

1991

## Conference on the Status of Women's Studies in Africa 1991

Annette Van Dyke  
*Denison University*

Becky Thomas  
*The Ohio State University*

Claire Robertson  
*The Ohio State University*

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*University of Zambia*

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October 1, 1991

**EXPRESS MAIL**

Alice Siachitema  
The University of Zambia  
School of Humanities and Social Science  
P.O. Box 32379  
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

Dear Professor Siachitema:

I am writing to you to say how pleased Women's Studies at Denison University is to be able to host you for a couple of days on your way to the Conference on The Status of Women's Studies in Africa. I have just spoken to Laurie Churchill, Women's Studies Coordinator at Ohio Wesleyan University, about coordinating your visit to our two campuses.

Depending on your arrival date, we have tentatively planned for you to visit Denison first, possibly arriving on November 17, 1991, and visiting classes at Denison on November 18 and 19. I hope to arrange for you to speak about Women's Studies in Africa or something about your research on African women the evening of November 18, 1991, for about 40 minutes plus about 20 minutes for questions. Someone from Ohio Wesleyan would pick you up the evening of November 19, 1991, to transport you to Ohio Wesleyan where you would continue your visit.

We are prepared to offer you an honorarium of \$150.00 and will arrange lodging and food and will share the cost of your airfare from and to St. Louis with Ohio Wesleyan. For publicity purposes, could you send the title of your talk and a photograph if you have one? If you have a social security number, we would also like to have that for payment purposes.

I am sending you a fact sheet about Women's Studies at Denison and look forward to discussing Women's Studies at Denison and in Africa with you. We are eager to hear from you as to the date of your arrival and other detail so that we can make the final arrangements.

Sincerely,

Annette Van Dyke  
Director of Women's Studies

cg  
enclosures

in 14 21 out

SPEAKING TOURS

By African participants in the Conference on  
The Status of Women's Studies in Africa

African participants in this conference, which will be held on 22-23 November 1991, are being offered help in arranging pre-conference visits to Women's Studies programs (one or two programs each) in the U.S. These participants are being asked to state their preferences for type of Women's Studies programs they would like to visit. We also need your help in arranging their tours. Local transportation and lodging would need to be covered by local programs, and speakers would expect an honorarium. Could you help us by taking charge of arranging one person's speaking tour and by presenting the case to your institution? Institutions with women's studies programs and curricula at any stage are eligible to participate. The confirmed conference participants are:

- |                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Elizabeth Ardayfio-Schandorf | Ghana        |
| Staneala Beckley             | Sierra Leone |
| Jacqueline Ekambi            | Cameroon     |
| Zeinab El Bakri              | Sudan        |
| Samia Al Hadi El Nagar       | Sudan        |
| Walu Engundu                 | Zaire        |
| Almaz Eshete                 | Ethiopia     |
| Deborah Etoori               | Uganda       |
| Rudo Gaidzanwa               | Zimbabwe     |
| Mere Kisekka                 | Nigeria      |
| Takyiwa Manuh                | Ghana        |
| Matseliso Mapetla            | Lesotho      |
| Monica Munachonga            | Zambia       |
| Maria Musoke                 | Uganda       |
| Ibitola Pearce               | Nigeria      |
| Kay Raseroka                 | Botswana     |
| Kathleen Siachitema          | Zambia       |
| Ndeye Sow (AAWORD)           | Senegal      |

*Claire Robertson*  
*Booby Thompson*  
*Laurie*  
*Ohio Churchill*  
*Weslyn*  
*457-3643*  
*368-3577(0)*

(Several more confirmations are expected over the next few weeks.)

If your institution would like to participate, please notify:

Claire Robertson  
Department of History  
106 Dulles Hall  
230 W. 17th Avenue  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH 43210-1367

or leave a message at (614) 457-3643  
[NOTE: Materials may be faxed to # 614-292-2282]

*French speaking? \$150 + air from St. Louis*  
*paid for speech*  
*sent ahead of time? English good. French speaking?*  
*on campus*





Department of History

106 Dulles Hall  
230 West 17th Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210-1367  
Phone 614-292-2674  
FAX 614-292-2282

Annette Van Dyke  
Women's Studies Program  
Denison University  
Granville, OH 43023

November 7, 1991

Dear Ms. Van Dyke,

Please forgive me for the delay in sending this information to you. As I may have told you, we have been experiencing a great deal of difficulty in communicating with our African participants and in assuring the delivery or availability of their airline tickets. We seem to have finally finished this process, but it has taken much more time than I anticipated.

