

Agenda

9:00 - 9:05: Welcome and Introductions

Kimberly MacMillan - Coordinator of the Africa-Canada Forum working group
Blair Rutherford - Director of the Institute of African Studies

9:05-10:00 – Overview of religious fundamentalisms & impact on women's rights

Shareen Gokal - Strategic Initiative Manager, Resisting and Challenging Fundamentalisms: Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

This presentation provides us with a global view of religious fundamentalisms and how they impact women's rights. The aim is to comprehend how an international human rights perspective could inform how civil society organizations's approach these issues and to understand the current policy dialogue happening at the international stage, such as the post-2015 goal setting process.

10:00-10:15 – Break

10:15-11:45: Example from the field: Sudan & Senegal: Islam

Fahima Hashim: Executive Director of Salmamah Women's Resource Center: Khartoum, Sudan

This presentation provides us with insights of a Sudanese Women's Rights organization working to strengthen individual and collective equality for women, within the context of Islamic religious fundamentalism. Fahima will differentiate between religious fundamentalism, religion and culture and shares her organization's key advocacy messages formulated for the Sudanese context. In addition, she provides suggestions for how Canadian civil society and governments can support women's rights in Sudan.

Erin J. Augis, Ph.D: Associate Professor of Sociology and Africana Studies, Ramapo College of New Jersey:

Erin presents her ethnographic research on reformist Sunni women in Senegal, and ways they engage autonomy and self-determination within their community and in broader Senegalese society. In light of religious fundamentalist currents, she provides her insights and recommendations on how civil society can work effectively in this community.

11:45-12:45 - Lunch

12:45-2:15 – Discussion on Christian Fundamentalisms

Benoît Awazi Mbambi Kungua: Philosopher, Sociologist and Theologian, President of CER-CLECAD

Benoit will explore the exploitation and enslavement of women in Églises de Réveil in Central Africa and Western Diasporas. How to assess the Symbolic violence with the implicit agreement of Victims?

Pius Adesanmi: Professor, Carleton University

Prosperity Pentecostal Christian Fundamentalism: Africa's New Wind of Change? In 1960, British Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, coined the phrase, "the wind of change" to describe the rise of national consciousness, decolonization, and independence that was sweeping across Africa. This presentation looks at the spectres of prosperity pentecostal Christian fundamentalism now spreading across the continent and posits that it is almost equal to the first political wind of change in terms of its impact on the production of new African identities.

2:15-3:00 – Analysis/ Commonalities / Impressions

Paul Mkandawire- Professor Carleton University

Impressions from participants

3:00-3:15 – Break

3:15-4:30 Collective Brainstorming on Best Practices

Based on today's presentations and discussions, and your previous experience, we will collectively brainstorm around strategies that can be useful to address religious fundamentalisms. What strengths and challenges affect the way we work and what strategies are best used to navigate programming in Africa.

Facilitator: Blair Rutherford - Director of Institute of African Studies