

Symposium

## **My Feminism is Intersectional**

LGBTIQ\* Struggles and Reproductive Rights in Africa and the Global North

Wednesday, 27th June 2018

Werkstatt der Kulturen, Wissmannstr. 32, 12049 Berlin (near U-Hermannplatz)

In cooperation with Werkstatt der Kulturen

### **Background**

While Feminism is an umbrella of movements that recognizes the various conditions in which women live, struggle and love, it is also its own greatest asset to respond to oppression and fight for women's emancipation, liberation and equality. Intersectional feminism recognizes that certain groups of people face multi-layered identities and face interrelated repressions in life. It is within this frame of feminism that the struggle and activism of sexual minorities in Africa, who face homo/transphobia, discrimination and repression, has to be understood.

In 'Western' (Global Northern) discourses in academia, activist interventions or political statements, Africa (as the Global South more generally) is portrayed as patriarchal, traditionalist, homophobic and as being the antidote to a 'progressive' West/North when it comes to questions of Gender and LGBTIQ\*. These projections ignore the fact that the repression of sexual and reproductive rights in Africa correlates in manifold ways with colonial history and global inequalities.

Therefore, feminist struggles for equal sexual and reproductive rights need to account for the entanglements between the so-called North and South when it comes to both repression and emancipation. We need to take seriously the diverse experiences and expertise of African activists and thinkers and aim for dialogue between African/Afro-diasporic and 'Western' activism.

Information:

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Programme

- 10-10:30h            Welcome
- Peggy Piesche** (Gunda-Werner-Institute & Heinrich-Böll-Foundation Berlin)  
                         **Claudia Simons** (Heinrich-Böll-Foundation Berlin)
- 10 :30-12:00h        Panel I: **Feminism and LGBTIQ\* struggles in Africa and the Global North - Introduction**
- Zethu Matebeni** (University of Cape Town)
- Skye Chirape** (Independent Scholar Visual Activist, Zimbabwe/UK)
- Chair: **Peggy Piesche** (Gunda-Werner-Insitute & Heinrich-Böll-Foundation Berlin)
- 12:00-13:00h        Lunch Break
- 13:00-15:00h        Panel II: **Reproductive Justice & LGBTIQ\* Activism in African/Afro-diasporic Connection**
- Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah** (Association for Women's Rights in Development, Ghana)
- Maisha-Maureen Auma** (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin/ Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal)
- Melody Makeda Ledwon** (Familienplanungszentrum Balance, Berlin)
- Chair: **Peggy Piesche** (Gunda-Werner-Insitute & Heinrich-Böll-Foundation Berlin)
- 15:00-15:15h        Coffee Break
- 15:15-17:15h        Fishbowl (short inputs followed by discussion): **Possibilities, limits and pitfalls of transnational alliances with regard to queer and feminist politics, sexual and reproductive rights**
- With 5-minutes pitches by:
- Paula Assebuji** (Heinrich-Boell-Foundation Capetown)
- Mikael Owunna** (Photographer, USA)
- Katja Kinder** (Generation ADEFRA, Berlin)
- Chair: **Peggy Piesche** (Gunda-Werner-Institute & Heinrich-Böll-Foundation Berlin)
- 18:00h                Evening reception