

RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN STUDIES

**SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL FOR THE PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

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SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN AFRICA:

TRADITIONAL, TRANSITIONAL, AND NEW

13th International Conference of Africanists

(Moscow, Russia. May 27-30, 2014)

Third Call for Papers Announcement

Dear Colleagues,

On May 27-30, 2014, in Moscow the Research Council for the Problems of Economic, Social, Political and Cultural Development of African Countries and the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences hold the 13th Conference of Africanists titled ***Society and Politics in Africa: Traditional, Transitional, and New***. The Conference will take place on the premises of the Institute for African Studies and the Institute for Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The working languages of the Conference are Russian and English.

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 1, 2013**. 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, 2013** – 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, title, position, institutional affiliation, full mail and e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers.

However, in case you feel your paper does not fit any particular panel but corresponds to the Conference's general topic, you may submit your proposal to the Organizing Committee by the same date (November 1, 2013) and it will be considered for scheduling for the Free Communication Panel. Besides, if the Organizing Committee finds it reasonable to unite an appropriate number of proposals submitted for the Free Communication Panel into a thematic panel, it may establish such a panel and propose one of its prospective participants to convene it.

The Organizing Committee can be reached by e-mail, at the addresses: **conf2014@gmail.com** (for general inquiries on the Conference-related academic matters and proposals for the Free Communication Panel) and **inter.inafr@mail.ru** (for the inquiries regarding technical matters – accommodation, visas, etc.).

The Organizing Committee can assist in booking accommodation, while it is also possible to make an independent reservation in one of Moscow hotels of different class through the Internet on such local sites as <http://www.moscow-hotels-russia.com/index.html>, <http://www.hotelsrussia.com/>, <http://www.select-a-room.com/hotels/russia?language=en>, or <http://all-hotels.ru/index.en.html?kk=0356f80d4e>, as well as on global sites like <http://www.otel.com/>, <http://www.booking.com/>, etc. Please note that late May is high tourist season in Moscow, so early booking is strongly recommended.

Information regarding the visa application process will be sent to the prospective participants in the beginning of 2014.

The Conference registration fee is **\$150 (\$75 for students)** and can be paid not only in dollars, but also in Euros or Russian rubles according to the official exchange rate on the date of registration. The fee is to be paid in cash on site upon arrival. The registration fee includes the visa application support (Official Invitation), the Conference Book of Abstracts, stationary items, coffee-breaks, and reception. The fee for an accompanying person (**\$ 50**) includes the visa application support (Official Invitation) and reception.

The Organizing Committee would appreciate your familiarizing interested colleagues with this Announcement.

PANELS ACCEPTED FOR THE CONFERENCE

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

I. Economics, Politics, and Society

I-1. African Population in a New Global Model of Economic Development

Convener: Prof. *Irina O. Abramova* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: irina.abramova@inafr.ru

The panel looks into demographic challenges facing the world as a whole and Africa, in particular, against the background of the transformation of the Global Model of Economic Development (GMED). Special attention will be paid to the analysis of Africa's new role in the global demographic processes, problems of African urbanization and trans-border migration, dynamics and qualitative changes of African labor resources and human capital in the era of globalization.

I-2. "African Syndrome" in the Socio-Economic and Political Realities of Russia

Convener: Prof. *Viktor V. Bocharov* (St. Petersburg State University, Russia); e-mail: victana2007@rambler.ru

Both African States and Russia, despite the huge differences between the cultures of the peoples living on their territories, as well as the levels of socio-economic development, science and technology, education, etc. show remarkable similarities with respect to economic and political issues with which they face. In particular, there is a primacy of the informal relations in communal life. In the economies of these countries the informal practices play very important role. In politics the real authoritarianism prevails, often contrary to the official Democracy. In the legal field reigns "legal nihilism", i.e, when most of the population is not in compliance, "written law", and live according to the "shadow right." Increasingly, Africa is compared with Russia, according to the degree of corruption, the existing gap between the rich and the poor, crime, the role of personal relationships, private security services, neglect of small towns and rural areas. In various world rankings Russia is invariably among the Black Continent. Within the section will discuss the causes of this phenomenon.

I-3. African Union, Rule of Law, Human Rights, Democratic Governance, and Economic Integration: Achievements, Challenges and Prospects

Convener: Prof. *André Mbata B. Mangu* (University of South Africa, Pretoria/Tshwane); e-mail: manguamb@unisa.ac.za

Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) met in 1999 and resolved to replace it with the African Union (AU) in order to accelerate the achievement of the continental objectives based on the pan-African ideal. The rule of law and democratic governance were identified by the AU as a requirement for an African renaissance decades after "dictatorships of development", which were sponsored by Western countries and financial institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank had failed to put Africa on the road to development. Accordingly, they feature predominantly in the AU Constitutive Act and many other AU instruments. This failure of "dictatorships" of development contributed to the wind of change that blew across the continent in the 1990s and to the "Spring of Africa" which transformed two decades later in the "Arab Spring". In May 2013, 50 years will have elapsed since the creation of the OAU and African leaders have resolved to celebrate this historic event till May 2014. This is expected to be an opportunity for Africans take stock and reflect on the road that Africa has travelled thus far, the challenges and the prospects for an African renaissance, which cannot be achieved without development, peace, democracy, good governance, economic integration, and respect for the rule of law and human rights on the continent. It is worth stressing that the AU Constitutive came into force in May 2001 Act. Accordingly, the 13th International Conference of Africanists in May 2014 will also coincide with the 13th anniversary of the AU. Africanists meeting during this conference to reflect on "Society and Politics in Africa: Traditional, Transitional, and New" cannot afford to ignore the legal, political, economic and social developments that have occurred in Africa since independence, especially since the creation of the AU. Papers to be read in this panel will need to address the following issues:

- Pan-Africanism, African renaissance, Democracy and the rule of law: Past, Present, and Future Prospects;
- OAU and the promotion of Constitutionalism and Democracy;
- Rule of Law, Democracy, Elections and Human Rights in Africa;
- Separation of powers, decentralisation, federalism and the judiciary;

- The judiciary and the promotion of the rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights in Africa;
- AU and the promotion of the rule of law, democratic governance, free and fair elections;
- AU and Conflicts Settlement in Africa;
- New Partnership for Africa's Development, African Peer-Review Mechanism, and Good Governance in Africa;
- Rule of Law and Fight against Corruption in Africa: a Comparative Perspective;
- The past, present and the future of constitutionalism and democracy in Africa;
- Russian, American, European Union, and Chinese African Policies and the Promotion of the Rule of Law and Democratic Governance in Africa;
- AU, Globalisation, BRICS, Development, and Economic Integration in Africa;
- The international community and the promotion of the rule of law and democratic governance in Africa.

I-4. Challenges of Democratisation and the New African Civil-Military Relations

Convener: Dr. *Martin R. Rupiya* (The African Public Policy & Research Institute, Pretoria/Tshwane, South Africa); e-mails: mrupiya@appri.org.za, mrupya@gmail.com

The importance of the panel becomes clear if one takes into account recent events of rapid power changes in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar – confronting the African Union with unique characteristics of political and socio-economic crises that have both sub-regional and international dimensions? These events – reflecting the fragility of the African state in the post-colonial/One-Party-State era – have thrown up interesting dynamics for the new political elite to deconstruct and reconstruct new civil military relations, complete with reformed institutions. The question of the discovery and abundance of natural resources, minerals and hydrocarbons that has become prevalent on the African continent, this has become a game changer--creating the potential for domestic capacity and yet the source/curse of possible instability? Given the specificities of the challenge: from Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Mali, the new Somalia, South Sudan and Madagascar – the constitutional and institutional establishment of new civil-military relations has emerged as the single most important dimension for long-term stability and development. Civil Military Relations include the defined and constitutional role of the Executive; Legislature – complete with Oversight powers; constitutionally mandated civilian bureaucracy and institutions – ranging from Intelligence; Border Guards/Immigration; Police; Army, National Parks and VIP Points such as oil wells and diamond mines as well as Prison officials. An example of the common response has been the time limits of all political and civil service officials responsible for defense and security matters, finding their terms of conditions of service and periods limited in the series of draft constitutions produced in Kenya, Zimbabwe and Egypt. What future does this hold for stable and balanced civil military relations in these and other African states?

I-5. Chiefs in Postcolonial Governance and Development in Africa: Issues and Options

Convener: Prof. *Geoffrey I. Nwaka* (Abia State Univeristy, Uturu, Nigeria); e-mail: geoffreynwaka@yahoo.com

A strong anti-chieftaincy lobby in Africa maintains that traditional rulers have now outlived their usefulness, and are no longer relevant to modern day society; that such traditional institutions are incompatible with democratic practice, and could in fact reinforce ethnic differences, and undermine nation building. On the other hand many critics of African development blame state failure and the governance crisis in the continent on “the structural disconnection between formal institutions transplanted from outside and indigenous institutions born of traditional African

cultures”. There is now renewed interest in an alternative approach to governance and development which emphasizes the cultural dimension of development, and the overlooked potentials of indigenous knowledge and traditional institutions. The challenge is how best to reconcile democracy and tradition, and enlist traditional institutions and values in the effort to promote good governance and sustainable development. Many now believe that by building on the indigenous we can make governance and development more participatory and sustainable, and also bring the full weight of customary restraints and cultural values to bear on public policy and public life. The panel considers how successive post-colonial constitutions and governments in Africa have tried to evolve a suitable chieftaincy policy, and to manage relations with chiefs at the state and local levels. The panel invites papers which discuss:

- relevant background issues on chiefs and traditional authorities in pre-colonial and colonial Africa;
- constitutional provisions on the place of chiefs, and on chieftaincy management in post-colonial African countries;
- the role of chiefs in customary law, and in judicial reforms; and how to strike the right balance between Western jurisprudence and indigenous concepts of justice and conflict resolution;
- chiefs and traditional leaders in the practice of democracy;
- chiefs in local government, decentralization and grassroots mobilization;
- traditional rulers and institutions in environmental protection, natural resource management, and response to climate change;
- chiefs and land control in traditional and contemporary African societies;
- should chiefs and traditional rulers take part in politics?

Other proposals that relate to the general theme of the panel will be considered.

I-6. Economic Policy in Africa

Convener: Dr. *Evgenia V. Morozenskaya* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: evmorozen@mail.ru

The panel addresses African studies, conducted in all fields of state economic activity with a special focus on:

- national programs for reforming the economic structure;
- evolution of the African state’s role in the economy and a perspective of the “developmental state” concept;
- investment policy and the institutions of the capital market regulation in Africa;
- national and regional industrial policy;
- public finance: budget and fiscal policy;
- methods of the measurement and the control over an informal activity;
- credit policy of national and regional banks;
- changes in the regulation mechanism of a foreign trade;
- employment situation and government activity in this sphere;
- social development programs and a possibility of achieving sustained economic growth.

I-7. Gender Dimension of Social and Political Life in Africa

Conveners: Prof. *Natalia L. Krylova* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: krylovanl@yandex.ru, Dr. *Natalia A. Ksenofontova* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: galina.terenina@inafr.ru

During the work of the panel it is supposed to analyze the various aspects of the gender situation and its impact on the socio-political development of African countries. Special attention will be paid to issues related to the place and role of women in the system of social relations and

political life of the continent, as well as to the costs of gender discrimination in basic rights, access to education, participation in public life and the expression of political interests. The aim and the sense of gender approach to the afore-mentioned problems is to draw a picture of diverse public and political life of the continent, and thus realize the main purpose of the panel - to show that ignoring gender disparities hurts human well-being and does harm to the possibilities of African countries in their quest for sustainable growth, good governance and poverty reduction.

I-8. Governance and Nation Building in Transitional Africa

Convener: Dr. *Peter Adebayo* (University of Ilorin, Nigeria); e-mail: peteradebayo2000@gmail.com

The aim of this panel is to initiate discussions on the various problems that have continued to bedevil the process of good governance and nation building in Africa right from the 20th century till this 2nd decade of the 21st century. Hitherto, African countries have after the attainment of independence in 1960 been plagued by the series of problems such as leadership crises, ethno-religious crises, civil wars, boundary and communal disputes, refugees, etc that have continued to militate against the issue of nation building in Africa. Indeed, the problem have further been exacerbated by other issues such as terrorism in some countries such as Nigeria, Mali, Somalia etc, credibility of elections leading to election disputes, authoritarianism, democratic governance/civil rule and coup d'états. The various papers are to employ both inter and multidisciplinary approaches cum historical perspective in their analysis respectively.

