories and legacies of liberation struggles
- Regional integration, new development and economic alternatives
- International political economy and the role of African humanities
- Heritage, identity and culture (including literature, performance, art and musicology)

With regards to the status of the NIHSS-CODESRIA African Pathways Doctoral Scholarship Programme, at the end of February 2015 a total of 182 applications were reviewed by a panel of academic experts in various Humanities and Social Science disciplines. Of the 182 reviewed applications, 74 were recommended for support. 69 of the awarded students have registered and claimed their scholarships during the 2015 academic year. The remaining five students were unreachable despite many attempts to contact them, and were subsequently rejected. To address this shortfall, special requests applications and 2015 shortlisted applications were considered, mostly from Historically Black Universities (HBUs).

Annual Progress Reports

The NIHSS opened an Annual Progress Report Call for the submission of progress reports with a deadline of 18 December 2015 for the NIHSS-CODESRIA doctoral scholarship programmes. Supported students are required to submit annual progress reports accompanied by their supervisor's motivation for the renewal of their doctoral scholarships. The reports must document progress made against set objectives, research outputs and research milestones. To date, 65 students have submitted annual progress reports and have been approved for scholarship renewal in 2016 academic year.

2016 NIHSS Doctoral Writing-up Workshop

As part of the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) efforts to bolster relevant doctoral academic skills and provide the NIHSS-funded students with the much needed time to 'write and reflect' on their doctoral research work, the NIHSS hosted Doctoral 'Writing-Up' workshop, on the 31 May-3 June 2016, for all NIHSS doctoral students who are currently at the 'writing-up' stage of their PhDs. There was wonderful participation of NIHSS-CODESRIA students with many progressing excellently and already at their writing-up stages of their PhDs. Several of these African Pathways students who participated in the Writing-Up workshop are registered across the wide spectrum of South African public univer- sities. The aims of this workshop were to:

- Provide the relevant skills and support that enable a positive doctoral writing experience.
- Enrich the doctoral writing experience via constructive feedback from mentors and peers.
- Provide dedicated writing space, free from distractions and interruptions.
- Strengthen high level academic writing confidence.
- Network and share knowledge with colleagues in and outside one's discipline/thematic area.
- Facilitate PhD throughput at NIHSS and the country.

The workshop evaluations outlined that participants found the workshop informative, engaging, particularly the plenary presentations, one-on-one feedback sessions with readers and networking sessions with fellow doctoral students. In this regard, we are looking forward to minimum time doctoral qualification completions from NIHSS-CODESRIA doctoral candidates.

NIHSS-CODESRIA African Pathways Doctoral Scholarship Call for 2017

The NIHSS opened the second NIHSS-CODESRIA African Pathways Doctoral Scholarship Call on the 28 August 2016 for submission of doctoral scholarship applications, with a submis-sion deadline of the 30 September 2016. As per the previous Call, the Call was extended to suitable doctoral candidates who are non- South African citizens, studying in South African public univer-sities and whose studies are located in the humanities and social science disciplines.

NIHSS National Doctoral Conference: 2-3 November 2016

The vision of the Institute was to become *the epicentre of scholarship, pedagogy, community practice and social responsibility for the HSS in South Africa, and Africa.* In line with this vision as well as one of the institute's key objectives to advance postgraduate scholarship through a range of innovations and collaborative supervision for our doctoral students, the NIHSS hosted the National Doctoral Conference under the theme – *Advancing Doctoral Scholar's Innovative Knowledge Creation in the African Humanities and Social Sciences* – in Johannesburg, from the 2-3 November 2016.

The NIHSS worked collaboratively with its partners, the South African Huma-

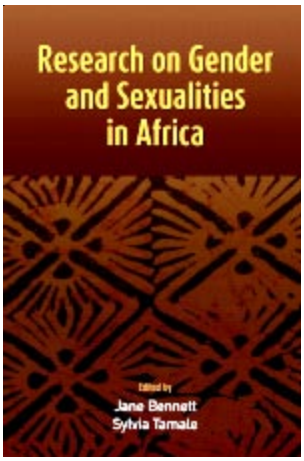
nities Deans Association (SAHUDA) and Council for the Development of Social Science in Africa (CODESRIA) to deliver the conference. It was guided by the following objectives:

- To encourage doctoral scholars to think 'out of the box' and in-depth to catalyse their research projects
- Present and showcase doctoral students research projects to date
- To strengthen the NIHSS Regional doctoral schools and reconnect with mentors
- Establish a network of NIHSS doctoral school communities who support and nurture each other across institutions and disciplines
- Foster engagement between all NIHSS partners

We invite, the executive director and relevant CODESRIA representatives, to join the NIHSS in celebrating the second NIHSS National Doctoral Conference which will gather all its current 454 (380 NIHSS-SAHUDA and 74 NIHSS-CODESRIA) scholarship holders together under one roof to engage in scholar-ship, network and collaborate with fellow HSS scholars.

Research on Gender and Sexualities in Africa

Jane Bennett & Sylvia Tamale

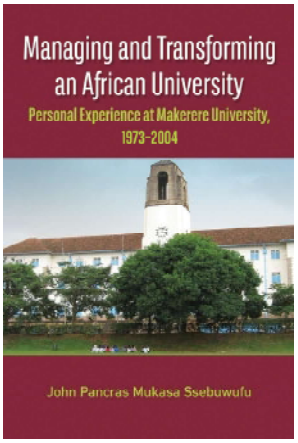


This collection comprises a diverse and stimulating collection of essays on questions of gender and sexualities, crafted by both established and younger researchers. The collection includes fascinating insights into topics as various as the popularity of thong underwear in urban Kenya, the complexity of Tanzanian youth's negotiation of HIV-cultures, the dialogues between religion and controversial questions in sexualities activism, and the meaning of living as a Zimbabwean girl, HIV-positive because her mother had no access during pregnancy to Neviropine. Some pieces deepen contemporary debates, others initiate new questions. The collection is edited by Professor Sylvia Tamale (editor of *African Sexualities*), and Professor Jane Bennett (co-editor, with Charmaine Pereira) of *Jacketed women: Researching the politics of Gender and Sexualities in African Contexts*), and seeks to sustain and envigorate research, policy-making and continentally-focused thought on difficult, yet compelling, realities.

Managing and Transforming an African University

Personal Experience at Makerere University, 1973–2004

John Pankras Mukasa Ssebuwufu



Makerere is one of the oldest and most enduring African educational institutions. Established in 1922, it has survived many odds and emerged as a true centre of academic excellence whose impact extends far beyond the borders of Uganda and Africa. This book chronicles the experience of Makerere University's eighth Vice Chancellor. It provides a vivid account of his stewardship, over a period of three decades from 1973 to 2004, and highlights the challenges of managing an African university. The book is a rich historical document and a valuable resource material.