

UJ ACEPS Reflection Series: Health in African Philosophy

ACEPS

African Centre for Epistemology
and Philosophy of Science



UNIVERSITY
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JOHANNESBURG



Date: Tuesday 22nd October 2024

Time: 11:00 am – 01:00 pm

Venue: Boardroom 11th Floor, UJ on Empire

Towards an Afrocentric Approach to Population Mental Health: Reducing Health Inequities and Achieving Public Health Goals in South Africa

Abstract:

South Africa faces deep-rooted social inequalities between the rich and the poor, significantly impacting population health, especially mental health. Although the Constitution guarantees access to healthcare, the poor—particularly those in rural areas and townships—struggle to exercise this right due to an overwhelmed public healthcare system. While developed countries aim for healthcare equity, many in South Africa, especially those in poverty, do not receive the mental healthcare they need. This calls for a health system that addresses the unique needs of its population, particularly the poor in rural areas. I argue for an Africanized Account of Population Mental Health, guided by the core values of Ubuntu—emphasizing collective responsibility, interconnectedness, and the moral duty to prevent suffering. Drawing on various ethical frameworks, this Afrocentric approach aligns with traditional African values and addresses social determinants of health that disproportionately affect marginalized groups. By engaging communities and promoting solidarity, we can reduce health disparities, prevent mental illnesses, and improve overall health outcomes for the poor. Therefore, an Afrocentric population health approach can contribute to a more inclusive and equitable healthcare system, bridging the gap between policy and practice in addressing mental health inequalities.

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Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/93115317187>

Organisers: Dr. Paul Michael, Dr. Garikai Madavo &
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