

CENTRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND EQUITY RESEARCH

# Research-in-Progress

Thursday 6 July, 1-2pm  
Room 103, Arts A

Jennifer Jomafuvwe Agbaire: PhD in Education

## **Access to University in Nigeria: Exploring the Impact of Admission Policy and Practices**

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The focus of my research is the highly complex admissions system through which students are recruited to higher education in Nigeria. The quota-based system emphasises academic merit (demonstrated through a series of tests) and considers applicants' place of origin, whilst notably excluding gender and socio-economic status which are linked to widening inequalities in university access across the country.

Using focus groups and semi-structured interviews, I explore tensions arising from admissions policy and practices through the experiences of current and aspiring students, as well as admissions staff. I seek to understand the impact of the admission system on inclusion, and how individual or collective socio-ethnic characteristics influence construction of meaning around the concept of equity in access to higher education.

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