



**Friday, April 03, 2020 | Evanston | Illinois**

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **AFRICA'S PLACE IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD: REIMAGINING GOVERNANCE, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ART AND CULTURE**

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Godwin Murunga, Executive Secretary, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa CODESRIA

*"And the green hills of Africa have come out of the past, and out of the imagination, into the present, the troubling world."*  
James Baldwin (1962)

In his concept of "Flows," Arjun Appadurai (2000) observed that in today's globalizing world, things – "ideas and ideologies, people and goods, images and messages, technologies and techniques" – are constantly in motion and that globalization is an inherently disjunctive process that produces inequalities, injustices and problems with governance. It is in this broad understanding of globalization – the expansion and intensification of linkages and flows of people, goods, capital, ideas, and cultures across national borders – that we interrogate the position of Africa.

Our broader questions include but are not limited to:

- What space does Africa occupy in a globalizing world?
- Is there an African perspective on how to do science, innovation, economics, or governance?
- Do African experiences contribute to the elaboration of global assemblages of power, infrastructure, knowledge production, or cultural innovation?
- Does Africa remain a social laboratory in which great powers expand their economies or experiment with new techniques of governance and population control?
- Can Africa be its own center of innovation?
- And can Africans speak to something that is more than African-provincial?

We invite papers that address these questions in any number of ways. The papers may engage with the following themes:

- **Techniques of governance on the continent** at the national, regional or community level
  - Religion and Politics: How has religion abated or aided sociopolitical and economic growth or disunity on the continent?
  - Gender, sexuality and identity: Do gendered discourses converge or diverge to fit a pre-assigned template? What explains dis/continuities? Where is the place of Africa in Gender and Sexuality Studies?
  - Environment, sustainability and land: In the wake of climate change concerns, is Africa still in the core-periphery system for capitalist expansion, and how can Africa assert herself in the climate agenda?
- **Global migration, mobilities, movement**
  - Diaspora and multi-directional movement
  - Movement from, within, into the African continent: mobilities as scaled, gendered, raced, and classed; Trade, science, and infrastructure; Sino-African relations.
- **Infrastructure projects & nationalism & (foreign) interventionism**
  - Infrastructure projects and capitalism
  - Nation-building or empire expansion
  - Dams and water infrastructure; agricultural needs within and without
  - Environmental challenges, land, and sustainability imperatives
- **Science and research on and off the continent**
  - How does "data" circulate? Who owns samples and the meta-data attached to them?
  - What can be learned from the management of the recent Ebola outbreak for biological research, access to samples, and propriety work?
  - Ongoing hierarchies within the academy: the experience of African and Africa-based scholars within the scientific research community and citationary ethics
  - Higher Education and intellectual property, opportunities and configurations
  - Post-colonial and indigenous knowledge production
- **Art and articulations of cultural identity**
  - How are claims to ownership and authorship voiced? By whom?
  - Questions of intellectual property
  - Questions of indigenous rights and identity
  - Global circulation and framing of African artistic and cultural projects
  - Global imaginaries of African artists and artwork
  - Appropriation, Repatriation, Custody: who owns African art and history, cultural property and heritage; African artifacts repatriation.

**Papers:** Accepted papers will be organized into panels, with each presenter allotted 15 minutes and time for discussion and Q&A.

**Posters:** Poster proposals are open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

#### **Submission guidelines:**

1. Abstracts should be no more than 300 words.
2. To submit, click this link or copy to your browser: <https://forms.gle/wvZ9ZCzHYNS9tSZo9>

**Submission deadline:** February 15, 2020.

**Questions? Email:** [Afrisem@u.Northwestern.edu](mailto:Afrisem@u.Northwestern.edu)