



# CAMEROONIAN CIRCLE OF PHILOSOPHY (CERCAPHI)

Law of 1990

**"NEW INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCES"**

## **« *DECOLONIZING AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE* »**

### **Question to be asked**

In what ways have colonialism, capitalism, and globalisation promoted the suppression of indigenous African forms of knowledge, values, worldviews as well as research related to medicine, health care and healing? How can medical colonization be overturned?

**Speaker of the month of January 2022**

**Mr. MBIH Jerome TOSAM**

Associate Professor



## Biography

**MBIH Jerome TOSAM** is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Bamenda, Cameroon. He obtained his PhD in Philosophy from the Yaounde I, Cameroon university in 2011. Tosam is former Chair of Philosophy at the Higher Teacher Training College (HTTC) Bambili of the University of Bamenda (2011-2017) and pioneer Chair of Philosophy at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Bamenda (2017-2021). In the 2019-2020 academic year, he was research fellow at the Faculty of Humanities, Department of Literature and Philosophy, of the University of Trento, Italy. His research interests are in the areas of Bioethics, Philosophy of Medicine, African Philosophy, and Intercultural Philosophy.

## Abstract of the conference

In the last few years there have been increasing calls both from the Global North and Global South to decolonize African epistemologies. In the growing literature on the subject, attempts have been made to decolonize education, philosophy, religion, and the university, from Eurocentric epistemic domination. A domain which has been largely ignored in the decolonization discourse is African philosophy of medicine. In this presentation, I argue that indigenous African beliefs, values, and cultural perspectives related to medicine, health, and health care have been derided, distorted, and silenced and Western ones imposed on indigenous peoples as a result of more than five hundred years European domination of the global epistemic space. Colonialism, assisted by neoliberal capitalism, promoted the superiorisation and aggrandizement of Western epistemologies and ontologies at the expense non-Western forms of knowledge. This 'epistemicide' (Santos, 2016:20) needs to be overturned. This exclusion has deprived humanity of a vast swathe of medical solutions to many incurable diseases and health problems. I maintain that Western science and, ipso facto, Western medicine, is not the only valid system of healing that exists; it is simply the most overriding system of medicine in the world. African philosophy of medicine and its related interpretations of health, disease, diagnosis, causation, values and practices, should not only be viewed as alternative knowledge, but as one medical tradition among several others. African philosophy of medicine needs to be critically studied, analysed, and reappraised. In this project of epistemic decolonization, African institutions, scientists, researchers, and funders, have a fundamental role to play.

## Main publications

**Mbih Jerome Tosam**, “Healthcare and Spirituality: A Traditional African Perspective”, *Annali di studi religiosi*, 22, 2021, pp. 255-277.

**Mbih Jerome Tosam**, “Negotiating and Overturning the Othering of Indigenous Epistemologies”, *Journal of World Philosophies*, 2020, 5(1), 282–286.

**Mbih Jerome Tosam**, “Global bioethics and respect for cultural diversity: how do we avoid moral relativism and moral imperialism?” *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*, Volume 23, 2020, pp. 611-520.

**Mbih Jerome Tosam**, “Human Nature, Disease Diagnosis and Health in Traditional African Medicine”, *Polylog: Journal of Intercultural Philosophy*, 42, 2019, pp.21-42.

**Mbih Jerome Tosam**, African Environmental Ethics and Sustainable Development, *Open Journal of Philosophy*, 2019, 09(02), pp. 172-192.

**Mbih Jerome Tosam** and Kizitor Mbuwir, Medical Progress and Moral Revolution: A Critique of Peter Singer’s Moral Revolution Concerning Life and Death, *Journal of Arts and Humanities*, Volume 2, Number 1, 2019.

**Mbih Jerome Tosam**, Primus Che Chi and Jennyfer Ambe, “Global Emerging Pathogens, and Poverty: An Ethical Analysis” in Godfrey B. Tangwa, Akin Abayomi, Samuel J. Ujewe and Nchangwi Synthia Munung (eds.), *Socio-cultural Dimensions of Emerging Infectious Diseases in Africa: An Indigenous Response to Deadly Epidemics*, Springer Nature, 2019, pp. 243–253.

**Mbih Jerome Tosam**, “African Perspectives in Global Bioethics”, *Developing World Bioethics*, 2018; 18: 208-211. DOI:10.1111/dewb.12189

**Mbih Jerome Tosam**, Primus C. C., Synthia N. M., O. O. M. Boyer, and G. B. Tangwa, “Global Health Inequalities and the need for Solidarity: A View from the Global South”, *Developing World Bioethics*, 2017;18:241-249. DOI:10.1111/dewb.12182

**Mbih Jerome Tosam**, The Value of the Humanities in a Techno-scientific and Business- Oriented Higher Education Sector, *African Humanities Review*, Volume 4, Number, 1, 2018.

### Date

**Monday, January 10, 2022  
from 17:00 (Yaounde time)**

**The connection link will be communicated on  
WhatsApp, by e.mail and on [www.cercaphi.org](http://www.cercaphi.org)  
from 4pm**

### Moderator

**Roger MONDOUE**

**The SG/Cercaphi**