

Confronting Atrocity Conference 2019

THEME:

TRUTH COMMISSIONS AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE
PROCESSES IN AFRICA: ASSESSING IMPACTS AND LEGACIES

AUGUST 26-27, 2019

**@ The University of Ghana
Legon, Accra, Ghana**

[Note: Arrival August 25; Conference August 26 and 27; Departure August 28]

PROGRAM OF EVENTS



AGENDA

Welcome to the 2019 *Confronting Atrocity* International Conference. This 2-day meeting will feature presentations and discussions by expert scholars on national truth commissions established in Africa in the past three decades with in-depth comparative assessment of their mandates, investigations, public hearings, reporting and recommendations, implementation, outcomes, and legacies. Dialogue among panelists will seek to develop theories, methodologies, and parameters for multi-sectorial evaluation of truth commissions' impacts and legacies for individuals, communities and the state. Participants will have an opportunity for free-flowing discussions on the successes and limitations of truth commission in terms of human rights accountability; political, social and economic justice; and national reconciliation. Selected moderators will oversee each panel and facilitate discussion.

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Baba Galleh Jallow, PhD

Executive Secretary

Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC)

Banjul, The Gambia.

CONVENERS / CONTACT PERSONS

Dr. Sylvia Bawa

Associate Professor

Department of Sociology

York University

Toronto, Canada

Dr. Jasper Ayelazuno

Senior Lecturer/HoD

Dept. of Communication, Innovation, & Technology

University for Development Studies

Box TL 1882, Tamale, Ghana

Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh

Professor and Director, Centre for Peace Studies

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Conference Program at a glance

DATE / TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY	VENUE
Sunday 25 August, 2019: Arrival		
All Day	Arrival	University of Ghana Guest Centre; Oscarpark Royale Hotel
6.00 pm - 7.00 pm	Informal reception for conference participants	University Guest House Restaurant
Monday 26 August, 2019 Day One		
8.00 am - 9.00 am	Registration	Department of Economics Seminar Room 1
9.00 am - 9.15 am 9.15 am - 9.45 am	Plenary Session: Opening Remarks - Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh Keynote Lecture - Dr. Baba G. Jallow	Department of Economics Seminar Room 1
9.45 am - 10.00 am	Tea/Coffee Break	Department of Economics Seminar Room 1 & 2
10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Parallel Session A: Panels 1 - 4	Department of Economics Seminar Room 1 & 2
1.00 pm - 2.00 pm	Lunch Break (On Own)	University Guest House Restaurant
2.00 pm - 5.00 pm	Parallel Session B: Panels 5 - 8	Department of Economics Seminar Room 1 & 2
Tuesday 27 August, 2019 Day Two		
8.15 am - 8.30 am	Introductory Remarks - Dr. Jasper Ayelazuno	Department of Economics Seminar Room 1
8.30 am - 9.00 am	Tea/Coffee Break	Department of Economics Seminar Room 1 & 2
9.00 am - 12.00 pm	Parallel Session C Panels 9 - 12	Department of Economics Seminar Room 1 & 2
12.00 pm - 1.00 pm	Lunch Break (On Own)	University Guest House Restaurant
1.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Parallel Session D Panels 13 - 16	Department of Economics Seminar Room 1 & 2
5.00pm - 6.00 pm	Farewell Dinner for all participants Closing Remarks - Dr. Sylvia Bawa	University Guest House Restaurant
Wednesday 28 August, 2019 Departure		
7.00 am - 11.59 am	Conference closes	Check-out from the University Guest Centre

Monday, August 26, 2019

Time	Sessions and Panels	Seminar Room
8.00 am - 9.00 am	<i>Participant Arrival and Registration</i> Drop by our table at the Department of Economics Seminar Room 1 for your Name Tag, notepad, and pen.	Room 1
9.00 - 9.45 am	<i>Plenary Session</i>	Room 1
9.00 - 9.15 am	Opening Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker - Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh	
9.15 - 9.45 am	Keynote Lecture - Dr. Baba G. Jallow	
9.45 - 10.00 am	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>	Room 1 & 2
10.00 - 1.00 pm	<i>Parallel Session A</i>	Room 1 & 2
10:00 - 11:30 am	Panel 1: <i>Theorizing Transitional Justice in Africa</i> Panel Chair: T. Debey Sayndee, <i>Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation, Liberia</i> Bonaventure Chizea , <i>Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma</i> Re-Examining the Concept of Transitional Justice in the Search for Peace in Africa Amy Niang , <i>University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg</i> Theorising Transitional Justice in African Contexts Modupe Silifat Kasumu , <i>Covenant University, Ota</i> Oyenike O. Fayomi , <i>Covenant University, Ota</i> Theorising Truth Commissions and Transitional Justice in Africa: The Issues and Tissues	Room 1

