

Acquiescing to Necropolitics? The Church and Same Sex Relations in Africa

Wednesday, April 21
12:00PM – 1:00PM
RSVP for Online Access

In this lecture I offer provisional perspectives on the question, acquiescing in necropolitics? In the first part of the lecture I highlight some of the debates on same sex relations in Cameroon. In the second part of the lecture I discuss the recent genealogy of necropolitics in Michele Foucault and Achille Mbembe. This will lead me to the major part of the essay where I argue that by advocating for death sentences for members of the LGBTQI persons as some Africans have done, they are reverting to necropolitics to solve what they think is a problem as it was during the reign Kabaka Mwanga of Uganda when he resorted to necropolitics to punish the male pages who rejected his sexual advances. My goal in this short thought experiment is to demonstrate that some of the positions taken by members of different churches, and articulated largely by leading church men and women, amounts to acquiescing to necropolitics in African societies.

Co-Sponsored by:



Elias Kifon Bongmba is Chair of the Department of Religion at Rice University. He earned his PhD from the University of Denver and the Iliff School of Theology and was awarded the DTheo. h.c. from Lund University. Bongmba studied African Religions and the Social Sciences in Africa at the University of Iowa with Professor Allen Roberts. Bongmba's scholarship covers religion, philosophy, and theology. His book *The Dialectics of Transformation in Africa* won the Franz Fanon Award from the Caribbean Philosophical Association. Bongmba is the 2020 recipient of the Ray Hart Service Award from the American Academy of Religion.