

RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN STUDIES

30/1 ул. Спиридоновка, Москва, 123001

Тел. (8 495) 690-27-52

Факс: (8 495) 697-19-54

E-mail: dir@inafr.ru

<http://inafran.ru>

30/1 Spiridonovka str., Moscow, 123001

Tel. (+7 495) 690-27-52

Fax: (+7 495) 697-19-54

E-mail: dir@inafr.ru

<http://www.inafran.ru/en>

Destinies of Africa in the Modern World

15th International African Studies Conference

(Moscow, May 25-28, 2021)

Call for Papers

Dear Colleagues,

On May 25-28, 2021 in Moscow the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, in co-operation with the Research Council for the Problems of African Countries, holds the 15th African Studies Conference titled *Destinies of Africa in the Modern World*. The Conference main events will take place on the premises of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The working languages are Russian and English.

During the Conference, each panel will work for one day and will have one or two time slots, with no more than six papers in each (that is, **no panel will exceed twelve papers**).

The Organizing Committee have considered all the panel proposals received by it. The list of accepted proposals can be found below. The deadline for paper proposals (in the form of abstracts **within 300 words** in Russian or English) is **November 15, 2019**. The proposals should be sent **directly to the respective panel convener(s)** who is (are) to inform the applicant about his (her) application's fortune by **December 1, 2019** – the date by which the panel conveners are to submit their compiled panels to the Organizing Committee.

The information to be submitted alongside with the paper abstract includes full name, institutional affiliation, full mail and e-mail addresses, telephone number.

In the case the proposal is accepted and you need a Russian entry visa, the Organizing Committee will contact you with regards to your visa application support at a Russian Consulate or Embassy in **the beginning of the year 2020**.

The conference registration fee in Russian rubles, equivalent to \$150 (\$75 in rubles for students and for citizens of African states residing in Africa, except South Africa), is to be paid in cash onsite upon arrival. The Conference participants working for the Institute for African Studies

official partners are waved from registration fee. (For the list of the Institute for African Studies official partners please, visit the page “Cooperation” on the Institute’s website at the address <http://www.inafran.ru/en/node/144>). **No other participant can be waved from registration fee.**

The Organizing Committee can assist in booking accommodation, but independent reservation is encouraged. Please note that early hotel reservation is strongly recommended, as Moscow hotels and hostels may be full any season. Besides booking.com, otel.com and other internationally recognized hotel and hostel search and booking websites, you may try specifically Moscow websites <http://www.moscow-hotels.net/> and <http://www.moscow-hotels.com/>.

Unfortunately, the Conference Organizing Committee has no means to support financially any Conference participant.

All the correspondence, other than related to paper abstracts submission and acceptance, should be sent by e-mail for the Conference Organizing Committee, to the attention of Mrs. Natalia Bondar, Head, Center of Information and International Relations, Institute for African Studies, to the address inter@inafr.ru. The Organizing Committee telephone number is + 7 495 690 2752.

The Organizing Committee would appreciate your familiarizing the members of your research/teaching unit, as well as all interested colleagues, with the present Announcement.

PANELS ACCEPTED FOR THE CONFERENCE

(In the alphabetical order of English titles of the thematic blocks and panels within them)

I. Economics and Technologies

I-1. Africa’s Futures in a Rapid Changing World: Critical Perspectives of Young African Agrarian Scholars on Achieving Socioeconomic Transformation in Africa

Convener: *Cyriaque Hakizimana* (University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa); e-mail: chakizimana@plaas.org.za

The African population is rapidly growing comparing to other regions in the world. While the world population is growing by 1.18 per cent per year, the African population grows by 2.55 per cent annually between 2010 and 2015; and more than half of global population growth between 2015 and 2050 is expected to occur in Africa. The African population was estimated at 1.2 billion in 2015 and it is projected to reach 1.7 billion in 2030 and 2.5 billion in 2050 (United Nations 2015). The demographic estimates suggest that about 70 per cent of African population are under the age of 30, making Africa the most youthful continent in the world (Kararach et al. 2011). About half million of the population in Sub Saharan Africa will enter the labor market each year between 2015 and 2035 in the context characterized by significant low growth of employment generating sectors such as labour intensive manufactured exports and services. Manufacturing’s share in GDP is lower in Sub-Saharan Africa today than it was in 1980 in spite of the region experiencing its best economic growth since the 1960s. For instance its GDP grows more than 4.5 percent yearly on average between 2000 and 2012, compared to around 2 percent in 1980s and 1990s but the current economic growth is driven by extraction of mineral resources which does not create the much needed jobs and are subject to fluctuation of global commodity prices (Filmer et al. 2014). According to the ILO (2016) report, Africa’s industrial jobs accounts for less than 4 percent (Losch 2016). This unabated Africa’s population growth coupled with the twin challenges of unemployment and stubborn intergenerational poverty are happening in a

context that is characterised by rapid processes of change in Africa's agrarian systems that include, among other things, rapid agricultural commercialization, growth of large scale agriculture, increasing concentration and pressure on land, and failure of intergenerational transfers including land. This unique situation has stimulated unprecedented scholarly and policy debates about the nature and character of the potential future Africa's structural transformation; and these debates have been further fuelled by the convergence of global crises in food, energy, finance and the environment that occurred towards the end of the last decade, in 2008, that has had serious implications for many economies on the continent as powerful transnational and national economic actors scrambled for Africa's lands to provide food and energy security at their home countries. The panel will engage these debates and discuss the models that have been proposed to help Africa overcoming these challenges, particularly from the young African academics' perspective. It will explore and document the trends, responses and other articulated alternatives and the implications for growth of more diversified Africa's rural economies. The underlying policy argument of this panel is that the current processes of change in Africa, whether they are engineered by the exogenous or endogenous factors, already are and will continue to shape and restructure the opportunity space of Africa's people that the policy actors need to think about the impact of their interventions in ways that are connected particularly to the question of the broad-based inclusive structural transformation.

I-2. Economic Diversity in Africa: Capacity to Convert into an Economic Powerhouse for the World

Convener: *Kamini Krishna* (University of Zambia); e-mail: kaminik15@yahoo.com

Africa as a continent is still coming into its own in terms of economy, diversity and perception amongst others. It is the second largest continent, but number one in terms of its vast potential of becoming a continental economic champion. Africa's economy is multifaceted by nature and is made up of trade, mining, diverse industries, agriculture and human resources like most other continents. A continent so rich in natural resources, agricultural lands and human creativity could easily compete in the global economy and sustain the decade-long growth rates it has experienced. K. Moghalu (Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria) argued that essential paradigm shifts are required to take place in African countries to match with modernizations and globalization. One should not assume that globalization is a natural process. As it happens, Africa is merely a consumer and this will not lead to prosperity. Globalization is driven by technology but Africa must not take for granted that all economies will benefit as a result of it. Africa needs to undergo a fundamental change orienting itself toward industrialization and development of its manufacturing sector. As a matter of fact, agriculture and resource extraction do not improve the lives of people and are unsustainable for development over the long haul. Furthermore, industries play a key role in the development of a country, by creating employment opportunities, and most importantly by raising the levels of national income which involves improving the balance between exportable and importable goods. History reveals that the global domination of western civilization can be attributed to the Industrial Revolution of the nineteenth and the twentieth centuries. Beyond doubt, capitalism has yielded positive results, but it is necessary to question what kind of capitalism is most relevant to Africa. The panel intends to investigate, firstly, the way the world views Africa and Africa's understanding of the world because these are the forces of transformation and economic prosperity. It also seeks to examine the areas that have been neglected for long time but now being tapped in to contribute in the world economy. Further, it will seek to identify the existing areas where Africa must intensify to enhance its value and procure benefits. In addition, the panel intends to argue the importance of value-added production for promoting industrialization in Africa which is still lagging. The panel will also debate whether the capitalism for African scenario is, at all, needed. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, it seeks to gain a better insight of the world, its understanding of

human beings, reality, and the relationship between the two.

I-3. Industry 4.0 and Africa's Development Policy: Institutions, Technology, Innovation and Start-up Strategy

Convener: *Jude Okechukwu Chukwu* (University of Nigeria, Nsukka); e-mail: jude.chukwu@unn.edu.ng

The era of industry 4.0 has brought about the use of internet of things, cyber-physical systems, smart factories, new systems in distribution of products and services, new systems in procurement etc. The fourth industrial revolution promises added-value and competitiveness, new business models, digital start-ups and innovation ecosystems, workers' satisfaction at work plus development sustainability. In sum, industry 4.0 is characterized by major technological disruption with digitalization; digital age with internet of things; innovation based on combinations; emergence of disruptive new combination; self-organization and self-actualization; super disruptive innovation; new industrial revolution with IOT, Big data and block chain; manufacturing innovation 3.0; and the major changes in industries, people, government and entire society. It is imperative to understand the crucial links between commerce and social needs; between innovative strategies and financial outcomes; between labour productivity and society's notion of security, stability and quality of life; between consolidating existing technologies and creating entirely modern smart solutions. The core elements are smart technology, smart talents, smart cities, smart workforce, innovative strategy and social impact. The future of Africa in contemporary world lies entirely on its timely and strategic investment in science, technology and R&D innovation tailored towards catching-up with the fast pacing fourth industrial revolution. A successful outing in the fourth industrial revolution requires aggressive implementation of development policies such as SDG 17 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) 2024 which prioritizes on science, technology and Innovation (STI). At the continental Africa's level, (STISA) 2024 has emerged as the framework for implementing African Union's 2063 Agenda which focuses on three strategic pillars namely capacity building, technology innovation and knowledge production. Most African economies had emphasized that developing a knowledge-based economy (KBE) is fundamental to modernization and social transformation. The KBE is mainly based on the tripod of (i) Human Resource Development, (ii) Information and Communication Technology, and (iii) Science, Technology and Invention". It is planned that these targets be achieved primarily by addressing the key constraints to economic growth and global competitiveness, improving the policy and business environment, increasing investment in human capital, diversification into a more industrialized economy mainly driven by creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem, and improving institutional use of evidence in public policy management. The African Capacity Report (2017) identified Science, Technology and Innovation as strategic priorities with higher educational institutions as the agents. The core question to answer is how ready is Africa and how can Africa respond to industry 4.0? The time to implement STI strategies that would embrace industry 4.0 is now or never for Africa. Most rich and highly innovative economies had adopted Schumpeterian model of creative destruction for economic development. The panel invites articles from researchers/scholars, development/innovation economists, development policy researchers, science and technology experts, public policy analysts to rethink continental Africa's development policies, plans, programmes and strategies in order to proffer solutions on how best to move continental Africa to the path of economic transformation and sustainable development in line with the fourth industrial revolution.

