



Photo: Lesotho women protesting on National Women's Day, 2008. Author: K. Kendall

International seminar (GLOW project)

GENDER, LAW AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN WEST AFRICA



14 & 15 January 2026



**Institute of African
Studies, University of
Ibadan**

International Seminar

Gender, Law and Political Activism in West Africa

GLOW Research Project

14–15 of January 2026
Institute of African Studies
University of Ibadan

PROGRAM



SCIENCES HUMAINES
& SOCIALES



Sciences Po
Bordeaux



IFRA-Nigeria



OVERVIEW

For decades, West African women have mobilized for legal recognition of gender equality, yet the intersection between women's mobilizations and the law remains understudied. The GLOW research project bridges this gap by exploring the relationship between gender, activism, and law in West Africa from the 20th to the 21st century. By examining the history of women's struggles for legal rights, the project offers fresh perspectives on the region's political and social history during both colonial and post-colonial periods. It also provides new insights into the legal construction of political and social inequalities over time.

GLOW adopts a multidisciplinary approach, bringing together historians, sociologists, anthropologists, political scientists, and legal experts to overcome disciplinary and methodological barriers. The project emphasizes multiscale analysis, examining both local mobilizations and the impact of international standards on legislation. Collaboration between Anglophone and Francophone researchers is central to the project, highlighting differences and similarities in legal heritage while transcending linguistic and imperial boundaries.

Acknowledgments

This conference was organized with the generous support of IFRA Nigeria, particularly Edafe Okosodo, Dr. Pauline Guinard, and Prof. Barbara Morovich. In Les Afriques dans le Monde, Bordeaux, we thank Karine Bassoulet and Lise Magueres. The poster and program were designed by Marie Lureau

TUESDAY, 13 JANUARY

University of Lagos

Reception of the GLOW team members at the University of Lagos by Professor Olufunke Adeboye. Meeting with colleagues from the University of Lagos

WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY (*Morning*)

Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan

8:45 Welcoming of all participants, Draper's Hall, Institute of African Studies

9:00–9:30 Introductory words

9:30–11:30 Roundtable Gender, Law and Political Activism in West Africa

Speakers:

- Dr Sara Panata (CNRS, Sciences Po Bordeaux)
- Professor Emerita Takyiwaa Manuh
- Dr Mutiat Oladejo (UI, History Department)
- Professor Tade Oludayo (UI, Department of Sociology)
- Dr Mofeyisara Omobowale (UI, Institute of Child Health, College of Medicine)
- Professor Sharon Adetutu Omotoso (UI, Institute of African Studies)

Chair: Professor Seun Olutayo (Institute of African Studies)

11:45–13:00 *Lunch break*

WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY (Afternoon)

13:00–17:00 Writing Workshop

Board Room, Institute of African Studies

Attendance is possible by registration only, due to the limited size of the room. Register here: <https://forms.gle/mfXjzkQs1AfZFbCC7>

Chair: Dr Delphine Manetta (IFRA Nigeria)

Political Engagement

13:00–14:00 Professor Olufunke Adeboye (University of Lagos, Department of History) **The Travails of Wuraola Esan in Post-Colonial Nigeria**

14:00–15:00 Professor Pascale Barthélémy (EHESS/Institut des Mondes Africains - Paris) **Appropriating the Law: Gender and Suffrage in French Sudan (May–June 1951)**

15:00–15:30 *Coffee break*

Sexual and Reproductive Rights

15:30–16:30 Dr Marième N'Diaye (CNRS, Les Afriques dans le Monde - Bordeaux) **When Lawyers Take Up the Cause: The Struggle for Abortion in Senegal and the Redefinition of the Relationship Between Law, Activism, and Politics**

16:30–17:30 Dr Drabo Saydou (IRD, Marseille University) **Mobilizations for Women's Sexual and Reproductive Rights: The Maputo Protocol and Women's Activism in Burkina Faso**

THURSDAY, 15 JANUARY

9:00–16:00

Writing Workshop

Board Room, Institute of African Studies

Attendance is possible by registration only, due to the limited size of the room. Register here: <https://forms.gle/mfXjzkQs1AfZFbCC7>

Chair: Dr Delphine Manetta (IFRA Nigeria)

Legislative Activism

9:00–10:00

Dr Adedeji Adebayo (UI, Department of Peace, Security and Humanitarian Studies)

Addressing Gender-Based Violence: A Legislative Policymaking Example from Lagos State, Nigeria

10:00–10:30

Coffee break

10:30–11:30

Dr Charmaine Pereira (Independent Scholar – Abuja)

Towards the enactment of Nigeria's Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015: the discursive space of law-making

11:30–12:15

Professor Seunfunmi Olutayo and Hon. Tolulope Tiwalola Sadipe (Institute of African Studies)

Beni Lar and the Rebirth of Feminist Nationalist Politics in Nigeria National Assembly (short article – interview)

12:15–13:30

Lunch break

Labour

14:30–15:30

Dr Ophélie Rillon (CNRS, Institut des Mondes Africains – Paris)

Women Teachers at the Margins. Trade-Union Struggles and Gendered Labour Rights in Burkina Faso

15:30–16:00

Dr Maysa Espindola Souza (University of Geneva)

Labour and gender inequities under Portuguese Colonial Rule: Indigenous women in Portuguese Guinea (1917–1935)

16:00–16:30

Conclusions