10:00 - 11:30 am **Panel 2:** *National Reconciliation and Post-Conflict* Room 2

Development in Africa

Panel Chair: Jasper A. Ayelazuno, *University for Development Studies, Tamale*

Peter A. Betiang, *University of Calabar, Calabar*

Post-Conflict Development: Assessing Adjustment

Patterns in Post-Conflict Communities in South East Nigeria

Teddy Foday-Musa, *University of Sierra Leone, Freetown*

Truth and Reconciliation Commission: The Case for a National Infrastructure for Peace in Sierra Leone

John Mary Kanyamurwa, *Kyambogo University, Kampala*

Understanding Land Contradictions during the Post-Conflict Peace Building Phase in Northern Uganda

11.30 - 1.00 pm **Panel 3:** *Truth-Seeking and Nation-Building in Modern Africa* Room 1

Panel Chair: Sylvia Bawa, *York University, Toronto*

Isaac Olawale Albert, *University of Ibadan, Ibadan*

The Fidelity and Futility of Official Truth Seeking Initiatives in Nigeria's Fourth Republic

Frank Afari, *Graduate Inst. of Intl. & Development Studies, Geneva*

The Truth-for-Amnesty Conundrum and Ghana's National Reconciliation Commission (NRC)

Seidu Alidu, *University of Ghana, Accra*

Whose Truth Matters, If there is Any?

Pacifique Manirakiza, *University of Ottawa, Ottawa*

The Effectiveness and Legitimacy of the Truth and
Reconciliation Commission of Burundi

11.30 - 1.00 pm **Panel 4:** *Theorizing the Politics of National* Room 2

Reconciliation in African States

Panel Chair: Hakeem Yusuf, *University of Derby, Derby*

Franklin Oduro, *Ghana Center for Democratic Development, Accra*

Establishing Truth Commissions in ‘Conflicted Democracies’:

Lessons from Ghana

Roger Southall, *University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg*

Whites and the Past: The Legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
(TRC) in South Africa

Melissa Levin, *University of Toronto, Toronto*

Decolonization and the legacy of South Africa’s TRC

1.00 - 2.00 pm ***Lunch Break (On Own)*** ***University Guest
House Restaurant***

2.00 - 5.00 pm ***Parallel Session B*** **Room 1 & 2**

2.00 - 3.30 pm **Panel 5:** *Data-Mining Truth Commissions across Borders* Room 1

Reconciliation in Africa

Panel Chair: Oyenike O. Fayomi, *Covenant University, Ota*

Natalie W. Romeri-Lewis, *Brigham Young University, Utah*

National, Collective, Historical Memory within Truth
Commission Mandates, Operations, and Final Report
Recommendations: an Original Data-set

Hannah Coons, *Brigham Young University, Utah*

Innovation v. Standardization in Knowledge
Transmission and the Institutional Design of Seven
Truth Commissions in Countries in Transition

Janine Lespérance, *Lawyers Without Borders, Québec*

Érick Sullivan, *Université Laval, Québec*

Mali's Truth Commission: Mandate, Challenges, and
Strategies for Achieving Its Mission

2.00 - 3.30 pm

Panel 6: *Memory, State-led Truth Commissions, and
Statebuilding in Africa*

Room 2

Panel Chair: Gearoid Millar, *University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen*

