



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

**10th
POSTGRADUATE SEMINAR
Abstracts**



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PREFACE

The Annual Postgraduate Seminar provides a forum in which graduates share their research findings and experience with peers and the community of scholars. It is an occasion in which graduates display the product of many years of hardwork. This year's event is particularly significant because it is the 10th since Kenyatta University started the Postgraduate seminar. It is also unique because more students than ever before are participating. While last year we had 76 Masters and 10 Ph.D. students giving their presentations, this year we have 86 Masters and 21 Ph.D. graduates taking part. This is therefore a time for celebration at Kenyatta University. As we cerebrate 10 years of the Postgraduate Seminar at Kenyatta University, however, it is also a time for reflection on the central role of postgraduate education in a changing society. The core mission of graduate education in todays world cannot be divorced from the mission of the University in general. Firstly, postgraduate education acts as a catalyst for knowledge creation. This is because it is concerned with both basic and applied research. Secondly, postgraduate education concerns itself with the dissemination of the knowledge already created. This is done not only in seminars and conferences but also in academic journals and in the wider society. Thirdly, knowledge and skills created by postgraduate education are applied or made use of in the society. For this to be done, the knowledge and skills created must not only be of high quality, but also relevant to societal needs. Only in this way can society justify the enormous resources that it invests in postgraduate education.

Taking the above in mind, it is in addition important to recognise the fact that the products of graduate education, that is the graduates themselves, must not only be relevant to their society, but they should also be flexible and internationally competitive. They should be able to respond to the changing society. In other words, they should be able to make strategic choices and to re-orient their efforts in order to be of use in a fast changing world. Essentially, their quest for learning and understanding should not end with the attainment of a higher degree, rather they should be life-long students who are always ready to do research and to update their skills and knowledge.

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