Enclosed is a copy of Dr. Siachitema's itinerary, so that you know all the details of her trip. Unless you have set other plans with her, I assume that something has been arranged in terms of her being met at the airport. If you have some arrangement which she might need to know about, but you haven't been able to communicate with her (or are not sure it was successful), you might try leaving messages through the airlines at one or two airports where she will be changing planes. Hopefully they would be able to pass them on. If there is anything very urgent, please feel free to call me and I can try to get a message to her (though there are no guarantees, as I have not had consistent success myself).

In case you need it and don't have it already, here is her address:

Dr. Kathleen Siachitema  
University of Zambia  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
PO Box 32379  
Lusaka, Zambia  
(Tel: 260-1-213221, ext. 1182)  
(FAX: 260-1-253952)

Regarding the portion of her travel for which we need to be reimbursed, we would like a check to be made out to The African Studies Association and sent to me at the above address (so I can keep track of our budget). I will then send it to ASA headquarters in Atlanta. The total for this tour comes to \$258.00 (which would be the cost of round-trip airfare between St. Louis and your airport. Even though

I want to thank you for being part of the tour program, and for all of your patience and effort in making it a reality. It looks like it will be a smashing success, and for that we are very grateful.

Please call me if you have any questions about the tour.

Sincerely,

*Becky Thomas*

Becky Thomas  
Administrative Assistant to the Conference Coordinator





Department of History

106 Dulles Hall  
230 West 17th Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210-1367  
Phone 614-292-2674  
FAX 614-292-2282

Date: 12 December 1991  
To: Tour Hosts for participants in "The Status of Women's Studies in Africa" conference  
From: Claire Robertson, conference organizer  
Regarding: Feedback on tours

I am pleased to report that the conference was quite successful in bringing together African women from across the continent and sharing knowledge about women's studies efforts. I want to thank the tour hosts for their efforts, especially those who kept our guests for longer than we initially expected. At the end of the conference we had a feedback session to get some responses to the tours and suggestions for another conference. I would like to share with you some of that feedback.

The majority of the participants were very positive about the tours in saying that they met a good set of people, learned a lot and enjoyed the experience. They also were very appreciative of the suggestions made for continuing efforts at exchange that came out of their visits. Thus, it seemed to most of us that some of the good results envisaged were indeed accomplished by the tours.

However, there were also some well-justified complaints which seemed wise to share with you so that, should a similar situation arise in the future, we will all know more how to handle it. I myself learned from the complaints that I should have been more specific with the hosts in describing what the tours were expected to entail and what the compensation to the Africans should have covered. Please, then, keep in mind in the following that most of the participants had no complaints, but also that, if the situation applies to your program, our visitors were not always treated as they should have been.

The complaints centered around two issues. The first and most serious was that some of our guests felt exploited by the number of talks they were expected to give. In the most egregious case a participant was asked to give 15 talks in four days for one institution, some of these entailing giving back-to-back classes for instructors. For this she was paid \$300. When we suggested \$150 as an honorarium, it was meant to cover a scholar giving one talk at one



institution. (An additional interview or class attendance would be one thing, but a schedule like this is unacceptable.) These women were visiting scholars who should have been treated and paid on the same scale as any visiting scholar. \$150 is about the going rate for a moderately known scholar to give one talk in this country. Demands as in the case above remove a person from the category of scholar and put them in that of a zoo exhibit. Most of these women had been travelling for several days before their arrival, under less than ideal conditions, and some were put into rigorous schedules with no time to get over jet lag--one night is often not enough.

