

UNESCO Chairs Seminar Series
Transforming Knowledge for Africa's Future

Decolonizing the Teaching and Learning of Africa's History

Date and time: Wednesday 25 October 2023, 15:00 to 16:30 (Paris time)

Languages: English, French and Spanish

Format: Zoom – [Please click here to register](#)

Seminar description

Knowledge of Africa's history has long been dominated by Eurocentric perspectives, which has rendered a skewed representation of the continent's history and perpetuated preconceptions, prejudice and racial discrimination. Colonization, the transatlantic slave trade and slavery have had a lasting impact on the way that Africa's history is taught and learnt within and beyond the continent. Power imbalances created by colonialism continue to reinforce power asymmetries around who produces knowledge about the continent and its societies, and who can access this. These have had an enduring impact on how African history is taught and how Africa is perceived.

In 1964 UNESCO launched the General History of Africa in an effort to respond to the challenge of reconstructing Africa's history and promoting a genuine and African-owned perspectives of the past. It resulted in the publication of a collection of eight remarkable volumes, available in full or in part in 12 languages, including three African languages (Fulfulde, Hausa and Swahili), on the history of Africa, written by Africans, from a pan-African perspective.

Concurrently to the decolonization of the production of knowledge and strengthening knowledge commons, there is need to ensure that these historical narratives and the process of rethinking historical narratives is translated into effective and impactful teaching and learning practices and that they catalyze and connect with the transformation of education institutions and systems at large.

Ultimately, the aim is to advance a common identity and pride in Africa's heritage, progress towards greater epistemic justice and an inclusive and fair future through the reappropriation and production of African history and the transformation of education. These objectives are enshrined in [UNESCO's Flagship Programme](#) "The General History of Africa (GHA) as a catalyst for achieving Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda".

This Seminar will focus on the ways in which higher education institutions and research can significantly contribute to the transformation of teaching and learning of Africa's history in and beyond the continent. It will engage UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks, and other experts, in a discussion on the different perspectives and approaches towards decolonizing the teaching and learning of Africa's history across education systems, touching upon topics such as the development of knowledge commons and indigenous knowledge-based systems, and implications for teacher education institutes, curriculum and pedagogical transformation, and the use of African languages.

**** [Register here](#) ****

Provisional Agenda

Decolonizing the teaching and learning of Africa's history Wednesday 25 October 2023, 15:00-16:30 (CET)	
15:00-15:10	<p>Opening remarks</p> <p>Anthony Ohemeng-Boamah, Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations, UNESCO</p> <p>Mamadou Ndoye, Former Minister of Education of Senegal</p>
15:10-15:30	<p>Navigating trends in history education and perspectives on decolonizing education in Africa</p> <p>Mapping of recent trends in history education in Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denise Bentrovato, Senior Researcher and Extraordinary Lecturer in History Education & Co-Director of the African Association for History Education, University of Pretoria, South Africa <p>Perspectives on decolonizing teaching and learning about, in and beyond Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injairu Kulundu-Bolus, Senior Lecturer, Environmental Learning Research centre, Department of Educational Futures Rhodes University
15:30-16:00	<p>The role of higher education institutions in transforming knowledge production and education through the General History of Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohamed Camara, Chairman, Department of African Studies, Professor of History, Howard University, United States of America • Samson Igor Bidossessi Guedegbe, UNESCO Chair on Human Rights and Democracy, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin • Anny Ocoro Loango, Member of the UNESCO Chair on Higher Education and Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples in Latin America, Universidad Nacional Tres de Febrero, Argentina
16:00-16:25	<p>Comments and reflections</p> <p>All participants</p> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <p>Inés Dussel, Researcher and Professor at the Department of Educational Research, CINVESTAV, Mexico, and ISCHE President</p>
16:25-16:30	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>UNESCO</p>