

# Contributors

## Issue Co-Editors

**Hakima Abbas** is a political scientist, policy analyst and activist. She has been active in struggles for social justice for over fifteen years. Her work as a trainer, strategist and researcher has focused on strengthening and supporting movements for transformation in Africa and the Middle East. Hakima is the editor and author of various publications and articles, including: *Africa's Long Road to Rights*, *Aid to Africa: Redeemer or Coloniser?* (with Yves Niyiragira), *From Roots to Branches: The African Diaspora in a Union Government for Africa*, *People-led Transformation: African futures* and the *Queer African Reader* (with Sokari Ekine). She is on the editorial collective of *The Feminist Wire* and serves as a board member to the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Eastern Africa office, the African Sex Workers Alliance and Greenpeace Africa.

**Amina Mama**, founding editor of *Feminist Africa*, researcher, scholar and feminist, has worked in various European, African and U.S. tertiary institutions, developing transformative research and teaching methodologies. She authored *Beyond the Masks: Race, Gender and Subjectivity* (Routledge 1995), many articles, and co-edited *Engendering African Social Sciences* (CODESRIA 1997). Following ten years as the University of Cape Town's first Chair in Gender Studies (1999-2009), she was the first Barbara Lee Distinguished Chair at Mills College (2007-2009). She is currently Professor in Women and Gender Studies and co-director of the Social Justice Initiative at University of California, Davis. Key teaching and research areas are feminist theory and methodology, colonialism, militarism, globalisation, and women's movements.

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**Josephine Ahikire** is an Associate Professor at the School of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University and Executive Chair, Centre for Basic Research (CBR), a leading research centre in Kampala, which has over the years conducted cutting edge research and nurtured many intellectuals in Uganda and beyond. Ahikire has over the years worked in the area of feminist political

theory and has extensively published works on women and politics, labour and urban culture. She has led various research teams on gender and land, elections, women and parliamentary performance, gender and the politics of access and many other areas connected with livelihood and social justice. She is co-editor of a recently published book entitled: *Gender, Poverty and Social Transformation: Reflections on Fractures and Continuities in Contemporary Uganda*, by Fountain Publishers Kampala, Uganda. Ahikire is an active member of the women's movement.

**Carole Boyce Davies** is Professor of Africana Studies and English at Cornell University. She is author of *Left of Karl Marx. The Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones* (2008) and *Black Women, Writing and Identity: Migrations of the Subject*, (1994) and has edited the following: *Ngambika. Studies of Women in African Literature* (1986); *Out of the Kumbula: Caribbean Women and Literature* (1990); and the two-volume *Moving Beyond Boundaries* (1995): *International Dimensions of Black Women's Writing* (volume 1), and *Black Women's Diasporas* (volume 2). She is co-editor with Ali Mazrui and Isidore Okpewho of *The African Diaspora: African Origins and New World Identities* (1999) and *Decolonizing the Academy. African Diaspora Studies* (2003) and general editor of the three volume *The Encyclopaedia of the African Diaspora* (Oxford: ABC-CLIO, 2008) and of *Claudia Jones – Beyond Containment: Autobiographical Reflections, Essays, and Poems* (Oxford: Ayebia, 2011). Her recent work is *Caribbean Spaces. Escape Routes from Twilight Zones* (Illinois, 2013).

**Maxine Craig** is Professor and Director of the Women and Gender Studies program at the University of California, Davis. She received her doctorate in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of *Sorry I Don't Dance: Why Men Refuse to Move* (Oxford University Press 2013). *Sorry I Don't Dance* takes readers to U.S. dance floors from 1900 to the present to see the production of race, gender, sexuality, and class as purportedly timeless and natural categories. *Sorry I Don't Dance* was the winner of the 2014 Best Publication Award given by the American Sociological Association's section on Body and Embodiment. Her book, *Ain't I a Beauty Queen? Black Women, Beauty, and the Politics of Race*. (Oxford University Press 2002) won the Best Book of 2002 award on the Political History of

Ethnic and Racial Minorities in the U.S by the Section on Race, Ethnicity, and Politics of the American Political Science Association. Her most recent project is an ethnographic study of public school students who use public transit in their journeys to and from school. Professor Craig is a deputy editor of *Gender & Society*.

