

**Prof. Dr. Rose Jaji - hochschulöffentliche Konferenz am 15.1. von 14 bis 16
Uhr in E 113/EHB**

Conference Topic: Migration and the Medical Profession in Zimbabwe

The introduction of the neo-liberal economic policy known as Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) in Zimbabwe in the 1990s resulted in the state rolling back on expenditure on social services. This policy had negative consequences contrary to expectation. Non-prioritization of healthcare led to deterioration of standards in Zimbabwe's public health sector. At the same time, the economic consequences of ESAP included stagnation of salaries combined with rising inflation. Poor working conditions in under-funded health institutions and low remuneration forced many Zimbabweans in the medical profession to migrate to other country in Southern Africa and beyond that offered better prospects. Zimbabwe lost its most experienced medical personnel and people who had specialized skills. The vacuum was filled by inexperienced people most of who were equally demoralized by the prevailing situation. For several years, there has been intermittent strikes and wrong solutions that have only made the situation worse for both medical professionals and patients. Health care in Zimbabwe has ceased to be a human right as the majority of the population finds itself in a situation where it cannot access the service because of poor standards in hospitals and clinics and exorbitant charges in private medical institutions. Access to health services has become a matter of class as it is now only the economically stable who can access health care in private institutions or travel out of the country to receive medical treatment. Some junior doctors who are currently on strike have described the current crisis in Zimbabwe's public health care institutions as a "silent genocide".