

CONGOLESE HORIZONS: WEAVING TEMPORALITIES IN CONGO STUDIES

Scholarly Conference

January 29 – 31, 2025 | Auditorium, The Africa Institute, Global Studies University, Sharjah, UAE ([location map](#))



Co-sponsor and Host

GLOBAL STUDIES
جامعة الدراسات العالمية
UNIVERSITY



VIP CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Day 01

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

9:00 AM	Bus pick-up from the hotel/s – depart to The Africa Institute, GSU, Sharjah, UAE (location map)
9:30 AM	REGISTRATION
10:00 AM	WELCOME REMARKS Hoor Al Qasimi – President, Global Studies University (GSU), UAE Salah M. Hassan – Chancellor, Global Studies University; Dean, The Africa Institute (GSU), UAE

10:15 AM

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Emery Kalema – Assistant Professor of History, The Africa Institute, GSU, UAE

Benoît Henriët – Associate Professor of History, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium

10:30 AM

PANEL 1 –

COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS AND POSTCOLONIAL REVERBERATIONS

Chair: John Thabiti Willis – Associate Professor of African History, The Africa Institute, GSU, UAE

Panelists:

Investigating the Colonial Crime Scene: Revisiting the Forgotten Odyssey of the Congolese ‘Pygmy’, Ota Benga

Wandile Kasibe – Independent Researcher, South Africa

“My Grandfather Was a Volunteer”: Remembering Enslavement in the Surroundings of Kisangani

Margot Luyckfasseel – Junior Research Professor in Modern African History, University of Antwerp, Belgium

Transimperial Experiences: Revisiting the History of Belgian-Congolese Armed Forces in World War II

Amandine Lauro – Research Associate, Belgian National Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS), Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium

Weaponizing Military Order: Debating Military Discipline in Congo’s Military Courts (1904-1918)

Brecht Kreyen – Ph.D. Candidate, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium

12:30 PM

LUNCH

Venue – Courtyard, The Africa Institute, GSU

2:00 PM

PANEL 2 –

COLONIALISM, ENVIRONMENT, AND TERRITORIALITY IN CENTRAL AFRICA

Chair: Grieve Chelwa – Chair, Department of Social Sciences; Associate Professor of Political Economy, The Africa Institute, GSU, UAE

Panelists:

Colonizing Landscapes: Reforestation Schemes and Multispecies Territoriality in Colonial Burundi

Benoît Henriët – Associate Professor of History, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium

“The Lake Forms a Homogenous Whole, Comparable in Every Way to a Living Being” - An Environmental History of Fishing on Lake Tanganyika during the Belgian Administration of Urundi (1923-1962)

Etienne Gontard – Ph.D. Candidate, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium

Is It the Same Plant? Oil Palm-Human Relationship in the Mayombe Forest

Rosa C. R. Vieira – Professor, Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, University of São Paulo, Brazil

3:30 PM

BREAK

Venue – Courtyard, The Africa Institute, GSU

3:45 PM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Of Dreams and Broken Circles: A Lecture-Performance

Faustin Linyekula – Visiting Assistant Professor of Practice of Theater, Artist in Residence, New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), UAE

Chair: Pedro Monaville – Associate Professor of African History, McGill University, Canada

5:10 PM

FILM SCREENING

Tongo Saa (Rising Up at Night) | 96 minutes | 2024

Director: Nelson Makengo

Day 02

Thursday, January 30, 2025

8:30 AM

Bus pick-up from the hotel/s – depart to The Africa Institute, GSU, Sharjah, UAE ([location map](#))

8:30 AM

REGISTRATION

9:00 AM

PANEL 3 –

EPIDEMIC ACCRETION AND TEMPORALITIES OF DISEASE IN CONGO

Chair: Zaynab El Bernoussi – Associate Professor of Political Science, The Africa Institute, GSU, UAE

Panelists:

Temporalities of Coexistence with the Ebola Virus: Ebola Virus Resurgence in Guinea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Frédéric Le Marcis – Professor of Social Anthropology, École normale supérieure de Lyon (ENS), France

Almudena Mari Saez – Anthropologist, Junior Professor Chair, TransVIHMI Unit, Research Institute for Development (IRD), France

