MISR Seminar - Wednesday August 17 2022

The seminar will be delivered by Prof. Samwiri Lwanga-Lunyiigo based on his recent book titled: Uganda: An Indian Colony 1897-1972.

The book puts the spotlight on Indians in East Africa, narrating them as deputy imperialists, sub-imperialists, privileged workers of the colonialists. The core argument is that the dominant status Indians came to enjoy in Uganda’s economy (and East Africa more generally) was only possible because the British colonialists – those who had brought them privileged them, and practically and violently crushed local investors and their initiatives. The Indians on their part, embraced their part, embraced their privileged positions, and with a touch of racism, exploited Natives in ways that sometimes shocked the British – especially newer administrators from London. With impeccable reading of the archive, this book shows that before Indians/Asian were expelled from all East Africa (1965-1972), Natives in this region had received no independence. In fact, as Mamdani (1996) put it, only the Indians had received independence from the British in the 1960s. With the British departure, Indians/Asians now dominated East Africa’s economy with no restriction, profiting both for themselves, and their benefactors now confined to London.

**Presenter: Prof. Samwiri Lwanga-Lunyiigo:**

Prof. Samwiri Lwanga-Lunyiigo studied history at Makerere University and Archaeology at the University of Ghana, Legon. He was a professor of History and Makerere University until his recent retirement. Among his other publications are: *The Struggle for Land in Buganda 1884-2005* and *Mwanga II: Resistance to Imposition of British Colonial Rule in Buganda 1884-1889*.

**Discussants: Prof. Mahmood Mamdani and Prof. Godfrey Asiimwe**

Prof. Mahmood Mamdani is the Herbert Lehman Professor of Government. He was also professor and executive director of Makerere Institute of Social Research (2010-2022) in Kampala, where he established an inter-disciplinary doctoral program in Social Studies. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 1974 and specializes in the study of colonialism, anti-colonialism and decolonisation. His latest work, Neither Settler Nor Native: The Making and Unmaking of Permanent Minorities (2020). Among his other publications are: Saviors and Survivors: Darfur, Politics, and the War on Terror (2009); Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, the Cold War and the Roots of Terror (2004); When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism and Genocide in Rwanda (2001); Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism (1996).

Prof. Godfrey Asiimwe is Associate Professor of History and Development studies at Makerere University.