

The relationship between academia and activism in Africa

Nnimmo Bassey (Health of Mother Earth Foundation) & Richard Lusimbo (Sexual Minorities Uganda) in conversation with Vasna Ramasar (Lund University Africa Strategy Group)

Date: 21 September 2021 **Time:** 16:00 (CET)

Finishes: 17:00 (CET)

Venue: Virtual Event with Zoom link: https://lu-se.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FoqOMqegqSsiNF7QavaWlyw.

Type of Event: Webinar

Lund University's Africa Strategy Group invited you to a conversation on the relationship between academia and activism in Africa.

In these times of multiple crises, informed action has become imperative if we are to find a sustainable pathway for humanity. Through initiatives such as the IPCC, science is contributing to the understanding of problems and possible solutions. In addition, universities have a role in producing research that has societal impact. Yet we still face many dilemmas including moving from knowledge to action; understanding how societal needs can inform research and agreeing on the manner in which academia and activism should interact.

In this webinar, Vasna Ramasar will explore these and other challenges with Nnimmo Bassey and Richard Lusimbo, drawing from global and African perspectives. Some of the questions which will be explored include: In what ways should academia and activism be connected and are there limits to the engagement? What are the implications for research and activism when these boundaries are crossed by individuals and institutions? How do we navigate the politics at play when building a closer relationship between academia and activism? How do we further a sustainable future through both academic and activist work?

Speakers:



Nnimmo Bassey is an architect, poet and author. He is director of the ecological think-tank, Health of Mother Earth Foundation ([HOMEF](#)) with head office in Benin City, Nigeria. He is

member steering committee of [Oilwatch International](#) – and was chair of Friends of the Earth International ([FoEI](#)) (2008-2012). His books include *To Cook a Continent - Destructive Extraction and the Climate Crisis in Africa* (2012) and *Oil Politics – Echoes of Ecological War* (2016).



Richard Lusimbo is the Research and Documentation Manager of Sexual Minorities Uganda ([SMUG](#)), the leading LGBTI umbrella advocacy organization in Uganda since 2012. He holds a Masters of Philosophy in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa and a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BScIT) from the University of Pretoria Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law and Uganda Christian University respectively. Richard is a Co-Director of And Still We Rise, a documentary covering the development of the anti-gay law in Uganda. Richard also served as Co-Chair of Pan Africa ILGA (2016-2018), Alternate Secretary General of ILGA (2014-2016) and Alternate Co-Chair Pan Africa ILGA (2014-2016).



Vasna Ramasar is an associate senior lecturer at Lund University Division of Human Ecology. She holds a PhD in Sustainability Sciences and works at the intersection of environmental and developmental challenges from a justice perspective with a focus on feminist and decolonial tools. She is a member of the Africa Strategy Group at Lund University. Vasna works between academia and activism with her additional roles as core group member of the Global Tapestry of Alternatives, a member of the steering group of WoMin, Women Against Destructive Extractivism in Africa and a founding member of the Collective Against Environmental racism.

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