Sung-Joon Park – Medical Anthropologist, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM), Germany

Kennedy Muhindo Wema – Ph.D. Candidate, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM), Germany

Epidemic Palimpsests: The Past in the Present in the Yambuku Mpox Outbreak

Jules Villa – Postdoctoral Researcher, Institut Pasteur, France

Multispecies Temporalities, Socio-Ecological Changes and Emerging Diseases in Equateur Province, DRC

Almudena Mari Saez – Anthropologist, Junior Professor Chair, TransVIHMI Unit, Research Institute for Development (IRD), France

Les Analyses Intégrées: La Collaboration et la Multidisciplinarité dans la Gestion des Épidémies et les Leçons Apprises dans le Cadre du Centre des Opérations d'Urgences de Santé Publique [Integrated Analyses: Collaboration and Multidisciplinarity in Epidemic Management and Lessons Learned within the Framework of the Public Health Emergency Operations Center]

Emilia Sana – Head of Planning Department, Centre des Opérations d'Urgence de Santé Publique, Ministry of Health in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

11:00 AM

BREAK

Venue – Courtyard, The Africa Institute, GSU

11:15 AM

**PANEL 4 –
ARCHIVES, MEMORY, AND PERSONAL HISTORIES**

Chair: Rachel Ama Asaa Engmann – Associate Professor of Archaeology and Anthropology, The Africa Institute, GSU, UAE

Panelists:

In My Mother's House: Navigating Personal and Archival Memory in Kinshasa

Pedro Monaville – Associate Professor of African History, McGill University, Canada

Unravelling the Past in the Eastern Congo: Memory Landscapes and Colonial Collections

Noemie Arazi – Lead Researcher, Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium

Projet SIDA: Writing the History of AIDS in Congo

Thomas F. McDow – Associate Professor of History, Ohio State University, USA

12:45 PM

LUNCH

Venue – Courtyard, The Africa Institute, GSU

2:00 PM

**PANEL 5 –
RELIGIOUS ENCOUNTERS AND SPIRITUAL TEMPORALITIES**

Chair: Meg Arenberg – Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, The Africa Institute, GSU, UAE

Panelists:

Translation as a Tool of Conversion: Portuguese Missionaries and the Old Kongo in the 17th-18th Centuries

Duan Kissonde – Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul), Brazil

Lettres, Récits et Images sur le Kongo dans les Collections de l'Église Romaine (XVIe-XVIIe siècles) [Letters, Narratives, and Images of Kongo in the Collections of the Roman Church: 16th-17th Centuries]

José Rivair Macedo – Full Professor, Department of History, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul), Brazil

La Médecine Traditionnelle: Illustration des Échanges Intemporels entre les Peuples Burundais et Congolais [Traditional Medicine : An Illustration of Timeless Exchanges Between the Burundian and Congolese peoples]

Aminadab Havyarimana – Assistant Lecturer, Department of Socio-Anthropology, University of Burundi, Burundi

3:30 PM

GUIDED EXHIBITION TOUR

Venue – Dr Sultan Al Qasimi Centre ([location map](#))

The Dr. Sultan Al Qasimi Centre (DSQC), founded in 2007 by H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, showcases a collection amassed over 25 years, highlighting the history of the Arab Gulf, sail ships, and the ruler's personal artifacts.

6:00 PM

DINNER

Venue - Arabian Tea House Restaurant & Cafe ([location map](#))

Day 03

Friday, January 31, 2025

8:30 AM

Bus pick-up from the hotel/s – depart to The Africa Institute, GSU, Sharjah, UAE ([location map](#))

8:30 AM

REGISTRATION

9:00 AM

**PANEL 6 –
CRAFTING MEMORY AND IDENTITY THROUGH MATERIAL CULTURE**

Chair: Sabrina Moura – Research and Development Manager, Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE; ;
Affiliated Professor, Arts Department, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, UFRN,
Brazil

Panelists:

**Making and Mobilities in Congo: Bolobo's Ivory Carvers and Their Origin Stories
(1880s-1980s)**

Sarah Van Beurden – Professor of History and African American and African Studies, Ohio
State University, USA

