

# AFRICA SPEAKS LECTURE

## IMPERIALISM AND CRISES OF SOCIAL REPRODUCTION IN AFRICA

**DATE** : 22 July 2024  
**TIME** : 10:00 – 13:00  
**VENUE** : Senate Hall, WMM Building



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: PROF. MARILYN OSSOME

### Abstract

Gender inequalities feature in the prevailing model of financialized capitalist development, which in the peripheries is increasingly dependent on enclosures of land and nature, unbridled debt that is being shifted onto households, and deepening exploitation on of gendered labour for service and industry. These conditions of accumulation have serious implications for working people and surplus populations of the global south who depend on these resources for their own reproduction and survival. They suggest a gendered labour substratum of core-periphery imperialist relations of accumulation that requires elaboration. First, gender inequalities constitute a central contradiction in social movements, undermining both solidarity and strategy among working people and resulting in fractures that must be addressed as a condition for postcolonial development. Second, the crisis of social reproduction that is germane to capitalism finds varied expression in the core and periphery: in the agrarian south, access to land, nature and the commons constitute the major reproductive possibility at the same time as it raises an agrarian question of gendered labour. As such, the ongoing reproductive crisis links land and gendered labour in ways that any agrarian reform has to account for. Third, under the weight of imperialist domination, Third World nations must address the question of national sovereignty / national liberation in its social, cultural and political dimensions. The lecture reflects on these issues and examines how they in turn reconstitute the conditions of survival and reproduction of working people in Africa.

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