I-4. Perspectives of the Scientific-Technological Progress in Africa

Convener: *Evgenia V. Morozenskaya* (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: evmorozen@mail.ru

Topics for discussion:

- Main Directions of the Scientific–Technological Progress in Modern Africa.
- State (Government) Role in the National, Regional and Continental Scientific–Technological Programs and Plans’ Realization.
- Specific Features of International Companies’ Policy in the Sphere of Technological Modernization of African Economies.
- Ways of the New Technologies’ Transfer to Africa and Perspectives of their Use in the Production and Consumption Spheres.
- Possibilities of the African Countries Adaptation to the 4th Industrial Revolution.

I-5. Sub-Saharan African Countries at the Digital Age: Problems and Prospects of the Integration into the Global Information and Communication Space

Convener: *Konstantin A. Pantserev* (St. Petersburg State University, Russia); e-mail: pantserev@yandex.ru

It becomes evident that today there is a new up-and-coming social and economic order based on telecommunications, and networking and data processing have become key features of this new way of life. The central place in this new system of public relations belongs to information and communication technologies (ICT). One can observe the situation when the creation of the knowledge-based economy is turning into the main strategic priority of the policy of every country, which considers the ICT as an effective tool, which can ensure a sustainable social and economic growth. So do Sub Saharan African countries as well which are sure that the solution of the vast majority of problems of the continent is possible through the development of the ICT-industry. But those countries don’t dispose an appropriate financial and technological base which would be sufficient for the creation of well-developed and self-reliant African informational and communicational space which would be answered the demands of African citizenry. This is why the only chance of African countries bridging the digital gap still remains the extension of a flow of financial and technological aid from developed nations for the development of their ICT sector. But the excessive participation of Western countries in the construction of the African ICT industry actually strengthens the African countries’ dependence on their Western partners (both financial one and technological one), producing a serious obstacle to the creation of the self-reliant African model of the information society and threatens their information sovereignty which should be considered as the indispensable condition of the survival of the State as the independent actor of international relations. Thus there is taking place the information asymmetry which should be considered as the main challenge of the up-to-date world. African countries understand this. During many years they have undertaken a number of attempts aimed on the bridging the digital gap. Based on case studies of Sub-Saharan African countries (Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Rwanda, Botswana, Mauritius, South Africa and etc.) the participants of the panel will try to identify what kind of measures are undertaken by those countries in order to reduce the digital gap, to build an information society in the region and to ensure an equal integration of African countries into the global information and communication space.

I-6. Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security in Rural Sub-Saharan Africa: Smallholder Poultry and Innovations Supporting Its Improvement

Convener: *Robyn Alders* (Kyeema Foundation, Brisbane, Australia & Australian National University, Canberra); email: robyna@kyeemafoundation.org, on behalf of Kyeema Foundation

Small-holder poultry are the most commonly raised livestock by households in Africa. Yet, their full potential to strengthen sustainable national and household food and nutrition security and several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG; 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,15) have not been realized (Alders et al. 2019). Smallholder poultry production (SPP) is an important part of household livelihood strategy for a great majority of households in resource-limited communities in rural Africa. Income derived from SPP is usually used to meet household needs – school fees, medicine, labour and social obligations. Improved SPP can also facilitate increased home consumption of poultry meat and eggs or purchase of other foods. In these places, where the childhood undernutrition rates are unacceptably high and obesity levels are paradoxically growing, SPP represents a unique tool to address the ‘double burden of malnutrition’. Development efforts to improve SPP in resource-limited communities at national and household level can also have impacts on food and nutrition security more broadly through improved:

- 1) gender equity in relation to the control of poultry assets, distribution of food within households and access to education and training;
- 2) disability and inclusion, through supporting households to keep this low-upkeep livestock with high value protein and micronutrients, particularly for those living with chronic debilitating disease such as HIV/AIDS;
- 3) environmental stewardship (in the face of an increasing population and the impact of climate change on food production) is encouraged through local poultry breed resilience to variations in local climatic conditions in a mixed farming system, their ability to survive on diverse, local, non-grain based diets (compared to commercial broilers) and their contribution to soil health through manure deposits in an extensive or semi-intensive system.

The proposed panel will present opportunities that may be leveraged for SPP to contribute more substantially to sustainable food and nutrition security using the SDGs as a framework and Planetary Health (Horton, Lo 2015) (i.e. the recognition that human health is totally dependent on the health of ecosystems that underpin it) as a unifying paradigm. Proposed panellists are representatives of several recent and ongoing large-scale projects and programs associated with the International Rural Poultry Centre (IRPC) of the Kyeema Foundation (KYEEMA) and implemented through university, government, civil society and the private sector partners. The projects test different hypotheses and innovative approaches to improved SPP for sustainable food and nutrition security. These projects include: Strengthening food and nutrition security through family poultry and crop integration in Tanzania and Zambia, Supporting food security and capacity building in Ethiopia and other African union Member States through sustainable Newcastle disease control, and Marker-assisted breeding of selected native chickens in Mozambique and Uganda.

II. General Issues of Africa's Development

II-1. Africa: Betwixt and Between

Convener: *O. Igho Natufe* (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: stratapol@outlook.com

When colonial powers met at the Berlin Conference in 1884/85 to partition Africa. one of the criticisms was the absence of African countries. Similarly, at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference that marked the end of the First World War, Africa was marginalized, as the colonial powers awarded German colonies in Africa to the United Kingdom and France, while the Balkan countries were granted independence. But more than a century after the Berlin Conference, independent African countries have invited former colonial powers and other foreign powers to engage in a new and continuous scramble for Africa. In the past three decades, according to the World Bank, “Africa's share of world exports has dropped by nearly 60 percent—from 3.5 percent

in 1970 to 1.5 percent in 1999. This dramatic decline in Africa's export market share represents a staggering income loss of \$70 billion annually, an amount equivalent to 21 percent of the region's GDP and to more than five times the \$13 billion in annual aid flows to Africa. Poor export and trade performance has been closely linked to the low growth of per capita incomes in the region” (http://web.worldbank.org/archive/AFRtrade/WEB/WB_ASSIS.HTM; Accessed January 19, 2019). As of 2018 Africa had a population of 1,287,920,518, for a 16.9% share of the world’s population. Africa accounts for 23 of the world’s ranked 28 poorest countries with an annual per capita of less than \$1,000.00 (USD) (<https://nordic.businessinsider.com/poorest-countries-in-the-world-2018-5/>; Accessed January 14, 2019). This Panel invites scholars to provide thought-provoking analyses on the “destiny” of Africa, via a critical historical and socio-political assessment of the evolution of Africa. What has happened to the great expectations at independence? Is the burden of independence too much for African leaders to bear? What are the prerequisites for African countries to rise from the trenches of poverty and the so-called third world? To what extent is colonialism and/or neo-colonialism relevant in the explanation of contemporary Africa? These are some of the questions that panelists are invited to grapple with. Panelists are advised to focus on one or two of the following countries:

- Algeria; Egypt; Morocco; Tunisia;
- Benin Republic; Chad; Cote d’Ivoire; Ghana; Liberia; Nigeria;
- Cameroon; Central African Republic; Sudan; South-Sudan; Republic of Congo; Democratic Republic of Congo; Rwanda;
- Ethiopia; Eritrea; Kenya; Madagascar; Tanzania; Uganda; and
- Angola; Malawi; Mozambique; Republic of South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

II-2. Civilizational Alternatives of Africa in the Modern World

Conveners: *Apollon B. Davidson* (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: adavidson@yandex.ru, *Igor V. Sledzevski* (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: igor25011904m@yandex.ru, *Anatoliy D. Savateev* (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: asavat@mail.ru, *Elena V. Kharitonova* (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: evh1956@mail.ru

The direction of the work of the section includes a set of problems of the place and role of Africa (North and sub-Saharan Africa) in the global civilizational process: 1) features and new civilizational vectors of this process (the global phenomenon of religious revival, the rapid spread and politicization of religious fundamentalist and radical movements in the conditions of social crisis and the crisis of statehood in the region); 2) the potential of civilizational development of Africa in the crisis of society and the state; 3) options and alternatives to the civilizational development of Africa in these conditions. The relevance of the problems of the section is determined, firstly, by the rapid spread of radical Islamism on the African continent against the background of the transformation of Islamic fundamentalism and radicalism into one of the poles of the regional system of international relations; secondly, the transformation of sub-Saharan Africa into one of the centers of the spread of so-called charismatic Christianity; thirdly, the growth of religious and cultural movements of ethical and worldview (Sufi orders, Evangelical culture, ethical movement “Ubuntu”). The scientific and practical significance of these problems is justified by the macro-regional conflict unfolding before our eyes between the forces of cultural modernism and the forces of religious traditionalism, the competition of various vectors and models of civilizational development of the continent and the world order as a whole. In the context of Africa, cultural and civilizational competition, as a new phenomenon of world development and world politics, is particularly acute in connection with the incompleteness, inconsistency and instability of modernization processes, the crisis of the post-colonial model of dependent development, the weakness of African States, the wave of falls of

national economies, prolonged civil wars and humanitarian disasters on a global scale, as well as criticism of the experience of post-colonial development of Africa from the standpoint of African religious and philosophical thought. New importance is attached to the African field of global civilizational competition: the transformation of the African macroregion into a key link in the resource provision of world development, world demographic growth and global migration of population to Europe, economic and cultural expansion of new world centers of power, undermining the civilizational omnipotence of the West (China, India, Islamic World).