Traversing Contexts: The Multilayered Biography of Albert Lubaki

Diana Salakheddin – Multidisciplinary Researcher, Royal Museum for Central Africa; Ph.D.
Candidate, Ghent University, Belgium

**L'Image d'Albert Lubaki dans la Presse Européenne de l'Entre-Deux-Guerres: de
1929 à 1932**

[The Image of Albert Lubaki in the European Press During the Interwar Period: 1929 to
1932]

Michée Diansana – Ph.D. Candidate, University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the
Congo and Ghent University, Belgium

Temporal Escape: Papa Mfumu'eto Premier's Comics

Emery Kalema – Assistant Professor of History, The Africa Institute, GSU, UAE

11:00 AM

BREAK

Venue – Courtyard, The Africa Institute, GSU

11:15 AM

**PANEL 7 –
EMBODIED MEMORY AND POSTCOLONIAL MOBILITY**

Chair: Surafel Wondimu Abebe – Assistant Professor of Performance Studies and Theory,
The Africa Institute, GSU, UAE

Panelists:

Transitions of Land and Local Memory: Former Refugee Camp Sites in the Kivus

Anne Nabintu Birato – Congolese Researcher, Group for Conflict and Human Security
Studies (GEC-SH); /CERUKI/ISP-Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Eric Abanati Gbadi – Researcher and Teaching Assistant in International Relations,
University of Kisangani, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Christopher P. Davey – Visiting Assistant Professor, Institute of Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention (IGMAP), Binghamton University, USA

The Centrifugal Forces of Logging: Bayaka Hunter-Gatherers in Northern Congo

Alice Vittoria – Postdoctoral Researcher, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium

Multiple Temporalities and Futures in the Congo Basin

Nsah Mala – Postdoctoral Researcher and Hub Coordinator, UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES Coalition, University of Cologne, Germany

12:45 PM

LUNCH

Venue – Courtyard, The Africa Institute, GSU

2:00 PM

PANEL 8 –

SHIFTING LABOR AND SOCIAL IDENTITIES IN CONGO

Chair: Faisal Garba Muhammed – Associate Professor of Sociology, Migration and Mobility, The Africa Institute, GSU, Sharjah, UAE

Panelists:

Changing Social Identities in the Context of Ex-Mine Workers in Lubumbashi, DRC

Daniela Waldburger – Senior Lecturer, Department of African Studies, University of Vienna, Austria

Judicial Documents as a Source for Vernacular Practices of Intoxicants in Colonial Burundi

Thijs Costers – Ph.D. Candidate, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium

Les Enjeux de Gouvernance et la Menace du State Building en RD Congo

[The Issues of Governance and the Threat of State Building in the Democratic Republic of the Congo]

Don Bosco I. Mbawmbaw – Visiting Assistant Professor, Program for Asian and African Studies, National Autonomous University of Mexico (PUEAA/UNAM), Mexico

3:30 PM

BREAK

Venue – Courtyard, The Africa Institute, GSU

4:00 PM

PANEL 9 –

PROTESTS, DIASPORA, AND DIGITAL SPACES IN CONTEMPORARY CONGO

Chair: Samuel Mark Anderson – Senior Lecturer, New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), UAE

Panelists:

The Yebela and Wumela Manifestation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2019): Coloniality of Protests and Decolonization of the Congolese Future

Marco Reyes – Political Scientist, Autonomous Metropolitan University-Iztapalapa Campus (UAM-I), Mexico

Diaspora Mobilization and Homeland Conflict: The Case of Congolese in South Africa and the Eastern Congo Conflict

Rosette Sifa Vuninga – National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences Postdoctoral Fellow, Historical Studies Department, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Digital Horizons, Cryptopolitical Agency, and Shifting Elsewheres in the Kinois Imagination in the Early 21st Century

Katrien Pype – Associate Professor, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Katholieke Universiteit (KU) Leuven, Belgium

5:30 PM

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Margot Luyckfasseel – Junior Research Professor in Modern African History, University of Antwerp, Belgium

Rosette Sifa Vuninga – National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences Postdoctoral Fellow, Historical Studies Department, University of Cape Town, South Africa

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