I-9. Hot Minerals in African Hot Spots: The Transformation of African Societies in Mineral Rich Regions

Convener: *Charles Ezeagwu* (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain); e-mail: charles.ezeagwu@estudiante.uam.es

Since the onset of mineral exploitation in commercial quantities in many parts of Africa traditional African society and politics have experienced a lot of transformation. There is a huge discrepancy between what African society and politics used to be fifty years ago and what it has been since the last decade. The discovery of rich deposits of minerals in various parts of the continent was initially considered to be a doorstep to stepping out of poverty by many Africans, but, unfortunately, after more than half a century of mineral exploitation in various African countries, the economic benefits of this adventure are yet to be seen. As a matter of fact, mineral rich regions have turned out to be the epicenters of armed conflicts, environmental degradation and abject poverty in the continent. Scholars have tried to explain this socio-political and economic contradiction using theories such the resource curse, greed and grievance, barbarism, underdevelopment, neocolonialism, etc. This panel studies how mineral exploitation has affected society, politics and economy in various regions of the continent. Case studies from individual countries are welcomed, as well as comparative studies of the situation in various countries. Each study is expected to make a critical analysis to show how mineral exploitation has affected society and politics in the region of study and also suggest adequate theories that can be used to explain the resultant sociopolitical situation. Papers which would address some of these and other similar questions are welcomed: Why has the socio-political situation in many mineral rich African states degenerated into chaos, armed rebellions and conflicts? Are natural resource deposits really a curse to countries like the Angola, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, etc. Is it possible that the deposits of diamond, gold, coltan (tantalum), crude oil, tin, tungsten, etc., buried thousands of miles beneath the earth could be a curse to human beings living above them or is it better to find a more profound and critical approach to explaining the causes of perpetual armed conflicts in African mineral rich regions.

Who are the actors responsible for the transformation of mineral rich African states into conflict and war zones? Are there examples of places where the exploitation of mineral resources has given rise to a positive transformation of society and politics? This panel plays down the role of passive mineral resources buried underneath the earth and emphasizes the role of active human actors – such as governments, multinational mineral exploitation companies, national and transnational gangs, etc., – in the transformation of society and politics in African mineral rich zones.

I-10. Pasts and Futures: The African State since the 1950s and into the 21st Century

Conveners: *Nicholas Githuku* (West Virginia University, Morgantown, USA); e-mail: ngithuku@mix.wvu.edu), Dr. *Robert Maxon* (West Virginia University, Morgantown, USA; e-mail: rmaxon@wvu.edu

The end of the imperial epoch and the messy process of decolonization inaugurated the creation of African quasi states. The end of European imperialism paved the way for the successor United Nations state system in a new world scarred by international war and polarized along ideological lines. The trajectory of decolonization fundamentally was fundamentally affected by the atmosphere of the Cold War. The Cold War complicated Africa's integration into the global political economy to which it was a marginal appendage. Notwithstanding the fact that African colonial states were shallow seedbeds that were somewhat prematurely graduated and recognized as "modern states," some African states among them the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola and Mozambique, became sites of destabilizing proxy wars. Others yet were, for decades, buttressed by either Washington, DC or Moscow and would soon show signs of weakness after 1989. Whatever international posturing taken during the Cold War by African states, it is an undeniable fact that many failures of state-building in these *modern states* was hidden by the prevalent ideological bipolar atmosphere. It is undeniable that both sides of the Cold War were involved in not only propping up regimes but, also, the African state in effect by so doing. In the 1980s, while USA and Britain were undertaking major economic policy direction dubbed Reaganomics and Thatcherism, the Bretton Woods institutions were administering Structural Adjustment Policies. Neoliberal economics made the control of resources critical and contributed to the opening up of political space, which was, in some countries, accompanied by instability. To this was added another destabilizing development in the shape of the wave of democratization that swept across the continent in the early 1990s, itself emanating from the end communism regimes in Eastern Europe and the breakup of the Soviet Union. It is also important to point out the NGO Revolution that started in the 1990s, its dramatic impact on new states especially with regard to state power. The story of Africa despite all this has remained more or less the same: endowed with vast mineral resources, Africa still lags behind developed countries. This panel invites papers that examine the continent's checkered past in the last fifty years or critically analyze its prospects especially in light of China, which is significant player in the continent's political and economic prospects as the 21st century unfolds.

I-11. Political Modernization and Social Development in Africa

Convener: Prof. *Nikolay D. Kosukhin* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: m.ivanova@inafr.ru

Political process in African societies in transition has its own logic connected with the character of these societies. Political changes play dominant role in the process of social transformations during the last quarter of this century. Political modernization takes place in the conditions of economic crisis, poverty and beggary of wide starters of the population, unsettled ethno-religious and regional relations. Specific feature of socio-political situation is concentrated in traditional

relations. The stability of political process depends on taking into consideration traditions and customs of traditional societies in the strategy and tactics of political modernization. The formation of democratic institutes needs the development of multiparty ship, human rights, electoral system, activity of social and non-governmental organizations. Different forms of political activity of the population become very important. Political modernization must help the development of democratic institutes and civil society.

I-12. Sociopolitical Destabilization Risks in Africa Monitoring

Conveners: Prof. *Andrey V. Korotayev* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: akorotayev@gmail.com, *Leonid M. Issaev* (National Research University – Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: isleonid@yandex.ru

The main purpose of the panel is systemic monitoring and analysis of social and political transformation of the countries of African continent, attempts to work out on this basis the forecasting mechanisms of their social and political development, as well as subsequent development of practical recommendations for overcoming or avoiding social and political instability. The study of socio-political instability in the context of current processes occurring in recent years in Africa (the “Arab Spring”, conflicts in northern Mali, Nigeria, etc.), as well as in the context of globalization allows the following:

- to identify certain laws that govern various aspects of development;
- to make reasonable forecasts on future trends in the development of various countries on the basis of such laws;
- to define the control parameters influencing which by certain public policies could significantly affect various aspects of development in the desired direction;
- to provide the basis for higher-level decision-making and for formation of the country, regional and global development policy.

Thus, the range of issues discussed in the section can be described as follows:

- monitoring of the main trends of development in Africa, as well as global trends affecting African continent;
- identification of patterns of different development processes, as well as factors contributing to the destabilization of socio-political situation in African countries;
- identifying the risks of instability in Africa and the analysis of them based on the comparison of different indicators: economic, demographic, social, political, cultural, etc.
- developing of reasonable forecasts for future development trends and perspectives for maintaining social and political stability in North Africa after the events of the “Arab Spring”;
- study of the factors that could lead to destabilization of the political situation in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa;
- developing of a system for forecasting the dynamics of structural and demographic risks of destabilization.

I-13. The Election-Related Violence Incidences in Africa

Conveners: *F. Gözde Çolak* (Ankara University, Turkey); e-mail: fgozdecolak@gmail.com, *Müge Dalar* (Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Turkey); e-mail: dalaroma@gmail.com

The transformation of social and political patterns of Africa is reflected in the democratization movements and elections. Unfortunately the elections in most African countries are characterized by instability, uncertainty and even violence. The election-related violence, which may occur before, during or after the elections is a direct result of economic and ethnic marginalization, land-related disputes, and the weak and ineffective civil society organizations in the political sphere of these countries. Needless to say, there are great differences across the 54

African countries. Some countries have seen little or no incidents of election-related violence, whereas some others have witnessed violent electoral contests for decades. There are even significant variations between different elections within same country, while some turning violent and some not. Throughout this panel we will propose to analyze the recent elections that were resulted with different levels of violence in a comparative way with references to the existing broad literature on democratization and election related violence. Election-related violence, in this panel, is regarded as a sub-category of political violence and distinguished primarily by looking to the timing and motivation of the violence. As well known, while the cultural perspective tries to explain the source of this kind of violence by pointing out the existence of a particular political culture; the structural perspective suggests that society and politics are organized in a manner that generates conflict. Apart from these perspectives, a historical approach, addresses directly to the structural questions in the African societies and politics, that is rooted in colonialism, regarding the social, political, economic and administrative dynamics of the countries. The violent events before, during and after the elections in these countries have lots of common in their social, economic and historical patterns while the course of events evolved in totally different ways. Thus, we will first examine the different level of violent incidents that took place before, during and after the elections. Then the transformation of these three states in terms of social equality and just representation will be compared. Our main research question is that which factors do lead an election process into a violent atmosphere. In that regard, the participation into the social welfare, the political parties and their influence over the wealth and emerging civil society that create immense impact to politics are the main parameters of the comparison and analyze. As a result of this comparison we aim at making re-interpretation of main reasons behind the electoral violence by engaging with the existing literature and drawing some conclusions about the future of democracy in Africa.

I-14. The Social and Political Effects of AIDS in Africa

Conveners: Dr. *Daniel Jordan Smith* (Brown University, Providence, USA); e-mail: daniel_j_smith@brown.edu), Dr. *Bianca Dahl* (University of Toronto, Canada); e-mail: bianca.dahl@utoronto.ca

Africa is disproportionately burdened by the global HIV and AIDS epidemic. A great deal of recent research has tried to understand the causes of the epidemic's rapid spread in Africa. Much scholarship has also contributed to developing policies and strategies that address prevention and treatment in ways that are suited to Africa's social realities. This panel extends beyond examining AIDS in Africa as a health crisis, to look instead at the wider social and political consequences of the epidemic. The premise of the panel is that AIDS in Africa is not only an epidemiological reality but also a significant social fact that has affected every aspect of life from governance and civil society to religion, kinship, intimacy, and the very experiences of personhood and subjectivity. The panel will be composed of social scientists who draw on their long-term ethnographic research across sub-Saharan Africa (Botswana, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Lesotho, Nigeria, South Africa, and Uganda). The papers will demonstrate the ways in which the epidemic both represents and contributes to exacerbating many aspects of social change. Potential topics include exploring how the scale of donor interventions has led to new dimensions of governance, often in manifesting itself in the work of non-governmental organizations. In addition, both Christian and Muslim faiths have taken up issues around AIDS that speak as much to the changing practices of faith as to the health effects of the virus. While AIDS has reconfigured political and social landscapes in the wider spheres of governance, civil society, labor relations, and religious practice, the consequences of the epidemic also reach deeply in communities and families, as parents die, orphans must be cared for, and people living with HIV desire to marry and make their own families. The most intimate relationships of care-

giving and emotional attachment, and even people's senses of self, are reshaped in the wake of AIDS' effects on everyday life. The papers in this panel will all attest to the importance of understanding the material, economic, and political dimensions of social life as they intersect with and are often reinforced by the more symbolic, moral, and emotional aspects of human experience. While the papers will all extend beyond the health impact of AIDS to explore wider social and political effects, ultimately, as these presentations will show, these broader repercussions become part of the context in which behaviors relevant to preventing (or worsening) the epidemic take place. Many practices that appear irrational from a purely medical or public health point of view can be seen to have a discernible social logic, if these wider meanings and effects of the disease are properly studied, theorized and accounted for. AIDS-related policies and interventions can be much better conceived and more successfully implemented if the importance of the non-health impact of the epidemic is more fully understood and addressed.

