The Institute of Global Value Inquiry

Second Annual Conference

Wa, Ghana

September 7th-9th, 2026

INDIGENOUS VALUES AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Conference Program

Timetable

Monday, 07.9.2026

08:30-09:00 Meet and greet

09:00-09:20: Welcome Address and Introduction by Prof. Constance A. Akurugu, Dr. Valentin Beck & Prof. Emmanuel K. Derbile

09:30-11:00: Keynote: Prof. David Millar: Ancestorcentrism, Totems, and Social Change: The Dagara Paradigms of Life (Chair: Prof. Constance A. Akurugu)

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-14:00 Indigenous Values in a Globalised World (Chair: Prof. Bekele Gutema)

- Prof. Elizabeth Suzanne Kassab: The Indigenous and the Universal after the Gaza War
- Prof. Anthony Chima Diala: The Relevance of Indigenous Law Values in a Globalised World
- Prof. Divya Dwivedi: Anastatic Values
- Prof. Fernando Luz Brancoli: Refusal as Value: Munduruku Ethics and the Limits of Global Frameworks in the Brazilian Amazon
- Prof. Ruby S. Suazo: Kapwa, Loob, and Damayan: Filipino Indigenous Values as Theoretical Challenge and Practical Resource for Social Change

14:00-15:00 Lunch break

15:00-17:00 African Environmental Ethics, Political Values, Relationality and Digitalisation (Chair: Prof. Elizabeth Suzanne Kassab)

- Prof. Workineh Kelbessa: Ethical Reciprocity: Oromo Environmental Ethics and the Integration of Indigenous Wisdom into Contemporary Sustainability
- Dr. Richmond Kwesi: New Democratic Imaginations: Power, Authority and Legitimacy from Below in Africa
- Prof. Aïda C. Terblanché-Greeff Botha: From Homo Economicus to Relational Rationality: Ubuntu Degrowth Rooted in Indigenous African Socio-Economic Values
- Dr. Lindokuhle Gama: Relational Dialectics in the Kingdom of Eswatini

Tuesday, 08.09.2026

09:00-10:30 Keynote: Prof. Oyèrónkẹ́ Oyěwùmí: Meditations on Endogeneity: Gender, Culture and Identity in Africa's Quest for Social Transformation (Chair: Dr. Abosede Ipadeola)

10:30-11:30: Ethics and Values in Gender Equality (I) (Chair: Prof. Cathrine Degnen)

- Prof. Constance Akurugu: Performing *Doo loo* (‘Weak Man’): Resignifying Gendered Stigma, Disrupting Oppressive Masculinities and Advancing Feminist Politics in Northern Ghana

- Dr. Victoria Ope Akoleowo: Faith, Fundamentalism and Feminist Counter-Narratives in Africa

11.30-12:00 Coffee break

12:00-13:00 Ethics and Values in Gender Equality (II) (Chair: Prof. Workineh Kelbessa)
- Dr. Isaac Dery: 'Theorising Dɔɔ-menga as an Alternative Masculine Possibility from the Global South'
- Prof. Daniel Yaw Fiaveh: Multiple Advocates on Ghana's Queer Fronts

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-16:00 Ethics and Values in Gender Equality (III) (Chair: Prof. Divya Dwivedi)
- Dr. Tobias Tseer: Revisiting Gender Relations in Pre-Colonial Africa: Unpacking Agency and Power within Indigenous Social Systems for Effective Gender Justice
- Dr. Helen Titilola Olojede: Reclaiming Charlotte Maxeke as a Philosophical Voice in African Intellectual History
- Dr. Betty Okot: Unweaning Gender Inequality from Acholi and Baganda Folklore: A Discourse Analysis
- Dr. Reneilwe Masuluke: Personhood, Community and Inequality: Reimagining Indigenous Values through African Feminist Thought

16:00-17:30: African Values, Folklore, Performance and Youth Empowerment (Chair: Dr. Victoria Ope Akoleowo)
- Dr. Michael Senyo Segbefia: 'Wisdom in Words: Evaluating the Epistemic Role of Akan Proverbs'
- Dr. Madinatu Bello: 'From Enslavement to Healing: Performing Memory Transmission and Epistemic Justice in the Gyamadudu Eco-Museum, Ghana'
- Dr. Wolfram Laube: 'Changing Aspirations, Cultural Models of Success, and Social Mobility in Northern Ghana'

Wednesday, 09.09.2026

09:00-10:30: Keynote: Prof. Sylvia Bawa: (Re)Centering Epistemic Logics of the Future: Dismantling Disempowerment through African Value Systems (Chair: Dr. Isaac Dery)

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11.00-13.00: Indigenous Political Values and Women's Empowerment (Chair: Prof. David Millar)
- Dr. Adams Sabogu: Indigenous Political Values as Contested Feminist Terrain: Reconstituting Gendered Power through Lasiri in African Traditional Governance
- Dr. Winnifred Bedigen: Indigenous Epistemologies and Pedagogics in Context-Based Women's Empowerment: Reframing Agency, Rights, and Decision Making

- Dr. Niagia Santuah: The Left Road to Women's Empowerment: The 'Queenmothers' of Northern Ghana in Perspective
- Dr. Kabiito Bendicto: Distinguishing between 'Cultural Violence' and 'Social Deviance' in Heavily Stereotyped Pastoral Communities of Karamoja: Seeking Epistemological Clarity for a changing Karamoja

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-16:00: Indigenous Value Systems, African Women's Agency and Feminist Theorising (Chair: Dr. Lindokuhle Gama)

- Dr. Patricia Tshomba: Toyokani: Indigenous Value and African Women's Agency in Kinshasa's Urban Agriculture
- PD. Dr. Martina Kopf: Utu/Ubuntu as Resource of Feminist Agency in the Work of Mary Njeri Kinyanjui and Sylvia Tamale
- Dr. Palesa Rose Nqambaza-Lebea: Amadikazi: Recovering a Historical Radical Womxn Subjectivity and Its Implications for South African Black Feminist Epistemology

16:00 -16:20: Concluding Remarks (Prof. Constance A. Akurugu & Prof. Anke Graneß)

End of conference