

***Ibadan Journal of Humanistic Studies* (IJHS)**

University of Ibadan, Nigeria

**Call for Papers**

Special Edition

**“Women and the Future of Humanistic Studies in Africa”**

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*Ibadan Journal of Humanistic Studies* (IJHS) is a peer-reviewed journal published by the Faculty of Arts at the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. IJHS provides an interdisciplinary platform for presenting and discussing issues and ideas of broad humanistic relevance. Emphasis is placed on humanistic issues of direct relevance to the African continent and its relations with global ideas.

The IJHS is pleased to announce the call for papers for a special issue: **“Women and the Future of Humanistic Studies in Africa”** (Vol. 33, 2023).

For many years, women's marginalization and their contributions to scholarship and society have dominated discussions across disciplines. The humanities have remained the discursive space for the flux of ideas around feminist and womanist dynamics, arguments, and interpretations. The interplay between feminist and womanist scholarship and Africa has given rise to intellectual discourses and discussions delineated along different camps on the question of women, oppression, and marginalization. For instance, it has been posited by certain renowned academic scholars, such as Oyeronke Oyewumi, that the experiences of oppression and marginalization faced by women in Western societies is not a universal phenomenon. Specifically, Oyewumi argues that in many African societies (particularly, among the Oyo-Yoruba), the concept of gender is not inherently tied to biological determinism. This position suggests that the understanding and manifestation of gender roles within these cultures differ significantly from those commonly observed in Western societies. This position is contrary to that held by scholars like Sylvia Tamale, Bibi Bakare-Yusuf and others, who hold on to the claim that women's oppression and marginalization have been a fundamental feature of African patriarchal societies since the earliest times. Scholars such as Ifi Amadiume and Ayesha Imam offer a third perspective on the issue of women's marginalization in African societies. This school of thought posits that, in contrast to the societal norms that existed prior to colonization, the subjugation of women was both engendered and exacerbated by the colonial experience. This contestation is complicated by the discourse on the invisibility of women in humanistic scholarship on the continent. This invisibility is even legendary in African philosophy, for example.

It becomes imperative therefore that humanistic scholars in Africa self-reflexively engage with the place and role of women in humanistic space of the African academy. What is the status of women in humanistic studies in Africa? What is the nature of academic exclusion? How do the humanities entrench exclusion? How does the dynamics of exclusion play out in each humanistic discipline? How do sexism and patriarchy contribute to the perpetuation of exclusion and marginalization in the humanities? What does it mean to describe humanistic studies as a gendered space? How do societal gender norms and expectations emanating from patriarchal structures and systems shape scholarly interests in the humanities? How can the humanities themselves facilitate the critical rupture imperative for deconstructing the humanities and their internal dissonance? How can the humanities, with the inclusion of women, engender the African Renaissance? The rising tide of decolonial discourses must also consider the decolonization of humanistic studies and the marginalized status of women.

It is in this regard that this special issue of IJHS is inviting critical interventions, from inter- and trans-disciplinary perspectives, dedicated to the interrogation of the future of African humanistic studies in relation to women from across a broad range of humanistic disciplines, including literature and linguistics, philosophy and religion, the performing arts and history, media and anthropology, the digital humanities, and even beyond.

Interested contributors should submit an abstract of not more than 200 words for consideration. Abstracts must be received on or before 17 February 2023. The abstract should include a title, details of author(s), and the text of the abstract. Authors of successful abstracts will be notified about the deadline for the submission of completed papers (which will be approximately three months after the acceptance of abstracts).

Abstracts should be submitted to Dr Abosede Ipadeola (abosedepiscillaipadeola@gmail.com), and copied to [ijhs@ui.edu.ng](mailto:ijhs@ui.edu.ng)