

Re-conceptualizing Doctoral Training in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Conceptual Framework

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Abstract:

In the Global North and in parts of the Global South, there is a move to increase the number of students graduating with doctoral degrees. However, not all countries in the Global South have been able to rapidly expand the number of their doctoral graduates. For example, in a study of eight countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, the total number of doctoral students enrolled in their flagship universities was just 2614, with the highest number being enrolled in South Africa (Cloete, Mouton & Sheppard, 2015, p.4). To address this low production of doctoral students Africa is now focusing on strategies for the production of more doctorates. The problem is that the current models are neither efficient for the production of masses of doctoral graduates nor supportive to those pursuing the degrees. This presentation provides a supervision framework for the production of doctoral graduates that is being experimented with in one of the South Africa Universities.

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About the speaker:

Dr. Teboho Moja is a Professor of Higher Education at New York University, an Extraordinary Professor at the University of the Western Cape, and a Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship at the University of Pretoria.

She has published extensively on higher education and presented numerous keynote addresses at international conferences on higher education issues. She was the founder member of the Union of Democratic University Staff Associations (UDUSA) and was also elected national president of the organization. She later focused her career on higher education policy research. In 1991/92 she became involved in the National Education Policy Investigation (NEPI), a project initiated by the Mass Democratic Movement in South Africa. The project goal was to



investigate policy options for the new government in all areas of education. In 1992 under the leadership of Dr. Moja as national president, UDUSA produced a higher education policy document for the transformation of higher education.

In 1993 Dr. Moja was appointed to the Centre for Educational Policy Development (CEPD) as a policy analyst for higher education. The Centre produced policy documents and also proposed implementation strategies for hand-over to the new Minister of Education after South Africa's first democratic elections. Following the elections Dr. Moja served as a Special Advisor to two Ministers of Education and was appointed Executive Director and Commissioner of the National Commission on Higher Education. She has served on numerous committees and boards of international bodies such as UNESCO and Councils of Universities in South Africa. She is the current Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Center for Higher Education Trust (CHET).

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