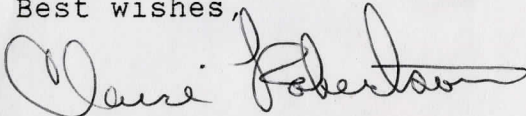
Second, the purpose of the tours and their attendant inconvenience was for the Africans to learn about women's studies programs in this country--to get whatever information they might find useful for their own efforts. We had far more responses than speakers and trusted that those who got in first and got someone would fulfill that purpose. In a few cases our trust was misplaced. Some Africans were kept so busy giving that they never got to receive. In one case the chair of the women's studies program just couldn't find time to even greet the speaker, which minimal standards of politeness demand, much less discuss the program with her. (Three of our participants head women's studies programs of their own.)

For my part, I felt that it was a privilege to have these women come so far and go through so much to be here (aside from travel difficulties, it is very difficult for Africans to get U.S. visas these days). They are an extraordinary group and we were fortunate to have them. I therefore was quite embarrassed, especially by the most extreme examples given above. I wondered if a double standard was operating here in a few cases and if North American scholars would have been expected to perform at that rate. One guest said that she had to draw on her every reserve of energy to perform, as the topics she was expected to address in her many community and school talks were extremely diverse and she had no warning about this which would have allowed her to prepare. On a more positive note, I hope that some of this can be accounted for by Americans' notions that entertaining a guest means keeping them busy (but what if they are expected to be the entertainment?)! In one case a very positive response came from a guest, who gave one talk each at two schools, attended some classes as an observer, and had some large gaps in her schedule, allowing her free time (one of the hosts felt that she was not being entertained properly but there were many absences among faculty and nothing to do about it!). It was not necessary, then, to occupy every moment, and some elementary courtesy and a less demanding schedule would have remedied the

problems that did arise. We have all learned from the experience!

In the end, however, most participants were very pleased and we are extremely grateful for the help of so many of you, especially for your patience and flexibility with respect to the speakers' travel schedules (which Becky cites as the single most important factor in making the tours possible). May the proposed long-term arrangements coming out of these tours prosper!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Claire Robertson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Claire Robertson  
Associate Professor



University of Zambia  
Gender Studies Unit  
School of Humanities  
& Social Sciences  
P.O. Box 32379  
Lusaka.  
Zambia  
6/3/92

My dear Annette,

I realized with shock that it's 3 months since I was in the United States and I still haven't written to ~~you~~ thank you and Cheryl and all those who made my stay at your University pleasant and comfortable. The main reason for this is that we have been having a lot of problems at our University. Lecturers have been boycotting ~~the~~ classes for a decent pay and at some stage we all nearly got sacked! The situation is still the same and it is physically and emotionally exhausting not knowing whether you will wake up tomorrow and find yourself ~~with~~ without a job especially for us single women!

Anyway, having said that I would like to thank you and Cheryl and all your colleagues whose hospitality made me feel at home while I was with you. My special thanks to Judy Porter and the gentleman who took me out for lunch to yourself and Cheryl. I hope that that financial transaction went well - I suppose I should have heard by now if it didn't.

The rest of my stay in the States went well although my ~~trip~~ journey home was even more exhausting than coming that to the States - 3 days of flying!

My best regards to all your colleagues  
and to Cheryl.

A. Kathleen

Department of Humanities  
& Social Sciences

P.O. Box 3337

Madison

Wisconsin

53706

My dear Annette,  
I realized with shock that it's 3 months since  
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written to you. I know you and Cheryl and all  
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pleasant and comfortable. The main reason  
for this is that we have been having a lot of  
problems at our university. Teachers have been  
protesting the classes for a decent pay and at  
some stage we all really got sick of the situation  
and it is ridiculous and emotionally  
draining. I know and it is frustrating and  
I still the same and I find myself  
wondering not knowing whether you will  
take up the cause and find yourself  
especially for us single women!  
I would like to thank  
you and Cheryl and all your colleagues who  
were so helpful and I would like to thank  
you for the special thanks to Cheryl and  
to yourself and Cheryl. I hope that these  
financial transactions will be well - I suppose I should  
have heard but now it doesn't  
The rest of my stay in the states was well although  
my stay was not as good as I had hoped for  
I hope that to the states - 2 days of thinking  
9/10