

Higher Education and Capacity Building in Africa

Higher education has recently been recognised as a key driver for societal growth in the Global South and capacity building of African universities is now widely included in donor policies. The question is: How do capacity-building projects affect African universities, researchers and students? Universities and their scientific knowledges are often seen to have universal qualities; therefore, capacity building may appear straightforward.

Higher Education and Capacity Building in Africa contests such universalistic notions. Inspired by ideas about the 'geography of scientific knowledge' it explores what role specific places and relationships have in knowledge production, and analyses how cultural experiences are included and excluded in teaching and research. Thus, the different chapters show how what constitutes legitimate scientific knowledge is negotiated and contested. In doing so, the chapters draw on discussions about the hegemony of Western thought in education and knowledge production. The authors' own experiences with higher education capacity building and knowledge production are discussed and used to contribute to the reflexive turn and rise of auto-ethnography.

This book is a valuable resource for researchers and postgraduate students in education, development studies, African studies and human geography, as well as anthropology and history.

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 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group
LONDON AND NEW YORK

First published 2016
by Routledge
2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN
and by Routledge
711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

© 2016 selection and editorial matter, Hanne Kirstine Adriansen, Lene Møller Madsen and Stig Jensen; individual chapters, the contributors

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British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Higher education and capacity building in Africa : the geography and power of knowledge / edited by Hanne Kirstine Adriansen, Lene Møller Madsen and Stig Jensen.

pages cm. -- (Routledge studies in African development)

1. Universities and colleges--Africa. 2. Education, Higher--Africa. 3. Economic development--Effect of education on--Africa. I. Adriansen, Hanne Kirstine. II. Madsen, Lene Møller. III. Jensen, Stig. IV. Series: Routledge studies in African development.

LA1503.H51 2016

378.6--dc23

2015022249

ISBN: 978-1-138-83815-4 (hbk)

ISBN: 978-1-315-73462-0 (ebk)

Typeset in Goudy
by Saxon Graphics Ltd, Derby

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