



African Women in the Media Symposium 27 July 2017

About AWIM Symposium

The symposium aims to bring together African women working in the media, and academics in the field of media and communications concerned with media, diaspora, race, gender, representation, and African feminism. The objectives are to engage in debates on issues affecting African women in the media, provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas between academia and industry, and opportunities for networking. With a focus on news media, the central questions the symposium will seek to answer are:

- What challenges do African women working in the media face?
- How are these challenges being addressed? How might they be?
- How are African women represented in the media?

The long-term aim is to establish an action-orientated, supportive, and, empowering network that bridges academia and industry.

Schedule

1000-1030 Registration

1030-1040 Introduction: Dr Yemisi Akinbobola

1040-1125 Keynote: Minna Salami. *"African Women's Liberation - What is the Role of Public Opinion?"*

1125-1210 Panel 1: Inclusion and diversity in media organisations

1210-1310 Lunch, Networking, Pitch Zone with Dorothy Byrne, Head of News and Current Affairs, Channel 4

1310-1440 Panel 2: Voices of African women in diaspora and online media

1440-1455 Break

1455-1635 Panel 3: African women and the media: A trans-African outlook

1635-1650 Business meeting Q&A and Networking

16.50-17.00 Closing remarks: Dr Yemisi Akinbobola

This is a Women's Network Event Funded by MeCCSA Women's Media Studies Network and Birmingham Centre for Media and Culture Research (BCMCR), Birmingham City University

Join us for the AWIM 2018 2-day conference at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria



Profiles

Organiser

Dr Yemisi Akinbobola is a media academic, an award-winning journalist and media entrepreneur. She is the award leader for the MA Global Media Management at Birmingham City University. Her research interests are in African Feminism and Digital Feminism. She is the founder of the African Women in the Media Facebook group, founder of award-winning website IQ4News, and her new venture Stringers Africa.

Email: yemisi.akinbobola@bcu.ac.uk **Twitter:** @yemisiogunleye

Keynote

Minna Salami is a Nigerian, Finnish and Swedish writer, and the founder of the feminist blog, MsAfropolitan, through which she is frequently sought as a journalist, keynote speaker, gender specialist, lecturer and consultant. Her work advocates for global feminist awareness while critically exploring the relationship between gender, ethnicity, pop culture and social criticism from an Africa-centred perspective.

Email: msafropolitan@gmail.com **Twitter:** @MsAfropolitan

Host

Marverine Cole an award-winning journalist and broadcaster, with her experience ranging from being a reporter, producer, anchor and presenter for organisations like BBC, ITV, Arise News and Sky News. Diversity is her passion, and for the last decade she's mentored countless aspiring media professionals, and budding journalists. She is a regularly judge for media industry awards and shortlists candidates for the NCTJ Journalism Diversity Bursary. Marverine produces her very own podcast, Quintessential Voices, a platform to celebrate women of colour. She's an alumni of Birmingham City University, where she's currently a Visiting Lecturer in Broadcast Journalism. Cross social media: @TVMarv

Panel 1: Inclusion and Diversity in media organisations

Several studies have demonstrated a lack of gender equality and diversity in the journalism industry in the UK. The IWMF's Global Report of the Status of Women in News Media found that although female journalists made up 45% of the UK's news media industry, "women face a glass ceiling that seems fixed at the junior professional level". A 2016 report by City University London also found that only 0.2% of journalists in the UK are black.

This fishbowl discussion with African women who work in the British media will offer an insight into their lived experiences and challenges they face in their career.



Panelists

Rebecca Omonira-Oyekanmi is a freelance journalist and writer-in-residence at Lacuna at the Centre for Human Rights in Practice, University of Warwick. Rebecca has been published by a range of publications including openDemocracy, the Guardian, the New Statesman, the Washington Post, the New Internationalist, and the Socialist Lawyer. Rebecca's reporting on immigration and asylum across the European Union was shortlisted for the 2012 George Orwell Prize for Political Writing (blog category) and the 2013 Speaking Together Media Award. *Twitter: @rebecca_omonira*

Yousra Elbagir is an award-winning Sudanese freelance reporter, based between Khartoum and London. Her work has been featured on the BBC World Service, The Guardian, CNN, the Financial Times and more.

