**Call for Abstracts: Online Reader on Gender Economic Issues in Sub-Saharan African Context**

The Economics discipline remains dominated by Neoclassical Economics that is based on assumptions of rationality, utility maximization and *homo-economicus* (the Economic man); thereby undermining certain critical social, economic, and cultural factors which are fundamental in gender and feminist economics. The result has been a particular developmental path creating a core-periphery divide. For countries in the global south, particularly in Sub Saharan Africa, the study of economics cannot exactly be separated from issues such as one's identity, ownership and control of resources mixed with culture, religion, and other forms of social values.

The consequences of this developmental model have been multiple economic and social crises manifesting in *inter alia* unemployment, poverty, inequality, and gender-based violence with disproportionate impact on women and girls. Meanwhile, the burden of unpaid care and domestic work disproportionately falls on women – for example, four times more than men in countries like Ethiopia, Madagascar, and Mauritius; and three times more than men's in Benin, Ghana, Rwanda, South Africa, and Tanzania (UN Women, 2016)[1]. The unpaid care work burden is worsening under austerity policies in developing countries affecting critical sectors such as education, health, and employment (particularly in the formal sector).

Women are also underrepresented in the academic tiers of the Economics discipline. This marginal status of particularly black Africa women within the profession impacts the kind of research that is produced by universities and think tanks. As a result of this marginal status, developmental problems are not tackled from a gender perspective which results in black African women's issues being marginalized in research and economic policy making. For example, despite the devastating impacts of climate change on rural households and women, the voices of black African women are absent from key climate forums/discussions. Also, until quite recently, there has been paucity of studies on women's unpaid work, time use and time poverty, and economic empowerment specifically in the Global South. In instances where economic problems are, tackled from a gender perspective, a Global South perspective is often lacking. African Feminist Economists have been calling for a radical re-think of the economic, social, and political order that must center women and other minorities and propose alternatives to neo-liberal policies such as austerity. The teaching and research done in the Economics discipline is part of such a dynamic ecosystem that reinforces existing inequalities while silencing marginal voices. Thus, Feminist Economics teaching, research and knowledge creation must be central to the solution.

To do this, it is important to conceptualize and theorize economics from an African Feminist decolonial perspective highlighting how capitalism has historically exploited indigenous people, women, and other minorities to support the development of the Global North. This perspective also highlights how historically race, gender, nationality, and sexuality intersect to shape the

[1] https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2015/POWW-2015-FactSheet-SubSaharanAfrica-en.pdf Accessed on February 14, 2024.

experiences of African people. Such an approach needs to walk a fine nuanced line of acknowledging that Africa is not homogeneous while highlighting commonalities, divergences and contradictions. African developmental challenges are broad overarching issues and questions that are different from the problems of the Global North calling for particular stories, methodologies and perspectives.

To address the paucity of teaching resources cognizant of the African context, a group of Africa-based scholars, supported by the American University Program on Gender Analysis in Economics, Washington, DC, invites abstracts for an online Reader. The reader will be open-access. It is intended for use teaching Gender Economics in SSA universities, among other things.

- In pursuance to these, abstracts (no longer than 500 words) are invited to contribute to the online reader for use in teaching gender analysis in Economics in the Global South, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. The reader may cover (but not limited to) the following methodological and applied issues (modelled from a Global South perspective):

- Gender of Feminist Economics Pedagogy
- Household structure and formation issues
- Unpaid care work issues
- Migration issues,
- Health issues
- Labor markets issues
- Gender-based violence issues
- Agriculture and climate adaptation issues
- Differential access to resources and institutions
- Insights on women's underrepresentation in the economics discipline across all tiers.
- Informal markets
- Polygamy
- Agriculture
- Climate change

Interested applicants can make their submission through the link
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sehLi3KqDlacZ-0rtadFwEj_tuRsJHd9?usp=sharing

**Important dates**

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| Opening of Call for Abstracts | 5st March, 2024 |
| Submission deadline | 31st March, 2024 |
| Acceptance notification | 27th May, 2024 |
| Submission of First draft | 31st August, 2024 |
| Feedback on First Draft | 31st October, 2024 |
| Submission of Final Draft | 15th December, 2024 |

**Additional Requirements**

1. The abstract should be succinct and include names of author(s) and the institutional affiliation(s).
2. Applicants should also attach 1–2 pages of CV(s) of author(s) indicating experience in gender and women's rights related study or research.