Literacy, gender and race: The growing presence of African immigrant women in Sweden’s transforming landscape

Daphne Ntiri, African American Studies, Professor

Thursday, December 7, 2017 12:30PM-1:30PM Rm. 2339 F/A Bldg

Recently immigration has assumed a new meaning for women in countries in the Horn of Africa. For instance, a new immigration order has created unique opportunities for mass relocation of families from Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia to continents of the West (namely Europe, Australia and North America), where the families are allowed to establish settlement. In Sweden, particularly — a country with no prior colonial ties to Africa — we see an unprecedented growth of immigrants and refugees from the Horn of Africa. Already, these foreign populations are transforming the once homogenous Swedish landscape, where African women are creating gendered structural institutions that are helping them advance educationally and economically. Dr. Daphne Ntiri’s recent invited faculty scholar residency to the University of Uppsala, Sweden provided a unique opportunity to examine pathways to access literacy and educational proficiencies as well as show how operative gender is within this population of African immigrant women in Sweden. This inquiry is especially eye-opening considering the fact that the country has been described as “the most egalitarian, humanitarian and democratic country in the world”.

Daphne W. Ntiri, PhD is Professor in the Department of African American Studies and a published scholar of scores of refereed articles and chapters on the intersection on adult literacy, gender and inequality. Her recent work, Literacy as gendered discourse: Engaging the voices of women in global societies (2015) investigates the challenges of literacy as an instrument simultaneously of gendered inequality and emancipation of women. She is a funded faculty to the tune of $4,269,000 to support long-term adult literacy initiatives at Wayne State University. She was an invited delegate to the US House of Congress, Literacy Issue Forum, a recipient of a Fulbright scholarship and a consultant to UNESCO. Prof. Ntiri is the recipient of several academic and professional honors and awards.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

For more info about the Humanities Center, call (313) 577-5471 or visit www.research2.wayne.edu/hum