



NYASA Research Forum Presents

“Reggae is a Love-letter Sent from Jamaica down
to Ajegunle for We to Mash Up”:
Sonic, Activist and Feminist Practices Among
Dancehall Practitioners in Ajegunle, Nigeria

with **Dr. Mopelolade Ogunbowale**

Since its emergence in the 1970s and 80s, dancehall music has shaped global sonic, stylistic and discursive practices of “activist resistance”. Focusing on feminist practices of dancehall practitioners in Ajegunle, an urban slum located in the city of Lagos, South-Western Nigeria, this chapter examines music making and resistance politics articulated in Konto, a dancehall styled musical culture created in Ajegunle in the late 1980s. It argues that Konto attests to the continued aesthetic conversations between Jamaica and the rest of the Afro-Atlantic world, but also constitutes resistance to the worsening economic, political and social conditions that beset post-independence Nigeria in the late 1980s. The Afro-Atlantic music dialogue expressed in Konto occurs through sonic and stylistic revisions of the rhythm and aesthetics of Jamaican dancehall music, but also embodies Nigerian feminist lyrical, discursive, rhythmic and embodied resistance.



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5:00pm-6:30pm