She interweaves news and culture to produce written, radio and video reports that put the developing world perspective at the forefront of mainstream media. *Twitter: @yousraelbagir*

Muna Ahmed is an award-winning radio producer specialising in short form productions and station sound. She has now turned her hand to documentaries. Muna recently produced an award-winning documentary for BBC World Service and Radio4. When Muna is not making documentaries she is producing content with prisoners for National Prison Radio.

Muna's passion for radio began at Birmingham City University where she gained a first class degree in Media and Communications. *Twitter: @muna392*

Kiri Kankhwende is a Malawian journalist and blogger specialising in immigration and politics. She has a background in French and Chinese language studies and holds an MSc in International Political Communications, Politics and Human Rights Advocacy. She is published in Guardian, and the Independent, and has been a contributor on BBC TV and radio, Al-Jazeera and Fox News, both as a member of the Media Diversified network and in her role directing media advocacy for CSW, a human rights charity specialising in freedom of religion or belief. *Twitter: @madomasi*

Chair

Gbemisola Isimi is a Freelance Consultant and Founder of Culture Tree, a company that produces indigenous educational programmes for children and runs classes to teach children Yoruba language and culture. She is currently consulting for Chiswick Park Studios (affiliated to TVC News) who aim to bridge the current gap in media by producing programmes that tell our stories and present our perspective.

Twitter: @culturetreev Email: gbemiisimi@icloud.com



Panel 2: Voices of African women in diaspora and online media

Panelists will discuss the role, and current practices, of diaspora and ethnic media in their representation and empowerment of African women. Panelists speaking on online media will look both at African feminism, representation and cultural exchange between the UK, USA, Nigeria and Ghana.

Krys Osei is a Ph.D. Candidate at Goldsmiths, University of London. Her Ph.D. research explores the intimate correlation between cultural production and audience consumption of the web series *An African City* amongst second-generation Ghanaian women throughout the urban diasporic locales of Accra, London and Washington, DC.

Email: krys.osei@gmail.com

Dr Pauline Long is a Kenyan born and UK based entrepreneur and founder of BEFFTA, an awards ceremony honouring the best in showbiz and entertainment personalities in the black and ethnic communities. She will be speaking about the role of ethnic media in improving the representation of African women in the British media.

Twitter: [@paulinelong](https://twitter.com/paulinelong)

Diretnan Bot is a second year Ph.D. student at the Department of Media, Communications and Sociology at the University of Leicester, UK. Diretnan's research interests are: the construction of gender using technology, African feminist discourse, and Critical Discourse Studies (CDS) focusing on gender ideology and identity in (online) media discourse. *Email: ddb11@leicester.ac.uk*

Dr Oluyinka Esan is a Reader in Media and Film at the University of Winchester. Her paper titled 'Defining Women's Voices: Across Borders and Over the Years' draws on secondary data for an historical perspective, and primary data for contemporary empirical evidence. It focuses on patterns of participation of women as media professionals in a sample of Nigerian television channels that cater for audiences both in Nigeria and its diaspora. *Email: Oluyinka.Esan@winchester.ac.uk*

Chair

Aduke Onafowokan is an impactful speaker and women's rights advocate, with a passion for empowering women and creating platforms and opportunities for women to empower each other. Through her work with The Sister Sister Network, Aduke brings a fresh approach to networking and integration between women in British communities, helping to expand crucial conversations such as gender, race and the unique experiences of women who interact with this daily. Aduke also runs the Random Acts of Kindness Charity which sponsors over 100 young girls education in rural villages in Nigeria. *Email: adukeonafowokan@sistersisters.co.uk*



Panel 3: African women in the media: A Trans-African outlook

The final panel for the day will focus on issues around the representation of African women in media in African countries. Speakers will also discuss the experiences of African women working in the media in African countries.

