

AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

University Center for International Studies

SPRING SYMPOSIUM

“Information Transformation in Africa: Indigenous Knowledge, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), and Libraries.”

DATE: APRIL 4-5, 2008 VENUE: 1700 W.W.P.H

The global digital divide between the developed and the developing world, particularly Africa, perpetuates inequality. For example, it is estimated that about 70 percent of people in North America and Western Europe use the internet on a regular basis whereas the corresponding figure for Africa is less than 4 percent. How can the developing world catch up on access to and use of information technology resources? How can digital resources be applied to make more efficient service delivery in education, business, health, and government in Africa? Isn't the control of the global information system by the rich and powerful countries and the relative poverty of digital resources in Africa a question

of social justice? How might intellectual property rights protect Africa's indigenous knowledge forms? Join us as we interrogate these and other related questions in our symposium, “Information Transformation in Africa.” The keynote will be Ms. Kay Raseroka, Director of Library Services, University of Botswana, and past president of the International Federation of Library Association and Institutions (IFLA).



Program

Friday, April 4

4:00 – 5:45 PM: **Dinner
Posvar Hall Galleria**
5:45 – 5:50 PM: **Welcome
Remarks (Joseph Adjaye)**
5:50 – 6PM: **Introductory
Remarks (Larry Feick)**
6-7:45PM: **Keynote:
“Indigenous Knowledge in
the Information
Technology Age” (K.
Raseroka)**

Saturday, April 5

8:00-8:30 AM: **Breakfast**
8:30-8:40: **Brief Remarks
(Rush Miller)**
8:40–10:10 AM: **Panel I**
10:10 - 10:30 AM: **Break**
10:30–12:30 PM: **Panel II**
**12:30 -1:30 PM: Closing
Keynote: “What Makes a
Global Africa Information
Society Good” (Johannes
Britz)**

Panel I: Harnessing Appropriate Technologies for Information (Moderator: Macrina C. Lelei)

- The Technology of the Human Voice: Oral Systems of Information Retrieval and Dissemination (Joseph Adjaye, Pitt)
- IT Infrastructure in Africa (Jacques Du Plessis, UW-Milwaukee)
- Library Resources, Knowledge Production, and Africa in the 21st Century (Afeworki Paulos, CMU)
- Indigenous Knowledges: Epistemic Complexity, Data Diversity and Cognitive Justice (Geri Augusto, Brown University)

Panel II: ICTs in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities (Moderator: Toni Carbo)

- Indigenous Knowledge for Leadership Strategies in Development (Nathan Emery, Pitt)
- Communication and Inter-organizational Behavior in Africa (Joshua Forrest, La Roche)
- Information Ethics: Challenges for E-Government (Toni Carbo, Pitt)
- Ethical Challenges of Copyright on Access to E-Resources (Dick Kawooya, UW-Milwaukee)

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

JOSEPH K. ADJAYE

Professor, Africana Studies & History & GSPIA & Director, African Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh

Research Interests: African history and culture; popular culture; indigenous knowledge systems

GERI AUGUSTO

Assistant Professor, Public Policy, Brown University

Research Interests: Knowledge dynamics in complex interactive systems marked by power inequalities; indigenous knowledge systems in South Africa

JOHANNES BRITZ

Dean & Professor, School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Research Interests: Information ethics; development and management of information services

TONI CARBO

Professor, School of Information Science & GSPIA, University of Pittsburgh

Research Interest: National and international information policies; measurement and use of information; education for the information professions; information ethics

JACQUES DU PLESSIS

Assistant Professor, Public Policy, UW-Milwaukee.

Research interests: Reusable knowledge objects; objectives of education; core components of education; computer mediated instruction; instructional games

NATHAN EMERY

Graduate Student, Master of International Development (GSPIA) University of Pittsburgh

Research Interests: Sustainable development; indigenous knowledge; & public policy

LAWRENCE FEICK

Director, University Center for International Studies & Professor of Business Administration, University of Pittsburgh

Research Interests: Consumer information search; international marketing; word of mouth influence; and the analysis of categorical data

JOSHUA FORREST

Director, Kerr Institute of African History, Politics & Culture & Associate Professor of History & Political Science, La Roche College

DICK KAWOOYA

Assistant Director, Center for Information Policy Research, University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee
Research Interests: IPR focusing on the dynamic relationship between copyright and informal sector activities

MACRINA C. LELEI

Assistant Director, African Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh
Research Interests: Education development in Africa

AFEWORKI PAULOS

Principal librarian, University Libraries, Carnegie Mellon University
Research Interests: African Studies resources, Academic libraries in collections development reference

KAY RASEROKA

Director, Library Services, University of Botswana, and Past President (2003-2005), International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

Hosted by:

- **African Studies Program, (University Center for International Studies)**

University of Pittsburgh

In collaboration with:

- **School of Information Sciences**

University of Pittsburgh

- **Institute for Information Ethics and Policy**

University of Pittsburgh

- **The University Library System**

University of Pittsburgh

- **School of Information Studies**

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

- **Center for Information and Policy Research**

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee