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Summer School on Wealth and Inequality Research in Africa

Call for Participation

16-22 September 2024

Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

Context and Aim

In contrast to the prediction of mainstream economists, African wealth and income inequality remains amongst the highest in the world and is still worsening. Government policies, often in response to neoliberal donor conditionality, have often exacerbated this crisis by cutting public spending on social services such as health, education, and water, by introducing user fees on public goods and shifting these services to the private sector and by removing subsidies for the poor. Despite increasing debates in academia and politics on the historical roots of current economic performance and inequality in Africa, however, research on wealth inequalities in the context of Africa remains limited.

The summer school therefore aims to enhance capacities and share research on understanding wealth, the influence of neoliberal and other policies on wealth (in)equality, different forms of inequalities, methods for data collection, measuring and analyzing inequalities, and understanding the nexus between inequalities and conflict. Specific attention will be paid to the drivers of wealth inequality including class, gender, displacement, persons with disability, and the rural-urban divide. By the end of the summer school, participants will be able to collaboratively develop interdisciplinary research designs to contribute to the understanding, analyzing, measuring, and reporting of the gender-disaggregated data on wealth inequality and the implications of wealth inequalities to policy and practice.

As part of the outputs, participants will collectively draft blog posts and policy briefs reflecting on the summer school's experiential learning, which will be published on the IfSO blog. Moreover, participants will work in groups with established researchers from the US, Europe, and Africa to develop, write, and publish a paper or chapter on a wealth-related subject. Finally, participants will help to develop recommendations on how to institutionalize the study of wealth, wealth inequality, and related policy initiatives in the curriculum of their university or department.

Organization

The summer school is jointly organized by the University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany), Makerere University (Uganda), and the University of Michigan (USA) and is made possible by a generous grant from the Volkswagen Foundation. It will take place from September 16th to 22nd, 2024, at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. The Summer School will be attended by 45 students from East Africa and 5 students from Germany. Where applicable flights and

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ground transportation, accommodations, and meals will be covered upon successful application.

Application

To participate, you must be enrolled in a Master's, PhD, or Post-Doc program at UDE and have a certified English proficiency of B2 or higher.

Please submit your application via email to paul.kliesch@stud.uni-due.de. It should include a one-page curriculum vitae and a motivational letter explaining why you wish to participate in the summer school (max. 400 words). The deadline for submission is 31st May 2024 at 23:59h and a response to the application will be sent by 14th June 2024.

For further information regarding the organization of the summer school as well as the host university and country, please contact the lead convenor Dr. Resty Naiga, Senior Lecturer, Head and Chair Department of Development Studies, Makerere University, College of Humanities and Social Sciences at naigaresty19@gmail.com telephone +256702213776.