Simidele Dosekun is a PhD candidate in Culture, Media and Creative Industries at King's College London. She has a BA from Harvard and a Research Masters Degree in Gender and Transformation from the University of Cape Town. Her current research concerns new styles of feminine self-presentation and subjectivity among young women in Lagos, Nigeria. She has served as a member of the *Feminist Africa* editorial team, and is currently the Reviews Editor.

Aliou Ly, Assistant Professor at Middle Tennessee State University, is a historian of colonial and post-colonial West Africa, specialising in the political history of Guinea Bissau, with a focus on the meaning of women's participation in national liberation struggles. His research explores the ways in which a focus on the perspective of women fighters leads to re-writing current historical narratives of the Guinea Bissau national liberation war. In addition to considering women as active agents in reshaping the narrative of the war, Ly also take seriously the manner in which gender – manifest in women's concerns for family and community motivate their participation in liberation movements. He examines the ambiguous relations between African national liberation movements and movements for women's rights and emancipation within those movements. Women's experiences serve to refocus the historiography of national liberation struggles on lived material realities rather than clichéd political abstractions. His current research examines gendered patterns of migration and changing gender relations in Guinea Bissau.

Amira Osman holds a Ph.D. in Peace Studies from the University of Bradford, UK; and a double Masters in Rural Development and Gender and Development from the University of Sussex, UK. Her BA is in Agricultural Science. She is a founding member of the Gender Centre for Research and Training (GCRT) in Sudan, a former Council Member of the International Peace Resarci

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**Kenne Mwikya** is a student at the Kenyatta University School of Law. His research interests include documenting and interrogating the intersections of law, culture and religion and how these affect LGBTIQ rights activism in Kenya and Uganda. He has previously worked with Kenya’s tax justice movement and was a contributor to the *Queer African Reader*.

**Danai Mupotsa** is a PhD researcher in the Department of African Literature at the University of the Witwatersrand and a fellow of the National Research Foundation Chair in “Local Histories, Present Realities.” Her interests are broad, including women, gender and sexualities, queer theories and critical race theory. Her current work examines the “white wedding” in South Africa.

**Rhoda Reddock** is professor of Gender, Social Change and Development and deputy campus principal of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus and former head of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies and lecturer in sociology. She is an activist in the Caribbean women’s movement and founding member and first chair of the Caribbean Association or Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA). A former chair of Research Committee-32 (Women and Society) of the International Sociological Association (1994-1998) she has also served on the Council of the Caribbean Studies Association. She has numerous publications including *Women, Labour and Politics in Trinidad and Tobago: A History*, Zed Books, 1994 which was named a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Book for 1995, *Plantation Women: International Experiences*, Berg, 1998 co- edited with Shobhita Jain, *Caribbean Sociology: Introductory Readings* edited with Christine Barrow, 2000 winner of the best-selling textbook award of 2007, and the edited collection *Interrogating Caribbean Masculinities*, The UWI Press, 2004 and most recently the co-edited volume, *Sex Power and Taboo*, Ian Randle, 2009.

**Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah** is a Feminist Activist, Communications Professional, Entrepreneur and a Writer. Nana works as a Communications Specialist at the African Women's Development Fund, and is an award winning blogger whose opinion pieces are widely published in a range of online and offline media. Nana has authored a '*Communications Handbook for Women's Rights Organisations*', is co-author of '*Creating Spaces and Amplifying Voices: The First Ten Years of the African Women's Development Fund*', and editor of '*Women Leading Africa: Conversations with Inspirational African Women*'. She has written for a number of magazines including BBC Focus on Africa, New African Woman, and DUST magazine. Nana holds a Diploma in Performance Coaching, a Post Graduate Certificate in Education, is a graduate of the University of North London with a BSc (Hons) in Communications and Cultural Studies and holds a MSc in Gender and Development from the London School of Economics.

**Dzodzi Tsikata**, Vice-President of CODESRIA, is Associate Professor at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) at the University of Ghana. Her research is in the areas of gender and development policies and practices; the politics of land tenure reforms and large-scale commercial land deals; informalisation and its implications for decent work; and agrarian livelihood systems. She has coordinated various research projects and has several publications on these subjects. She is the co-editor (with Pamela Golah) of the book *Land Tenure, Gender and Globalisation: Research and Analysis from Africa, Asia and Latin America* (Zubaan, 2010) and a guest editor (with Dede Esi Amanor Wilks) of a Feminist Africa issue on *Land, Labour and Gendered Livelihoods* (2009). Dzodzi is a member of the editorial advisory group of several journals, including *Feminist Africa*, and a member of various associations and research networks.