

# CONTEMPORARY SLAVERY AND ASYMMETRICAL DEPENDENCY IN NIGERIA

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP  
16–17 MAY 2024

CO-HOSTED BY  
UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT



## THE BONN CENTER FOR DEPENDENCY AND SLAVERY STUDIES

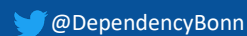
hosts the Cluster of Excellence “Beyond Slavery and Freedom”, which aims to overcome the binary opposition of “slavery versus freedom”. We approach the phenomenon of slavery and other types of strong asymmetrical dependency from methodologically and theoretically distinct perspectives.

Contemporary slavery remains a pressing concern in Nigeria that is intricately linked to asymmetrical dependencies. Despite the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade centuries ago, other forms of bondage persist in contemporary society, and Nigeria serves as a poignant example. This workshop aims to shed light on the underlying factors that reinforce the perpetuation of modern-day slavery in Nigeria, with a particular focus on the dynamics of asymmetrical dependency. The analysis begins by examining the historical and socioeconomic antecedents that predispose Nigeria to other forms dependency. These analytical categories such as poverty, corruption, weak governance, and socio-cultural practices have created an environment conducive to the exploitation and enslavement of individuals, particularly women, children, and the less privileged. The complex web of asymmetrical relations and diverse processes of enslavement are reproduced by institutions, beliefs, values and practices that maintain and enforce coercive relationships. The two-day workshop being organised by the Department of Sociology, University of Port Harcourt and hosted by the Bonn Centre for Dependency and Slavery studies will bring together renowned scholars and PhD students from both institutions working in the field of asymmetrical dependency to discuss the historical, socioeconomic, and power dynamics at play.

**Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS)**  
**University of Bonn**

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## VENUE

**University of Bonn**  
Bonner Universitätsforum (BUF)  
Heussallee 18–24  
D-53113 Bonn

and

Online via Zoom

## CONTACT

**Workshop Organizer:**

**Chioma Daisy Onyige** (BCDSS Guest Researcher & Lecturer / University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria)

**Please register by 30 April via email to:**

**Jan Hörber**

**Event Coordinator**

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Picture credit: Volker Lannert/University of Bonn

## Thursday, 16 May 2024

9:15–10:00 A.M.

### Welcome Address

Prof. Dr. Owunari Georgewill  
*Vice Chancellor, University of Port Harcourt*

Prof. Dr. Stephan Conermann  
*BCDSS Spokesperson & Dean Faculty of Arts,  
University of Bonn, Germany*

10:00–11:00 A.M.

### Opening Lecture: Strong Asymmetrical Dependencies – A New Analytical Tool?

Prof. Dr. Stephan Conermann  
*BCDSS Spokesperson & Dean Faculty of Arts,  
University of Bonn, Germany*

11:00–11:20 A.M. – Coffee Break

11:20 A.M.–12:30 P.M.

### Panel I: Historical and Socioeconomic Contexts of Slavery and Dependency in Nigeria

Chair: Prof. Dr. Marion Gymnich

### Investigating Persistent Modern-Day Slavery Forms in Nigeria: A Historical Advancements Perspective

Prof. Kinankwo Azunda Anele  
*University of Port Harcourt*

### Exploring Strategies and Interventions Aimed at Breaking the Cycles of Dependency and Exploitation in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria

Dr. Wisdom Fafi  
*University of Port Harcourt*

12:30–1:30 P.M. – Lunch Break

1:30–2:45 P.M.

### Panel II: Socio-Cultural Practices and Their Impact on Dependency

Chair: Prof. Dr. Stephan Conermann

### Gendered Asymmetrical Dependency: The 'Alekwu' Experience among Women of Idoma Ethnic Group in Nigeria

Rita Kigbara  
*University of Port Harcourt*

### Almajiranci Culture: Exploring Forms of Asymmetrical Dependency and Modern-Day Slavery in Nigeria

Prof. Steve Afoma Wordu  
*University of Port Harcourt*

## Thursday, 16 May 2024

2:45–3:15 P.M. – Coffee Break

3:15–4:30 P.M.

### Panel III: Perpetuation of Asymmetrical Dependencies through Coercive Relationships and Institutional Reproduction

Chair: Prof. Dr. Chioma Daisy Onyige

### Women's Right to Own Properties: Unravelling Socio-Cultural Practices and Their Impacts in Dependency in Ekpeyeland

Sarah Hope Chukwunedhiunwor Menney-Amgbare  
*University of Port Harcourt*

### Exploring Asymmetrical Relations and Diverse Processes of Enslavement in Nigeria's Transportation Sector

Dr. Kinikanwo-Chimenim Samuel  
*University of Port Harcourt*

4:30–5:00 P.M. – Coffee Break

5:00–6:15 P.M.

### Panel IV: Vulnerable Groups: Women, Children, and Marginalized Communities

Chair: Prof. Dr. Marion Gymnich

### Exploring Asymmetrical Dependency in Nigeria's Marginalized Communities, Women, and Children

Prof. Heoma Nsirim-Worlu  
*University of Port Harcourt*

### Asymmetrical Relationships and the Precarity of Women and Girls in Igbo Culture

Dr. Adaku Ubelejit-Nte  
*University of Port Harcourt*

### Patriarchal Practices and Asymmetrical Dependency: Analyzing Gender Dependency among Siblings in the Ikwerre Ethnic Nationality of Rivers State, Nigeria

Dr. Helen Mmecha  
*University of Port Harcourt*

6:15 P.M. – Reception

## Friday, 17 May 2024

10:00–11:00 A.M.

### Opening Lecture: Asymmetrical Dependencies – Catalysts for Exploitation and Bondage in Nigeria

Prof. Dr. Chioma Daisy Onyige  
*Head of Department, Department of Sociology,  
University of Port Harcourt*

11:00–11:20 A.M. – Coffee Break

11:20 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

### Panel V: Power Dynamics and Enslavement: Socio-economic and Political Dimensions

Chair: Prof. Dr. Stephan Conermann

### Yahoo-yahoo and Crime Triads in Nigeria: A Critical Study of Modern-Day Slavery in the Yahoo-yahoo Ecosystem

Emmanuel Nwakanma  
*University of Port Harcourt*

### Enforced Grief: Asymmetrical Dependency in Cult Violence Processes and Patterns in Rivers State, Nigeria

Dr. Destiny Agwanwo  
*University of Port Harcourt*

12:30–1:30 P.M. – Lunch Break

1:30–2:30 P.M.

### Panel VI: Legal Frameworks for Combating Modern-Day Slavery in Nigeria

Chair: Prof. Dr. Chioma Daisy Onyige

### Policy Implications and Legal Frameworks for Combating Modern Slavery and Promoting Equitable Relationships in Nigeria

Dr. Aaron Anyanabia  
*University of Port Harcourt*

### Unshackling Nigeria: Strategies to Break Dependency Chains and Achieving True Liberation

Prof. Otu Ekpenyong  
*University of Port Harcourt*

### Wrap Up by Profs. Conermann, Gymnich, and Onyige

2:30–3:30 P.M. – Coffee Break & Networking Session

### 3:30 P.M. – Visit: House of the History of the Federal Republic of Germany Museum

Willy-Brandt-Allee 14, 53113 Bonn

7:00 P.M. – Dinner: Brauhaus Bönnsch

Sternstorbrücke 4, 53111 Bonn