

6th Pécs African Studies Conference – September 23-24, 2021 – University of Pécs
PROGRAM

Attend the event on the spot and/or via Zoom!

**African Realities:
Conflict and Cooperation**

6th Pécs African Studies Conference (hybrid event)

September 23-24, 2021 | Pécs (Hungary), University of Pécs

Organized by:
The Africa Research Centre of the University of Pécs
The Africa Sub-Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

In co-operation with:
The International Centre of the University of Pécs
The Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta
The Migration Research Institute



September 23, Thursday

Zoom-link to this day's meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81101268249?pwd=aEVSYnR6RHgvekZvQU9mVXVvdlpOUT09>

Meeting ID: 811 0126 8249

Passcode: 345112

09:30 – 10:00 **Onsite registration** (Library and Knowledge Centre (Tudásközpont), University of Pécs, Universitas utca 2/A.)

10:00 – 10:30 **Welcome addresses** (Lecture Theater F311, Ground Floor)

10:30 – 11:10 **Keynote lecture: Prof. Mohamed Salih** (SD-NL), Africa and the Decline of Democracy Debate followed by a Q&A until 11:30



Mohamed Salih (PhD in Economics and Social Science, University of Manchester, UK, 1983) is Emeritus Professor of Politics of Development at the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands. His recently published books, among his many publications, include *A Political Economy of the Development of Asymmetrical Regionalism in Africa*, co-authored with Professor Wil Hout, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, 2019. He authored *Economic Development and Political Action in the Arab World*, London and New York, Routledge, 2014, and edited *Local Climate Change and Society*, New York, Routledge, 2012.

In his talk, Prof. Salih will argue that the debate on the decline of democracy is not new. It can be traced to the period between the 1st and 2nd World Wars and resurfaced during the 1970s, followed by the most spectacular democratic resurgence in human history. The lecture focuses on the current debate on the decline of democracy and downward trends in major democracy assessment indices. Africa fared among the worst three world regions, with 42% of the African countries are designated as not free.

Measuring the decline or rise of democracy only by the performance of institutional politics is partial, argues the lecture. Institutional politics does not account for the resilience and thriving new spaces where democratic vibrancy and civic engagement prevail. Examples from African countries demonstrate that democracy indices based on institutional politics alone do not count for alternative democratic spaces and practices.

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11:30 – 12:50 Panel 1

Chair: István Tarrósy (HU)

Focus on the Horn of Africa

11:30 – 11:45 Jan Zahorik (CZ), The Rise and Fall of Pan-Ethiopianism and Pan-Somalism and Why It Is Relevant for Our Understanding of Current Affairs in the Horn of Africa

11:45 – 12:00 Balázs Szélinger (HU), The Ethiopia Utopia: How Not to Build a State (the recent conflict, and beyond)

12:00 – 12:15 Alemayehu Kumsa (ETH-CZ), The Root Causes of Contemporary Regional War in the Horn of Africa

12:15 – 12:30 Ahmed Abduletif Abdulkadr (ETH) & György Iván Neszmélyi (HU), Causes and Consequences of the Ongoing War Between TPLF and the Federal Government of Ethiopia

12:30 – 12:50 Q&A debate

12:50 – 14:00 buffet lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Panel 2

Chair: Balázs Szélinger (HU)

Crises, conflicts and their management: Cases from South Africa and Kenya

14:00 – 14:15 Gábor Búr (HU), Fortress South Africa? Winner or loser in the process of globalization?

14:15 – 14:30 Neo Sithole (SA), On Anarchy in Africa: A short recap & reflection

14:30 – 14:45 Felistus Kinyanjui (KE), Towards Enhancing Conflict Management in Northern Kenya: The Case of Marsabit County

14:45 – 15:00 Q&A debate

15:00 – 16:00 Panel 3

Chair: Dominik Kopinski (PL)

Financial resources and services, and the issue of debt

15:00 – 15:15 Judit Kiss (HU), Who Finances Whom? The Controversial Role of External Financial Resources in Africa

15:15 – 15:30 Collins Formella Nkpnwo (CR), Africa's Future in Growing Internal and External Debt

15:30 – 15:45 Szabolcs Pásztor (HU), How Is Mobile Banking Putting Africa on the Map of the Global Financial Services?

