Knowledge and Change in African Universities

Volume 1 – Current Debates

Michael Cross and Amasa Ndofirepi (Eds.)

University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Besides the ongoing concern with the epistemological and theoretical hegemony of the West in African academic practice, the book aims at understanding how knowledge is produced and controlled through the interplay of the politics of knowledge and current intellectual discourses in universities in Africa. In this regard, the book calls for African universities to relocate from the position of object to subject in order to gain a form of liberated epistemological voice more responsive to the social and economic complexities of the continent. In itself, this is a critical exposé of contemporary practices in knowledge advancement in the continent. Broadly the book addresses the following questions: How can African universities reinvent knowledge production and dissemination in the face of the dominant Eurocentricism so pervasive and characteristic of academic practice in Africa to enhance their relevance to the contexts in which they operate? How can such change, particularly at knowledge production and distribution levels, be undertaken, without falling into an intellectual and discursive ghettoization in the global context? What then is the role of academics, policy makers and curriculum and program designers in dealing with biases and distortions to integrate policies, knowledge and pedagogy that reflect current cultural diversity, both local and global? Against this backdrop, while some contributions in this book argue that emancipatory epistemic voice in African universities is not yet born, or it is struggling with little success, many dissenting voices charge that if Africans do not take responsibility and construct knowledge strategies for their own emancipation, who will?

Paperback US$54.00/€50.00 ISBN 978-94-6300-840-2
Hardback US$99.00/€90.00 ISBN 978-94-6300-841-9

AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION: DEVELOPMENTS AND PERSPECTIVES, VOLUME 1

P.T.O. FOR TABLE OF CONTENTS AND HOW TO ORDER

SensePublishers
For Wisdom and Awareness
www.sensepublishers.com
Peter de Liefde – peter.deliefde@sensepublishers.com
Michel Lokhorst – michel.lokhorst@sensepublishers.com
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword: Knowledge and Change in Contemporary Postcolonial Universities
Imanol Ordorika

Acknowledgements

1. University Knowledge for Societal Change in Africa: Unpacking Critical Debates
Amasa Ndofirepi and Michael Cross

2. Reinventing Greatness: Responding to Urgent Global-Level Responsibilities and Critical University-Level Priorities
Ihron Rensburg

Yusef Waghid

4. Knowledge as a Public Good: A Critical Gaze at the African University
Amasa Ndofirepi and Michael Cross

5. The Conditions That Make a Difference: Decolonial Historical Realism and the Decolonisation of Knowledge and Education
Julia Suárez-Krabbe

Kingston Nyamapfene and Amasa Ndofirepi

7. Africanisation and Diverse Epistemologies in Higher Education Discourses: Limitations and Possibilities
Kai Horsthemke

8. Higher Education Transformation in South Africa
Sipho Seepe

9. Interrogating the Civic Role of South African Universities
Joseph Jinja Divala

10. Decolonisation of Knowledge in the African University
Birgit Brock-Utne

11. Internationalisation and Africanisation in a Globalising World
Bheki R. Mngomezulu

12. Africanisation of Humanities Knowledge in the Universities in Africa: A Critique of the Cameroon and South African Experiences
Neo Lekgotta laga Ramoupi and Roland Ndille Ntongwe

About the Contributors