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Efua Tembisa Prah, PhD
Lecturer

Bio
Efua Tembisa Prah, PhD works at Stellenbosch University in the department of Sociology and Anthropology. She has previously worked as a health systems management consultant and health policy advisor to government institutions. She has also taught Leadership Studies at Ashesi

How is Ubuntu Articulated as a Freedom in the Current Era for Young Mothers in Cape Town, South Africa?

Liberal Arts College in Ghana and has lectured in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. Her scholarly interests range widely, from critical methodological practices in the Social Sciences, to assessing and accounting for the impact violence has on young people's health and wellbeing.

Furthermore, her interests also include critical race theory, anthropological theorizations in intercontinental African migration politics, refugee studies, adolescent and childhood studies, and studies of the embodiment of sexuality, pregnancy, and birthing.

Abstract
The contribution this body of work presents to the Ubuntu Dialogues is an exploration into notions

of freedom in the context of structural constraints around maternal health and motherhood for young people living in Cape Town, South Africa.

As a working concept, "freedom" is articulated here as the attainment of a set of beliefs that are not bound by normative scripts of consanguineal relations but rather being a young mother is reaffirmed and redrawn in the everyday as young women become mothers.

Preliminary research conducted amongst young mothers in the Hague, Delft (Cape Town, South Africa) supports the notion that practices of ubuntu are forged daily as these young women navigate their recourse to health and wellbeing as young mothers.

Figurations of Gender Based Violence and Trauma in Public Memory

Bio
Emilie Diouf, PhD is an Assistant Professor of English at Brandeis University. She specializes in Anglophone and Francophone postcolonial African literatures and film with an emphasis on gender, feminist theory, trauma and cultural memory.

Her publications have focused on the interdisciplinary study of the relationship between narrative, trauma, and human rights. She is currently working on a book manuscript titled *Errant Voices: Trauma and the Textual Making of African Women Refugees*.

It explores how trauma narratives by African women enable trauma studies to gain a foothold on the often complex socio-cultural, political, and economic systems that determine vulnerability across various discursive modes.

This paper is Diouf's ponderings on a second book project that explores trauma and ritual performance as basic grounds for survivor led

approaches to gender inclusivity in processes of transitional justice in three west African countries: Gambia, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.

Abstract
This paper offers a framework for culturally specific approaches to engaging the trauma of gender-based violence in public memory.

It addresses how rituals convey the reality of trauma specific to sexual violence, and how the recognition of such trauma lead to innovative, survivor-led initiatives that seek to ensure equal access to justice, especially for disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

The paper crafts its argument on fieldwork observations of Kañeleng Kafo, or associations of childless women in the Gambia in summer 2019.

The paper argues that the association's creative response to gender-based violence and its subsequent stigma demonstrates how a significant

consideration of African women's embodied ritual practices might democratize paradigms of memory making in societies that seek to redefine their relationship to a violent past.

It provides crucial insights into how women's ritual performances around childbirth might contribute to opening up a dialogic space on sexual violence on the African continent.



Emilie Diouf, PhD
Assistant Professor

November 10th, 2020, 9:00 - 11:00 AM (EST), 4:00 - 6:00 PM GMT +2)

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