I-15. Transdisciplinary Perspectives to Contemporary African Socio-Political, Economic, and Cultural Transformation

Conveners: Dr. *Nnanna Onuoha Arukwe* (University of Nigeria, Nsukka); e-mails: noarukwe@yahoo.com, nnanna.arukwe@unn.edu.ng, Dr. *Peter-Jazzy Ezeh* (University of Nigeria, Nsukka); e-mail: ezeh.pj3@gmail.com

The 1950s and 1960s were the decades that witnessed the independence movement ferment that would ultimately usher in political independence for a preponderance of the African states. Immediately after political independence, what followed has been a struggle to develop the African continent in some transformative fashion. This struggle has over the years spurned its own fair share of controversies. So that there are the critical issues of plan implementation, corruption, over-bloated bureaucracy, the oil mono-economy, etc. Consequently, for over half a century, African society has grappled with the issue of the transformation of the continent into a highly evolved society in social, political and economic terms. Unfortunately, most of the strategies adopted to tackle this problem have either abysmally failed or at best fell short of meeting the apparent objectives to which they have been employed. This has made it ever imperative for scholars of Africa and African scholars to not only continuously appraise the trajectories of the chosen strategies for African socio-political and economic transformation but to always propose novel strategies to actualize the contemporary socio-political and economic transformation of Africa. However, for any strategy aimed at the socio-political, cultural, and economic transformation of Africa to be objectively possible and realistic, that strategy has to be at the same time transdisciplinary. As Africa, therefore, finds itself at the crossroads once again there is a need now more than ever before to interrogate the social, political, economic, and cultural development dynamics in contemporary Africa with a view to determine the best and most futuristic transformational perspectives towards an eventual African-generated solutions to most African developmental challenges, as well as broad-based strategies for future African progress and prosperity. The Panel welcomes contributions that examine the issue of socio-economic, cultural and political transformation of contemporary Africa in specific terms of governance, cultural imperatives, economic planning, pragmatic social development strategies that are relevant to reality in Africa; the Chinese development model and what contemporary African leadership can borrow from it; what cultural revivals or changes does Africa need to embark on, and how, in order to position itself for global cultural leadership or cope with the onslaught of multiculturalism; or whether there could be an alternative model of development, being neither Eastern nor Western that could be entirely home grown for Africa to make Africa to emerge on the world stage and come into its own as a society that could conveniently solve all its problems of social, political, economic or cultural dimensions.

II. Environment

II-1. Ecology and State Policy in Africa

Convener: Prof. *Vladilen I. Gusarov* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: m.ivanova@inafr.ru

It is supposed, that in the panel a wide range of problems connected with the aggravation of the socio-ecological crisis will be considered. During the panel – sittings it is also supposed to consider the measures of the African governments for the overcoming of this crisis in many fields, in particular in the localization and the averting the new, as well as the traditional diseases. The majority of the African states each taken separately are not able to send the necessary financial means into these fields. Therefore they are compelled to apply for the help and the assistance to the neighboring countries, to the developed western powers, to the international and the inter-African organizations. These subjects would be also discussed on the panel-sittings. The results of the discussion would allow to discover the new trends in the development of the socio-ecological crisis and to mark some ways of their possible overcoming.

II-2. Political Economy and the African Environment

Convener: Dr. *Madia Thomson* (Philadelphia, USA); e-mail: madiat2000@yahoo.com

Environmental crises are a recurrent theme in African history. How and when they occur can vary greatly over space and time, with drought appearing in places once subjected to flood. The extent of the damage caused – or lack thereof – depended not only on the climate, but often on the actions of individuals and government. With this as its purpose, this panel examines the political economy of environmental crises in twentieth- and twenty-first-century Africa. It considers the nature of the crises -agricultural, epidemiological, etc- and the role of both collective and individual action in relief and recovery.

III. History and Anthropology

III-1. African History: Old and New Approach

Convener: Acad. *Apollon B. Davidson* (National Research University – Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia); e-mails: adavidson@yandex.ru, caashoru@mail.ru

An old and rich tradition of studying African History is undergoing serious changes in modern Russia. Despite decreasing number of professional scholars of African history and research centers, the interest to the past of African peoples is constantly growing. The growth of economic, political and other relations of Russia with African countries make the deepening of knowledge about different periods of African history and their reassessment quite necessary. At the panel we intend to discuss three major themes:

- Russian and Soviet historiography of Africa;
- African historiography abroad with special reference to African national historiographies;
- African history and the present day of the continent.

Colleagues from research centers in Russia and abroad are invited to take part in the panel's work.

III-2. African Students in the Soviet Union / Russia: Destinies, Experiences, and Influences on the Development of African Studies

Conveners: Prof. *Nicolay A. Dobronraviv* (St. Petersburg State University, Russia); e-mail: sokoto95@yandex.ru, Dr. *Anna Y. Siim* (Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography [Kunstkamera], St. Petersburg, Russia); e-mail: anna.siim@gmail.com, Dr. *Tatiana A. Smirnova* (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales / Reseau International d'Acteurs Emergents, Paris, France); e-mail: taniyasmirnova@yahoo.fr

Thousands of African students were trained in the Soviet Union/Russia. The education of foreign cadres was seen by the Soviet authorities as an instrument of ideological influence in the 'developing' world. However, life experience of African students was not shaped by socialist/communist indoctrination, even where such indoctrination did take place. Many of the students arrived from the countries which were classified as "socialism-oriented" in the Soviet Union, but this classification rarely corresponded to the official ideology of these African states. African students came to the Soviet Union to study various disciplines which was seen as helpful for the development of their countries. Many of the graduates became qualified specialists in their fields. At the same time, the development of African studies in the Soviet Union relied upon lasting interaction with African students, sometimes leading to the emergence of new scholarly approaches far beyond the ideological conjuncture of the Soviet period. Most African graduates returned to their countries, where some of them held high government positions, played a significant role in the fields of university education, sciences and arts. Individual trajectories were often influenced by everyday experiences of African students in the Soviet Union. As a result, political, social and cultural life of many countries has been closely associated with the Soviet Union/Russia. This link is not always obvious because of more visible postcolonial influences in the respective countries. The objective of this panel is twofold: an attempt to analyze the role of Soviet/Russian life experiences in the individual trajectories of African students, as well as an endeavor to trace the development of African studies in Russia in the light of interaction with African students. How were these students trained? What were the relations established with the professors and other students? How did African students and Soviet Africanists interact? What was the outcome of these reciprocal influences? What was the role played by the "mixed" marriages, political context, family and personal relations? The corresponding narratives remain underexplored, and all these questions cannot be answered without a deeper understanding of the Soviet period of Russia's history, far beyond both pre-1991 and post-Soviet ideological clichés.

III-3. After Bandung Conference: A Wind of Change in the African Continent (1955–1965)

Conveners: *Haryo Kunto Wibisono* (Tulang Bawang University, Lampung, Indonesia); e-mail: wibisono_kunto@rocketmail.com, *Trenggono Pujo Sakti* (Jember University, Indonesia); e-mail: trenggono_pujo@yahoo.com

After Bandung Conference (18-24 April 1955), the condition of global politics has been changed rapidly, especially in African continent where the struggle to gain their independence underway. That meeting resulted such as resolution that made many new African countries had established, released themselves from colonial rule and organised to continued ideological framework named Pan-Africa or African Union influenced by W.E.B Du Bois an African-American scholar, Ghana independence in 1957, Kwame Nkrumah leadership, and All-African People Conference in 1958. For African people, Bandung Conference or Asian-African Conference became referred to their struggle and vision of solidarity among ex-colonies. As the result of that conference, many African leaders along with Asian countries emphasised cooperation in economy, political, cultural aspect to develop their countries, recovery from rest colonial rule, identified their character in global society, defended their independence, restore

new powers led by African people called self-determination politics. On the other side, nuclear competition had threatened world peace and Cold War between the Eastern and Western blocs had stimulated Asian-African people to choose their position in global constellation. At the same time, during 1955-1964 or after Bandung Conference, 35 countries in Africa declared their independence, those situation made Asia-African countries more frontal to United Nations and organised themselves to conduct NEFO's conception, Afro-Asia People Solidarity Organisation, and Non-Alignment Movement with addition Latin America and Yugoslavia. The focuses of this panel papers would be the patterns of colonialism in Africa before Bandung Conference, Pan-African thought as political, economic, cultural movement, solidarity and cooperation between Asia and Africa as noted in the Final Communiqué of Asian-African Conference 1955. Furthermore, it is important to answer and explain what was the African condition before that event? What was the main factor of change in Africa in the 1950s–1960s? Why Bandung Conference referred as milestone to gain their independence? Why Africans chose Asian countries as a partner to seek cooperation and eliminated colonial influence in their continents?

III-4. Chiefs, States and Local Wars in Africa

Convener: Prof. *Petr Skalník* (University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic); e-mail: skalnik.petr@gmail.com

Local wars in Africa often take place when the modern states are under-performing. These armed conflicts often turn around access to chiefly status and to land of populations that historically were decentralized and had no chiefs. Because the state does not wish to intervene matters deemed 'traditional' the chiefs in centralized polities act as if they were sovereign rulers and wage wars. The state wakes up to its role as the monopolist of physical coercion only when local wars spread and reach dimensions that seem to threaten overall security. Dictatorships usually do not tolerate local wars whereas such conflicts occur under the civilian elected regimes. The panel will attempt to explain the mechanisms of triggering local wars and thus also examine the specific character of democratic political culture in African societies.

III-5. New Ethnogenesis: Ethnic Processes and Ethnicity Construction in Colonial and Postcolonial Africa

Convener: Prof. *Vladimir A. Popov* (Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography [Kunstkamera], St. Petersburg, Russia); e-mail: popoff@kunstkamera.ru

The research problems of ethnogenetical studies become highly important for the development of modern type of dialogue of civilizations and ethnic cultures at the worldwide. Nevertheless a new ethnogenesis phenomena as a special process of the era of globalization is underestimated. Meanwhile for the last 100 years ethnic mixing and ethnicity construction have become the most important ethno-transforming processes (naturally developed and artificially stimulated respectively) and provide dynamics of ethnocultural development of the mankind. The problems proposed for the discussion are as follows:

- comparative historical research of ethnocultural, ethnosocial, demographic (especially urbanistic), racial and socio-linguistic factors for ethnogenesis in colonial and postcolonial Sub-Saharan Africa;
- ethnicity construction in the British Eastern Africa and Nigeria (colonial “tribes” and technologies of artificially-driven ethnogenesis);
- ethnocultural and ethnopolitical characteristics of Lusotropicalism and apology of the creolization and metisation;
- finding out and ethnocultural characterization of the new ethnic groups of mixed origin (“metis cultures” and “creole-syndrom”);

- creating of the new post-colonial ethnicity in the process of national-administrative construction including the invention of new ethnonyms, as well as ethnic planning together with the linguistic one (“one people = one language”);
- The development of ethnocaste units (for example, in the case of the Tutsi/Hima – Hutu/Iru – Twa).

A special theme: an analysis of scholarly mythologization of ethnic processes, and critique studies for ideologically loaded historical and culturally-anthropological research studies in the countries of Ibero-America as well, where the group of communities, sharing African background, are said (on the both sides of the Atlantic Ocean) to be a special civilization. These ideas include, for example, a theory about Yoruba transatlantic complex (“the worldwide Yoruba ethnicity”).

