

Call for Papers:

Workshop and Book Project

Concept Note



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
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African Centre for the Study of the United States

Afrika-sentrum vir Bestudering van die
Verenigde State van Amerika
Senthara ya Afrika ya Thuto ya Amerika

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African Perspectives on Trump 2.0: US Foreign Policy and the New World (Re)Order

After his defeat in the 2020 elections and controversial political prospect thereafter, President Donald Trump staged a historical comeback in American political history when he won the November 2024 elections and returned to the White House in January 2025. The second coming of Donald Trump, otherwise known as Trump 2.0, was premised on his populist, right-wing, and nationalist agenda. He mobilized popular support around “Making America Great Again” (MAGA), which is closely connected to the ideas, proposals, plans, and promises of cutting the US government spending and debt, increasing government efficiency, reforming law enforcement and the judiciary, ensuring freedom of speech, reversing LGBTQ+, climate and energy transition policies. Others include giving tax cut for local industries, massive tariffs on importation and deportation of illegal immigrants, ensuring that allies pay for their defences, stopping other countries from ripping Americans off with aid and trade, resolving the Russian-Ukraine conflict and preventing World War III, ending the Gaza war and securing the hostages, stepping up the competition with China in high-tech, and many more. As evident in the last few weeks since Trump assumed office as the 47th US President, he has displayed remarkable commitment to the implementation and realisation of many of these objectives through a flurry of Executive Orders that will test America’s constitution and democracy.

On foreign policy, the US has also taken a dramatic turn under Trump 2.0, with implications for the world order. Trump has announced US intention to acquire Greenland, Panama Canal and Gaza, and make Canada the 51st state of the federation. The US-Canada relations have further moved from historical cordiality to unpredictable animosity, as the Trump administration imposed 25% tariffs on imports from both Canada and Mexico which were later cooled off. The US also imposed 10% tariffs on imports from China, promised Europe to be the next, and announced tariff reciprocity in its trade relations with India. Trump has withdrawn the US from international climate commitments, suspended all US foreign aid except for Israel and Egypt, and declared the end of the days of the USAID. Saudi Arabia has moved from a pariah state to the new darling of

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the US diplomacy. Without Ukraine and Europe, the US started peace talks with Russia, promised to lift sanctions, and rationalised the need for Kyiv to concede territory. While the US Vice President JD Vance questioned the democratic credentials of Europe in a MunichSubmit, US DefenceSecretary Pete Hegseth restated Trump's position that the continent must pay for its defences. Moreover, Trump has condemned South Africa's Expropriation Act as racist against the White minority and controversially promisedto relocate them to the US. Amidstthese, thousands of illegal immigrants from across the world are now facing deportation in the US, and many African nationals, notably Nigerians, Ghanaian, Kenyan, Zambian and Zimbabwean are affected. Consequently, the world is changing very fast with the second coming of Trump.

Against this background, this projectcalls for criticalexamination of the US foreignpolicy under Trump 2.0. and implications for world order, disorder and reorder. The project is designed to inspire critical African reactions and reflections on recent changes in different aspects of international relations from economics, politics, technology, administration, and culture to environment as it concerns the continent, other regions of the world, and the global community, focusing on the centrality of Trump's second coming in this context. To understand Trump's 2.0. US foreign policy,this project calls on researchparticipants and contributors to draw from Trump and his associate or team's (1) actions, policy and strategyin his first term in office (2017-2021), (2) 2024 comeback campaign promises and speeches, announcements, declarations, press statements, plans, proposals, and experiences (3) post-election and pre-inauguration speeches, announcements, declarations, engagements, and press releases, and (4) post-inauguration and presidential announcements, declarations, speeches, dispositions, executive orders, press briefings, actions, engagements, policies, and strategies.

On these bases, the project is interested in how African scholars view and perceive:

- (1) Trump's 2.0. US foreignpolicy dispositions, actions,and engagements,
- (2) how they are (re)shaping and impacting varioussubject of interests in international relations,
- (3) their implications for different countries and regions of the world, and
- (4) the attention and reactions that they have generated from across the world.

Note

Interested participants and contributors should submit an abstract of no more than 200 words with a biography of no more than 150 words. Upon acceptance of abstract, research participants and contributors would be expected to submit a full draft or manuscript of between 4,000 and 6,000 words for presentation and deliberation in a workshop that will serve as peer and panel review. Following relevant comments and recommendations from the workshop, participants would be expected to revise and improve their draft presentation and resubmit for final editorial processes and publication. We strongly encourage submission from young, emerging and early career researchers.

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For questions, clarifications, or submission, kindly contact the ACSUS-UP Programme Director for Research, Dr. Samuel Oyewole (samuel.oyewole@up.ac.za) and copy the Director, Prof. Christopher Isike (christopher.isike@up.ac.za) and ACSUS-UP Administrator, Ms. Herminah Mmako (herminah.mmako@up.ac.za).

Deadlines

- Submission of Abstract – March 10, 2025
- Communication of acceptance – March 15, 2025
- Submission of full draft – May 7, 2025
- Workshop for presentation of draft submission – May 14, 2025
- Submission of revised draft – June 1, 2025
- Submission of further/final revision(where necessary) – July 15, 2025
- Submission of final manuscript to the press – August 15, 2025

Targeted publisher

Emerging ScholarInitiative (ESI) Press, Pretoria, South Africa.

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