



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO

الجامعة الأمريكية بالقاهرة

AUC International Conference on Research in African Challenges (ICRAC)

Track H2: Economies of Poverty

SUB-TRACK H2: GENDERING AGENCY AND ECONOMIES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH.

Chair: Dr. Holly Oberle

Co-chair: Dr. Amber Murrey-Ndewa

In honor of its Centennial celebration and its annual international conference series, the American University in Cairo will host the 2019 International Conference on Research in African Challenges with the broad theme of “No Poverty.” AUC is among the premier research universities in the Middle East as well as Africa and thus, is in a unique position to host an interdisciplinary conversation on this vital topic. The conference aims towards tackling the broad theme from a variety of perspectives representing the various departments and Schools at AUC. The goal of the conference is to provide a comprehensive discussion on poverty and social mobility in light of the Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN in 2015.

In conjunction with the larger conference, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences invite submissions on the sub-theme “Gendering Agency and Economies in the Global South.” This sub-track will focus on the cultural and political structures that underlie economic inequality between men and women, as well as how those structures work in constructing “masculine” and “feminine” spaces in the Global South. While feminist approaches have proliferated and have become widely appreciated throughout the social sciences, this sub-track seeks to utilize as well as problematize the standard “feminization of poverty” approach. We seek innovative research that considers other factors alongside gender such as age, ethnicity, and sexuality, as well as the socio-economic pressures and inequalities experienced by men. We are also interested in the intersection between the “discourses of the everyday” and the “everyday lived experiences” of men and women in the Global South, and “official” discourses of poverty alleviation embedded in governance structures such as the IMF, the state and the UN. How does gender inform processes of resistance to, as well as compliance with, development programs such as the SDGs, structural adjustment policies, multilateral infrastructure projects, and other more recent phenomena such as microfinance and crowd-funding? Are these macro and micro development processes creating new vocabularies of agency, dissent, or identity? This sub-track invites research from all disciplinary backgrounds as well as methodological orientations. Senior researchers, as well as junior faculty, PhD and MA students, recent graduates, or practitioners and activists in the field are welcome to apply.

As such, we invite proposals that draw from feminist theories and politics, intersectionality, postcolonial and decolonial thought, queering frameworks and other critical approaches to address themes and topics related to, but not limited to, the following:

- Official narratives of development and/or equality and/or empowerment
- Alternative knowledges of wellbeing, poverty, and economic justice
- Ongoing effects of the Great Recession, food and fuel hikes and strikes



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- Resurgence of corporate- and state-extractions and implications for gender relations and identities
- Community action, social movements, and resistance
- African and Arab environmental politics, feminist political ecologies, and ecocriticism
- Women's leadership and political participation
- Gender-based violence and women's movements (1in9 movement, #EndRapeCulture, etc.)
- Online activism, student and youth resistance
- Visual art, music videos, and other gendered cultural representations of poverty, affluence, and resistance
- Forced as well as voluntary migration,
- Decolonizing refugee and border studies

Biographies

Dr. Holly Oberle is an assistant professor in the department of political science at AUC. She received a BA in International Relations and Gender and Women's Studies from Knox College in Illinois, an MA in Global Governance from Jacobs University in Bremen, Germany, and a PhD in Transnational Studies from Freie Universität in Berlin. Her research focuses on American foreign policy and feminist theory. She completed research and teaching fellowships at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh, where she taught a variety of courses including "Gender, Justice and Violence," and "Introduction to Global Studies and International Relations." She recently won an Emerging Scholar Award from the International Studies Association, and is the author of the book *College Abroad* and a contributing author to the volume *Web Writing*. At AUC, she teaches courses such as "Introduction to International Relations" and "International Security," and started an interdisciplinary working group of faculty concerned with issues related to gender and women's studies.

Dr. Amber Murrey-Ndewa

A decolonial political geographer with interests in environmental justice, resistance studies, and social change, Amber is an Associate Professor of Human Geography at the University of Oxford. She is the editor of "*A Certain Amount of Madness: The Life, Politics and Legacy of Thomas Sankara*" (2018 with Pluto Press) and has authored more than a dozen articles and chapters on racism, resistance, extractive capitalism, and decolonial ethics in the social sciences. Her most recent publications include "Slow Dissent and 'Permanent Counterrevolution' in Africa" in the *Review of African Political Economy* (2019), "When Spider Webs Unite, They Can Tie Up a Lion": Anti-Racism, Decolonial Options and Theories from the South" in the *Routledge Handbook of South-South Relations* (2019), and "Constant Questioning On-and-Off the Page: Race, Decolonial Ethics and Women Researching in Africa" in *Women Researching in Africa: The Impact of Gender* (2018).