Global Engagement

SPEAKER SERIES

This guest lecture series brings individuals of distinction from higher education, global organizations, and philanthropies who have had profound experience in university outreach and engagement to share their thoughts, research, and practice with the MSU community. Advancing fundamental human rights and meeting basic human needs will serve as the primary foci for the MSU Global Engagement Speaker Series.

Fall Speakers

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017  3:00 - 5:00 p.m. | Talk and Reception: Kellogg Center

Maryam Mohiuddin Ahmed
Founder and Co-Director, Social Innovation Lab, Pakistan

Maryam Mohiuddin Ahmed is founder and co-director of the Social Innovation Lab, which hosts Pakistan’s only social enterprise incubator, The Hatchery. The SIL functions as a hub for innovation in Pakistan and beyond, with a unique community engagement wing that combines sustainable development with concepts such as human centered design and appropriate technology. SIL serves as a one-of-kind bridge between academia and the field, and, with its partner UpEffect, recently launched a joint-venture company in London called InnHive.

Ahmed is also a founding partner at Daftarkhwan, a unique coworking and community space in Lahore that brings together innovators and change makers under the same roof. She serves as the Vice Secretary-General of the International Muslim Jewish Conference, a Vienna-based nonprofit. She previously co-founded Literary Pakistan, a magazine aimed at cultural revival, and was a Pakistan Fellow with Acumen, a global impact investment fund. Ahmed holds B.A. and LL.B. degrees from Lahore University of Management Sciences and an LL.M. degree with a specialisation in international law from the University of California, Berkeley.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017  3:00 - 5:00 p.m. | Talk and Reception: International Center

Thelma Awori
Former Assistant Secretary General, United Nations and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, UN Development Programme; Founding Co-Chair and President Emeritus, Sustainable Market Women’s Fund, Liberia

Thelma Awori is former assistant secretary general of the United Nations and director of the Regional Bureau for Africa of the UN Development Programme. She served the United Nations for 12 years, as deputy director for UNIFEM and as resident coordinator of the UN System in Zimbabwe.

Awori is an activist for women’s rights and economic empowerment. She is the founding co-chair and president emeritus of the Sustainable Market Women’s Fund (formerly, Sirleaf Market Women’s Fund), which has directly and indirectly empowered over 15,000 market women in Liberia. Her work with market women has expanded to Uganda through the Institute for Social Transformation; she is also a founder of that organization.

Awori is an active member of the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign, where she promotes an inclusive agenda for the voices of marginalized majorities, market women, and rural women. She also serves on a number of intergovernmental, private sector, and civil society boards globally and in Uganda. She was educated at Harvard University (B.A. cum laude), University of California Berkeley (M.A.), and Teachers College, Columbia University, New York (Ed.D.). She is a highly skilled and experienced facilitator.
George Openjuru
Professor of Education and First Deputy Vice Chancellor, Gulu University, Uganda

George L. Openjuru is professor of education and first deputy vice chancellor at Gulu University, Uganda. He was formerly dean of the School of Distance and Lifelong Learning at Makerere University, and head of the Department of Community Education and Extra-Mural Studies, Institute of Adult and Continuing Education. He was also an associate professor of adult and community education at Makerere University.

He holds a Ph.D. in adult education from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and has published a number of articles and book chapters about lifelong learning and adult literacy education. He chairs the Uganda Adult Education Network. His specialization is adult and community education, with specific focus on adult literacy education, educational exclusion and social justice, action research, community university engagement, lifelong learning, and indigenous knowledge and knowledge democracy. He is a partner with the UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education. He is also a member of the International Reading Association.

Nieves Tapia
Founder and Director, Latin American Center for Service-Learning (CLAYSS), Argentina

Nieves Tapia is founder and director of CLAYSS, an NGO based in Buenos Aires. From 1997 to 2010 she organized and directed the Argentina Ministry of Education’s first national service-learning programs. She was a founding board member of the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement and co-founded the Iberican-American Service-learning Network in 2005.

Tapia has offered lectures, courses, and technical assistance in Latin America and around the world. She was honored as Argentina’s Young Person of the Year in 1985 for her leadership in youth organizations during Argentina’s transition to democracy, as an Eisenhower Fellow in 1988, and as a National Service Fellow in 1993. She received the National Youth Leadership Council’s Alec Dickson Servant Leader Award in 2001.

After graduating in 1978, she was ancient history adjunct professor at the Catholic University in Buenos Aires. She currently directs the service-learning seminar at the Latin American Social Sciences School in Buenos Aires.

Tapia has published numerous books and articles on service-learning in Spanish, English, and Italian, most recently El compromiso social como pedagogía: Aprendizaje y solidaridad en la escuela, (2015, CELAM).

For more information and registration: GESS.MSU.EDU