

# UJ ACEPS Reflection Series: Health in African Philosophy

ACEPS

African Centre for Epistemology  
and Philosophy of Science



UNIVERSITY  
OF  
JOHANNESBURG



**Date: Tuesday 1st October 2024**

**Time: 11:00 am – 13:00 pm**

**Venue: Boardroom 11th Floor, UJ on Empire**

## **The Silent Health Disasters of Un-translated Phytomedicines: Bioethical Considerations**

### **Abstract:**

Whereas indigenous phytomedicines were a major repertoire of the African response to the problems of ill health and diseases, the advent of Western medicine largely disrupted the epistemic and moral nexus of adoption of their use. Although several African researchers and scientists have for many years generated strong experimental support for the therapeutic efficacy of several traditional African medicines (TAMs), they are mostly clinically untranslated. Using the Nigerian context as a conceptual fulcrum, this paper underscores the attendant silent disasters (economic, social, clinical, and ideological) and untangles the bioethical issues they engender. To halt the overt and covert harms inherent in this state of affairs, the paper argues that a disruptive paradigm shift is of imperative in the way African researchers investigate, evaluate and clinically validate the efficacy, dose and safety of TAMs. Such a cognitive frame of mind will foster socioeconomic, ideological, and fiscal benefits as well as significantly curb the dependence of Africa on pharmaceuticals produced in the global North.

### **Speaker:**

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**Zoom Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/92036842815>

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