

## **Amina Mama spoke at Bard College:**

**May 4, 2000, 6:30 at LC 201**

**her talk was called “Changing Subjects, Shifting Sand: Gender, Theory and Transformation”**

**Amina Mama** currently holds the position of Chair in Gender Studies and Director of the African Gender Institute at the University of Cape Town. Previously she taught in social studies and gender studies at a number of European and International Institutions. She has also worked outside the academic mainstream, as a researcher and consultant to various international bodies, and with an array of non-governmental and women's organisations. She holds a doctorate in Organisational Psychology from the University of London. Her current research interests centre around bringing gender analysis to bear on subjectivity, social relations and politics. Her major research projects have addressed women in government and politics in a variety of African contexts, militarism, women's organisations and movements, race and subjectivity.

<http://www.uct.ac.za/org/agi/index.htm>

## **The African Gender Institute**

The AGI's Vision is of Africa as a continent liberated from the legacies of colonial and patriarchal domination, and transformed into a powerful and united region in which women and men are respected as equal, and social justice is a reality for all its people. The AGI's Mission is to

contribute to the realization of this vision by building intellectual capacity and establishing an African resource dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of intellectuals, researchers, policy-makers and practitioners committed to the attainment of gender equity.

## **Publications**

### **Books and Monographs:**

**Beyond the Masks: Race, Gender and Subjectivity** Routledge  
London/NewYork, 1995 .

**Women's Studies and Studies of Women in Africa During the 1990's**  
CODESRIA Green Book, Dakar, 1996.

**The Hidden Struggle: Statutory and Voluntary Sector Responses to Violence Against Black Women**, London Race and Housing Research Unit/Runnymede Trust, London UK. Republished 1997, Whiting and Birch Publishing Company, London UK, 1989/1997.

**Engendering African Social Sciences**, Co-edited with A Imama and F Sow, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, Dakar, 1997.

### **Select On-line Articles:**

**Nigeria: First Lady Blues** available online at African Agenda

"...Mrs Abacha's gender politics were extremely retrogressive. But even this did not hinder the United Nations

from conferring honors on Mrs Abacha, just as they had done with Mrs Babangida. She re-asserted the age-old position of women solely within the family, and as the custodians of morality and the traditional cultural heritage..."

**Changes of State: Gender Politics and Transition in Nigeria**  
Delivered as part of the University of Cape Town Inaugural  
Lecture Series  
Sept. 15, 1999

"...Change and resistance to change dominate our daily lives and thoughts in ways that are as unsettling as they are engaging. Our present state of being is one in which transformation appears to be the order of things, so much so that one can spend a great deal of time analysing regimes of power, truth and knowledge as these shift and are shifted by the contestations of forces large and small.

It is my view that attention to gender and gender politics casts new light on hitherto neglected aspects of postcolonial politics and statecraft. I will also show that the postcolonial political kingdom is diffuse, pervasive but contestable. We live in an epoch of transition, and are subject to new technologies of governance, comprised of discursive devices that involve us all in webs of power and resistance.

My analysis raises critical questions: What are the implications of this understanding of power? Power for transition? Power for transformation? What

countermeasures will ensure that the state of our being will change for the better in a milieu in which transition, or rather, transformation, is imperative, remembering that we have inherited structures imbued with a multi-layered culture of complicity?...

This lecture has two main components. I will begin with a discussion of the emergence of military rule and the politics of transition in postcolonial Nigeria, before considering the gender politics of transition under the military..."