

Challenges of African scholars and early career researchers

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Order of presentations

- * Work done around challenges
- * What we know
- * Challenges
- * Opportunities
- * Own experience-if time allows

Work on challenges



Edited by Prof. Leslie Steeves (University of Oregon)

Essay By Fatoumata Sow (p.169ff) Titled: From Media activism to academia(2016)

Still the Dark Continent: A Content Analysis of Research About Africa and by African Scholars in 18 Major Communication-Related Journals

[Ann Neville Miller](#), [Christine Deeter](#), [Anne Trelstad](#), [Matthew Hawk](#), [Grace Ingram](#) & [Annie Ramirez](#)(2013)

What we know

- * CA of all published articles between 2004-2010 in communication, 5224 articles were reviewed in 18 top communication journals (Miller et al, 2013). Only 39 were Africa focused studies 25 focused on health communication mostly
- * 1998-2002, in the institute of scientific information (ISI) alone had 43 authors, 86% were from USA, Canada, united Kingdom but none of the publishing nations was from Africa (Lauf, 2005)
- * Ondari-Okemwa (2007) found out that the total number of publications from 1997-mid 2007 in the entire continent was less than that of a single publications year by scholars united states.

What we know

- * Low salaries hence two or more jobs to make ends meet.
- * Language is also another challenge as most journals are in English (Sow, 2016, p,173)
- * Libraries cannot afford to purchase current books, journal articles excetera (Steeves et al, 2016)

Some of the challenges

- * Social(family fabric, socio-cultural burden/ expectations, to study abroad or not and implications for whatever choice)
- * Research and publications(language and the rigor of being published), mentorship gap real, -however the opportunity to collaborate exist
- * Financial –not enough to study, save , sustain let alone doing research

opportunities

- * Plenty of research opportunities-some theories yet to be tested in Africa but also Afrocentric theories yet to be felt, tested and tried
- * Huge opportunities in Development communication for sustainable change & especially the SDGS
- * Collaborations
- * Mentorships

Meet me!

- ❑ 16th born out of 20
- ❑ Student, mum, employee and wife all in one
- ❑ Did PhD in UK-self funded(New media and development), tough life
- ❑ Odd jobs to raise money to get by(care homes)
- ❑ Back to Kenya working at my alma mater--



**Thank
You!!!**