

## PROPOSITIONS

### **Economic Crisis and Women's Employment in Urban Kenya**

*by Wambui R. Wamuthenya*

1. The dramatic increase in urban women's labour-force participation and their influx into the informal sector witnessed over the recent years reflects household strategies to augment income in a period where real earnings have been falling (*this thesis*).
2. While some of the traditional explanations for the rising incidence of women in the labour market underline the effects of progress in female education, other factors such as better labour supply conditions or a diversification of the composition of work prospects accessible for women do not seem to play a role (*this thesis*).
3. Continued investment in women's human capital may not necessarily lead to a reduction in gender differences especially in terms of labour market segregation (*this thesis*).
4. While education is not as important for men to secure a formal sector job, it seems that unless a woman is educated it is very unlikely that she can access a formal sector job (*this thesis*).
5. Women are more vulnerable to unemployment than men because of differing personal and human capital endowments that disfavor women, and not primarily because of the way these endowments are valued in the market (*this thesis*).
6. Economic growth alone cannot tackle chronic poverty.
7. In African manufacturing, rates of return to investment are high while investment rates are low.
8. The creation and expansion of a secure and stable political environment is necessary for sustained economic growth.
9. Free universal primary education is necessary but not sufficient to break the intergenerational transmission of poverty.
10. Abundant natural resources are not a curse.
11. Knowledge is like a garden, if it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested.  
*African Proverb.*