

## **Overcoming Sexism and Racism in Higher Education: An Interactive Webinar**

**Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2021, 3-5pm GMT**

**Registration:** [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ullb7VLAT4CLTYDXHw7LoQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ullb7VLAT4CLTYDXHw7LoQ)

The School of Social Work & Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin has recently been awarded the prestigious Athena Swan Bronze Award for its efforts to strengthen gender equality. While the Athena Swan Charter has been recognised for its contribution to improving gender equality, the charter also acknowledges that gender equality on its own is only one aspect of equality and a more intersectional approach is needed to develop action points which consider the multiple forms of inequalities women face when accessing higher education – including exclusion based on race, citizenship and social class. The 2020 protests organised by the Irish Black Lives Matter movement and the testimonies of Black and ethnic minority women living in Ireland are a continuous reminder of the systemic racism still present in Irish society.

This webinar will facilitate a discussion on sexism, racism and class, and how their intersections specifically affect the career progression of women from ethnic minority backgrounds in higher education – paying particular attention to women navigating their careers on a tight budget. The event aims to highlight the lived experience of Black and ethnic minority women pursuing an academic career and the everyday racism and sexism they encounter. We are delighted to present Dr Eburn Joseph (Institute of Antiracism and Black Studies, Ireland) and Dr Keisha Lindsay (University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA) as keynote speakers on the topic of Black and ethnic minority women in higher education in Ireland and the US. The two presentations will be followed by three breakout sessions hosted by Ms Diane Ihrwe (Rooted In Africa and Ireland Network), Dr Ayeshah Émon (Trinity College Dublin) and Ms Donnah Sibanda Vuma (Movement of Asylum Seekers Ireland) to offer an interactive space to discuss strategies and action points needed to create a more inclusive academic environment.

This webinar is kindly supported by the Trinity Equality Fund and the School of Social Work & Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin



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## **How to Overcome Sexism and Racism in Higher Education: An Interactive Webinar**

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### **Programme**

#### **Welcome**

**15.00** Welcome by Organisers Dr Ayesah Émon (Lecturer) & Cordula Bieri (PhD Researcher), School of Social Work & Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin

**15.05** *Opening Remarks* by Dr Clodagh Brook, Associate Vice Provost for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Trinity College Dublin

#### **Session: How Do We Overcome Sexism and Racism in Higher Education?**

15.15 Keynote by Dr Ebun Joseph, Race relations consultant, Director Institute of Antiracism and Black Studies and Chairperson, African Scholars Association Ireland (AFSAI)

15.35 Keynote by Dr Keisha Lindsay, Associate Professor, Departments of Gender & Women's Studies and Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

#### **16.00 Parallel Interactive Breakout Sessions**

Session 1: *Student Perspectives on overcoming Sexism and Racism in Higher Education*. Chaired by Ms Diane Ihirwe (Social worker and social activist)

Session 2: *Staff Perspectives on overcoming Sexism and Racism in Higher Education*. Chaired by Dr Ayesah Émon

Session 3: *Refugee Women's Perspectives on overcoming exclusion from Higher Education*. Chaired by Donnah Sibanda Vuma (Founder of the Limerick based community group *Every child is your Child Ireland*)

#### **16.30 Plenary**

Moderated panel discussion including Ms Diane Ihirwe, Dr Ayesah Émon, and Ms Donnah Sibanda Vuma

#### **16.55 Closing Remarks**



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## Keynote Speakers



**Dr Ebum Joseph** is a Race relations consultant, Director Institute of Antiracism and Black Studies and Chairperson, African Scholars Association Ireland (AFSAI). Dr Joseph held the position of Career Development Consultant at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. She is Lecturer and Module Coordinator Black Studies in UCD. Ebum is an author, TV panellist, columnist, equality activist and convenor of various webinars on anti-racism. With a research focus on labour markets and race relations, she has presented at several conferences, businesses and non-profits. Ebum is published and contributes regular responses on contemporary issues of racism in Ireland. Her recent book is titled, *Racial Stratification in Ireland: A Critical Race Theory of Labour Market Inequality* with Manchester University press. She also co-authored the book, *Challenging Perceptions of Africa in Schools: Critical Approaches to Global Justice Education* with Routledge in Jan 2020.



**Keisha Lindsay** is an associate professor in the departments of Gender and Women's Studies and Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research and teaching interests include feminist political theory, Black feminism, Black masculinities, and gender-based politics in the African diaspora. She pays particular attention to how Black people articulate their gendered and racialized identifications via popular and scholarly conversations about a range of topics including public schools, gay marriage, black female respectability, and police brutality. Professor Lindsay is the author of *In a Classroom of their Own: The Intersection of Race and Feminist Politics in All-Black Male Schools* (University of Illinois 2018) as well as several article-length manuscripts.



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## Workshop chairs



**Diane Ihirwe** is an African-Irish social worker, speaker, writer and social justice seeker. She has a Masters in Social Work from Trinity College and holds an undergraduate degree in Social Care from TU Dublin. Diane speaks about racism from everyday life, as well as systemic and structural racism and its impact. She advocates for the abolition of the Direct Provision System. She travelled to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva in December 2019 to advocate on behalf of Asylum Seekers on the Committee of Eradicating Racial Discrimination (CERD). In 2014, Diane co-founded the Young Mother's Network (YMN), a support group for mothers living in Direct Provision Centres. YMN has supported and continues to support women and children living in various Direct Provision Centres across Dublin and beyond. Diane is the Co-Founder of Rooted in Africa and Ireland Network (RIAINetwork), a network that aims to build understanding and pride of the African Heritage especially for young African-Irish people through knowledge, empowerment and representation.



**Donnah Sibanda Vuma** is an activist and campaigner for human rights. Donnah tirelessly advocates for the rights of people seeking asylum in Ireland, and for an end to the direct provision system. Donnah is the Founder of a Limerick-based community group Every Child is your Child Ireland and a member of the Movement of Asylum Seekers Ireland (MASI). She is currently a BA joint honours student in politics and international relations with sociology at the University of Limerick.

## Webinar Organisers



**Dr Ayeshah Émon** is a Teaching Fellow with the School of Social Work and Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin. A Fulbright scholar, she received her doctorate in medical anthropology, gender studies and science and technology studies (STS) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Ayeshah has worked both within and outside academia in the development and health sector with international non-government organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme and ActionAid. Ayeshah is also a performance artist and poet. She is a member of Irish PEN, and a Board member of Theatre for Change-Galway and Fermat's Last Theater (Madison, Wisconsin). She is also the director and producer for *Yoni Ki Baat* – a feminist activist performance arts project exploring intersectionality among migrant women living in Ireland and the US. Her current research interests include intersectionality, mental health and the ethics of care among young adults.



**Cordula Bieri** is a PhD researcher working under the supervision of Dr Paula Mayock at the School of Social Work and Social Policy of Trinity College Dublin and is a recipient of the Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship. Her PhD research focuses on the housing experiences of refugees who have recently been granted international protection. Cordula has a MA degree in sociology from the University of Zurich and has previously worked for non-profit organisations in Switzerland, where her research and advocacy work had a strong focus on the intersection of poverty, housing and migration.



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