III-6. Shadows of Empire: “Big Men,” Gendered Violence, and the Making of Colonial and Post-Colonial African States

Convener: Dr. *Kirk Arden Hoppe* (University of Illinois at Chicago, USA); e-mail: kahoppel@uic.edu

Using infamous “Big Men” of Africa as a lens while interrogating the “Great Men of History” as explanation for historical change, the papers of this panel illustrate the crucial role of gender and gendered violence in the making of colonial and post-colonial states in Africa. Kirk Arden Hoppe uses the historical example of Emin Pasha to explore issues of state power and the ordering of resources in the making of contemporary politics of the southern Sudan. Emin Pasha, neé Eduard Schnitzer, worked for the Ottoman state as the governor of Ekuatoria from 1878-1888. In contrast to the hyper-masculine narratives of Henry Morton Stanley, Schnitzer’s self-narrations depict a gentle scientist-administrator collecting biological specimens and mapping resources, quietly administering over a community of Egyptian and Sudanese soldiers and their families. Hoppe’s gender analysis of Emin Pasha exposes state attempts to forcibly order African people and landscapes in the southern Sudan through discourses of science, white masculinity, and the erasure of colonial violence. TJ Boisseau’s paper focuses on the public career as an “explorer” and supposed advocate for Africans of an American feminist named May French-Sheldon. French-Sheldon achieved minor fame as a result of her expedition from Zanzibar through British and German-controlled East Africa in the Kilimanjaro region in 1892. Later in 1903-04, she served as a double agent and spy for Leopold in the Congo, and building upon travel to that region, attempted to obtain her own rubber concession in Liberia. Boisseau’s research unearths the links between gender, race, and imperial ambition in the making of several colonial states at key moments in their construction and highlights the peculiarly gendered violence enacted by white women in the process of colonizing Africa. Alicia Decker examines Ugandan women’s complex and sometimes paradoxical relationship to Idi Amin’s military state. She argues that the gendered violence of Amin’s regime resulted in opportunities as well as challenges for Ugandan women. Some women assumed positions of political power or taught themselves to become successful entrepreneurs, while others experienced the trauma of watching their husbands and sons “disappeared” by the state’s security forces, or lived through violent sexual assaults themselves. Women had a mixed relationship to Amin and his military government, one that was complicated and uneven: while they appreciated many of the policies that he put into place, they feared and resented the violence of militarism and sought refuge from state violence in the obscurity of the shadows. Kevin Dunn’s paper offers a critical reading of Henry Morton Stanley’s understanding of Congolese identity. It does so against the backdrop of contemporary Congolese realities and an international construction of the country as synonymous with state collapse, aid inefficiency, and brutality (the “rape capital of the world” according to one UN official). Employing a feminist and post-colonial engagement, this paper explores the ways in which the colonial construction of “Congo” has produced and is reified in

contemporary international politics, with ramifications for Congo and beyond.

III-7. Society and Politics in Africa in the Historical and Cultural Aspects

Conveners: Dr. *Natalia A. Zherlitsina* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: ns_inafr@mail.ru, Dr. *Irina G. Tatarovskaya* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: itatarovskaya@mail.ru

The panel will concentrate on two basic directions. First, it is a research of various aspects of African history, its interrelation with world history, and also analysis of historical connections between the countries of the continent and Russia/USSR. Secondly, it is proposed to consider the cultural component of the African countries development, and its role in the bilateral Russian - African relations. Special attention will be paid to the processes which have emerged on the continent and in the bilateral relations in the crucial moments of history. The study of the topics will allow to expand the understanding of Africa and the Russian-African relations.

III-8. Soviet Training and Research Programs for Africa in the Khrushchev Era, 1955–1964: Convergences and Divergences

Convener: Dr. *Harold “Hal” D. Weaver* (Du Bois Institute, Harvard, USA); e-mail: weaverhal@yahoo.com

A critical examination of international cultural relations between the USSR and Africans during the Khrushchev era, 1955-1964, with specific reference to education. This panel will critically examine various aspects of Soviet education programs, both training and research. Hopefully, one of the key questions all panelists would address is the following one: how did the USSR respond to African needs, aspirations, and priorities as expressed by African intellectuals, political leaders, and other elites and non-elites in planning and implementing their education programs? How were these programs innovative and unique? Research refers to the nature of the research and publications at the newly established Africa Institute in Moscow, the Institute of Ethnography in Leningrad (St. Petersburg), and other institutions where Soviet scholars were involved in the study of the African continent. Training programs refer to the educational interactions between the USSR and Africa through Soviet organizations and their affiliated organizations both inside and outside the USSR. Not only would we critique (1) the traditional formal education at Soviet universities (e.g., People’s Friendship University), but also (2) short-term, non-formal education (e.g., hands-on training of airline pilots and filmmakers in intensive short courses), and (3) sporadic informal education events (e.g., the World Youth Festival in Moscow (1957) inside and outside the USSR. A context of transnational history would also be provided in which Soviet international cultural relations with Africans during this important era when African peoples were striving for decolonization and becoming constitutionally independent would be examined. By looking at divergences and convergences between African-defined needs and priorities, on the one hand, and Soviet policies and programs, on the other hand, we hope that the cosmopolitan panel – drawing upon experts from Africa, Russia, Germany, Finland, and the USA – will present a rather comprehensive picture, throwing much new light on Soviet-African international cultural relations, especially in education, during this crucial decade in both African and Russian history.

IV. International Relations

IV-1. Africa and the EU: Past, Present, Future

Convener: Dr. *Olga S. Kulkova* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: kulkova-olga@yandex.ru

A wide range of problems of political and economic relations between the African continent and the European Union will be discussed on the panel, and the African view on these issues will be welcomed, not only Eurocentric. The relevance of the proposed topic is determined by the fact that for most sub-Saharan African countries the EU is the major international partner, and will remain so at least in the short and medium term. The EU is a major trading partner for sub-Saharan Africa, accounting for about 85% of agricultural exports of these countries, and for about 75% of total trade turnover. In the conditions of globalization, with the development of new kinds of social and political interaction the format of the EU - Africa cooperation is being revised and updated, which raises many new problems and creates alternative perspectives.

The panel will cover the following topics:

- Political dialogue between the EU and Africa: EU relations with individual African countries (e.g. Nigeria, South Africa et al.), and with the continent's integration organizations (ECOWAS, SADC, a number of Central African associations, COMESA, IGAD, etc.);
 - Interaction between Africa and the EU in the framework of strategic partnership (including through the establishment of regular summits "EU - Africa" since 2007, the EU delegation to the African Union, the dialogue between the European and Pan-African Parliaments) as a realization of EU's "continental approach" to cooperation with Africa;
 - Interaction of Africa and the EU within the framework of the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, including 48 African countries south of the Sahara), which began in 1975 and is now being implemented on the basis of the Cotonou Agreement, valid till 2020; the prospects of cooperation after 2020;
 - Problems and prospects of EU cooperation with individual African countries within the framework of economic partnership agreements (EPAs), contracted in accordance with the Cotonou agreement;
 - Historical aspects of the implementation of cooperation agreements between the EU and Africa (Yaoundé, Lomé, Cotonou);
 - EU peacekeeping initiatives in Africa (including joint ones with African actors such as African Peace Facility etc.);
 - Cooperation between the EU and Africa in the field of development assistance, realization of the Millennium Development Goals; gradual transformation of the "donor - recipient" paradigm; problems of European aid to Africa and how Africans view them;
 - EU's interaction with other external actors on the continent, including the new ones, (such as individual countries - Turkey, Russia, etc., and with their associations, such as the BRICS).
 - The prospects of strengthening the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the possible impact of this process on the implementation of EU initiatives on the African continent.
 - Interaction of Africa and the EU in the areas of trade, infrastructure, climate change, energy, agriculture and land use, migration, science, education, technology (including ICT) and media.
- Participants are encouraged to speak on topics of the EU overall policy towards Africa and on African policies of individual EU member states.

IV-2. Africa in the Context of Modern International Law

Conveners: Prof. *Hendrik Strydom* (University of Johannesburg, South Africa); e-mail: hstrydom@uj.ac.za, Prof. *Alexander B. Mezyaev* (University of Management "TISBI", Kazan, Russia); e-mail: alexmezyaev@gmail.com

The African continent plays an important role in the formation of contemporary international law. Currently, there are a number of international courts created specifically to situations in Africa (Special Court for Sierra Leone, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda). The

International Criminal Court works exclusively on situations and cases from Africa. To date, the Conference of the Russian Association of African studies had no legal section. We believe that the active influence of international law on the external and internal political processes in Africa, requires special attention to the academic study of the issue.

IV-3. China and Africa

IV-3-A. China-Africa Rhetorics and Discourses: The State, the Media and African Society

Convener: Ambass., Dr. *David Shinn* (The George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA); e-mail: dhshinn@earthlink.net

This subpanel explores Sino-Africa discourses on different levels: the state, in African media, and among African society. Much of Sino-Africa discourse has been framed by media outlets in the United States and Europe, so these papers present voices not often heard. Mario Esteban Rodríguez focuses on the official speeches given at the four meetings of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC); and he examines the two main African partners of China, South Africa and Angola. He focuses on the receptivity of Chinese leaders to African concerns, the consistency of China's official rhetoric on Africa, and comparisons between their official rhetoric in Africa and Latin America. Maddalena Procopio's paper explores how African peoples confront the Chinese state and as African people become more confident they will create new ways of modifying international relations. Bob Wekesa's research investigates the changing media image of China in Africa with a view to determining different perceptions over time, using major Kenyan, Nigerian, and South African newspapers as the backbone of his research. Herman Wasserman draws on content analysis and interviews with journalists and investigates how the South African media reports on China, the attitudes displayed towards China, and the constructions of China operating in South African media. It aims to explore these discourses across a wide range of media in order to probe whether different sections of the South African media might display different attitudes towards China's involvement in Africa, depending on their audiences. Moving beyond the rhetoric of mainstream Western media, probing government proclamations, and interrogating the growing influence of African civil society, these subpanel participants give texture and voice to Africans as they perceive Chinese involvement in Africa.

IV-3-B. Chinese and Africans in Sub-Saharan Africa: Motivations and Interactions

Convener: Dr. *Yoon Jung Park* (Howard University, Washington, DC, USA); e-mail: yoony1@verizon.net

This subpanel will look at the two areas that sometimes get short shrift in Sino-Africa analysis: migration and cultural exchange. China-Africa discourse tends to focus on economic or diplomatic/political engagement, but there is growing body of research on ground-level interactions. These four papers form part of this much-needed focus on the grassroots and face-to-face encounters between Chinese and Africans. Tatiana Deych chronicles the history of several generations of Chinese migrants to Africa. She pays particular attention to issues of illegal immigration and African perceptions of Chinese migrants in relation to Chinese development. Mothusi Turner examines increasing Chinese migration to the "periphery", away from major global flows of goods and capital. He examines in inflows of Fujianese merchants to the tiny mountain kingdom of Lesotho. Further, he explores both how they came to dominate the retail sector of the Lesotho highlands, an economic area that previously escaped serious foreign penetration, and whether those same Fujianese merchants feel they are in a 'remote' location. Anthonia Akhidenor examines the impacts and influence of Confucius centers in Nigeria, studying the demand for Chinese study amongst Nigerians, and how they perceive the "Chinese

Dream' and Mandarin's role in that dream. In doing so, she argues that Chinese people's lack of proficiency in English is the main impetus behind so many Nigerians learning Chinese, whether in Nigeria or in China. Finally, Barry Sautman and Yan Hairong investigate the racialization of labor at Chinese enterprises in African countries, with a focus on mines in Zambia, where Chinese investment in the continent has been most controversial. In doing so, they interrogate the meaning of race in Sino-African labor relations. This subpanel attempts to bring to light stories of Sino-African engagement that are often ignored in the macro analyses in this growing sub-field. As this engagement deepens, these sorts of stories will become crucial to understanding future patterns of Sino-African relations.

IV-3-C. The Impact of China on African Economies

Convener: *Winslow Robertson* (Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network, Arlington, USA); e-mail: winslowalrob@gmail.com

Much has been written about China's effect on African economies. Whether as a responsible partner of the global south, buying African products at fair prices and supplying affordable products to African markets, or a rapacious superpower plundering the continent's resources, China's impacts on African economies is one of the most controversial topics in Sino-African relations. This subpanel will explore how Chinese policies and products impact African economies at both the state and local levels; based on new research the four papers examine different layers of impact. Alice Sindizngre's paper centers on whether China's macro involvement with Africa since 2000 holds any potential to change the parameters of African economies in moving from commodity exports to light manufacture and industrialization. She predicts that a long period of high growth rates combined with improved finances may structurally transform African economies. Christina Wolf examines the rapidly growing economic flows between China and Sub-Saharan Africa and their effects on the region's opportunities for structural change, moving toward activities with higher value-added such as industrial manufacturing. She argues that, rather than accusing China of potentially causing deindustrialization in Africa, we should be focusing on African policies that will lead to beneficial structural changes. Antoine Kernén points to a multiplicity of Chinese actors on the African continent that do not always act in concert or under the direction of Beijing, and explores what that means for future relations. He looks at the impact of Chinese products on African consumers and how traders interact with African products. Guive Khan's paper looks at the emergence of Chinese motorcycles in Burkina Faso and what that means for existing trade networks in the country, backed by findings based on two years of extensive fieldwork. Through this subpanel, the participants demonstrate the complexity of Chinese-African interactions beyond the rhetoric of partner or predator, and instead emphasize existing and potential future African agency in negotiating the economic spaces various Chinese actors have created.