Christopher M. Till, *Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg*

Can't Remember, Can't Forget

Bonny Ibhawoh, *McMaster University, Hamilton*

Truth Commissions, Transitional Justice and Participatory Governance

Iwebunor Okwechime, *Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife*

Beyond Transitional Justice: Power, Politics and

Contestation at Nigeria's Truth and Reconciliation Commission

3.30 - 5.00 pm

Panel 7: *Truth Commissions and National Historiography in Africa*

Room 1

Panel Chair: Oluwatoyin Oduntan, *Towson University, Towson*

Abena Asare, *Stoney Brooke University, New York*

True Histories of Irreconciliation

Jessica Cammaert Raval, *University of Toronto, Toronto*

Peacebuilding on the Margins: Borderlands in West African
Truth Commissions

Aluko Opeyemi Idowu, *Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo*

Theorising Truth and Justice in Governance: A Study on
Truth Commissions

3.30 - 5.00 pm

Panel 8: *African Writers and Truth Commissions in Africa*

Room 2

Panel Chair: Amin Alhassan, *University for Development
Studies, Tamale*

Paul Ugor, *Illinois State University, Illinois*

Creative Imaginaries of Forgiveness and Truth in South
Africa: Antjie Krog and Alex Boraine

Melike Yilmaz, *McMaster University, Hamilton*

Fatma Momodu, *Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja*

A Review of Desmond Mpilo Tutu's No Future without
Forgiveness

5.00 pm

Adjourn

Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Time	Sessions and Panels	Seminar Room
8.15 am - 8.30 am	<i>Welcome Remarks – Dr. Jasper Ayelazuno</i> Brief remarks and announcements	Room 1
8.30 - 9.00 am	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>	Room 1 & 2
9.00 - 12.00 pm	<i>Parallel Session C</i>	Room 1 & 2
9:00 - 10:30 am	Panel 9: <i>Courts and Transitional Justice Processes in Africa</i> Panel Chair: <i>Pacifique Manirakiza, University of Ottawa, Ottawa</i> <i>Adikalie S. Kamara, University of Bradford, Bradford</i> The Special Court for Sierra Leone: Retributive Versus Restorative Justice <i>Enoch Appiagyei, University of Calgary, Calgary</i> <i>Ireoluwatomi Oloke, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg</i> Transitional Justice and Post-conflict Peacebuilding in Africa: Examining the Role of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights <i>Hakeem Yusuf, University of Derby, Derby</i> Post-Authoritarianism, Truth-Seeking and the Judicial Accountability-Gap: Lessons from Nigeria	Room 1

9.00 – 10.30 am **Panel 10:** *Justice and Peacebuilding Mechanism in Africa* Room 2

Panel Chair: Amanda Coffie, *University of Ghana, Accra*

Koat Aleer, *Centre for the Study of Violence & Reconciliation, Johannesburg*

Theorizing an African Transitional Justice: The African
Union Transitional Justice Policy

Abubakarr Koroma, *Sierra Leone Peace Museum, Freetown*

Transitional Justice Mechanisms in Africa with
Reference to Sierra Leone Conflict

Tendaishe Tlou, *Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, Zimbabwe*

Revisiting Peace and Reconciliation in Africa: Taking
Stock of African Truth Commissions' Progress and
Challenges thus Far

Victoria Omolara Akinyemi, *Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife*

“The use of Threat and Force” in Crisis Management in
ECOWAS: The Gambian’s Post-Election Crisis

10:30 - 12:00 pm **Panel 11:** *Legacies of Truth Commissions in Democratizing Africa* Room 1

Africa

Panel Chair: Paul Ugor, *Illinois State University, Illinois*

Gearoid Millar, *University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen*

The Local Legacies of Transitional Justice: Understanding
Impact on the Ground in Sierra Leone

Denise Bantrovato, *University of Pretoria, Pretoria*

Beyond Transitional Justice: Assessing the Legacy of South
Africa’s TRC through the Lens of Formal Education

Olakunle Michael Folami, *Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko*
Human Rights Abuses and Impacts of Human Rights Violations Investigations
Commission in Nigeria

Robert K. Ame, *Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo*

Seidu Alidu, *University of Ghana, Accra*

Ghana's National Reconciliation Commission (NRC):

15 Years Later

10.30 - 12.00 pm **Panel 12:** *Truth Commissions and Strategies of National Reconciliation* Room 2

