

Call for Papers

The 2018 International Scientific Conference on “Pan Africanism & African Renaissance in the 21st Century” 19-21 March, 2018

Background

The African Renaissance refers to Africa’s renewal, re-birth or re-generation. Though often taken for granted, the concept was initiated way back in the early 1900s; between 1946-1960s African scholars such as Cheikh Anta Diop wrote essays providing a blue print for the African Renaissance arguing for overall development of Africa. He particularly stressed the development of indigenous languages, economic development, music, culture and a political ideology. Earlier on, the idea of Pan-Africanism had taken root in 1897 with the first Pan-African conference in London in 1900. Through the influence of many Pan-Africanists in the Diaspora such as JE Casely Hayford, Sylvester Williams and Marcus Garvey as well as the influence of scholars like WEB Du Bois, George Padmore, Frans Fanon and Paul Roberts among others, many African countries and the African Union continue to pursue the vision of Africa regional integration. Entrenched with the ideology and spirit of unity, eminent persons such as Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and Patrice Lumumba and former President Thabo Mbeki continued with the movement of Pan-Africanism and reviving the African Renaissance.

What and Why Africa rising/rejuvenation?

The contemporary concept of African Renaissance has to evolve beyond Cheikh Anta Diop’s treatise *Towards the African Renaissance: Essays in Culture and Development 1946-1960* in order to remain relevant. The contemporary, globalized world, characterized by “the rapid diffusion of information and technologies (IT); growing nationalism such as Donald Trump’s America First; a fully industrialized China, complete with an internationally tradeable Renminbi and the largest financial reserves of US\$3.1 trillion; European BREXIT and the European Union as well as the emerging push back on austerity” is driven by fluid, complex but interdependent developments that have all by-passed Africa since Diop’s groundbreaking observations. Meanwhile, African is mired in conflict, aptly described by Paul Williams as:



“...the African context has become much more complex than it was a decade ago and no particular theory or set of theories sufficiently explains why wars erupt and what solution models should be applied.” 23 September 2014.

Resulting in the phenomenon of weak and fragile caught up in protracted as well as “for-ever wars” giving birth to refugees, internally displaced peoples, food insecure populations and severe regression in the capacities to undertake sustainable survival by communities.

A single example of what African Member-States is confronted with; in 1957 Ghana was the richest nation in Sub-Saharan Africa with a per capita of \$490 compared to South Korea at the time, standing at \$491. A half century later, each Ghanaians musters a paltry \$481 while South Koreans stands at a respectable \$4 832 operating highly industrialized economy dependent on the clean energy of natural gas, exported from Mozambique, Tanzania and in Ghana itself.

This disconnect between global stability, prosperity and development versus Africa’s violent context and increasing impoverishment informs the widespread demand for solutions. The various options required should emerge from the engagement of multidisciplinary research and analysis that is informed by the Pan Africanist theoretical frameworks, including that of African Renaissance, Afrocentric paradigms and decoloniality thinking.

Purpose of the conference

The conference in South Africa, will serve as Africa’s boiling pot for Africans on the continent and from the Diaspora together with their global partners to find strategies to:

- confront corrosive systemic corruption and illicit financial flows in Africa
- Strengthening Africa’s military capacity and removal of foreign military presence in and around Africa
- Develop Strategies for industrialization and infrastructure development across African countries
- eliminate social inequalities and combat land grabs by foreigners and find ways for productive utilization of land by locals
- combat climate change throughout the continent
- Improve responsible leadership and governance
- Reposition Africa for the 21st century in all spheres, including the education system



The aim of the Pan Africanism & African Renaissance in the 21st Century is to serve as a platform, generating multidisciplinary solutions to Africa's multifaceted, social, political, environmental, economic and security challenges.

Key themes /pillars

- Thought leaderships: in the post-Cheikh Anta Diop era:
- The African State and the African Union in a Globalized world including BRICS and world Geopolitics
- Evaluating progress of African Leadership Foundations
- Land, Food Security and Africa's political economy
- The new African civil military relations and Democracy
- Climate change and environmental, sustainable development
- Minerals and Commodities in Africa's political economy,
- Education, health, human settlements, and social welfare for the 21st century
- Culture, society, Language, Indigenous Knowledge System in the well-being of African societies in the 21st Century.
- Peace and security
- Gender equality as an integral part of transformation of African societies
- Innovation, Technology and Science for Africa's renewal

Abstracts

Abstracts of 200-500 words in English should indicate the objectives of the paper, its scope, methods, major contributions and conclusion.

Abstract should be submitted to: iarsconf@unisa.ac.za

All submissions should be Word documents, 12 font size Arial and double-spaced. **All abstracts will be peer reviewed.**

Further information on the conference can be obtained from www.unisa.ac.za/iars.



Expected outcomes

- Books on the various pillars
- Journal articles in the International Journal of African Renaissance studies (IJARS)

About the host

The Institute for African Renaissance Studies (IARS) was established in 2003 by the University of South Africa (UNISA) to serve it as a research asset in UNISA's journey towards an African university in the service of humanity. First developed as a Centre for African Renaissance studies, IARS focuses on solving challenges on the African continent, underpinned by the African Renaissance paradigm. The scientific conference will mark 15 years since its establishment.

Vision

A leading progressive academic and intellectual institution undertaking African Renaissance Studies utilising interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary paradigms in advancing the understanding, interrogation, production, dissemination and use of knowledge.

Conference Secretariat

Chair: Prof Esther Kibuka-Sebitosi

Scientific committee

Dr. Makgetlaneng, Sehlare

Dr. Martin Rupiya

Prof Sesanti Simphiwe

Prof PA Mulaudzi

Mr. Mpho Mothoagae



Administration Committee

Ms Dineo Dube

Mr. Alfred Matjila

Ms Susan Mkanzi

Technical Team

Mr Leon Rossouw

Mr Jan Steyn

Deadlines:

The deadlines for submitting Abstract are as follows:

14 February 2018 deadline for submitting abstracts

End February 2018: decision on Acceptance of Abstracts

19-21 March 2018: Conference

Bibliography

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