

Dichotomy of knowledge system contexts: privilege, elitisms, inequalities and power

Guest lecture by *Nora Ndege & Maureen Kabasa*

Monday 28th November 2022 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Venue: SOWI Fakultätssitzungssaal, 3rd floor (East), Universitätsstr. 15

There are different ways of approaching dichotomies of knowledge systems and the most common is looking at it in terms of theory and practice. Theory - traditionally represents a kind of knowledge that is the generalized distillation of observations for the purpose of explaining other observations; its principal purpose lies in the constant perfection of its own explanatory power. By contrast practice - , is conventionally predicated on a more instrumental conception of knowledge; it represents knowledge that helps to accomplish things, and that proves its worth by how well it does help to accomplish whatever needs to be accomplished, and therefore by how closely it corresponds to the particulars of a given problem situation. Through theory, practice and experience there are always dynamics with respect to power and inequalities. This public lecture will present empirical evidence, challenging dichotomies and perceived incompatibilities that may arise from combining different paradigms and philosophical positions and methodologies that open up politics and power.



Nora Ndege is a research fellow at the African Centre for Technology Studies (Nairobi, Kenya) and a PhD candidate at the Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex (UK). Her PhD project "Transformations to sustainability. Digital technologies in agricultural transition pathways" explores the role of agricultural digitization in supporting inclusive multiple agricultural pathways. She uses a multidisciplinary perspective to redesign Science Technology and Innovation interventions and configure them to support balanced growth ambitions.



Maureen Kabasa is a research fellow at the African Centre for Technology Studies (Nairobi, Kenya) and a climate change activist aiming to contribute to social, economic, and environmental development. She has experiences in field management, in community-based forestry, biophysical dynamics of forest ecosystems, integrated pest management researches, and researches on invasive species. In addition to that, she has knowledge of mapping landscapes for prospective and retrospective change analysis.