# ***Humanities@Mak100 Research Findings Dissemination***

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# **Resilience Amidst Turbulent Waters: Humanities at Makerere in the Era of Neoliberal Orthodoxy**

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**Abstract**

This chapter interrogates the ways in which Humanities, as a field of study and knowledge production at Makerere University, has navigated turbulent waters and the implications thereof. The overall argument is that by the very nature of humanities, they have been the critical casualty of the neoliberal orthodoxy that has dominated perspectives on education generally and higher education in particular, in the contemporary times. Neoliberalism here is conceptualised as the dominant world view of market driven development trajectories propagated as a single story with very few (if at all) competing narratives. In the same vein, the respective survival mechanisms have substantially changed the collective and individual actors in the study of Humanities. The study hence seeks to capture narratives of turbulence, navigation and resilience over the years, and what all this means for the unique potency of humanities to facilitate a deeper understanding of the complexity of the human society.

**Key words:** Humanities, Resilience, Neoliberalism

**Psychology @ Makerere University over the past 100 years: patterns and trends**

**Julius Kikooma**

**Abstract**

It isnecessary to note at the outset that despite the discipline of Psychology’s existence at Makerere since the 1950s, little is known about the role and status of psychologyin Uganda**.**While the story about the teaching and practice of psychology in Uganda is a story that has never found its way in any academic journal let alone any newsletter.

It is my premise here that unique scholarly organizational and to some extent professional histories and cultures, coupled with the influences of varying extant broader intellectual traditions served to promote multiple pathways for addressing issues of space and authority and fostered the particular versions that now characterize Ugandan psychology. As such, the discussion of psychology as outlined in this paper, is not about general laws of mental life or its biological bases, rather the focus is on the general conditions of the possibilities of psychology as an academic and professional discipline at Makerere University and in Uganda at large.

We note that the development of psychology as a science and the struggle for scientific recognition has disrupted the need to interrogate the discipline and the profession from the perspective of the humanities, yet humanities contribute greatly to the understanding of human subjectivity which is a core topic within psychology.

# **Misused or Misunderstood the Ivory Tower? Tracing Peaks and Troughs of Social Anthropology at Makerere University**

**Peter Atekyereza**

# **Abstract**

As part of broader study of humanity, social Anthropology studies and explains the design and patterns of society’s moral systems (Evans-Pritchard 1950). Despite its methodological approach, theoretical and applied, social anthropology has been contested globally and locally. What might have started as a colonial enterprise in most of Africa needs to be interrogated further than *“they do not live like us”* to honestly revisit the moral systems that shaped and continue to shape the need to understand socio-cultural, linguistic, economic, political and other patterns of our society’s transformation. Whereas the ivory tower connected closely with local communities in teaching Social anthropology under the Department of Social Studies since 1939 (Makerere University, 2020), the extensive anthropological research starting from 1948 promoted more the colonial administrative interests than local development needs. When President Idi Amin expelled the people, he termed *‘Exploiters’* (European academics and the Indian business community), this left a huge impact on university education including social anthropology. All the anthropologists at Makerere then were expatriates and hence there were no local anthropologists after expulsion of the *‘Exploiters’*. In this paper, we describe how and why the discipline which waned politically, survived sociologically, ‘rejuvenated’ linguistically and the need to promote its relevance through re-orientation of future academic and research agenda to local needs.

**Key words:**Uganda, Makerere, Social Anthropology, Colonial, Idi Amin, Exploiters, moral systems