

AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY BEYOND UNANIMISM: A ROUNDTABLE IN HONOUR OF PAULIN J. HOUNTONDJI

...Unanimism—the illusion that all men and women in such societies speak with one voice and share the same opinion about all fundamental issues, ...is the real cornerstone of ethnophilosophy.

(Hountondji, *African Philosophy: Myth and Reality*, 1996: xviii,174)

The aim of this tribute roundtable is to critically discuss the late Prof. Paulin J. Hountondji's (11 April 1942— 2 February 2024) contribution to African Philosophy. Hountondji's criticism of ethnophilosophy as "unanimism" —communal worldview—provoked a great debate among African philosophers on the meaning, scope, nature, method, and logic of philosophy in Africa. At the core of his criticism is the quest for universalism and scientism in African philosophy.

In 2023, Prof. Olivier Abraham, the Director of the Centre for Phenomenology in South Africa, and other colleagues published an anthology, *Phenomenology in African Context: Contributions and Challenges*, that lends a new voice to this debate from an African phenomenological perspective. In discussing Hountondji's contribution, we will revisit this great debate and generate new discussions in African philosophy.

SPEAKERS

Prof. Sanya Osha
(University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa)

Dr. Carmen De Schryver
(Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, USA)

Prof. Edwin Etieyibo
(University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa)

LOGIN DETAILS

Zoom Link: <https://wits-za.zoom.us/j/98665776671?pwd=V0F3cjFpTlhvekc2QUtiaDRNb3Vmdz09>

Meeting ID: 986 6577 6671

Passcode: 051510

DATE

27 March 2024

TIME

5-7 pm (Nigeria Time), 6-8 pm (South Africa Time)

Organizers: Conversational School of Philosophy (CSP), Calabar, Nigeria, and The Centre for Phenomenology in South Africa (CPSA), University of Fort Hare, South Africa

Convenors: Dr Amara Esther Chimakonam, Dr Miriam Alike and Dr Aribiah David Atoe