



African Studies Working Group

Student Symposium on African Education “Interrogating Quality within the African Context”

Teachers College, Columbia University

Call for Abstracts

Title: Student Symposium on African Education: Interrogating Quality within the African Context
Date/Time: Friday, February 27, 2009, 10 am to 6 pm
Location: 179 Grace Dodge Hall, Teachers College, Columbia University

The Student Symposium on African Education brings together students, researchers, and practitioners from inside and outside of Teachers College, Columbia University to share ideas and learn from each other about the topic of educational quality in Africa. This event is organized by the African Studies Working Group, a student organization based at Teachers College, and is primarily intended as an opportunity for graduate students to present their work, although scholars and practitioners are also encouraged to participate. The conference will be interdisciplinary, drawing participants from fields including, but not limited to, education, development studies, anthropology, sociology, and political science. More information about the organization can be found online at www.tc.columbia.edu/students/aswg/.

Call for Abstracts:

“Quality is at the heart of education. It influences what students learn, how well they learn and what benefits they draw from their education.” (EFA Global Monitoring Report, 2005)

The Student Symposium on African Education will focus on a range of issues related to educational quality in the African context. In recent years, international organizations and donor governments have put a great deal of emphasis on increasing access to schooling in the developing world, epitomized by “Education for All” and the Free Primary Education movements that swept many African nations at the turn of the twenty-first century. One result of this shift was a new appreciation for the need to improve educational quality. This conference aims to critically examine and explore understandings of educational quality and their implications for policy and practice.

We welcome abstract submissions of presentations addressing topics within the broad realm of educational quality in the African context. Topics may include: Pedagogy, Instruction, Curriculum, Teacher Training, Assessment, Accountability, Inclusion, Integrated Services, Student Safety and Security, Teacher Compensation, Teacher/Student Motivation, Availability of Resources, Language Policy, or other related research areas.

Proposal Formats:

There are two ways to actively participate in the symposium. Panels will be organized topically, while poster presentations can be broader in scope. Those not selected to participate on a panel are encouraged to participate in the poster session, which will allow participants to present and discuss their work in a less formal setting. Please submit:

- Title of the paper/poster (15 words or fewer)
- Presenter’s name, institutional affiliation and title, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers
- An abstract of 200 words or less of the paper/poster
- Two keyword descriptors of the paper/poster

Deadlines:

The early deadline for submissions is December 15, 2008. The final deadline is January 15, 2009. Acceptance notifications will be sent by January 25, 2009. All abstracts should be submitted electronically to aswg@tc.edu. Decisions regarding proposals will be sent by e-mail. If you are unable to receive notification by e-mail, please indicate an alternative way to contact you on the proposal submission form.