IV-4. Emerging Powers in Africa: New Wave of the Relationship?

Conveners: Dr. *Alexandra A. Arkhangelskaya* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: aarkhangelskaya@gmail.com, Dr. *Gerhard Seibert* (Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal); e-mail: mailseibert@yahoo.com

The changes and challenges of the modifying world in some sectors that were ignored now are needed to be examined and are knocking at the door. The innovative character of BRICS and other rising powers in Africa, such as Turkey, South Korea, if reflected in practical actions of the association, can change perceptions of world realities that traditionally emphasize inter-State disputes and conflicts, and can contribute to the harmonization of international relations and have a significant effect on global governance. Common strategic interests that had brought

BRICS states together even before the formal association was established may further prevail over their disagreements on certain issues. With a new rise of interest from the emerging powers towards Africa, it becomes clearer that these states and Africa need each other. Emerging powers represent a vast market not only for African minerals, but for various other goods and products produced by African countries. At the same time, emerging powers activities on the continent strengthens the position of African countries vis-à-vis both old and new other external players. Political and economic significance of emerging powers to Africa is reinforced by the active participation of its members in both the authoritative international organizations, such as the UN, WTO, IMF and the World Bank, and leading informal associations, including the Non-Aligned Movement, Group of 77, G-20, APEC and G-8, as well as in regional organizations in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. That creates objective opportunities for the "co-participation" with other countries in building a fair polycentric world, for exerting a systemic influence on decision-making processes in a wide range of structures - from global to regional, from well-established to relatively new.

IV-5. Military-Political Cooperation of Africa with Great Powers and International Organisations

Convener: Dr. *Andrey A. Tokarev* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: stp79@yandex.ru

During the panel's work special emphasis will be made on the following questions:

- Africa's military-political relations with USA, France, Britain, China, with NATO block;
- "Africom": declarations and reality;
- experience of military-political cooperation of African countries with the USSR;
- directions and prospects of military-political cooperation of Africa with Russia;
- Russian participation in UN peacekeeping operations in Africa.

IV-6. Neocolonialism in Africa: 21st Century

Conveners: Prof. *Vasily R. Filippov* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: fvr1957@mail.ru, Prof. *Elena I. Filippova* (Institute for Ethnology and Anthropology, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: elena_filippova89@yahoo.fr

The collapse of the colonial empires of the past and proclamation of independence of African countries did not mean the end of an era of exploitation of former dependent countries, both from the former colonial powers, and by the other industrialized world-powers. Classic colonialism, based on military coercion and implying incorporation of colonial territories into the political system of the metropolis, has given way to neocolonialism. The latter is a latent form, not based on direct coercion and deprivation of sovereignty exploitation of developing countries by the developed world-powers. This is the particular system of discriminatory economic and political relations, imposed by the world powers to developing states of Africa. Neocolonialism in the past century, as a special form of expansion of developed countries to African countries, included the whole arsenal of specific methods of political and economic manipulation. These methods include the planting of corruption and outright bribery of African political elites, uncontrolled arms political favorites, the system of bonded loans, the use of so-called humanitarian aid as a tool of manipulation, the use of armed force, allegedly in the name in the name of maintenance of peace, and the use of inciting tribalist conflict just to transfer state power to controlled leaders. There is no doubt that contemporary competition for access to African raw materials will generate serious conflicts among the countries of the Old World, retained significant influence in its former colonies, the United States, and the new centers of the global economy - China, India, and possibly Russia and Japan, which, though slow, but recovers

lost ground in Africa. Also the appearance of new participants of scramble for African wealth not excluded. To large companies have moved from the export of raw materials to its processing and production of finished products in the field, it's necessary to provide them security of tenure of the property. In other words, political stability needs to be. And this can be possible only if the political situation in recipient countries will fully controlled by the armed forces of the donor states. This will mean the actual return to a classic case of colonial relations. It may be supposed that the contingent of military groups stationed in African countries will be largely recruited with the local population. Thus, there will be a gradual merging of the armies of the colonial powers and re-colonized territories. Brief period of post-colonial history made the Dark Continent neither richer nor happier. Why do young African states have failed to produce immunity against neocolonialism? Why the second coming of colonialism becomes visible at the turn of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries?

IV-7. Russia-Africa Relations – A Geopolitical Compulsion: Traditional or Transitional?

Convener: *P. Nansi* (Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India); e-mail: nancy.antanet@gmail.com

Russia has had a versatile experience of geopolitics, initiated as the geographical expansionism in the early centuries, followed by ideological expansionism in the 18th and 19th century. But in the 21st century Russia came with practical geopolitics, which in turn could foster its national interest via politically or economically. The process of change in Russia's foreign policy has both internal and external dimensions; foreign policy debates have been drawn into the arena of political contention within the country, where domestic and external policies are closely interlinked. Historically speaking after the disintegration of Soviet Union the period of 1990's Russia and Africa relation retrogress, every initiative to build up the relationship were broken down. The necessity for Russia to solve its internal problems has taken the toll of Russia-Africa relations. In order to rectify its mistake Russia has to bring out its critical policy to transform its relation as it was before disintegration. Though the Russian foreign policy priority dominates post soviet space but it has larger emphasis in the African continent. Both of them are important to each other as it opens new areas of expansion and opportunity. Africa and Russia complement each other in terms of natural resources. Never the less the "Concept of Pragmatic" approach of Russia applied in the regions of Africa too. So the underlying question is whether the Russia's overture in Africa is going to be the "Traditional" or "Transitional" in nature.

IV-8. Russia and Africa in the Context of "North-South" Relations and in the Framework of BRICS

Conveners: Dr. *Evgeny N. Korendyasov* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: ekorendyasov@yandex.ru, Dr. *Tatiana L. Deych* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: tdeich@yandex.ru

Contemporary international relations are characterized by the shift of center of global development from the West to the East and by growing influence of new global actors. The liberal model known as the "Washington Consensus" is being replaced by a new model which rejects a range of ultraliberal dogmas. Changes in the global power balance make it more urgent to explore the growing role of the "emerging" powers in the world affairs, in particular their relations to Africa. Today the BRICS countries play the role of new engine of the global economy. At the same time, in the new millennium most African countries have experienced the longest ever period of sustainable growth. This is one of the reasons why the continent in general has become the focus of new global actors' foreign policies. Africa's economic growth was stimulated by the demand for raw materials, which contributed to a dynamic increase in FDI

inflows. In the recent years, there has been increased competition for Africa between the "old" players – the countries of the "North" – and the new "emerging" powers, especially the BRICS countries. The new "emerging" powers demonstrate their will to do what the West failed to do in Africa and persistently force "old players" out of the continent. In particular, BRICS are giving African countries more access to new financial and investment resources and to the latest technologies. Africa's interaction with new global players helps it to better integrate into a new world order based on polycentrism, power 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 traditionally leading actors in the African scene. Western countries see BRICS' activities in Africa as a threat to their economic interests, and as an obstacle to liberal democratization and market reforms in the continent. Tensions are also fuelled by competition among major 'emerging' markets for exports, investment, and impact on the global arena. They struggle not only for African resources, but also for political influence in Africa. The 54 African countries are a growing political force in the global world, which both the "old" and the new global players in their fight for Africa have that force in view. In recent years the Russian-African economic partnership has been expanding in many areas. Russia has long-term interests on the continent and considers development of multidimensional relations with Africa as one of its international priorities. Among other issues to be discussed are the present-day violent conflicts in Africa and the ways to resolve them. The panel will also discuss new trends in African countries' foreign policies, the role of African countries in international organizations, the relations of major countries in the "North" and the "South" to the continent and to individual African countries, problems of inter-African relations and, in particular, aspects of violent conflicts in Africa. Special attention will be given to various aspects of the Russian-African relations and the Russian prospects in Africa.

IV-9. Secession: The Key to Unlocking Africa's Potential?

Convener: *Athanasios Stathopoulos* (University of St Andrews, Fife, UK); e-mail: as2367@st-andrews.ac.uk

The end of colonization led to a 'freezing' of African state boundaries. However, there seems to be a trend in Africa and elsewhere towards the creation of new political entities. Can the 'exit option' be the solution for Africa's current political and economic challenges? The academic and policy debate on secession reaches back at least to the early 1960s, when the newly-founded Organisation of African Unity (OAU) set as one of its main goals, the territorial integrity and sovereignty of African states. Ever since, and with the advent of the African Union (AU), there has been a lot of discussion on whether Africa's main objectives, namely the promotion of peace and security, the protection of human rights and the continent's integration into the global economy, can be achieved in parallel with the respect of the 'frozen' boundaries of the postcolonial era. Until recently, this issue was considered to be a 'hot potato', backed by the fears of the international community that it would open up a Pandora's box. However, the cases of South Sudan and the successful experiment with Somaliland, together with increasing discussions in Europe over the possible independence of Scotland and even Catalonia, has brought back the issue of secession and separatism back into the limelight. The question is whether we are before a rearrangement of the political global order and an upset of the status quo and whether Africa could already be at the forefront of the formation of that emerging global order. The timing seems perfect to start talking about the creation of new political entities, better suited to promote the continent's long-standing aims and their citizens' interests, to explore whether secession is the key to unlocking Africa's potential.

IV-10. The Cooperative Relations between Africa and Russia: Challenges and Prospects

Convener: Ermelinda Liberato (Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal); e-mail: ermelinda.liberato@gmail.com

The relationship between Russia (at time USSR – Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and African countries was essentially marked during the second half of the twentieth century, by an exchange in all sectors: political (socialist policy), military (sending weapons and technicians), economic, social (sending Soviet teachers and doctors to work in those countries and on the other hand, reception of African students in soviet schools). The fall of the socialist policy in the beginning of the 1990's also meant, for most of these countries, a change in their policy and economic model. New scenarios have emerged, giving a new direction to bilateral relations between the different African countries and Russia, and in most of them, the distance was quite evident. The international relations are always in constant mutation, leading to periods of constant withdrawal approaches. Recently, we can witness an approach from Russia to African countries, in an attempt to resumption the previous ties from the past. We intend to debate the evolution of the relations between Russia (and other countries that constituted the USSR) and the different African countries after the fall of the socialist bloc. What is Russia's position on the African continent today? What are the main fields of intervention of Russia in that continent? Is there a cooling or intensification in bilateral relation between Russia and such countries? What future for Africa-Russia relations? On what basis is based cooperation between Russia and African countries? These are just examples of issues that we intend to bring on to the debate.

IV-11. UN SC APSA and Military Interventions in Africa

Conveners: Prof. *Kay Mathews* (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia); e-mails: kay_mathews40@yahoo.com, kay_mathews@rediffmail.com, *Ricardo Real Pedrosa de Sousa* (Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands); e-mail: ricardorps2000@yahoo.com

The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) is being developed to be the main framework for conflict management in the continent. This regime in the making is formally structured on the responsibility to protect to justify military action and on subsidiarity to allocate the onus of that decision and implementation. With the approval of the constitutive act of 2000 creating the African Union (AU), the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) member states accepted for the first time the interference into the domestic affairs of their states in circumstances of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. Six years later the principle of subsidiarity entered explicitly into APSA in the Memorandum of Understanding between the AU and African sub-regional organisations (SRO) in 2008. The principle considers that action should be left to the lowest possible level and only when such level is inefficient should a more central organ assume such responsibilities. This can be applied both to the relationship between AU and UN or AU and SRO like ECOWAS, SADC or IGAD. The utility of both of these rules can be questioned on the grounds of its real use or the extent of its legality or merit. The clauses of the responsibility to protect enshrined in the AU constitutive act have not been used to justify an intervention so far. Therefore it is doubtful if and when would a civil war meet such general criteria. Additionally the principle of humanitarian interventions have been permeable to political interest and military interventions authorized with such mandate have been considered to deviate significantly from it when implemented, such as was the case with the UN authorized intervention in Libya. Subsidiarity itself is prone to the resource dependence, which constrains lower level organizations from acquiring independence on decision and action on military interventions. This means that the advantages of regional ownership and initiative are plagued by out of the region interests more likely alienated from local conditions and possible humanitarian crisis. At the same time subsidiarity is not a guarantee that regional and local action is motivated by humanitarian considerations and is equally subjected to the political interests that the current centralized systems have. This panel welcomes papers who seek to explore these two dimensions

of APSA and in what way its formulations can contribute more or less to the establishment of an international security regime based on the rule of law and humanitarian action.

