



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

REFLECTION ON FEMINIST AND THE CITY AFRICA MAGAZINE LAUNCH

by Prof Cheryl Potgieter: GRRIPP Africa Project Lead, Head of DUT Gender Justice, Health, and Human Development Department,



GRRIPP
Gender Responsive
Resilience & Intersectionality in
Policy & Practice

This month, GRRIPP Africa and DUT Gender Justice, Health, and Human Development Department convened a successful Feminism and the City Magazine Africa Launch. The digital magazine includes contributions from myself, Makerere University lecturer, Dr Assumpta Nnaggenda-Musana, DUT senior researcher, Dr Kira Irwin, University of Pretoria PhD candidate, Nocebo Bucibo, and GRRIPP Communications Officer, Omogolo Taunyane-Mnguni. The event is part of a seminar series focusing on subject matter related to gender, resilience, and intersectionality on the continent.

We had the pleasure of hosting revered corporate executive, academic, award-winning author, and Chair of GBVF Response Fund, Dr Judy Dlamini, who proffered a Keynote Address. Joining her as contributors to the magazine was, Dr Nnaggenda-Musana and Taunyane-Mnguni. Tasked with contextualising the discussion as a seasoned senior local government practitioner, was a submission from City of Cape Town Director of Communications, Priya Reddy.

From the onset, the team involved in conceptualising and producing the magazine resolved to challenge academic dogmatism of publishing journals. Is it for

this reason that the collections of essays, images, photo essays, and reflections is referred to as a magazine. I attribute this feat to the exceptional leadership of the magazine's Editor, Dr Hanna Ruszczyk, from Durham University.

As such, my reflection posits the subject of gender and intersectionality from a diverse cohort of contemporary African women leaders cutting across strategic sectors of Africa's development. Dr Dlamini's spoke to intersectional feminism, reminding attendees of their responsibility to use their societal privileges to uplift marginalised communities. "We should all be feminists because gendered oppression affects both men and women," she said. Most poignant was her call to action to eradicate gender-based violence and emphasise building more positive masculinities for young men.

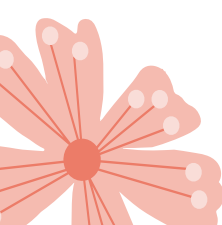
“The level of violence, the feminisation and racialisation of poverty and, of course, economic apartheid means that a feminist city is still a dream deferred”

Reddy observed that the increasing presence of women in urban centres as they seek upward mobility creates nodes of feminism and the city. She highlighted that women carry the burden of creating livelihoods for themselves and their families, which makes them a significant constituency for service delivery priorities. “A simple service delivery agenda is public lighting; this must be prioritised and consulted with communities. Public consultation informs and enables for strategy, regulations, and policy implementation to be responsive to residents.”

Dr Nnaggenda-Musana’s essay, titled “The Informality of Feminism in African Urban Centres”, argued against multi-storey social housing in Uganda’s urban centres. She acknowledged the demand for considerably increased land capacity in single story social housing, and presented her findings from research she has conducted pertaining the benefits derived from measurable social outcomes for working class constituencies.

In an essay titled “Interacting with a Feminist City from a gender and media perspective”, Taunyane-Mnguni unpacked the outcomes of the media’s urban bias during coverage on incidents of gender-based violence. Hers was an interesting view, as it brought salience to the media’s power and influence to shape public perceptions.

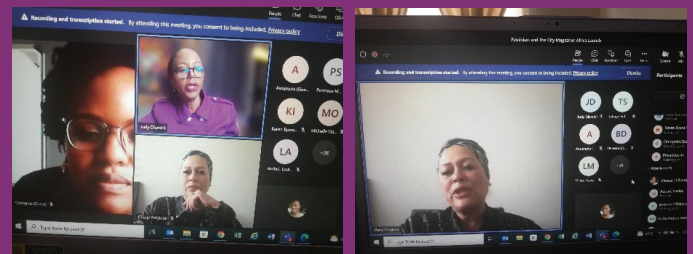
“The outstanding features of colonial urban planning in Uganda were racial, gendered and economic segregation.”



Belen Desmaison, our colleague at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Per and part of the Organising Committee of the Feminism and the City Magazine, provided closing remarks.

A most crucial aspect to our objective was to collectively recognise the brilliance of African pioneers who are paving the way for the next generation of feminist thought leadership and praxis in contemporary history. The dynamism of the engagement and positive feedback since the seminar confirms that we succeeded in this endeavour.

I extend gratitude for the collaborative fervour we share with Professor Maureen Fordham as Principal Investigator at GRRIPP. Her leadership at the Centre Director of the IRDR Centre for Gender and Disaster at University College London continues to be most beneficial to institutionalising GRRIPP’s global impact and reach.



Images taken from Feminism and the City Africa Launch webinar (Source: GRRIPP Africa)

1. Prof Cheryl Potgieter, Head of Gender Justice, Health and Human Development Department, Durban University of Technology. Forced Removals, Family and Feminist Me (2022).
2. Dr Assumpta Nnaggenda-Musana, Makerere University lecturer. Essay: The Informality of Feminism in African Urban Centres (2022).
3. Dr Kira Erwin, Senior Researcher at Urban Futures Centre DUT. Essay: A chorus of voices: storytelling the city into being (2022).
4. Nocebo Bucibo, photographer and PhD candidate at the University of Pretoria. Photo essay: The Hostel Womb (2022).
5. Omogolo Taunyane-Mnguni, GRRIPP Africa Communications Officer. Essay: Interacting with a Feminist City from a gender and media perspective (2022).

With thanks,
Professor Cheryl Potgieter
 GRRIPP Africa Project Lead
 Head of DUT Gender Justice, Health, and Human Development Department