

# IMAGENU annual workshop Keynote Lecture

**IMAGENU**

Imagining Gender Futures in Uganda



**Dr. Lyn Ossome** (Makerere Institute of Social Research, Uganda)

## Covid-19, the care economy and the state: Lessons from Uganda

(the recording of the lecture will be available online after the workshop)

The responses of many low- and middle-income households to Covid-19 in Africa were mediated by the state through various means including direct cash transfers, food distribution, and distribution of rural agricultural produce to urban areas, in response to the social reproduction crisis that the pandemic precipitated. In Uganda, the actions of the government signalled a tacit recognition of the role of women (and the gendered political economy), and their centrality in sustaining a population distressed by lack of income and the social/economic fallout. Taking the relationship between the state and household as its primary focus, this talk shall reflect on the social and political questions emerging at the juncture of social provisioning and economic collapse. What is the historical structure of the care economy in Uganda? How might we understand social reproduction in largely agrarian societies? And in what key ways do gendered and feminist analyses illuminate these relationships?