II-3. Globalization, Shrinking Spaces, and Expanding Partnerships in “New Developing-Africa”

Conveners: *Stig Jensen* (Copenhagen University, Denmark); e-mail: sti@teol.ku.dk, *Amanda Møller Rasmussen* (Aarhus University, Denmark), *Jacob Worsøe* (Copenhagen University, Denmark)

This panel sets out to discuss how the “*new* developing-Africa,” i.e. the discourses, practices, and resource frontiers, which are characterized by the international communities’ obsession with the “*new*” in development, form and are formed by connections and disruptions between the local, national, and global in order to demarcate spaces, resources, and agency in and about Africa. While various global discourses have informed this turn towards the “*new* developing-Africa,” particularly three are of interest to this panel. First the new social finance regime that have introduced new modes and sources of financing development, while insisting on these projects and receivers following an “entrepreneurial” mode of action. Secondly, the discursive transition from natural resources as ‘wealth’ and locally embedded to becoming a question of ‘shortage’ and international conflict. Finally, the fear of migration, terror, and local instability has continued an international fixation with the governance of spaces and natural resources, which particularly has informed nation-state and transregional interventions. All three regimes have created a space within development for new actors and ‘untraditional’ partnerships, linking a large net of actors internationally and on the ground, as both donors, practitioners, gatekeepers, and receivers in a cross-over between development, security, entrepreneurship, and the private sector. In so, changing the landscape of development interventions, as well as its connections and disruptions between the local, national, and global spheres.

II-4. The Current and Future Multiple Challenges of Africa

Convener: *Jean Paulin Mengue Me Ndongo* (University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon); e-mail: menguejp@yahoo.fr

Historical anchors, internal structural determinants and international insertions and geopolitical issues place Africa on multiple trajectories. The capacity of people and societies to adapt, create and innovate in the face of challenges and shocks results from their vulnerability, resilience or resistance, innovation, creativity, and strategies implemented. Demographic, environmental and security challenges, social and territorial divides, can be opportunities because of the demographic dividend of young workers, the establishment of green growth and energy transitions, the strengthening of citizenship or States reducing social and territorial divides, exercising their sovereign functions and ensuring the security of goods and people, or innovations and creativity of enterprising people or entrepreneurs. Risk taking is at the heart of economic action, betting on the future, innovations and the creative freedom of the actors. It differs according to the societies and the cultures which are more or less usual, with person of independent means and according to the strategies of the inactive, reactive or proactive actors. These challenges can lead conversely to vulnerability traps characterized by linkages where poverty breeds vulnerability. The insecurities of people and goods are decisive in people's

poverty and in ecological non-sustainability, particularly because of the excessive demographic pressure on the environment or the vagaries of the weather. Some situations are characterized by systemic risks with contagion and amplification effects. Disasters can be natural and exogenous, biological (large epidemics) or endogenous, related to technological choices, or to inappropriate localizations of populations. The challenges facing Africans are also found at various local territorial scales (socio-economic inequalities, ethnic or religious rivalries, lack of rights of non-indigenous or cadets, competitions for the control of scarce resources and rents, failure of old regulations of the demographic pressure or changes in property rights). Local micro-dynamics are part of a national, regional and international political economy. The panel is open to all contributions concerning four major points and each point raising a historical fact or news is left to the choice of each papergiver or future panelist. Topics can be as follows:

1. The demographic explosion in Africa
 - The effects of the demographic explosion
 - Urbanization and ruralization: joint developments
 - Internal and international migration.
2. Social inequalities
 - The millennium development goals: mirage or success in Africa?
 - Education and health
 - Food safety
 - Blue gold (water)
3. The environment
 - Environmental risks
 - Global warming
 - The energy transition
4. Conflict and terrorism
 - New conflicts and historical oppositions
 - The political economy of conflicts
 - The extension of terrorism
 - The nebula of jihadist groups.

II-5. The Modern World in Africa

Convener: *Etienne Lock* (Centre of Training and International Cooperation, Douala, Cameroon);
e-mail: lock_etienne@yahoo.fr

Talking about “Destinies of Africa in the modern world” suggests a reflection based on issues related to destinies, having already situated Africa in a certain historical context. This supposes a sort of agreement on the concept “modern world”. This concept has been applied to African experience in its particular context, without questioning the relevance of this concept in such a context. Yet, the modern world defined as the circumstances and ideas of the present age is to be considered first as something particular, because circumstances always arouse from a particular context and ideas are also rooted in a particular context first. To that extent, the modern world could appear as imposed from outside the continent. Therefore, there could be a real difficulty and even an impossibility to discuss over the destinies of Africa in the modern world, without dealing with the concept “modern world” itself, as it is not free of controversy. If some African intellectuals, particularly in the 20th century, like Alioune Diop and Léopold Sedar Senghor defined their intellectual commitment expressed respectively through the concept of *Négritude* and the intellectual movement *Présence Africaine*, in the willingness to inscribe Africa in the modern world, they never gave the meaning of what they called “modern world”. Yet, one can assume that, having been trained in the western intellectual tradition during the colonial time characterized by cultural imperialism, the modern world they were referring to was actually the world defined and situated in a historical time, with features that were only related to the West.

This comprehension of the modern world also called modernity did not remain the sole representation of the African intellectuals of the 20th century, since it has become something general and extended in the 21st century. In order to tackle properly the topic of the conference, it seems very important to clarify what the modern world means for Africa; and even if this kind of modern world is suitable for Africa and accepted in the continent. Is it therefore impossible to avoid questions that need to be addressed in connection with the modern world which today has been summarized in the concept of globalization? The reality in Africa has demonstrated that on the side of that continent, globalization which characterizes the framework into which the destinies of Africa would be presented, discussed and even assessed already appeared in 1970s as it is the case today, as a westernization of the world in terms of ideologies and values. The contribution of Africa seems to be completely absent although it needs to be considered when talking about the modern world. This panel will raise some debates around the concept “modern world” from an African view. It intends to be multidisciplinary, associating multiple reflections around the following questions: Could the modern world, as known today, be a universal reality in a proper way? What does being in the modern world mean for Africa? Is the concept “modern world” relevant for Africa?

III. History and Anthropology

III-1. Africa and Her Diasporas: Historical and Contemporary

Conveners: Tunde Adeleke (Iowa State University, Ames, USA); e-mail: tadeleke@iastate.edu, Arno Sonderegger (University of Vienna, Austria); e-mail: arno.sonderegger@univie.ac.at

In 2006 the Africa Union designated the Diaspora the “Sixth region” of Africa. This region consists of “people of African origins... outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality... willing to contribute to the development of the continent...” This designation within the frame of official politics, as the AU is the Pan-African representative body of African state governments, gives pronounced credentials to a phenomenon with a long and startling history. Though the declaration marked the official incorporation of the Diaspora into Africa, “the ties that bind” (Magubane) the two date in origin to the Atlantic Slave Trade, to transcontinental commerce, to the rise of capitalist economies, seaborne empires and colonies in different parts of the world. Since enslavement in the New World Africans and Diasporans have felt compelled to forge and strengthen a relationship for mutual uplift. A century ago this imperative birthed the Pan-African movement that advanced the course of decolonization in Africa as well as the struggles for civil, political rights and freedoms in the Diaspora. If there are such “ties that bind” Africa and her Diasporas, it will be equally crucial to look out for what Anthony Appiah recently called “the lies that bind”. How do questions of creed (religion), country (nation and nationalism), color (race and racism), class and culture intersect with Pan-African understandings and practices? Where, when and how do they either enforce or contradict them? Furthermore, despite shared history and challenges, there are distinct and diverse experiences in Africa (with her rich and varied historical experiences, social and cultural traditions, political understandings and economical practices) and among Diasporans which complicate any attempts to superimpose homogeneous cultural and experiential paradigm. Today, the very complexity of the Diaspora itself is evident – and more and more acknowledged as the phenomenon, through increasing mobility and patterns of migration around the globe, expands and multiplies. Given this reality, some now question the utility of maintaining a close relationship between Africans and Diasporans who are becoming much more differentiated from Africa, and challenged to balance between the demands of their new nationalities and hybridized identities and the pull of original homeland loyalties. This panel seeks to bring together scholars of different disciplines to interrogate the historical and contemporary dimensions of this complex and, some would argue, problematic Africa-Diasporas relationships. What are some of the

challenges to a strong Africa-Diaspora nexus? How best can Africa continue to help advance Diaspora causes and vice versa? How has the relationship of Africa and her Diasporas addressed shared political, economic and cultural challenges in the modern period? How have Africans and Diasporans responded to each other's challenges and predicaments in the colonial and post-colonial eras? How best can Diasporans continue to assist Africa in navigating the complex challenges of post-colonialism? How effectively can both mobilize resources (material and intellectual) for developing stronger ties and relationship? What strategies, if any, exists for redefining and reshaping Africa-Diasporas relationship which, while accounting for growing differentiation and complexities, identifies areas of productive collaboration? How can the Africa Union and the Diasporas be truly transformative and effective in advancing each other's interests today? The panel welcomes proposals on these and other related themes (including policy oriented) that probe the historical and contemporary relationship between Africa and her growing and expanding Diasporas.

III-2. African Memoirs as a Narrative of the Era

Convener: Tatyana M. Gavristova (Demidov Yaroslavl State University, Russia); e-mail: tanja1994@mail.ru

The turn of the XX-XXI centuries was marked by the release of a huge amount of memoir literature in Africa, predominantly in Africa south of Sahara. There were primarily autobiographies, usually claiming to be objective, authentic and historical. On the one hand, this is due to the fact that professional historians, the shortage of which is observed in Africa, do not cope with their task and the political and governmental figures impose the mission of writing African history. The same goal pursued writers and publicists, and now – bloggers and freelancers. On the other hand, the secular development of the oral history genre in the context of mass literacy led to the actualization of the creation of their written fixations, updated and relevant to time, adapted to the conditions of mediation and digitalization. In the context of globalization, Africa's memoirs have been engaged by readers and professionals. Currently, a number of universities in Europe and America established centers for its study. Many works translated into foreign languages and acquired international readers. A lot of memoirs were written by intellectuals (Kwame Nkrumah, Leopold Senghor, Nelson Mandela, Wangari Maathai, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo, Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka, Ngugi Wa T'hiongo, Grace Ogot, Toyin Falola, etc.). Being an example of postcolonial discourse, their narratives are a unique, often exclusive and completely irreplaceable source on the history of Africa of the XX-XXI centuries. The authors wrote about all the key events of this period - from the struggle for independence to gaining sovereignty and the establishment of statehood, as well as the history of apartheid, Biafra, the civil war in Nigeria, the genocide in Rwanda, etc. The following issues are planned to be discussed within the panel:

- Memoirs of Africa as a historical source.
- Classification of African memoir literature. Criteria of classification.
- African autobiography: pioneers of the genre.
- The political history of Africa in the autobiographies of African celebrities.
- Ethnic history of Africa in the memoirs of scholars and writers.
- Literary autobiography of Africa south of Sahara.
- Memoirs of African women.
- "Generation of Africa" (AfriGen) about itself and the continent: mediatization and digitalization of socio-political and cultural life. Mastering Cyberspace
- African Diaspora in Europe and America about themselves and Africa.
- African memoirs as meta-genre: between history and literature.
- The search for identity in the context of the memoirs of Africa.
- Intellectual history of Africa in the memoirs of Africans.

- The prophetic and didactic orientation of the memoirs of Africa: the origins and evolution.
- Memoirs of Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Rwanda.
- The screen version of African memoirs.

III-3. Coping with the Difficult Past: Remembering and Forgetting the Slave Trade and Slavery in Africa, Europe, and the Americas

Conveners: *Dmitri M. Bondarenko* (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: dbondar@hotmail.com, *Harold D. Weaver* (Harvard University, Cambridge, USA); e-mail: weaverhal@yahoo.com

Nowadays, the transatlantic slave trade and the enslavement of Africans in the New World remain much more than mere historical events. Their consequences are clearly felt in the economic, social, and political lives of many countries on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as in international relations. The controversies these events generated centuries ago still influence powerfully the way separate people, ethnic groups, and whole nations perceive themselves and each other. Today, it is equally difficult to cope with such a painful past as that of the slave trade and slavery for the descendants of both victims and victimizers, of those sold as slaves and of slave sellers and owners. This results in different forms of memorializing and forgetting the slave trade and slavery in the countries of Africa, Europe, and the Americas. This way differences in historical memory and attempts to use and abuse it by different actors manifest themselves; not infrequently even in one country. In Benin, for example, the memory of the slave trade and capitalization on it (or its forgetting) vary from changing the name of the country from Dahomey, which reminded of not only French colonialism but also the pre-colonial slave-trading kingdom, to opening of the *Route des esclaves* memorial and several state and private museums. In the USA, since the 1990s, one can witness a boom of opening new memorials dedicated to ‘black heritage’ with unveiling of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture by President Obama in September 2016 as its apotheosis. Yet, the history of slavery and anti-slavery struggle still has differences in the ways they are represented in museums of the Northern and Southern states. And so on, and so forth. This panel welcomes papers describing and discussing the ways the historic memory of transatlantic slave trade and slavery influences the contemporary societies on the continents once involved in them, i.e. Africa, Europe, and the Americas, being kept, transformed, used, abused, or erased.

III-4. Historical Roots of Contemporary Problems of Tropical and Southern Africa

Conveners: *Apollon B. Davidson* (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: adavidson@yandex.ru, *Alexander S. Balezin* (Institute of World History, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: alex.balezin@yandex.ru

Most of the problems of modern Africa are rooted in its past, not only during colonialism, but also in the pre-colonial era. At the session of the panel it is planned to discuss a number of such problems – ethnic, social, cultural, political – in historical retrospect. It is also expected to touch upon the source issues, in particular – new opportunities for work in Russian archives, the difficulties and the results obtained.

III-5. Judaism in Africa: An Unexpected Destination?

Conveners: *Karina Simonson* (Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum, Lithuania); e-mail: karina_simonson@yahoo.co.uk, *Janice R. Levi* (University of California, Los Angeles, USA); e-mail: jrlevi@g.ucla.edu

Over the last several decades, an astonishing phenomenon has developed: a Jewish (re)birth of

sorts occurring throughout Africa. Different ethnic groups proclaim that they are returning to long forgotten Jewish roots and with some African clans tracing their lineage to the Lost Tribes of Israel. For some, this is destiny: an inevitable return to ancestral religions that were interrupted, hidden, and/or buried due to the onslaught of Islamic and Christian forces, as well as the colonial enterprise. Now, decades into the independence era and embracing pan-Africanist ideologies that celebrate and encourage a “return” to the indigenous cultural traditions, many communities have felt that they were destined to embrace their ancestral past, which for some include practices that have a Jewish semblance. For other African communities emerging, there is no claim to a Jewish past, but rather a desire for a Jewish future. Kabbalah Centers in Côte d’Ivoire, internet forums on Judaism in Cameroon, and an affinity for the Old Testament in Uganda—the range of initial interest in Judaism is diverse across the continent. Thus, scholars who attempt to create a homogenized definition for the rise of Judaism, elide the diverse motivations. Lastly, is to acknowledge the role of diaspora, both the Jewish and African Diaspora. African-Americans who ascribe to being Hebrew-Israelites have flirted with Hebraic, and for some Jewish, beginnings. Acknowledging a lost religious heritage through the migration out of Israel and through Africa. Also, Africans living in Israel, including some who identify as Jewish (namely Ethiopians) who have historically struggled to be recognized as legitimate Jews. The Jewish Diaspora has also been active in Africa, especially in the colonial period where some Jews were colonial agents while others were merchants of empire establishing homes in African ports. Israel, too, has since its statehood been tethered to Africa, only to cut ties around 1973 after Israel’s continual expansion onto the Sinai Peninsula, and re-established relations in the 1980s. Jewish expat communities have populated African capital cities, and continue to engage in cultural exchange. This panel asks “Is it destiny for Judaism to be in Africa?” A global Abrahamic religion that has found communities in most other parts of the world, Africa has been a blindspot. The panelists are encouraged to ask, broadly, why? And, why now is the presence of Judaism more visible than in previous decades and centuries?

- Representations of the African/black Jew;
- African Jewish communities;
- “Othering” of black Jews (i.e. normative Judaism versus “African” Judaism);
- Jewish Diaspora in Africa;
- Hebrew Israelites in Africa;
- Question of Jewish status and privileges (tethered to race);
- Jews in the local media;
- Relationship with Zionism and Israel (pre and post-independence);
- Jews and other ethnical non-indigenous minorities, such as Indians and Chinese;
- Influences and exchanges between Jewish and African cultures.

III-6. Socio-Anthropological Dimension of Destinies of Africa in the Modern World

Convener: *Oleg I. Kavykin* (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: atrociter@mail.ru

In recent decades, Africa has seen a number of significant changes: economic development, changes in social stratification, urbanization, transformation of traditional institutions, migration, the increase of African diasporas outside the continent, integration into global communication processes and the development of African media, etc. The above mentioned changes exist in a vast field of interactions with the processes of self-presentation, formation and maintenance of identity of various groups of Africans. In this regard, there is a need in researches on new forms of social organization and cultural phenomena in the current historical context. Some development of new approaches to the anthropological study of the continent is also needed because a search for new subject areas, objects and methods is conditioned by the development of anthropological knowledge itself, which changes in the historical context. Anthropologists

involved in the study of socio-cultural processes in Africa of the XXI century are invited to participate in the work of the section. Materials on the role of anthropology in studying the fate of Africa in the modern world are also welcome.

III-7. Studying the Exile Experiences of South Africans in the Liberation Struggle

Convener: *Hilary Lynd* (University of California, Berkeley, USA); e-mail: hilary.lynd@berkeley.edu

This panel will explore new directions in the study of experiences of South Africans who went into exile after 1960. Papers are encouraged that deal with cultural, intellectual, and political themes. Experiences of exile were shaped by a convergence of the goals, capabilities, and understandings of South Africans in the liberation movement with those of people and institutions in the countries that hosted them. The panel will aim to encourage a broad transnational discussion that analyzes both sides of the exile encounter.

III-8. The Creole World of Africa

Convener: *Vladimir A. Popov* (St. Petersburg State University, Russia); e-mail: v.a.popov@spbu.ru

Creoles, or Crioles, Crioulo, Kriolu, Krio – the ethnic (often ethnoracial) communities of the mixed origin formed during the colonial period, mainly in America and Africa. They differ in the origin from the population of mother countries, indigenous people and later immigrants of 19-20 centuries. Now problems of Creole communities, Creole cultures and Creole languages – in the center of attention of anthropologists, ethnographers, demographers, specialists in folklore, linguists and even political strategists. It occurs not only in those countries where Creole communities and their cultures play a significant role in social processes. In a number of countries of Western Europe and the USA these researches have both a theoretical and practical orientation, in connection with finding solutions to the internal problems connected with modeling and regulation of social processes in multinational societies and serious problems of the relations with Diasporas. Being a specific form and result of cultural interaction, the Creole perspective is extremely important within development of dialogue of cultures during a globalization / glocalization era. The declared section will be devoted to discussion of results of researches of the most urgent problems of the Creole world of Africa, first of all identification of ethnocultural, ethnosocial and ethnolinguistic factors of genesis and regularities of historical development of Creole communities of African continent, and also cross-cultural researches of development of Creoles of Sierra Leone, Angola, Cape Verde, American Liberians, Cape Malayans, Mauritians and Afro-Brazilians. The analysis of specifics of various forms of social and kinship institutes and the importance of a confessional factor in integration of Creole societies (Islam in South Africa, Kandomblé in Brazil), and also concepts of racial democracy in the state ideology is supposed: reflections, a mythologization, political correctness and the so-called Creole syndrome.

III-9. The Past and Present of Land Access in Africa

Conveners: *Jill E. Kelly* (Southern Methodist University, Dallas, USA); e-mail: jillk@smu.edu, *Tara Weinberg* (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA); e-mail: taramw@umich.edu

It has become more-or-less conventional wisdom that access and rights to land in Africa is dependent on social agreements between institutions or figures of authority and their followers (Berry; Delius; Feierman; Hunter; Lonsdale; Lund; Moyo). Scholarship on the “wealth-in-

people” concept suggests that since African societies valued people more than land, property ownership was a colonial and modern imposition. In considerations of the future of development in Africa, questions about land and property remain central—whether it is land reform and expropriation, land sales to foreign interests for agricultural security, the sale of mineral rights that benefit the elite rather than communities, or ensuring the rights of women and the poor to land access. These conversations must engage with the cultural and social worth of land on the continent and the diverse ways that humans historically accessed land (Sarr; Shipton; Kelly). Scholars have shown the significance of history—particularly firstcomer stories and oral land registries—to performing claims on land (Berry; Lentz; Sackeyfio-Lenoch). This panel adds nuance to these considerations of land and the ways in which people accessed it, with case studies from Ethiopia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. The papers consider the historical and contemporary ways that Africans imagine, claim, and reclaim land—from the formation of Communal Property Associations to the creation of origin stories that tie colonially-appointed chiefs to land—and how changing access shaped relations between genders, between community members and activists under late apartheid, and between chiefs and or states and subjects in the colonial, apartheid, and post-colonial/apartheid eras.

III-10. Tradition and Modernity

Convener: Olga Yu. Zavialova (St. Petersburg State University, Russia); e-mail: jontan@mail.ru

The role of tradition is still important in Africa, as it often allows us to solve modern problems. Africans themselves understand the need to maintain a tradition that not only plays an important role in the transmission of history, but is the basis for the preservation of African culture, the specifics that are so necessary to it today. In many countries, special attention is paid to folklore as an instrument of transmission of history and self-identity. Traditional education still plays a major role in the socialization of the peoples of Africa. Today, the problem of history, its perception and interpretation is particularly important for Africa. It is no secret that Africans do not perceive history as Europeans, paying special attention to origin, people, and not dates. The problem of memory transfer is also relevant and interesting for almost all African societies. Africa is looking for its own way and in that way it is trying to combine tradition and progress. Today, however, many traditions run counter to the logic of the development of modern economy and politics. What are the solutions to these problems? What are the possible consequences? The section aims to consider how the tradition continues in modern society from different African Nations: how it helps development, and what it inhibits. The most interesting, in our opinion, seems to be an attempt to consider the consequences of the abolition of certain customs, traditional worldview in the long term, as well as to note the options for the transformation of customs and rituals in modern Africa.

IV. International Relations

IV-1. Africa and the Main Trends in the Development of Modern International Law

Conveners: Alexander B. Mezyaev (University of Management TISBI, Kazan, Russia); e-mail: alexmezyaev@gmail.com, *Hennie Strydom* (University of Johannesburg, South Africa), *Adou Yao Nicaise* (Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia, Moscow)

The African continent plays an important role in shaping the norms of modern international law. Special international courts on situations in Africa have been established (Special Court for Sierra Leone, International Tribunal for Rwanda). The activities of the International Criminal Court are fully related to the consideration of situations in Africa. More and more countries of the African continent are taking part in the activities of the International Court of Justice, the

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Court of Arbitration and others. African countries are increasingly involved in the activities of international courts and tribunals and in the formation of international law of the 21st century. Africa's participation in the application of international law and its influence on external and internal political processes occurring both on the continent and in the world as a whole requires special attention to the scientific study of this issue.

IV-2. Africa: Glance to the East and Russia's Interests

Conveners: Evgeniy N. Korendyassov, Tatiana L. Deych (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: tdeich@yandex.ru

Contemporary international relations are characterized by the shift of the center of global development from the West to the East and by the increased influence of non-traditional players. So-called "emerging powers" became a driver of the global economy. The African continent found itself in the focus of special attention for the international actors. In the new millennium most African countries experienced the longest sustainable growth. According to the World's Bank 2018 projections for Sub-Saharan Africa, regional GDP growth of 3.2% (compared to 2.4% last year) was expected this year and ever greater increase of 3.5 is forecasted for 2019. Economic recovery was stimulated by the demand for raw materials, which contributed to a dynamic increase in FDI inflows. "Emerging powers" become a real alternative to the traditional partners of African countries, opening the access to the new financial and investment resources and to the latest technologies for African countries. Africa's interaction with new players gives impetus to the process of transition to a new world order based on the principles of a multipolarity, balanced and sustainable development. However, the increase of international weight of the "emerging" countries and their strengthening positions in Africa are of growing concern for the traditional actors in the African scene. Western countries see the activities of these states as harmful for their economic interests in Africa, as an obstacle to the realization of liberal democratic and market reforms in the countries of the continent, and predict a new "scramble for Africa". The struggle not only for African resources, but also for political influence on the continent is intensifying. Russia experiences a growing pressure from the West, first of all. From the USA, is also turning gradually to the East and pays increasing attention to the building mutually beneficial ties with African countries. In recent years the areas of Russian-African economic partnership are expanding. Russia considers the development of relations with Africa as one of the priorities of its foreign policy. Changes in the global power balance in the new millennium make more urgent to explore the issue of international relations in general and the growing role of Africa in the world affairs, in particular. Relations between African countries and the US, UK, France are noteworthy, because Western countries are still their major donors. African countries relations with the "emerging powers", in the first place, with China and India, which persistently force the "old players" out of the continent, also deserve special attention. It is planned to discuss the new trends in the foreign policies of the African countries, the role of these countries in international organizations and on the global stage, policies of the leading countries of the "North" and "South" on the continent and in individual African countries, the problem of inter-African relations. Special attention will be given to the various aspects of Russia-Africa relations and the prospects of Russian policy in Africa.

IV-3. Economic Competition of the BRICS States in Africa

Convener: Alexei V. Kuznetsov (Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: kuznetsov_alexei@mail.ru

Fundamental changes are taking place in world development. There is a struggle for the

resources and spheres of influence between the two most populous countries – China and India. The African continent plays a key role in this fight due to growing economies, a huge market and rich mineral resources. Russia has not yet developed a clear policy regarding its presence in Africa – many of the decisions taken by the USSR were political. Russia's economic policy is just beginning to take into account the specifics of ethno-cultural, ethno-tribal and inter-country relations in Africa. Russia looks attentively at the growing Chinese expansion in Africa, does not forget about the assessment of the former colonial powers and US interests, but almost completely lose sight of the growing interest of Brazil and other countries of the Global South in Africa. The purpose of the section is to explore the economic role of BRICS countries in Africa. It is interesting to investigate specific areas where the BRICS countries are ready to invest, mechanisms for attracting investment and opportunities for joint projects of different countries. The comprehensive modernization of African countries requires not only large-scale infrastructure projects, but also well-established links between African countries themselves. In this regard, joint cross-country projects involving foreign capital are relevant, while regional cooperation is being intensified. Points for discussion:

- What is the role of BRICS in the implementation of investment programs in Africa? Is the BRICS a kind of conductor facilitating foreign investment in Africa? Does the BRICS presence help to reduce bureaucratic and administrative barriers?
- What are Russia's sectoral priorities in Africa? What makes it difficult and what encourages Russian companies to invest in African countries? What is the role of Russia's political strategy in building long-term foreign economic relations with African countries?
- What is the attitude of Africans to the growing Chinese presence? Who is China's real competitor in the struggle for African resources?
- What are India's priorities in Africa? How important is the role of the Indian Diaspora in increasing India's investment in Africa?
- What are the specifics of the Brazilian presence? How active are companies from other Latin American countries in Africa?
- How significant is foreign activity in Africa by African TNCs, primarily from South Africa?

IV-4. Geo-Economic and Geopolitical Rivalry of the Leading Powers on the African Continent

Convener: *Kirill A. Aleshin* (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: kirill.aleshin@inafr.ru

The African continent is gradually becoming the main area of confrontation between the leading developed and developing countries. The battle is fought for mineral and human resources, capacious market, high rate of return on investment. Some countries are practicing various methods of struggle in Africa, using different instruments of pressure (for example, restrictive measures), manipulating political and business elites, using the so-called "soft power". The result of such actions is the "absorption" of national economies, and therefore – the loss of sovereignty of these states. Evidence of the growing confrontation is the adjustment of the priorities of the major countries. So, if until recently, African countries were far from the first place in the US foreign policy agenda, then at the end of 2018 the situation changed – Washington developed and began to implement a new program of action, providing for enhanced political and economic expansion in Africa. However, unlike other countries, the United States' aim is not the development of trade, investment and other ties in order to realize the potential of its economy, but the containment of China and the Russian Federation on the African track. Not only the leading powers, but also developing countries, including Brazil, India, Iran, UAE, Turkey, South Korea, are reviewing their African policies. The panel consists of two time slots. The first will address the economic and political priorities and aspects of the activities of the leading countries, in particular China, the United States, India, as well as political and economic unions in African

countries. Particular attention will be paid to both the activities of the Russian Federation in Africa and the state of relations of other members of the EAEU with African partners; the prospects of combining the interests and opportunities of unification, development and implementation of a common policy in Africa. In addition, the participants are expected to discuss the increasing role of Iran, Turkey, South Korea on the continent. During the second time slot, the participants will be able to discuss the current state and prospects of development of certain sectors of the African economy, outline the interests and characterize the activities of governments, in particular, of China, the US in Africa, as well as TNCs as agents of these countries. As a result of the work of the section, a comprehensive assessment of the current state of the struggle of the main actors in Africa will be provided, as well as a forecast of the situation.

IV-5. Israel and Africa: New Opportunities and Challenges

Convener: Luisa R. Khlebnikova (Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia); e-mail: lklebnikova@fmp.msu.ru

In recent years, Israeli-African relations have been experiencing a “new dawn”: “Israel is coming back to Africa, Africa is coming back to Israel.” Meetings and contacts of governments, ministries and non-governmental organizations of Israel and African states have become more frequent. There has been started a process of restoring long-lost diplomatic ties, for example, in 2019, Israel and Chad signed agreements on the restoration of relations. Israeli embassies began to open: in early 2019, Ron Adam became the first Ambassador of the State of Israel to Rwanda. The intensity of the development of Israeli-African cooperation is beyond doubt. It was a long road for Israel and Africa: from the “honeymoon” of the 1960s, the break up in relations in the 1970s. and the new chapter of the Israeli-African cooperation in the first decade of the 2000s. In the XXI century, the main spheres of Israeli-African cooperation are the security and development domains. As part of countering terrorism, Israel sells military weapons and equipment to African partners, and also provides its military advisers in crisis situations. In the development domain, Israel, an OECD member, provides African countries with bilateral and multilateral assistance. The main instrument in its implementation remains MASHAV – the Agency for International Development Cooperation of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, founded in the late 1950s. The priority countries for MASHAV in the region are: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan and Uganda. In strengthening relations with African states, the Israeli government is guided by geostrategic, political, economic, and humanitarian interests. In the beginning of the XXI century, the Iranian-Israeli confrontation also began to play a significant role in Israel’s activity in Africa. Israeli government began to deter the spread of the influence of the Islamic Republic of Iran not only in the Middle East, but also on the African continent. In their cooperation with Israel, African states are looking for an access to Israeli innovations in medicine, agriculture, sustainable development, cybersecurity etc. Some African governments, for example Kenyan, found in Israel a partner in the fight against terror, using Israeli experience in the counterterrorism and military technologies. Moreover, some states in the African region see the increasing contacts with Israel as an opportunity for rapprochement with the United States, the Israeli main strategic partner. The panel participants are invited to discuss the key factors affecting the convergence of African states and Israel, as well as address the limitations of Israeli-African cooperation. It is also planned to have a discussion about the effectiveness of the Israeli military and development assistance to African states and its positive / negative consequences for the people and countries of the African continent.

