

Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN

The Annual Africa Conference

March 31-April 1, 2016

CALL FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS

The Department of History, Political Science, Geography, & Africana Studies at Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee, invites academics, independent scholars, policymakers, and graduate students to present papers at its fourth annual conference on the theme:

AFRICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY: THE PROMISE OF DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRATIZATION

Africa has made significant strides in economic growth and democratization in recent years as apparent in states such as Gabon, Botswana, Angola, Ghana, Namibia, South Africa, and Nigeria. Indeed, the international media and various organizations such as the World Bank and the IMF have noted that African states are among the fastest growing economies in the world, with a rapidly rising middle class. Advancements have been made in many areas such as healthcare, education, access to technology, and poverty alleviation. While there are many bright spots and the continent's economic and democratic prospects are promising, it is still a truism that the vast majority of Africans presently languish in poverty. It is equally valid to say that Africa's democracy, for the most part, is limited to formal elections without the necessary independent institutions to support the rule of law, human and civil rights, freedom of the press, speech, and assembly, and an independent judiciary. Institutionalized political corruption, detrimental to good governance, is also still very rampant.

This year's conference will provide a platform for scholars and other participants to examine within a multidisciplinary location, milestones in economic growth, development, and democratization, including the challenges, opportunities, and future prospects in contemporary Africa.

The sub-themes and potential topics around which the conference is organized may include but are not limited to the following:

The historical legacy and Africa's development
Post-independence development policies in Africa
Africa's economic growth and development: achievements, challenges, and opportunities
International trade and foreign direct investment in Africa
The Millennium Development Goals
Globalization, western influences, emerging markets, and the role of China
Foreign Aid and International Development Assistance
Africa's natural resources: a curse or a blessing?
African Women in development and democratization

Democratic institutions in Africa
Multiparty democracy and opposition parties in the African context
Role of civil society organizations, the media, NGOs, and the international community in development and democratization
Bill of Rights for Africa
Constitutional democracy and presidential term limits
The Arab Spring and Africa
Transparency and good governance
New religious movements and freedom of thought and expression
National security and terrorism (including State terrorism) in Africa
Political instability and emigration from Africa
Sustainable development in Africa
Climate vulnerability, adaptation mechanisms, and other environmental challenges
Agriculture and food security in Africa
HIV/AIDS and healthcare in Africa
Population growth and development challenges
International migration and development
The role of the African Diaspora in Africa's development and democratization
Relationship between democracy and development
Africa's place in the world and its prospects

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Steven J. Salm, Alumni Class of '58 Endowed Professor of History, Xavier University, New Orleans, Louisiana

Guest Speaker

Dr. Mayowa Ogedengbe, Activist, Social Critic, & Adjunct Professor of Africana Studies, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Date of Conference

March 31 - April 1, 2016

Venue

Tennessee State University
Avon Williams (downtown) Campus
330 10th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37203

Conveners

Dr. Adebayo Oyeboade
Professor of History
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Dr. Gashawbeza Bekele
Assistant Professor of Geography
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Abstracts/Panel proposals

Each prospective presenter should submit electronically an abstract of 500 words or less to either of the conveners by Friday, Dec. 31, 2015. Abstract prepared as Microsoft Word document should include the presenter's name, title of paper, institutional affiliation, and contact information (mailing address, phone number, and email address). Please, note that

submission of abstract automatically grants conference organizers the right to publish it in the conference program and website.

Conference Registration Fees

Mandatory non-refundable registration fees for the conference are:

Regular: \$75 by Dec. 31, 2015; & \$90 by Feb. 15, 2016 (banquet included).

Graduate Students: \$30 by Dec. 31, 2015; & \$45 by Feb. 15, 2016 (banquet included).

Banquet only: \$30 by Feb. 15, 2016.

Please, make your check payable to Tennessee State University.

Publication of Selected Papers

Selected conference papers will be published as a book.