V. Linguistics

V-1. Language and Society in Africa

Conveners: Prof. *Viktor A. Vinogradov* (Institute of Linguistics, Moscow, Russia), Prof. *Viktor Ya. Porkhomovsky* (Institute of Linguistics, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: ashl@yandex.ru

The panel will be devoted to the wide range of problems related to languages in Africa, including phonetics, lexicon and grammar, as well as sociolinguistics of African languages. The topics for discussion in the panel include:

- sociolinguistic studies of cultural and language situations;
- typological studies of African languages;
- comparative studies of African languages;
- problems of genetic classification;
- field studies of African languages: theory and practice;
- African dialectology and areal studies;
- language contacts in Africa: synchronic and diachronic aspects.

VI. Media

VI-1. Hybrid Media and Political Change in Africa

Convener: Dr. *Nicole Stremlau* (University of Oxford, UK) e-mail: nicole.stremlau@cs.ox.ac.uk

The ubiquity of new Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) such as the mobile phone and their ability to interact with older media, from radio to poetry, is enabling citizens to experiment with innovative ways of influencing politics, interacting among each other as well as with the variety of actors that shape political processes, from governments to private companies to religious organizations. In “media and development” theory, policy and practice, however, strong normative statements about the transformative power of ICTs have often clouded the understanding of how people and communities actually make sense of, and engage with, the technologies that surround them. This panel seeks to promote a broader understanding of how individuals combine old and new media to influence public debates and decision making processes. We particularly encourage submissions by scholars who have experimented innovative approaches to examine how individuals and communities mix different ICTs, from mobile phones to participation on public gathering to social media such as facebook and twitter, to increase their ability to coordinate, raise voice and influence decisions that have repercussion on their lives. We aim also at exploring how public authorities, from formal state institutions to less formalized pressure groups, religious organizations or NGOs, react to these innovative ways of using old and new media to influence politics. What are the factors that influence the communication between these two poles? What are the elements that make individual and collective claims successful in raising attention and influence decisions? Are new media actually changing the ways in which individuals and authorities interact or do they simply add up to existing dynamics? If so, in which ways old and new forms of influencing politics interact?

VI-2. Development of Mass Media in Modern Africa: New Opportunities, Old Limitations

Convener: Dr. *Veronica Usacheva* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mails: veronius@mail.ru, veronius@rambler.ru

From the first years of independence the African states faced to different complications in receiving, spreading and creating of information products on internal, external and international news. As a rule, African states inherited social infrastructure oriented on metropolitan countries, especially mass media. As a result, African countries during the 20th century were not competent participant of informational interaction; often play the role of object of research or consumer of information. After independence the task of development of informational infrastructure was the most vital for many African countries. Globalization of information environment can be characterized not only by ‘internalization’ of media, when flows of information from different sources grow up multifold and their influence become wider than states’ boundaries, but also by extremely asymmetrical flow of communication gadgets and cultural products between developed countries and the ‘rest of the world’. As a rule it is not only commercial exchange, but rather a part of a complex process dominated by ideologies of developed countries. The most radical critics of ‘Western influence’ argue that global media and commercial expansion, facilitated by liberalization and privatization of media systems worldwide and the developed cable and satellite technologies, have reduced African ‘states’ ability to exercise power and maintain full sovereignty. Adoption of new technologies, development of mobile internet and mobile connection, combined with social media leads to qualitative change of situation in Africa. Social media have already changed communication space in the world and introduced new modes of influence. The panel will cover the questions of mass media systems development in African countries as well as the role of mass media (old conventional and new social media) in economic, political and cultural development of African continent and encourages papers that deal with the following issues: the role of media in post-colonial and post-conflict societies; whether or not ‘alternative’ media can provide the democratization and development, their influence on political consciousness; mass media as a supporter of stability and initiator of changes, authoritarian regimes and democratic reforms, etc.

VI-3. Mediating Post-Conflict Stabilization, Security, and Peace Journalism in Africa

Convener: *Prof. Yusuf Kalyango, Jr.* (Ohio University, Athens, USA); e-mail: kalyango@ohio.edu

In the face of rising political and religious extremism along with terrorism-related threats, the last decade has seen heightened public concern about global security and conflict management. Africa, with its long-waged conflicts, regularly recurring tensions, and more recent security threats on the one hand, and new peace and conflict related initiatives and transformations on the other, has secured its place on the global agenda. Understanding the role of media in propagating the causes and escalation of conflicts is critical to mediating and preventing war and other conflicts. The conflicts might be multilayered, complex and interstate, and may involve long-term and short-term issues (Frere 2012; Kalyango and Vultee 2012; Thussu and Freedman 2003; Chouliaraki 2012b). Guerrilla warfare in the jungles of some African states as well as urban warfare raises significant challenges for the legacy (traditional) media and war reporting within the context of media ecology, the increasingly influential online social networking sites such as twitter, micro-blogging, Facebook, or YouTube. The objective of this panel is to revisit African and global media’s role and performance in times of conflict as well as post-conflict stabilization across the African continent. We take as a starting point the claim that mass media are one of the main sources of people’s knowledge and perception of conflicts and that “mediatization of conflicts” (Cottle 2006) has important consequences for the ways in which media audiences react to such events (Allen and Seaton 1999; Thussu and Freedman 2003; Thomson and White 2008, Carruthers 2000; Kellner 2003; Hodges and Nilep 2007; Thompson 2007). Hence, we are

interested both in the role of media in four stages in “the spiral of conflict escalation” viz. anxiety, agitation, alienation and “accusation in a mirror” (Hamelink 2011) and the emerging differences between war journalism and peace journalism (Nohrstedt and Ottosen 2008; Lynch and Galtung 2010; McMahon and Chow-White 2011).

VII. Regional and National Problems

VII-1. Contemporary Development Problems of Southern African Countries

Dr. *Andrey A. Tokarev* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: stp79@yandex.ru, Dr. *Alexandra Arkhangelskaya* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: aarkhangelskaya@gmail.com

The panel’s aim is to discuss contemporary problems of the region’s countries. Special emphasis is supposed to be given to the following questions:

- analysis of the internal political situation in the countries of Southern Africa on the eve of/after presidential and parliamentary elections; political balance, development of civil society, interethnic relations;
- status and prospects of bilateral and multilateral cooperation of Southern African countries (SADC); bilateral cooperation of South Africa and Angola;
- internal and external economic and political relations of the countries of Southern Africa.

VII-2. External Agency in the Greater Horn of Africa: A Comparative Analysis of Non-Regional Powers’ Engagements from the Cold War Era to Present

Conveners: Ambass., Dr. *David Shinn* (The George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA); e-mail: dhshinn@earthlink.net, Dr. *Alexander E. Zhukov* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: zhukovhisci@gmail.com

The panel will prioritize the term *Greater Horn of Africa (GHA)* which includes eight countries in the northeastern part of the continent (Eritrea, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda) and is often preferred to a commonly used *Horn of Africa* while discussing international politics in the region. Since the end of World War II, the Greater Horn has been one of the most conflict-ridden areas in the world. The inter-state relations in the region have been long characterized by a plethora of border-, land- and water-related disputes, many of which were created by colonialism, and negative historical memories that were further complicated in the post-colonial era and exacerbated by external interventions from within and outside the region. Given the region’s strategic location at the crossroads of major land- and waterways and the availability of various natural resources in the GHA, this area has long attracted the attention of many extra-regional forces. This explains why the political decision-making in the post-colonial Greater Horn of Africa has constantly revealed a high degree of involvement from outside the region. In view of the complexity of extra-regional agency in the GHA politics, we believe that it is necessary to ‘map’ it in space and time by combining a historical perspective with a structural approach that would analyze political involvement ‘from the outside’ as a system of interdependent factors. With this consideration in mind, the proposed panel will include two subpanels focusing on two different periods of time. Both subpanels will place a special focus on the international dimensions of major inter- and intra-state political crises in each of the periods in question: e.g., The Eritrean secession conflict 1962-1991, the 1977-1978 Ogaden war between Somalia and Ethiopia, the 1978-1979 war between Uganda and Tanzania, the second civil war in Sudan (1983-2005), the Somali civil war since 1991, the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute since 1998, etc. We particularly welcome contributions analyzing

both the structure and agency of recent extra-regional involvements in the Greater Horn, e.g. its role in the U.S.-led war on global terrorism, other Western states' engagements in security-related issues, the growing economic presence of emerging powers from the East (China, India, Russia), etc. The session will also prioritize the discussion of Third World agency which often remains neglected in the academic discourse on the GHA politics. This includes, in particular, the ongoing political and economic engagements of Egypt, Iran, Turkey, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and other states in Asia, Middle East and North Africa [MENA].

VII-2-A. The Greater Horn of Africa under the Bipolar World Order: Superpower Rivalry in the Regional Politics from the 1960s to 1991

In the first subpanel, we will discuss, in particular, the ways in which diplomatic relations and military events in the GHA of the 1960s-1980s reflected the global perspectives of inter-superpower relations, what strategies the regional governments used to draw various kinds of resources from their superpower alignments (or a contested neutrality), and what made some of them switch Cold War-time alignments. It will be argued that the Cold War powers often didn't use their capacity to prevent acute regional conflicts from escalating, but rarely directly provoked or inspired the latter.

VII-2-B. The Greater Horn of Africa and the Engagements of Non-African Powers in the Late 20th – Early 21st Centuries

The second subpanel will focus on the issue of extra-regional involvement in the GHA by analyzing the ongoing dynamics of the regional politics and looking into its recent history in the early XXI century. We will discuss, *inter alia*, most important structural changes in the contemporary international relations in the context of polycentric world order, the competing African agendas of global, emerging and other non-African powers and the role these agendas assign for the GHA region, the impact of multinational corporations and mineral resource development on the regional security, the role of INGOs and other non-state actors' engagements for conflict resolution and state-building in the GHA, etc.

VII-3. Gender and Society in Lusophone Africa: Contemporary Approaches

Conveners: *Sónia Frias* (Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Portugal); e-mail: sonia.frias@iscsp.utl.pt, *Iolanda Évora* (Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Portugal); e-mail: ioevora@hotmail.com, *Maria da Luz Ramos* (Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Portugal); e-mail: luz@iscsp.utl.pt

The discussions on the situation of women in different regions of Africa have had a relatively small focus within the general reflections on gender. These reflections, quite generalized, inhibit closer recognition of the African women contexts and a more incisive perspective about the realities under study. The range of these realities, is vast and complex, and requires an accurate analysis of several specific segmentations, for example, between traditional and modern experiences. Particularly in the case of Lusophone Africa, these are just some of the difficulties that theorists have to deal with in this field in order to discuss and clarify matters. Address some of the issues surrounding gender relations in the context of Lusophone Africa is therefore the purpose of this panel. Readings are important in their difference and perspective. The readings we propose are about the past or the present, also about ethnicity or tribalism, kinship models, the conception of the sacred beliefs, values of fertility, ritualistic practices, race and racism, health, gender issues, or even the colonial question, the background that places us as

Lusophone Africa. In practice, it is the articulation of these dimensions with those more traditionally used in the West (that none of the other regions of the world can escape anymore), that will allow us to study and understand gender issues in Africa. With this discussion is intended to contribute to a more accurate knowledge about the particulars of the actual number of contexts, with respect to circumstances surrounding the everyday gender organization. We would also like to contribute to the promotion of a theoretical and more understanding theoretical board on these subjects.