IV-6. Russia and the Rising Africa in the New World Environment

Convener: Rachid Tlemçani (University of Algeria); e-mail: drtlemani@gmail.com

Africa is made up of 54 different nation-states with economically, historically and politically significant varieties. Its superficies is around 200,000 sq km. It encompasses the areas of all Europe, the USA and China totaling 29,365,000 sq km. It is the second largest continent with a population 1.2 bn of habitants in 2018 and 2.5 bn by 2050. It has 30% of mineral resources reserves, 45% of gold reserves, 65% of cobalt reserves, and 90% of platinum reserves. Africa's proved oil reserves increased by approximately 70 percent, from 75.3 billion barrels in the 1997 to over 300 billion barrels 2017. About 600 million hectares of arable land are still under economic development. At the same time, 70% of the African population lives with \$ 2 or less a day. Between 70% and 80% of the African population lives in rural areas. This poverty is deep and institutionalized. What has been wrong? Experts believe a new "scramble for Africa" is unfolding around raw materials, energy resources and land grabbing. The main players are China and the USA. India, Turkey, Iran, and the Gulf countries are also interested in increasing their market shares in Africa. China and the USA are fighting each other without state of mind in this huge market in the century. Africa's growing middle class is creating a huge new consumer market. This dispute that has increased political and economic stability and violence, as well is shaping a new geopolitical setting. Russia's volume of trade and economic interaction with Africa still is low to almost all of the above mentioned players. Currently, Russia's trade with Africa is less than \$12bn. This volume, although its presence has expanded over the past year, still is low despite the fact that URSS has played a crucial role in the process of decolonization in this continent. This panel will thoroughly examine the main factors that have led to the African domination by the USA and China at the detriment of the win-win relationship as developed by Russia. How Russia can find its legitimate place in Africa as to help the rising Africa to gain a leadership in world peace, as a great power.

This panel will thoroughly examine 4 crucial issues:

- The Soviet Union and Africa Decolonization
- The Rising Africa, Globalization and the New Geopolitical Environment
- The new dispute in post-cold world in Africa
- Russia and the Future of Africa

IV-7. Same, Same, but Different: Africa, China, and the Rhetoric of Brotherhood

Convener: Tara Mock (Bowdoin College, Brunswick, USA); e-mail: tmock@bowdoin.edu

Notions of sameness and difference continue to reflect, reinforce and sometimes disrupt historical power dynamics between nations. These identity constructions reflect not only what is but what could or should be reality; and discourses, as imaginaries participate in the creation of new, and cultivate and nurture existing images of the state and its inhabitants. This panel explores questions of selfhood and other within Africa-China relations paying particular attention to historical and contemporary narratives of attachment, belonging, and community underpinning these new identity formations.

IV-8. The "African Vector" in the Policy of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP)

Convener: Andrey A. Tokarev (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: stp79@yandex.ru

The workshop is expected to cover the cooperative experience of the Portuguese-speaking countries within the Community (CPLP), which has been accumulated during the twenty-four-year history of this organization, as well as the "African vector" and the language policy of CPLP. The matters of interest include bilateral and multilateral relations of the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa inside the regional group PALOP, the leading role of Angola in it;

the manifestations of paternalism and partnership regarding the members of the group; new trends in domestic and foreign policy of the CPLP countries after the General elections. The cooperation of CPLP and PALOP with other regional organizations. The CPLP experience for Russia.

IV-9. The European Union and African Union: Challenges and Prospects for Partnership in the 21st Century

Convener: Olga S. Kulkova (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: kulkova-olga@yandex.ru

The cooperation between the European Union and the continental association of African countries - the African Union - at the present stage is not without challenges. On the one hand, the course was taken to strengthen the strategic partnership of the two organizations. It is quite successfully implemented in a number of areas and has great prospects. In 2018, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was launched. The EU welcomed this initiative, and its leadership expressed its desire to conclude in the future a free trade agreement between the two continents. The European Union is assisting the African Union in socio-economic transformations on the continent in accordance with the priorities of the «Agenda-2063» adopted by the African Union. Organizations cooperate in a number of areas (education and science, infrastructure projects, and many others). The African Union takes into account the experience of political and economic integration accumulated by the European Union. The EU also supports the initiatives of the AU to resolve conflicts on the continent. Thus, in May 2018, a memorandum of understanding on peace and security questions was signed between the European Commission and the Commission of the African Union. This document, in fact, aimed to formalize the partnership that has existed for many years. At the same time, the interaction of the EU and the AU at the background of the the changing global balance of power is not without problems and challenges. In September 2018, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) published the report assessing the support of the African Peace and Security Architecture of the African Union by the EU. The report concluded that this assistance was relatively ineffective due to the lack of clear priorities and long-term vision. It also outlined the need to reorient EU assistance to build the capacity of African forces, not to fund basic operating expenses. It should be mentioned that the AU leadership does not always endorse the EU's recent migration plans. There are also problems with economic partnership agreements (EPAs) that the EU has concluded or is seeking to conclude with individual regional groups of African countries – for example, in 2018, the Nigerian President M. Buhari stated that his country would not sign such an agreement between the EU and ECOWAS countries. Section participants will be invited to reflect on the nuances of relations between the European Union and the African Union in various spheres in the XXI century, to analyse both the potential of this interaction and the challenges facing partners and ways to overcome them.

IV-10. The Study of International Relations in African Countries and African Concepts of World Order

Convener: Denis A. Degterev (Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Moscow); e-mail: degterev-da@rudn.ru

In the past few years, there has been a growing interest in the world to the study of non-Western theories of international relations, international studies in countries of the “Global South”. This is not about “big theories”, and rarely about “mid-level” theories, but rather about the foreign policy analysis and IR conceptualization of developing countries, including African countries. On this panel, the African concepts of world order and global justice (pan-Africanism, Ubuntu

philosophy, etc.), as well as main features of the study and teaching of international relations in countries of tropical Africa (Nigeria and Kenya, Senegal and Cameroon) will be discussed. Special attention is paid to the main scientific schools, universities and analytical centers, methodological approaches, as well as scientific journals on international relations, published in African countries.

V. Linguistics

V-1. Languages of Africa from Cultural and Historic Perspective

Convener: *Viktor Ja. Porkhomovsky* (Institute of Linguistics, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: vporkhom@yahoo.com

The panel is intended to deal with various problems of African linguistics, including, but not limited to the following: lexicology and lexicography, sociolinguistics and language politics, language contacts, dialectology, historical linguistics, language in oral and written tradition.

V-2. Languages of Africa from Typological and Diachronic Perspective

Convener: *Andrey B. Shluinsky* (Institute of Linguistics, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: ash1@iling-ran.ru

The panel deals with all significant issues of such areas of African linguistics as typological and cross-linguistically oriented studies in lexicon and grammar of African languages, comparative linguistics and some other related areas.

VI. Social and Political Issues

VI-1. Africa: State Reform Comes First

Convener: *Nayla Mohamed Elhassan* (Sudan Academy for Administrative Studies, Khartoum); e-mail: dr-nayla@hotmail.com

Africa needs more so as to be an active continent in modern world. There are so difficulties now preventing Africa from playing such roles, like conflicts and wars, lack of development and economic growth etc. These issues will be solved by STATE REFORM. Public administration, as the interface between the government, civil society, the private sector and the citizens, has a key role to play. Strengthening its capacity to fulfill this role helps to ensure that public policies better satisfy people's needs and that those who implement them take real ownership of them. This also improves social cohesion and confidence between the State and its citizens. Projects of state reform can include:

- definition and implementation of national training strategies (support for the creation of public administration schools and the development of training tools);
- revision of civil service statutes and development of human resources management tools;
- results-based management and career management;
- government coordination work;
- improvement of relations between administrations and users (information and communication technologies, online administration).

This is not far away from governance issues which mean: Establishment of policies, and continuous monitoring of their proper implementation, by the members of the governing body of an organization. It includes the mechanisms required to balance the powers of the members (with the associated accountability), and their primary duty of enhancing the prosperity and viability of

the organization. There is a distinction between the concepts of governance and politics. Politics involves processes by which a group of people (perhaps with divergent opinions or interests) reach collective decisions generally regarded as binding on the group, and enforced as common policy. Governance, on the other hand, conveys the administrative and process-oriented elements of governing rather than its antagonistic ones. Such an argument continues to assume the possibility of the traditional separation between “politics” and “administration”. Contemporary governance practice and theory sometimes questions this distinction, premising that both “governance” and “politics” involve aspects of power and accountability. In general terms, public governance occurs in three broad ways:

- through networks involving public-private partnerships (PPP) or with the collaboration of community organizations;
- through the use of market mechanisms whereby market principles of competition serve to allocate resources while operating under government regulation;
- through top-down methods that primarily involve governments and the state bureaucracy.

VI-2. Anti-Corruption Policies and Sustainable Development Goals

Convener: Jason Nkyabonaki (Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, Zanzibar, Tanzania); e-mail: jason.mnma@yahoo.com

The embezzlement and leakages of meagre resources tend to stagnate development and affect more negatively the weak economies. Corruption is the humanitarian crisis as has caused misery to development in highly ranked graft countries. The global sustainable development goals and regional development goals have a nexus with the state of graft and corruption levels. To achieve sustainable human development in societies, corruption syndrome must be addressed. The anti-corruption efforts in the public sector seem to be potentially inadequate to address the challenge. The efforts to leverage poverty face concrete stumbling blocks of corruption. Therefore, the realization of global, regional sustainable development goals requires the premises of good governance of the meagre resources. The elite statesmen and women have developed a parasitic excrescent and prebendal character towards public resources entrusted to them. The anti-corruption policies are in place but seem to be inadequate to vent out the malaise of corruption in the public sector. The puzzle is on how sustainable development agenda can be achieved amidst the corruption practices in the public sector. The papers are invited to the panel key focus areas such as corruption, politics and development, poverty and underdevelopment, public service, education and development etc.