15:45 – 16:00 Q&A debate

16:00 – 16:30 coffee break

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16:30 – 18:15 Panel 4

Chair: Dániel Solymári (HU)

Africa, China–Africa relations and the COVID-19 pandemic

16:30 – 16:45 Hajer Trabelsi (TN), Bolstering Africa's Fight Against COVID-19: Initiatives and Challenges

16:45 – 17:00 Zoltán Vörös (HU), China's COVID-diplomacy in Africa

17:00 – 17:15 Douglas Mpondi (ZW-USA), The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Interplay of Information and Politics in Zimbabwe

17:15 – 17:30 Xénia Sipos (HU), Evaluating the Impacts of COVID-19 on Women: The Example of Morocco and Tunisia

17:30 – 17:45 Dominik Kopinski (PL), China and the Troubled Prospects for Africa's Economic Take Off: Linkage Formation and Spillover Effects in Zambia

17:45 – 18:15 Q&A debate

September 24, Friday

Zoom-link to this day's meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81435660826?pwd=K3loTlBhS0tuczBZeXU4VnVBdWxNQOT09>

Meeting ID: 814 3566 0826

Passcode: 405121

09:00 – 10:00 Panel 5

Chair: Mohamed Salih (SD-NL)

Security challenges, Jihadists and questions of stability

09:00 – 09:15 Viktor Marsai (HU), Under Siege: The Attacks of Jihadist Groups Against Military Bases in Sub-Saharan Africa

09:15 – 09:30 Judit Godó (HU), In the Shackles of Instability: Challenges of Operation Barkhane in the G5 Sahel Countries

09:30 – 09:45 Klaudia Tóth (HU), The Impact of Jihadist Groups on the Security Status of the Lake Chad Basin

09:45 – 10:00 Q&A debate

10:00 – 11:00 Panel 6

Chair: Viktor Marsai (HU)

Reforms, urban slums and Hungarian engagements in Kenya

10:00 – 10:15 Benson M.O. Agaya (KE), Institutional Reforms, Social Justice and the Search for Ethnic Reconciliation and National Unity in Kenya

10:15 – 10:30 Dániel Solymári (HU) & Ráhel Czirják (HU), The Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta in Kenya: Lessons of an Ongoing Research

10:30 – 10:45 János Besenyő (HU), Hungarian Volunteers in the Spanish Foreign Legion

10:45 – 11:00 Q&A debate

11:00 – 11:30 coffee break

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11:30 – 12:15 Panel 7

Chair: Jan Zahorik (CZ)

Diasporas and Europe–Africa relations

11:30 – 11:45 Diana Sfetlana Stoica (RO), PESEC Analysis on Cooperation and Conflict Possibilities between African Diaspora in Europe and New African Immigrants

11:45 – 12:00 István Tarrósy (HU), Hungarian Footprints and the Involvement of the Diaspora in Sub-Saharan African Countries

12:00 – 12:15 Q&A debate

12:15 – 13:15 **Roundtable** on Central and Eastern European Diaspora Connections in South Africa: Possibilities of Cooperation and New Research

Participants: Nikolai Vukov (BG), Stefan Cibian (RO), Oksana Pyatkovska (UA) and Dzvinka Kachur (UA-SA)

Moderator: István Tarrósy

13:15 – 13:30 Closing

13:30 – 14:30 buffet lunch

With any specific question, please, contact the conference hotline email:

africaconf@pte.hu

Also, be informed that the 6th Pécs African Studies Conference is part of the AFRICA WEEK of the 2021 International Autumn intercultural program series of the University of Pécs. Several cultural activities and events can be visited and enjoyed during the week September 20-24, 2021. Please, follow the Facebook-site of the event series here:

<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalSpringPTE>