

7th Biennial AASR Conference in Ghana

Religion, Sexuality, and Identity in Africa & the African Diaspora
University of Ghana, Legon, Accra

July 26-28, 2016



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

Call for Papers

Secularism as a dominant human experience in the age of globalization presents a notion of an inclusive religious, cultural and moral evolution. However, a plurality of religions, cultures, genders, sexualities, sexual orientations and identities is emerging in association with secularism. Though some of these issues are not particularly new on the African continent, they are taking new forms and vitality and have become topical and, at times, flashpoints in several African societies and diasporic communities. Consequently, discourses (oral and written) on these issues reveal diverse and sometimes sentimental and pedestrian perspectives mainly grounded on typically religious, cultural and moral claims. At the same time there is limited academic scholarship on the issues. With the African continent currently grappling with some moral issues such as same-sex relationships (LGBT), it is critical for scholars in the study of religions to dispassionately deliberate, explore and provide informed contributions to the debate in this era of rapid social change. This AASR (African Association for the Study of Religions) conference provides the right place and space for scholars of different disciplinary traditions to rigorously examine this issue.

The conference invites panel and paper proposals that address this theme and related issues from critical perspectives, taking into consideration the specific contexts of Africa and the African diaspora. This research and related discourses are relevant as we seek to chart the path for the future of Africa and its diaspora.

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Papers that engage any of the following and related issues are invited for presentation at this conference:

- Religious and moral underpinnings of gender in Africa and the African diaspora
- Sexuality in Africa and the African Diaspora
- Teaching African sexualities in Africa and/or the African diaspora
- Masculinities and masculinity studies in Africa and the African diaspora
- Femininities: plurality and the debate on feminism in Africa and the African diaspora
- Religion, masculinities, gender-based violence and HIV
- Queering, xenophobia and violence in Africa and the African Diaspora
- Sexualities, sexual orientations, violence and human rights in Africa and the African diaspora
- Religion, migration, class and sexuality
- Religious views of humanity and the LGBT debate in Africa
- The LGBT debate and North-South ecumenical/interfaith relations
- Religion, sexuality and the media Religion, sexuality and law
- Philosophy, person and gender Philosophy, human identity and sexuality

In addition, at least two special panels will focus on issues of theory and method in the study of religion(s) in Africa with special reference to the theme of the conference.

Abstracts

- Abstracts of proposed papers should not exceed three hundred (300) words. Authors should ensure that abstracts reflect the title of their paper(s).
- Author's contact details (name, institutional affiliation, email address and phone number) should be provided in a separate page or sheet.
- All submissions are to be made electronically using aasr2016@ug.edu.gh
- Abstracts are to be received by **October 31, 2015**.

Prospective participants in this conference will be registered as a participant only after they have joined AASR by paying the AASR membership dues for 2016, and after they have paid the registration fee. Its amount, and how it may be paid, will be announced later.

To join the AASR and/or to pay for AASR annual dues, see: <http://www.a-asr.org/membership/>
For further enquiries, please contact Rose Mary Amenga-Etego: aasr2016@ug.edu.gh