VII-4. The Horn of Africa: Ethnicity between Archaic and Modernity

Conveners: Prof. *Roza N. Ismagilova* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: rozaisml@orc.ru, Dr. *Alexander A. Tkachenko* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: alexander.tkachenko@inafr.ru

The Panel will focus on the following issues:

- political, economic and social processes in the countries of the Horn of Africa and challenges of the 21st century: country, regional and global aspects;
- international environment in the Horn of Africa (the issues of international terrorism, piracy, and drug trafficking);
- Ethiopia: between ethnicity and federalism;
- Sudan, South Sudan, and the issues of Darfur;
- Somalia: centrifugal and centripetal tendencies in domestic politics;
- Eritrea: domestic and international aspects of development;
- the role of international community in overcoming crises and settling armed conflicts in the Horn of Africa.

VII-5. Liberation Struggle in Southern Africa: Old Sources Revisited, New Sources Analyzed

Conveners: Prof. *Vladimir G. Shubin* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: vlgs@yandex.ru, Dr. *Sifiso Ndlovu* (South African Democracy Education Trust, Pretoria, South Africa); e-mail: sifisondlovu@telkomsa.net

Two decades have already passed after the completion of the struggle against colonialism and apartheid in Southern Africa, but attention to its history in recent years increased. The 1st International Colloquium on the History of the MPLA was held in Luanda in December 2010, and several conferences were held in South Africa within a framework of the ANC centenary celebration. Moreover Joint Declaration on the establishment of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Russian Federation and the Republic of South Africa, signed on March 26, 2013 envisages “activities to preserve the historical memory of cooperation in the struggle against apartheid and education of young generations of both countries in the non-racial spirit”. The papers presented at the panel are expected, firstly, to revisit old sources on the liberation struggle in Southern Africa in the light of new information, for example, on the relationship between its participants, in particular, the ANC and the SACP, and secondly, to analyze the sources who became available in recent years, especially the memories of veterans of national liberation movements and their supporters.

VII-6. Naming Otherness: Art, Traditions and Wars in Angola and beyond

Convener: *Bruno Brant Sotto Mayor* (National Museum, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil); e-mail: sottomayor.bruno@gmail.com

This panel aims at perusing the relationships between nation-state building, wars and traditions in Angola and beyond. By analyzing naming practices, we are interested in unveiling the historicity and iteration of social categories such as ethnic denominations, war enemies, national boundaries and social otherness. Departing from the *nkishi* art movement, we seek to evidence foremost the wide circulation of concepts across frontiers and social units in Central Africa (Angola, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville and Congo-Kinshasa) along the last 150 years, in order to challenge the contemporary idea of “national heritage” – still strongly based on the ethnography carried out by colonial museums. By questioning the translation of *nkishi* art ethnographically, we intend to approach urban and rural artists beyond the formal borrowings as well as the duality modernity/tradition that have constituted the so-called national art traditions nowadays in Central Africa. Appropriated solely for its aesthetics, the *nkishi* sculptural genre has kept behind formal programs taken by contemporary artists in their strategies of insertion into the global art market – while devoid of any ontological dialogue. In contrast, we want to explore ethnographically how the *nkishi* art, in its different strands, has been dealing with ecology, war trauma, and otherness, and most importantly, what is the potential of inter(in)vention and political critique that it brings to avant-garde art movements. On the other hand, such a historical approach to art allows us to question the ethnic boundaries which, forged by missionary writings and colonial administrations, would then be dialectically incorporated by anti-colonial nationalist fronts in Angola. Our attempt is to reveal how social instabilities affect conventions and, as a result, the process of naming and invention. Therefore, we assume that the name ascribed to collective subjects precedes and exceeds them in that it has a historicity that is contained in iteration. In this way, we analyze the sameness and differences that have been historically attributed to ethnic and national denominations, in an attempt to delineate pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial forms of naming the difference. Our purpose is to understand the relationship between the production and iteration of naming categories and the assignment of a social place to those designated by such names. In contrasting colonial archives with contemporary *nkishi* ritual practices, we emphasize the biography of categories such as “chimbali” (black who became whites as slave traders) and “chindeli”/“puthu” (white men themselves). These terms were created by those peoples who remained beyond colonial domains in Central Africa until the end on the 19th century, while hierarchically and violently inserted in long-distance trade routes. Having Angola as paradigmatic background, we intend to explore how the social category of the white continued to be historically renamed according to (Portuguese, Belgian, French) colonial specificities and war proxies, whereas the term “chimbali” would remain misunderstood. If one the other hand it reverberates the silence of archives in contrast to how the pre-colonial war trauma has been domesticated by *nkishi* rituals until today, on other hand it had a paradoxical consequence. By denying the vernacular forms of nomination, colonial written sources perpetrated a drastic iteration that was appropriated by the leaders of nationalist movements; this caused the emergence of excluding national imaginaries that, while based foremost on colonial taxonomies and forged in opposition to the white, would be progressively employed against any idea of ontological difference and self-nomination.

VII-7. Nigeria: 100 Years after Amalgamation

Convener: Dr. *O. Igho Natufe* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: igho.natufe@inafr.ru

The Northern and Southern protectorates of Nigeria were amalgamated by British Colonial Governor Fredrick Lugard in January 1914. Several Nigerian scholars and statesmen have expressed contending views about the risks and incentives of this amalgamation. For example, speaking in the Northern House of Assembly in 1952, Sir Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, who later became the Prime Minister of Nigeria (1960–1966), dismissed the amalgamation of Nigeria by the British Government. He declared as follows: “...the Southern people who are swarming

into this region daily in large numbers are really intruders. We don't want them and they are not welcome here in the North. Since the amalgamation in 1914, the British Government has been trying to make Nigeria into one country, but the Nigerian people are different in every way including religion, custom, language and aspiration. The fact that we're all Africans might have misguided the British Government. We here in the North, take it that 'Nigerian unity' is not for us." (As cited by A. Adeleye, "Amalgamation of 1914: Was it a mistake?" Vanguard, Lagos, May 18, 2012.) In numerous articles on the subject for the past 6 decades, Nigerians have grappled with the problematic of amalgamation. The proposed panel strives to assemble a group of experts – Nigerians and expatriates – to provide insightful analysis on this subject by focusing on the following topics:

- the concept of amalgamation;
- pre-1914 Nigeria: protectorate or colony?
- amalgamation and the national question in Nigeria;
- the socio-economic ramifications of amalgamation.

VII-8. Nigeria Elections and Invalid Votes: A Challenge for Adult Continuing Education

Convener: Dr. *Tajudeen Adewumi Adebisi* (Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria); e-mails: tajudeen.adebisi@uniosun.edu.ng, jonathanadebisi@yahoo.com

The importance of elections in democracy cannot be overemphasized. Nigeria transition to democratic governance in recent years, from 1999 till date can be described as a democratic experiment as a result of many years of military dictatorship. The challenges of evolving a democratic culture in Nigerian citizenry have been a very daunting experience. Despite the fact that transitional elections are held every 4 years as enshrined in the Nigerian constitution a lot of demographic alterations take place. More significantly are changes in the information and communication technology associated with electioneering and voting processes. This paper therefore captures these changes and highlights the need for a re-orientation, re-information, and re-education of the citizenry for a healthy democratic culture which can herald credible elections in transitional politics in Nigeria. The paper further maintained that continuous education is imperative in providing adults, who constitute the prospective electorates, with requisite voters' education in order to inculcate a positive democratic culture and the development of a stable democratic dispensation. The paper concludes by exfoliating on the relevance of continuous and strategic voters' education which is categorically imperative of building a virile and stable democracy in the light of enormous changes Nigeria is undergoing.

VII-9. North Africa and the Middle East: Political Processes in the Context of Dynamic Relativity of Civilization Development

Convener: Dr. *Alexander A. Tkachenko* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: alexander.tkachenko@inafr.ru

The Section will focus on the following issues:

- the collapse of the authoritarian model of political power and the statehood crisis causes, characteristics and consequences;
- the political upheaval in the region of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA): the role of political parties and movements, Internet groups;
- "old" and "new" models of political power: archaic elements, tradition and modernity;
- problems of modernization in the MENA and challenges of the 21st century;
- civil society and the Islamic tradition in the context of the Arab Spring;
- international relations in the MENA: the current situation and prospects;
- socio-economic aspects of the transformational change in MENA (the issues of unemployment,

small and medium-sized enterprises development, and migration);

- interfaith relations in the context of political crises;
- the Middle East conflict and the prospects for its settlement in the light of “the Great Arab Revolution”.

VII-10. Social and Political Dynamics in Sudan prior to and after the 2011 Separation: Conflict, Activism, and the Diaspora

Conveners: Prof. *Sondra Hale* (University of California, Los Angeles, USA); e-mail: sonhale@ucla.edu, *Gada Kadoda* (Independent Researcher, Khartoum, Sudan); e-mail: gadoda@gmail.com, Dr. *Alexander E. Zhukov* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: zhukovhisci@gmail.com

In this panel we explore a complex political paradigm of modern Sudan that has existed over six decades of independence and continues to shape the political landscape of the country, both its external relations, and internally, as related to its ethnic group conflicts, oppositional parties and movements, rural and grassroots activism, the growth of civil society, women and youth movements, and the growing salience of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), etc. Although a priority will be given to the problems of ‘northern’ Sudan, we also welcome contributions dealing with socio-political dynamics in southern Sudan before its secession in July 2011. As background, we take into consideration a number of factors that have characterized the political life in modern Sudan before and after its separation into two states. These include, to name just a few, the colonial legacy, the leading role of the military in the national politics, the role of rebel groups at the regional level, fragmentation of the society and the rise of marginalized groups throughout the country, the displacement of populations, the dominance of sectarian (based on competing Sufi orders) politics, and the more recent rise of *salafi* Islam, the general failure of political parties, the economic and environmental factors such as the discovery of oil and desertification, the strong influence from the diaspora and its returnees, and eventually political and economic consequences of the secession of South Sudan. The panel will then look into the divisions in Sudan which did not end with the country’s separation but, instead, took up new forms of armed struggle in the Nuba mountains and Blue Nile (the so called Sudan’s “new South”). A backbone to our discussion will be a very complex issue of political activism in Sudan and its global diaspora. In our analyses, we will deal with both the present-day politics in and around Sudan and its recent history. One of our key research propositions is that many political actors (our most neutral term), have moved away from self-identifying as members of a particular political party and/or espousing an established political ideology (e.g., socialist) and have begun to refer to themselves as “activists,” a relatively new term in Sudan. We have also seen activism emerge among rural women previously aligned with other political forces. We will argue that this has happened for a range of reasons to be discussed. The panel will also argue that many of these Sudanese phenomena have coalesced with and/or are reactions to similar processes in other countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and reflect some global trends. Having discussed these and other empirical observations, the panelists will raise theoretical issues of transnationalism and diasporic engagements for home-state politics, of new means of political mobilization (e.g., via social media), and of the shifting emphases on NGO’s, “grassroots”, and direct action politics in the political life of MENA and Sub-Saharan African states in general.

VII-11. Social Change, Southern African Case Studies

Convener: Prof. *Rosabelle Boswell* (Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa); e-mail: r.boswell@ru.ac.za

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has experienced dramatic social change in the past 100 years. From the institution of apartheid in South Africa to decolonisation in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe as well as the implementation of a Truth and Justice Commission in Mauritius. The region's nations have been compelled to adapt to new social circumstances and to forge alternative modes of living. Drawing on anthropological and historical fieldwork, this panel will offer country specific examples from southern Africa to explore and interrogate how change has been experienced or managed and what processes of change mean for society in southern Africa.

VII-12. Social Protection in Northern Africa: What New Schemes for Countries in Political Transition?