VI-3. Beyond the Global North: Educational Mobilities of African Students and Professionals in the 20th and 21st Centuries

Conveners: Eric Burton (University of Vienna, Austria); e-mail: eric.burton@univie.ac.at, *Sarah Hanisch* (University of Cologne, Germany); e-mail: sarah.hanisch@uni-koeln.de

Already during imperial times, Africans travelled within the Global South for educational purposes. With the intensification of the decolonisation process after World War II and the rise of Afro-Asian and other Third Worldist projects, new opportunities emerged. During the Cold War era, African students and professionals studied in Moscow, Beijing and East Berlin. These exchanges had lasting implications for the post-Cold War era. Nowadays, while France remains the leading destination for African students, the People’s Republic of China has overtaken the United States and the United Kingdom to become the second most important host country. Other countries such as Russia (again), Turkey, Malaysia or Taiwan are also becoming more significant in these exchanges. In other words, Europe and North America are no longer, and perhaps have never been, the only popular destinations of African students and professionals.

Educational mobilities of Africans are an important aspect of former East-South and current South-South connections. In this panel we discuss different forms of African mobilities and educational opportunities. In many ways, these new mobilities challenge established pathways to the (former) colonial metropolises and Western domination of the education. Education refers here to university studies through official scholarship channels as well as other forms, including military training, trade unionist education, vocational training, or teaching mobilities. We are interested in testing how these mobilities can be used to understand larger shifts of global power relations (in cultural, economic, political terms), to highlight different geographies of cooperation and exchanges and to understand how these impacted “Destinies of Africa in the Modern World”. Our panel aims to contribute to the growing body of literature on the role of such exchanges between the socialist countries and Africa during the Cold War period, and new educational South-South exchanges and mobilities emerging in the post-Cold War era. We welcome empirical and theoretical contributions from Africanists, Anthropologists, Historians, Sociologists and other related disciplines. We particularly welcome contributions from PhD students and early post-docs from Russia and the Global South. Contributions should address one of the following themes: 1. Motives and trajectories of African students and professionals, 2. Role of official channels and non-official networks in facilitating or hindering mobility, 3. Everyday lives of Africans in the destination country.

VI-4. Current Issues in Libyan Studies

Conveners: *Aref Ali Nayed* (Libyan Institute for Advanced Studies, Tripoli), *Alexander A. Tkachenko* (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: alexander.tkachenko@inafr.ru

The panel proposes to discuss a wide range of issues related to the recent history and current situation in the North African state of Libya. Libyan studies are not only of theoretical, but of obvious practical importance, because in the conditions of a long-term military-political and socio-economic crisis, which the country entered into in the second decade of the 21st century, the social demand inside the country and the political one beyond the boundaries seems to be obvious the study of Libyan history and modernity in the interests of a political settlement and post-conflict reconstruction.

The main directions of the section:

- The key events of the Libyan history in the historical memory of modern Libya;
- The actual features of the Libyan nation and state genesis and evolution;
- The political system, political culture and political process in modern Libya;
- The key splits in modern Libyan society and the prospects for overcoming them;
- Challenges and prospects for the development of the Libyan economy;
- Modern Libyan literature and culture;
- Islam and political Islam in Libya;
- Libya in the system of international relations;
- Actual problems of Libyan studies.

Historians, political scientists, economists, religious scholars, as well as researchers of international relations are invited to participate and discuss.

VI-5. Gender Strategies and Transformations in Modern Africa

Conveners: *Natalia L. Krylova*, *Natalia A. Ksenofontova* (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: krylovanl@yandex.ru

The panel will focus on the analysis of various aspects of the gender situation, in particular its impact on the development of African countries in the context of global transformations.

Suggested topics for papers include the identification of the role and place of representatives of different sexes and age groups in the international division of labor, in conflicts, in migration processes, and in the formation of social and cultural values within African societies. We would also welcome submissions discussing causes of gender inequality in different countries and regions of Africa and analyzing the costs of discrimination of women in terms of their fundamental rights, access to education, resources and economic opportunities, and participation in public life.

VI-6. Inadequate Access to Adult Education and Learning: Bane of Africa's Development

Convener: *Tajudeen Adewumi Adebisi* (Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria); e-mail: tadebisi@oauife.edu.ng

Africa, no less than other continents of the universe, has her own unique destinies. One aspect of Africa's destinies that is worth exploration is education. Education cannot be ignored when talking about 'Destinies of Africa in the Modern World'. Education is central to all-round development, which is a proof of a fulfilled destiny. Thus, education is key to fulfillment of Africa's destinies in the modern world. Education is multi-dimensional and multi-faceted. There are formal, informal, and adult and non-formal education. However, in the modern world, there have been many issues debilitating access to education of whichever form. Challenges such as outbreak of endemic diseases (HIV/AIDS, Ebola), insurgency and militancy (Boko Haram, Avenger, IPOB, Herdsmen, ISWAP), and poverty and corruption among other issues. As no country can rise above the quality of her education system, so also, Africa as a continent cannot rise above the growth and development engendered by the educational systems of countries that make it up. A major challenge of Africa is high rate of illiteracy coupled with exacerbating rate of unemployment resulting from poor access to basic literacy/education and continuous production of young school leavers and university graduates who lack relevant, functional, vocational and technical skills required for their possible employment in labour market. Adult and non-formal education, no doubt, provides opportunity for persons of all ages to acquire not only basic literacy/education, but also basic vocational/technical as well as advanced and upgraded skills necessary and required for individuals' functionality and productivity in the modern world. This panel welcomes abstracts on various subjects and aspects of adult and non-formal education both in principles and practice.

VI-7. Political Image in the System of Political Leadership in Africa

Convener: *Tatiana S. Denisova* (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: tsden@hotmail.com

The study of political images (of presidents, party leaders, parliament members) occupies an important place in the research on the evolution of political leadership in Africa. Attention to political image is becoming a global trend. In the context of globalization, all issues related to the image of the authorities are extremely relevant. Not least, this is caused by changes in ethical standards of public administration, which are increasingly becoming similar to the standards of business management (for example, efficiency and competitiveness). As a result of the transformation of the public service, citizens are treated as consumers. In modern conditions, the image of the head of state and particular members of government and parliament not only affects the image of the government in general in the eyes of the country's citizens, but also becomes one of the strategic aspects of the state's foreign policy. It is also an important factor in the collective identification of people, as it is one of the most important aspects of political communication at the national and international levels. Outside the country, the images of its president, first lady, vice president are often perceived as the cumulative overall image of all

citizens, and how their country is perceived to a large extent depends on the emotions they cause. In many African countries, image is gradually becoming a factor in effective political communication. The formed stable positive image of a political leader or a party allows them to carry out their activities more productively, as this makes it easier to obtain permanent support from the electorate. For this reason, the images of a political leader and political organizations need to be formed / adjusted not only during election campaigns, but this should become a constant process throughout their political lives.

VI-8. South Africa: A New Dawn?

Conveners: *Sifiso Mxolisi Ndlovu* (University of South Africa, Pretoria); e-mail: ndlovsm@unisa.ac.za, *Vladimir G. Shubin* (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: vlgs@yandex.ru

The words in the title of the panel “New Dawn” are borrowed from the State of the Nation address delivered by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 16 February 2018, next day after his election. The multi-disciplinary panel will consider the developments in South Africa in the late period, the political crisis of 2017-2018 that resulted in the early resignation of Jacob Zuma and election of the new President. In particular it is intended to analyse the steps proposed by President Ramaphosa to intensify the South African economy including the attraction of investments and land reform and to evaluate the degree of success in its implementation. Another important research field is the preparation, conduct and results of the May 2019 general election. The panelists are expected to examine the election platforms of the leading political parties in South Africa, their performance and the reasons of their successes and failures and to discuss the composition and programme of the new government to be formed by the winners. A proper attention will be paid to the conduct of the South African foreign policy under the new circumstances and in particular the effect of the political changes in South Africa on the country’s relations with Russia.

VI-9. The Middle East and the Horn of Africa in the 21st Century. Processes of Modernization and Quality of Development in the Light of Dynamic Relativity of Civilizational Transformations

Conveners: *Alexander A. Tkachenko, Vladimir Yu. Kukushkin, Ivan T. Kofanov* (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: alexander.tkachenko@inafr.ru

The section will focus on the following issues: More acute problems of modernization in the Middle East and North Africa and African Horn countries in the light of the key trends of the World development and the Arab Spring in the second part of the XX century, crises of the authoritarian model of power. The interconnections between political, social and economic sides of modernization/renovation in the Middle East and African Horn. Analysis an “old” and “new” models of political power in its connections with conflict between archaic elements and institutions, tradition and modernity. Civil society and Islamic tradition in the context of the “Arab spring”. Is potential of the model of authoritarian political power exhausted or not? The stable and unstable models of political power in the region. Radicalism, extremism and moderate Islam. Its connections and ties with internal and external factors. Conflicts and wars in the Middle East and African Horn. The prospects of its settlement in the light of the “Arab Spring” and the growth of uncertainty in the region and the World.