Panel Chair: Abena Asare, *Stoney Brooke University, New York*

Debey Sayndee, *Kofi Annan Inst. for Conflict Transformation, Monrovia*

Post-Conflict Communities

Adebisi Alade, *McMaster University, Hamilton*

Right to Truth, Public Hearings, and the Politics of National

Reconciliation in Nigeria

Oluwatoyin B. Oduntan, *Towson University, Towson*

Between the Ethics and the Politics: Evaluating the

Conferencing Model of Conflict Resolution

Adiat A. Abiodun, *Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife*

Truth Commissions and Post Conflict Peace Building in

Africa: A Recipe for Restoration or Retributive Justice

12.00 - 1.00 pm **Lunch Break (On Own)**

**University Guest
House Restaurant**

1.00 - 4.00 pm **Parallel Session D** **Room 1 & 2**

1.00 - 2.30 pm **Panel 13:** *Local Knowledge and Participatory Governance in Africa* Room 1

Governance in Africa

Panel Chair: Seidu Alidu, *University of Ghana, Accra*

Seun Bamidele, *Chrisland University, Abeokuta*

Transitional Justice and Reconciliation in Southern Kaduna, Nigeria: A Case Study on Tradition-Based Approached in Local Communities

Lexington Izuagie, *Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma*

South Africa Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the Context of Afro-Pessimism

Tunde Abioro, *Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife*

Persistent Conflict and Perceived Post-conflict Peacebuilding in Southern Kaduna Region of Nigeria

1.00 - 2.30 pm **Panel 14:** *Violence and Gendered Reconciliation in Transitioning African States* Room 2

Transitioning African States

Panel Chair: Franklin Oduro, *Center for Democratic Development, Accra*

Oluwayemisi Ajoke Adepoju, *Covenant University, Ota*

Culture, Gender and Peacebuilding: A Study of the Sierra Leone Truth Commissions' Investigations and Public Hearings

Nontsasa Nako, *University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg*

Besides the Truth: Mourning Winnie Madikizela-Mandela 20 years after the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Jean de Dieu Sikulibo, *Diakonia's Intl. Humanitarian Law Resource Center*
Rape and Other Acts of Sexual Violence in Conflict Situations:
A Transformative Approach to Addressing the Victims'
Needs in Post-Conflict Situations

2.30 - 4.00 pm **Panel 15:** *State Power and Human Rights in Democratizing African States* Room 1

Panel Chair: Melike Yilmaz, *McMaster University, Hamilton*

Amin Alhassan, *University for Development Studies, Tamale*

Felix Odartey Wellington, *University of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia*

Ghana's Political Militia as Vigilante Groups: A National
Discourse of Plausible Deniability

Lanre Ikuteyijo, *Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife*

Nigeria Police and Regime Representation: Fallouts from the
Nigerian Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission

Noble Kwabla Gati, *Ghana Inst. of Management & Public Admin., Accra*

Lord Mawuko-Yevugah, *Ghana Inst. Management & Public Admin., Accra*

Jasper Abembia Ayelazuno, *University for Development Studies, Tamale*

Did We Go or Did We Come? Elections Violence and Human
Rights Violations in Ghana (2004-2019)

2.30 - 4.00 pm **Panel 16:** *Socio-Economic Justice, Truth Commissions, and Statebuilding in Africa* Room 2

Panel Chair: Isaac Olawale Albert, *University of Ibadan, Ibadan*

Felix T. Y. Longi, *University for Development Studies, Tamale*

Ethnic Stereotypes and Chieftaincy Conflicts in Ghana's
North: A Case Study of the Mamprusi-Kusasi Conflict

Mesut Yilmaz, McMaster University, Hamilton

Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commissions for Structural Transformation of Africa

Nathaniel Umukoro, Edo University Iyamho, Edo

Memory of Human Rights Violations during the Nigeria-Biafra War and the Imperative for Transitional Justice in Nigeria

4.00 - 5.00 pm	Break	On Own
5.00 - 6.00 pm	Farewell Dinner Get-together for all conference participants and Closing Remarks - Dr. Sylvia Bawa	University Guest House Restaurant
6.00 pm	Adjourn and Departure Safe Travels!	

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Throughout the conference, photograph of panels and individual presentations will be taken and posted on the *Confronting Atrocity* Project website: <https://truthcommissions.humanities.mcmaster.ca/>. Please, kindly notify any of the Contact Persons or Conference Support Staff if you **DO NOT** want your photographs taken/posted on our website. Thank you!