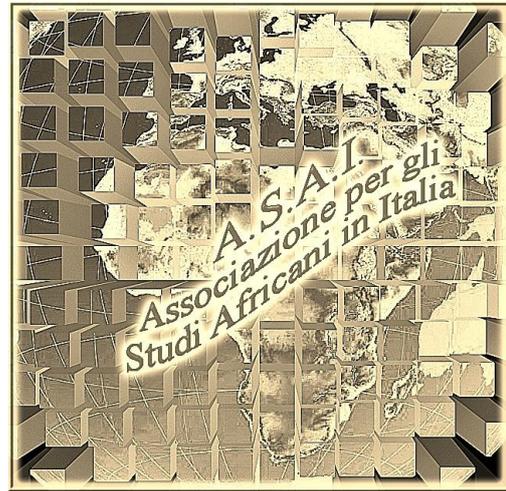


UNIVERSITÀ DI PAVIA

CENTRO STUDI POPOLI EXTRA-EUROPEI

“CESARE BONACOSSA”

DIP. DI SCIENZE POLITICHE E SOCIALI



ASSOCIAZIONE PER GLI STUDI AFRICANI

IN ITALIA

African Studies Conference, Pavia
Pavia University, Faculty of Political Science
18-20 September 2012

The Conference addresses African studies conducted in all disciplines and specialized fields. Scholars and researchers are invited to present their contributions to the study of Africa in its historic and contemporary dimensions.

The past two decades witnessed impressive transformations in African countries and societies, and their interactions with the rest of the world. These changes took place in a context marked by strong pressures from outside, such as the restructuring of the global balance that followed the end of the Cold War, the policies of support to the development of democracy, the neo-liberal economic strategies and their effects on society, the quest for energy sources and raw materials by old and new players in the world economy, the spread of global forms of communication and culture, new powerful interpretations of the social and political role of religious beliefs and institutions, the increase of migration fluxes within and without the Continent.

These and other external influences operated within an African context that was also deeply marked by dramatic internal developments, such as the end of the system of Apartheid, which normalized relations between South Africa and the rest of the Continent, a sustained economic growth in several countries and regions, but also powerful pushes for social and institutional changes coming from within societies and political systems. These changes resulted in numerous internal and international conflicts as well as requests for a wider representation and participation in the political realm, a ruling group recruited from a larger social base, inclusive of growing lower-

middle classes and younger generations. We add the demands for more effective polices against growing poverty and widening social gaps, more attention to the rural world and its structural problems, the acknowledgement of specific communitarian dimensions and minorities, a fairer national redistribution of resources and assets, a more balanced centre-periphery relationship, and in some cases the questioning of national boundaries established by European colonialism and confirmed by Decolonization (such as in the case of Eritrea and, recently, of Sudan, with the secession of the southern part of the country as a new sovereign nation, South Sudan).

In 2011 North Africa entered a period of dramatic changes in long-established power balances in Tunisia and Egypt, through popular protest that culminated in violent clashes with state security apparatuses and eventually the toppling of authoritarian regimes. The uprising against the regime in Libya slid into a full-fledged civil war and international military intervention on the side of the rebel forces that ended with the defeat and execution of Muammar Gaddafi.

The African Continent is experiencing a rapid reshaping of its political, social, economic and cultural landscapes, and its relations with the outside world, marked by emerging new forms of dependency/interdependency and the repercussions of North-South tensions.

The participants in the African Studies Conference are invited to present papers on topics that are central to lively current debates taking place in several African countries, such as:

- how modern African societies deal with their own histories;
- identity, community membership, citizenship and connected rights;
- the form and substance of institutional and constitutional frameworks: political representation and participation, democratization, governance, decentralization, and the role of traditional institutions;
- the politics of space, borders, territory;
- economics and development policies; labor and social classes, and the dynamics of personal dependency;
- forms of land tenure and different conceptions of ownership;
- violence, wars, conflicts, peace restoration;
- the roles of diasporas, migrations, minorities, peripheral groups and communities;
- international and regional relations;
- the relationship between religion and politics;
- gender and generation issues;
- language and language politics;
- the educational systems and the role of intellectuals and the media;
- art expressions in their global dimension;
- cultural heritage issues;
- literature, philosophy, theology;
- poetics and politics of the cultured body in contemporary contexts: ornaments, cloths, fabrics;

- therapeutic and medical issues;
- environmental problems and the issue of biodiversity;

The Scientific Committee encourages in particular papers dealing with:

- overviews of current studies;
- historical and present relations between Italy and Africa.

Registrations to the Conference and proposals for panels or individual papers are to be sent to the following address: conferenza.africanisti@unipv.it.

The deadline is 15th March 2012.

Proposals for panels or individual papers should include: a) title; b) abstract (a maximum 1000 characters); c) a brief profile of the speaker (a maximum 300 characters).

The Scientific Committee will supervise the selection of panels and individual presentations.

The time slot allocated to each paper presentation is 20 minutes maximum.

Participation at the Conference as a presenter (panel or individual paper) is subject to payment of a registration fee of 30 euros in the case of graduate students and post-docs who are not enjoying a scholarship; 50 euros in the case of all other presenters. Registration fees for the ASAI (Associazione per gli Studi Africani in Italia) members are 25 and 45 euros respectively.

The fee will be reduced to 20 and 40 euros respectively for all those registering before 31st August 2012 and to 15 and 35 euros for ASAI members.

Payments to be made to the following bank account:

Account holder: Amministrazione Centrale dell'Università di Pavia

Bank: BANCA POPOLARE COMMERCIO E INDUSTRIA

Address: Strada Nuova, 65 – 27100 Pavia

Account details: IBAN IT32I0504811302000000046566

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The registration fee includes participation at the Conference as a presenter, two meals and the possibility to book accommodation at a discounted rate in student halls in Pavia.

The organization of the Conference will consider granting two nights free accommodation in student halls to a maximum of 50 presenters (panels or individual papers) who are graduate students or post- docs but not enjoying scholarships or research grants.

For further details about registration, accommodation in Pavia and transport please browse the link

<http://www-3.unipv.it/webdsps/conferenza/homepage.html>

For further details about ASAI, please browse the link

<http://studiafricani.wordpress.com>

Scientific Committee

Gian Paolo Calchi Novati, University of Rome “La Sapienza”

Maria Giovanna Parodi da Passano, University of Genova

Pierluigi Valsecchi, University of Pavia

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Mario Zamponi, University of Bologna

Pavia, 25th January 2012