VI-10. Understanding the African City: Theoretical Challenges, Solutions and Workarounds

Conveners: *Daria A. Zelenova* (National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: d.zelenova@gmail.com, *Vladislav V. Kruchinsky* (Moscow State Institute of International Relations [University], Russia); e-mail: vladislav.kruchinsky@gmail.com

According to UN-Habitat, the coming decade of 2020–2030 shall bring a historical change: more than half of Africa’s steadily growing population is expected to be living in cities. Yet, the very phenomenon of an African city remains a theoretical challenge. It is transitory and incomplete, elusive and unknowable. Perhaps such picture is dictated by the very research apparatus we currently have at our disposal? This panel suggests that tropes of ‘transition’, ‘hybridity’ and ‘informality’ dominate current scholarship because it is still preoccupied with explanatory frameworks which assume that “some cities display the futures of others”, in the words of Jennifer Robinson. Borrowing from her notion of an ‘ordinary city’, this panel invites contributions providing theoretical and ethnographic insights into manifold issues connected to the nature of Sub-Saharan urbanization and day-to-day life of a contemporary African city. Special attention will be given to the following areas:

- theoretical challenges and possible solutions or workarounds in studying African cities and their histories;
- is opposition ‘formal vs. informal’ still a valid way of theorizing the city in Africa?
- spatial heritage of colonialism and city administrations’ and residents’ ways of living it and dealing with it;
- transport networks and public transportation in the contemporary African city;
- violence and quiescence: crime, other disturbances and policing the African city;
- how *the digital* is changing the city in Africa?
- state interventions on the urban arena: how they are explained and what they lead to;
- changing meaning of space: “gentrification” and “ghettoization” in the African city.

VI-11. Youth and Women in Africa’s Sustainable Development in the 21st Century: Connect, Empower, and Engage

Convener: *Ellie Paris-Miranda* (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, USA); e-mail: ellieparismiranda@gmail.com

Despite years after the post-independence period and substantial economic growth and transformation in Africa, the last century has been characterized as a century of missed opportunities for African people, and the continent overall. A situation that is attributed first and foremost to the long lasting political and economic legacies of colonialism, which have left the majority of African countries at margins of the global economy. With an estimated population of 1.2 billion people, in which 51 percent are women and approximately 20 percent are youth (age 15 to 24), according to the “United Nations Population Division. World Population Prospects: 2017 Revision” (2017), Africa has been struggling to unlock its “greatest untapped resources” since women and young people have been among the most socio-economic and political underdeveloped and marginalized population and much still needs to be done to improve their living conditions and the quality of their participation in the continent’s development. Connecting, empowering, and engaging both women and youth as equal partners with adult men in Africa’s sustainable development in the 21st Century will require a collective action across sectors and from regional, national, and global perspectives. The aim of this panel is to bring together a multi-disciplinary and comparative discussion that challenges the traditional approach on how to connect, engage, and empower women and youth as critical drivers of the continent’s development. Reflecting on the past along with social systems, including patriarchy, – the sociopolitical system that insists on the supremacy of men over women –, that have been responsible for keeping women and young people economically, politically, socially, and

psychologically oppressed, as a way to move towards a society based on egalitarian principles, gender equality, and economic, social, and cultural inclusion, is also the objective of this panel. Thus, addressing ways that we, scholars, educators, artists, economists, politicians, policy makers, practitioners, and citizens, can equip women and young people with tools and resources to tap into their under-utilized potential to fully participate in Africa's political, economic, and social life is the ultimate goal of this panel.

VII. Violence Reduction and Conflict Resolution

VII-1. African Integration and Peacekeeping

Convener: *Keith Gottschalk* (University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa); e-mail: kgottschalk@uwc.ac.za

The African Union family of organizations, including its regional communities such as the EAC, ECOWAS, and SADC, have both remarkable achievements in economic integration and peacekeeping, compared to intergovernmental regional organizations on other continents, but also serious and protracted problems. For example, over 75 000 African troops participate in UN and hybrid peacekeeping operations, but the AU has failed to set up its merely 25 000-strength African Standby Force, whose launch was originally scheduled for 2010. Similarly, while the AU summits regularly sign treaties and declarations whose full implementation would require a partial ceding of sovereignty to a supra-national entity, the reality is that the member states routinely fail to implement even less momentous resolutions. For example, the Yamoussoukro Declaration is unimplemented after eighteen years. This panel invites papers exploring any of this comprehensive range of continental challenges and topics. Papers may focus on either the continent, or a sub-regional organization's terrain.

VII-2. Armed Conflicts and Their Consequences

Convener: *Galina M. Sidorova* (Moscow State Linguistic University, Russia); e-mail: gal_sid@mail.ru

At the panel session it is planned to analyze the questions related to the armed conflicts issues in Africa, their root causes and the settlement of the post conflict situation. The raised topic of armed conflicts is high on today's international security agenda. The conflicts considered to be "old" are the ones of ethnic and religious nature. However, the ethnic and religious traits of conflicts are often hiding the root causes, which are in the fact the real trigger for local conflicts and wars. In African countries conflicts arise mainly from territory and natural resources disputes, including strategically important minerals rare earth metals. The struggle for power and resources, for the fate of one's leader ethnicity and for its identity, remain the deciding factors in the development of conflicts and their initiation. As a rule, armed conflicts are connected with the local specifics and have deep historical roots. More than one third of African countries, since 1960, have gone through cruel crises and conflicts. The consequences of armed conflicts are usually catastrophic. They cause harm to the economy, culture, education, political and welfare spheres of the society, damage the natural environment, bring up homelessness and crime rates to highs unseen before, and worsen the functioning of urban infrastructure, including urban sanitation systems. The topics in question will be discussed in the relation with problems of refugees, humanitarian crises, women and children equal rights, as well as the issues of mass migrations to Europe and other world regions. The number of refugees in the world in 2018 has reached 68.5 million people. Refugees are the problem not only of the receiving countries, which are forced to issue funds from their own modest budget for the needs of the refugees. The camps of the latter become the centers of diseases, crime, arms and drug traffic, as well as the area for

armed confrontation with oppressed local population. Taking into account the fact that today wars and armed conflicts have changed in nature and differ from their classical definition, the suggestion is also to touch upon the topics of “hybrid” and “artificial” wars, as well as the use of “soft power”. Russian and foreign experts tend to consider “soft power” as a structural element of the foreign policy of the state. Is this policy vector an independent one, or rather a part of the so-called “hard power”? The conference panel should enable to hear and discuss the points of view of researchers on this topic.

VII-3. Foreign Interventions in West Africa and the Sahel (1975–2019)

Conveners: *Maciel Santos* (University of Porto, Portugal); e-mail: maciel999@yahoo.com, *Mario Gonçalves* (University of Coimbra, Portugal); e-mail: goncalvesmacorreia@gmail.com, *Mourad Aty* (University of Guelma, Algeria); e-mail: md_aty@yahoo.com

“Foreign intervention”, a diplomatic euphemism that in a broad sense would also encompass colonial history, has been the most used expression for recent decades to designate a certain kind of international pressure on subaltern states. Many powers and even the United Nations have legitimized and promoted interventions (diplomatic, economic and military), cooperating or not with regional actors. Cradle of countless fragile states, the African continent remains one of the main stages of this process with diverse results. At a time when underdevelopment and conflict in Africa are becoming more visible in Europe, mainly throughout migration currents, an international debate is required to conceptualize the typologies of interventions and, in particular, their effects on West Africa and the Sahel. This panel intends to collect new sources and points of view about phenomena which are increasingly part of the world political agenda.

VII-4. Resolving the Contradiction of Terrorism in Africa

Convener: *Abraham Waya* (Boston University, USA); e-mail: awaya@bu.edu

Ever since the Soviet Union crumbled under the weight of unresolved internal contradictions, the strategic calculations that had informed many African nations since emerging from colonialism into the Cold war era, demanded reassessment. Playing one superpower against the other no longer had any leverage. A degree of security that accompanied hosting foreign military, surveillance and reconnaissance bases, no longer prevailed as Africa rapidly lost influence as a result of global geo-strategic changes. African nations cut their loses and pitched their tents with the superpower left standing, regardless of the evident incongruity with their own internal social systems and regardless of the evident internal contradictions that are bound to ensure the demise of western societies as a matter of time. In the Cold War era, the West armed many ideologically guided organizations not because they shared the ideology, but because they saw those ideologies as mobilizing forces with which to check the advance of the communist ideology and of the contending super power. Many revolutionaries in Africa retained their idealist visions of a more egalitarian society with no exploitation of people and natural resources for the accumulation of a handful of corrupt men and women. Some of these idealists in Africa resorted to the next best ideology with the power to command their passion to establish a just society either here on earth or beyond earth. The shift was ignited, inadvertently, by the success of the Iranian revolution of 1979 against a puppet regime beholdng to the imperialist West. Today, the greatest security threat to Africa is not Russian - US military posturing. There continue to be fewer and fewer foreign military bases on Africa and the continent’s geostrategic locational value continues to decline as rapid advances in science and military technology, and a redirection of global economy, shifts away from Africa any leverage it might have enjoyed in the past. Yet the passion for change toward a more egalitarian society persists, finding outlet in religious radicalism that is inherently anti-West. There are countless terrorist organizations operating in Africa. Some, but not all, have allegiance and affiliates beyond the continent. The purpose of this

panel is to examine the rise, spread and operations of some of these organizations, and to explore potential strategies and methodologies for greater security and the transformation of empowering ideologies from terrorist idealism to more positive social transformation. Some of the groups to be examined within their socio-cultural and political milieu, and their spread include:

- Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb;
- Boko Haram;
- Islamic State West Africa Province;
- Ansar Al-Sunna;
- Muslim Brotherhood;
- Al Shabab;
- Any others.

Resolving the internal security contradictions will contribute toward mapping out new, clearer and more positive destinies for Africa in the modern world and beyond. Although Africa has the largest population of young people of all continents, she is in danger of being left behind by the rapid advances in technology, and consequently in danger of more radical revolutionary forces. The kind of society necessary and relevant for transformation necessarily requires an environment that is sufficiently secure for durable innovation.

VII-5. The Problem of Territorial Settlement in Contemporary Africa

Convener: *Sergey V. Kostelyanets* (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow); e-mail: cfsapss@gmail.com

The Agenda 2063, adopted by the African Union in 2013, provides for the transformation of the African continent into a “continent of seamless borders” and “management of cross-border resources through dialogue”. The inclusion of this item in the Agenda reflects the fact that the problem of border disputes in Africa remains a serious destabilizing factor in the field of security for both individual states and entire regions, despite the fact that in 1964 the participating States of the Organization of African Unity undertook the obligation to respect the colonial boundaries that had existed before they had gained national independence (*uti possidetis* principle). The aim of the panel is to examine the problem of territorial settlement in contemporary Africa from different angles, including from the point of view of various political institutions, as one of the key present-day security problems of the continent, and in the context of the main trends in the socio-political development of African countries.