Prof. Florence Ayisi is a Professor of International Documentary Film at the University of South Wales where she teaches film history and theory, documentary film practice and transnational cinema. Her research draws on concepts including postcolonial theory, cultural representation, transnational cinema, spectatorship, and ethnographic film. She is also an award winning documentary filmmaker, with films such as *Sisters in Law* (Ayisi & Longinotto, 2005), *Zanzibar Soccer Queens* (2007), and *Zanzibar Soccer Dreams* (Ayisi & Brylla, 2016). *Email: florence.ayisi@southwales.ac.uk*

Dr Motilola Akinfemisoye is a Lecturer in the Media Studies department at the University of Botswana. She holds a PhD in Journalism and Media from the University of Central Lancashire, Preston. She has published on how new media technologies are shaping journalism practices in Nigeria. Focusing on Sub-Saharan Africa, her research interests are in the areas of journalists' appropriation of new media technologies, gender diversity and inclusion in newsrooms as well as new media and the performance of religion. *Email: akinfemisoyem@ub.ac.bw*

Sally Osei-Appiah, is a PhD researcher at the School of Media and Communication, University of Leeds. Her project looks at the textual and visual (self) representation of West African female politicians in the media. *Email: mesoa@leeds.ac.uk*

Nancy Brian Mbaye is a PhD researcher at the University of Chester, with several years of experience working in the media in Nigeria as a news reporter, editor and Director of News and Current Affairs in Borno Radio Television Corporation (BRTV). She was a Special Adviser on Media Affairs to the Borno government, and editor of the Beacon Magazine. *Email: 1426488@chester.ac.uk*

Kodwo Boateng is a Senior Lecturer in Communication at the Ghana Institute of Journalism, and currently studying for his doctorate at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. His research is an ethnographic study of women in journalism in Ghana. A member of the Ghana Journalists Association, he is currently working on establishing a research centre for the media, gender, minorities and disabilities at the Ghana Institute for journalism. *Email: kodwo.j.a.boateng@student.jyu.fi*

Chair - Dr Yemisi Akinbobola



Pitch to Channel 4



Dorothy Byrne, Head of News and Current Affairs at Channel 4, will be taking pitches for stories and ideas for Channel 4 over the lunch break. Time slots are booked in advance, please see the pitch zone for available slots.

Stitch a patch on the AWIM Quilt

We are asking for your ideas about the African Women in the Media group. What should be our research and industry agenda? What kind of activities would you like the group to engage in? What should be our vision for the annual conference? Please write this on one of the pieces of fabric at the AWIM Quilt stand, and stitch it to the other ideas on the table. The AWIM Quilt will be displayed at all our events, so don't forget to write your name.

Join us



facebook.com/groups/Africanwomeninthemedia/

Thanks to all our volunteers

- Olivia Lawlor who designed the AWIM logo.
Email: Olivia.Lawlor@mail.bcu.ac.uk
- Jasmine Morrison for managing registration and photography.
Email: Jasmine.Morrison@mail.bcu.ac.uk
- Dr Rachel-Ann Charles (Rachel-Ann.Charles@bcu.ac.uk) and Abimbola Duro-David (Abimbola.DuroDavid@mail.bcu.ac.uk) who managed ideas gathering
- Dominic Sweeney (Dominic.Sweeney@mail.bcu.ac.uk) and Ash (aquilter98@gmail.com) who covered the symposium for Birmingham Eastside
- Geraldine Lacides (Lacides.Geraldine@mail.bcu.ac.uk) and Michael Luton (Michael.Luton@mail.bcu.ac.uk) who filmed and edited the symposium
- Tia Cham for social media coverage. Email: Tia.Cham@mail.bcu.ac.uk