

The Humanities and Sustainable Development in Global Africa Seminar

In line with the University of the Free State's Vision 130, which entails academic excellence, quality; maximation of societal impact with sustainable relationships across the global spectrum, and promotion of a diverse, inclusive, and equitable institution, this presentation construes humanities, broadly speaking, as those academic disciplines that study human culture, society, modes of being within interactive spaces of peace, war, and the ethos and pathos of relationships, etc., using methods that are primarily critical, or speculative, and have a significant historical element, in contradistinction to the empirical approaches of the "natural" sciences.

Utilising the perceptive elocutions of Thomas Kuhn, RG Collingwood, and Karl R. Popper, the presentation contends that the pretensions of the sciences to objectivity and universality of disclosures are just that the artificial distinction based on the pretended capacity for scientific exactitude which regards the social sciences as science, rather than as intrinsic humanities in nature occlude human interest in solving meaningfully challenges humanity faces. It will be argued, following the critical reflections of Rodney Ake, and Gordon, that the humanities (as well as the other received exclusionary disciplines that are uncritically and reflexively taught in our tertiary institutions) in Africa are shackled by the hegemonic albatross of eccentric and alien orientations, which favour Euro-American and Arabian continued domination of global Africa.



Prof John Ayotunde
(Tunde) Isola Bewaji,

Inspiring
excellence,
transforming
lives through
quality, impact,
and care.

Date: 30 May 2023

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Place: FGG 202, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein

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