Convener: Dr. *Virginie Diaz Pedregal* (Agence Française de Développement, Paris, France); e-mail: diazv@afd.fr

Half the world's population lives without social protection. However, social protection plays an essential role to prevent and mitigate poverty. By supplying an insurance which covers the "social risks" (unemployment, disease, disablement, maternity, old age), it allows individuals to sustain a decent level of income and to favor investments for the future, particularly in children education. In Northern African Countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt...), social protection schemes are unevenly developed. Established during the colonial period, they have broadened their scope (i. e. reached a wider population) after the countries' political independence. In the 1960's and 1970's the Northern African governments considered the State as a welfare State, responsible for the well-being of the population. This paternalistic approach last until the first economic and political crisis in the 1990's. Northern African Countries have experienced a political turmoil with the Arab Spring in 2011. The "social contract", which linked the State to its population, was henceforth broken. New forms of social protection are now emerging. Nevertheless, funding new programs is challenging, particularly in the labour and job insurance markets, with massive unemployment records, especially among the youth. The objective of this panel is to explore the new political guidance regarding social protection. The question panelists will be invited to address is to what extent new democratic governments can implement the social protection schemes they need. In other words, what is the room for maneuver of such governments? New stakeholders are implementing pilot projects, which need to find new funds. At stake is to understand the political economy of social protection in the Northern African countries, in order to sustain and implement the most suitable schemes in each specific context. Communications to this panel will be based on academic works conducted by sociologists, economists, anthropologists and political scientists specialized on the area and topic.

VII-13. Tropical Africa: Specifics of Regional Development

Convener: Dr. *Tatiana S. Denisova* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: tsden@hotmail.com

The panel will focus on the socio-economic and political issues of Tropical Africa, including: the effects of the international financial crisis on the development of the region; factors destabilising political situation in the region; causes, preconditions and methods of resolving political conflicts; specifics of presidential and parliamentary elections.

VII-14. Tunisia and the Hard Times of Transition

Convener: Dr. *Sadok Abcha* (University of Tunisia, Tunisia); e-mail: sadokabcha@gmail.com

The Tunisian revolution which ousted one of the dictators of the Arab world has led to profound social and political changes. It should be noted that in talking about changes one should distinguish between changes that resulted from the revolution and changes that are expected as the objectives of the Revolution, mainly to establish democracy, to preserve people's dignity and to create an egalitarian society and to clean institutions at all levels off corruption. The expected changes mainly concern the reform of the main judicial, media, political and security institutions, which were part of the corrupt machine that sustained the toppled president and provided a cover for the plunder of the riches of the country. However, achieving the changes has proved so difficult for a number of reasons: the economic difficulties and the lack of investment, the tense labour relations and the very big number of strikes and sit-ins, the differences in visions of reforms, the difficult process of accountability, security problems, extremism on both sides and the weak performance of the democratically elected government on many levels. The proposed paper will seek to address all these issues and to make an assessment of the progress of the revolution in light of the changes that have taken place since 23 October 2011, the day when the national constituent was elected to prepare a new constitution to end the transition phase and to prepare for a permanent one.

VIII. Religion and Culture

VIII-1. African Cinema: The View from Moscow

Conveners: Dr. *Alexandra Arkhangelskaya* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: aarkhangelskaya@gmail.com, Dr. *Daria A. Zelenova* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: d.zelenova@gmail.com

African cinema, or a cinema about Africa, is one of the least studied in Russia, but at the same time one of the most empirical trends in modern African studies. The term "African cinema" combines not just cinema about Africa, not just cinema made by Africans, but cinema, made by the African immigrants outside of the "Dark Continent." African cinema is considered to be one of the world's new film schools. Georges Sadoul wrote in the "General History of Cinema": "In 1960, 65 years after the invention of cinema, it has not yet created any truly African feature film that is written, played, shot and edited by African black and voiced by an African Language". A few years later, after creation of first films by the young African states, Sadoul stated: "African cinema – is the youngest in the world. It only makes first steps in very difficult conditions. But there is no doubt that in the last third of the XX century, we'll see deeply talented works". This section makes the first attempt to revive interest in both academic and general public in Russia to the African film industry, as an instrument for understanding and research of Africa, its history, its problems, and perhaps, its future. The themes suggested for discussion are:

- the history of African cinematography;
- cinema as an instrument for understanding of African culture;
- Prospects and problems of contemporary African cinema;
- Soviet Cinema of Africa;
- What will happen to us? Cinema as a cultural bridge that makes Russia and Africa closer to each other.

VIII-2. Globalization, Democratic Culture Evolution and Political Re-orientation in Africa

Conveners: Dr. *Ehiyamen Mediyanoose Osezua* (Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria); e-mails: osezuaomo2002@yahoo.com, ehiyamen@gmail.com, Dr. *Tajudeen Adewumi Adebisi* (Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria); e-mails: tajudeen.adebisi@uniosun.edu.ng,

jonathanadebisi@yahoo.com, Dr. *Clementina Oghoadena Osezua* (Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria); e-mails: tinaosezua@yahoo.com, tinaosezua@oauife.edu.ng

This panel will weave together four themes in the evolution of democratic culture in African continent in the last two decades. The first paper appraises the relevance of a vibrant, informed eclectic civil society in birthing and nurturing a healthy democratic culture in African states in the light of the overarching and ambivalent effects of globalization on most countries in Africa. The paper concludes that a highly engaged civil society will mitigate the adverse effects of globalization in post-colonial Africa democratic processes. The second paper elucidates the torturous processes experienced by the most populous African nation-Nigeria its transitional bid from military rule to democratic governance in the past few years. The paper observed a critical change in the transitional process in the changes in voting patterns arising from the adoption of new informational technologies. The paper maintains that these changes may negatively impact on the adult citizens of the Nigeria who constitute a viable number of prospective electorates in any election. The paper therefore concludes that there is a need for re-orientation of the adult population in order to strengthen the emerging but fragile democratic culture in the face of critical security challenges Nigeria is presently undergoing. The third paper underscores the emerging evolution of nascent democratic culture being witnessed in an African State-Nigeria, among the women folks. The paper observed these changes are attributable to the active deployment of the mass media enabled by the new technologies in the communication world. The paper concludes by underscoring the role of re-orientation and gender education as viable tools in engendering democratic culture and active political participation among women who constitute about half of the prospective electorates in elections. Finally, the last paper presenter identified the proclivity by political leaders to abuse political offices without recourse to democratic tenets as operational in advanced democracies. The paper argued that corruption among political office holders through irrational amassment of wealth have made political office holders irresponsible to her citizenry and further created a negative value structure, which are potential threats to the fragile democratic culture in Nigeria. The paper concludes that democratic responsive governance can be achievable through what the author referred to as re-orientation counseling. All four papers affirm the imperativeness of an active and informed civil society which holds the potentiality of building and sustaining the nascent democratic culture in many African states, using Nigeria as a window.

VIII-3. Reflecting on Traditionalism and Reels of Africa's Developmental Paradigms

Convener: *Olatunji Olateju* (Swansea University, UK); e-mail: olaolateju@yahoo.co.uk

Understanding the state of Africa involves examination of governance, governing ideologies, nature and character of ethnic pluralism, monopolisation of political and economic power, ideological pathways of development in Africa and the transition of Africa's pre-colonial societies to post-colonial states. Though, many theoretical approaches have evolved, both within and outside Africa, to address Africa's underdevelopment and Africa's political tragedy but unfortunately not all are helpful. Many of these approaches contextualise Africa's political development in one universal model or the other. They thereby wrongly interpret Africa's political instability either as a consequence of ethnic rivalries or the negative consequences of some retrogressive cultural values. This error of judgment [mis]leads the proponents of the universal theorists to by-pass the central issue involved in the genesis of Africa's political crisis. Africa's political instability have at different times also been subjected to various interpretations ranging from modernisation to neo-Marxist theories with each interpretation identifying different sources of the African crises and which subsequently have impact on the 'best-practice' thinking of each interpretation. Best-practice thinking as explained by Levy (2011) and Booth (2011) is a 'one size-fits all' approach to governance and development. It involves identification in all

societies, of uniformity in what drives changes in institutions, governance, development, as well as in society while ignoring feasible entry points that are country-specific for democracy and development. From this approach comes a uniform set of policy prescriptions that are ideologically based irrespective of the peculiarities of each country. This approach, as applied to the interpretations of African crises and subsequent prescriptions of each interpretation, has profound implications for state building, democratisation processes and development. Scholars such as Harrison and Huntington, who stressed “*Culture Matters*” (2002) in Africa’s political instability failed to see how the same culture can facilitate autochthonous political and economic models for economic sustainability, political development and democratic consolidation. We need to be conscious that African socio-political crises are embedded in the social structures of their post-colonial forms. These are the after-effects of the relegation of the African traditional values to the fringes of the political and state building processes; and the disarticulation of African politics, economy and hybridisation of the traditional patrimonial political system by the colonial and the post-colonial administrations. This panel welcomes contributions that examine the consequences of by-passing Africa’s traditional values in the state-building and democratisation processes and how such by-pass politicised Africa’s economical and political development and indeed everyday lives of the African peoples who continue to aspire to be citizens in their supposedly independent countries.

VIII-4. Religious Identity Politics in Africa: New Perspectives

Convener: Dr. *Nathan P. Devir* (University of Utah, Salt Lake City, USA); e-mail: nathan.devir@utah.edu

In the past decade, much scholarly work has been done on religion in the “Global South,” in particular with regard to the spread of Christian movements. However, much academic research has neglected to look at other emerging religious movements that are interdependently connected with local and transnational politics, such as neo-Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, mystic, and resurging traditionalist/animist movements. The popularity of these movements has demonstrated the deep link between national and religious identity in many postcolonial African national discourse. The panel which I propose, “Religious Identity Politics in Africa: New Perspectives,” will bring together scholars of African religion and politics in an attempt to document and analyze emergent religious movements that – by discursive, legal, or unconscious means – have become synonymous with the tentative for political change or national volition. It will also welcome papers that trace the diasporic connections and motives of the so-called “major religions” in their encounter with local African mores and praxis.

VIII-5. States of Sub-Saharan Africa in the Age of Globalization: Preservation of Cultural Identity

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

Nowadays, Globalization of all the societal spheres is taking place. In the meantime, Globalization has not only a positive side but also a negative one. Critics of modern global trends suggest that Globalization will lead to the unavoidable transformation of the world-wide space to the one and homogenous formation in which the whole World will change its approach according to the Western model of the development. In order to prevent this process it is very important for small developing countries, so as for the states of Sub-Saharan Africa, to participate more actively in the international discussion of main features of the new world order which is under construction. Thereupon we intend to discuss a wide range of questions concerning an idea of the creation of an alternative (African) model of social and cultural

development which demands a theoretical analysis and empiric verification

VIII-6. Understanding Social and Political Change through Mutations in Popular Music

Convener: Dr. *Denis-Constant Martin* (University of Bordeaux, France); e-mail: d.c.martin@sciencespobordeaux.fr

At the time when the independence of the Belgian Congo was negotiated in Brussels, Grand Kallé et l'African Jazz were busy recording "Indépendance Cha Cha". This song appears today as a landmark in the history of African popular music and provides an example of the bonds that tie popular music and politics. But it is far from being an isolated phenomenon: for almost two centuries, at least, musical innovation has accompanied social and political change in Africa. This has been demonstrated by numerous studies on various parts of the continent. The questions that remain debated, and debatable, are related to the nature of the "accompaniment" music offers, to the role it played, and continues to play, in contemporary societies. This panel will therefore focus not only on the emergence of new genres and styles of African music during the 20th and 21st centuries, but also on the methods which have been, or should be, used in the analysis of the relationship between mutations in music and social and political change. If, as is widely acknowledged, music is not a language but a symbolic form, how is it possible to conduct symbolical analysis? Must musical analysis be used, and how, in the study of music's social significations, and what lessons should be drawn from ethnomusicology? How can we understand the relationship established within a song between the music and the lyrics? Which lessons should be learned from performance studies? These questions, and many others, even if they are not specific to African music studies, are particularly important because they invite to go beyond the mere admission that there is a relationship between music and politics to find ways to assess the real impact music has on ordinary citizens: how it may influence their political conceptions and possibly bear upon their political behaviour. In this perspective, the study of popular music in contemporary Africa could shed additional, and original, light on social and political phenomena, and in particular bring new insights into the social representations that citizens entertain about the society and the political system they live in. The panel will be multidisciplinary: ethnomusicologists, historians, anthropologists, sociologists, political scientists are invited to participate.

IX-1. Free Communication Panel

Convener: *Organizing Committee Member* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: conf2014@gmail.com