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The Battle of Ideas in African Studies

Abstract: African Studies has been characterized by intellectual and contestations over its genesis, definition, structural configuration, conceptual understanding, paradigms and epistemologies, and other issues. These issues animates the current resurgent and insurgent debates on decolonizing African Studies. This presentation joins this debate and identifies ten challenges pertaining to decolonization of African studies: genealogies, linguistic encirclement, chronology/periodization (time), epistemology, theory, androcentrism, canon, colonial library, disciplinary, and spatial (area, diaspora, country-study) approaches. These ten issues are posed as part of comfort-zones (asserted and re-asserted truths) in African Studies, which have to change in accordance with the demands of decolonial reconfiguring of African Studies.

Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni is currently Professor and Chair of Epistemologies of the Global South with Emphasis on Africa and Vice-Dean of Research in the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence at the University of Bayreuth in Germany; Professor Extraordinarius in the Department of Leadership and Transformation (DLT) in the Principal & Vice-Chancellor's Office at the University of South Africa (UNISA); Professor Extraordinarius at the Centre for Gender and African Studies at the University of Free State (UFS) in South Africa; Honorary Professor in the School of Education (Education & Development Studies) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in South Africa... Professor Ndlovu-Gatsheni is a prolific scholar with a hundred publications including more than 20 books to his name. His latest publications include *Epistemic Freedom in Africa: Deprovincialization and Decolonization* (Routledge, 2018); *Decolonization, Development and Knowledge in Africa: Turning Over A New Leaf* (Routledge, 2020); *Marxism and Decolonization in the 21st Century: Living Theories and True Ideas* (Routledge, 2022) co-edited with Morgan Ndlovu; and *Beyond Coloniality of Internationalism: Reworlding the World from the Global South* (CODESRIA Book Series – in press).

Weitere Informationen: www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de



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Ndlovu-
Gatsheni and
one of his books
(Routledge,
2018).