Africa and Africans in
National, Regional and Global Dimensions

14th International African Studies Conference

(Moscow, October 17-20, 2017)

First Call for Papers Announcement

Dear Colleagues,

On October 17-20, 2017 in Moscow the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, in co-operation with the Research Council for the Problems of African Countries, holds the 14th African Studies Conference titled *Africa and Africans in National, Regional and Global Dimensions*. The Conference main events will take place on the premises of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The working languages are Russian and English.

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

The Organizing Committee have considered all the panel proposals received by it. The list of accepted proposals can be found below. The deadline for paper proposals (in the form of abstracts **within 300 words** in Russian or English) is **March 15, 2017**. 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 **April 1, 2017** – 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.

In the case the proposal is accepted and you and/or your panel participants need Russian entry visas, the Organizing Committee will send you in April 2017 the list of documents necessary to support the visa application process at a Russian Consulate or Embassy.

The conference registration fee in Russian rubles, equivalent to $150 ($75 in rubles for students and for citizens of African states residing in Africa, except South Africa), is to be paid in cash onsite upon arrival. The registration fee includes the visa application support (Official Invitation*), the Conference Book of Abstracts, stationary items, reception and coffee-breaks. The fee for an accompanying person, equivalent to $50 in rubles, includes the visa application support (Official Invitation) and reception. The Conference participants working for the Institute for African Studies official partners are waved from registration fee.**

According to national immigration regulations, only official spouses and children can be considered as accompanying persons. For getting an official invitation for an accompanying person from the Organizing Committee, you must send the Organizing Committee an apostil of the respective person's marriage (for the spouse) or birth (for the child) certificate. After receiving an official invitation, you will be able to apply for a humanitarian visa for that person. Otherwise, you can apply for a tourist visa for the accompanying person at a Russian Consulate. You will not need to apostil the documents in this case (as well as it is not necessary for the Conference participants to get a humanitarian visa). No accompanying persons can be waved from registration fee.

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

All the correspondence should be sent by e-mail for the Conference Organizing Committee, to the attention of Mrs. Natalia Bondar, Head, Center of Information and International Relations, Institute for African Studies (conf2017@gmail.com; tel.: + 7 495 690 2752) – prospective international participants, or to the attention of Dr. Natalia Zherlitsyna, Secretary, Research Council for the Problems of African Countries (ns_inafr@mail.ru; tel.: + 7 495 690 6025) – prospective Russian participants.

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

PANELS ACCEPTED FOR THE CONFERENCE
(In the alphabetical order of English titles of the thematic blocks and panels within them)

I. Cultures and Languages

I-1. Anthropology's Contribution to the Study of 21st Century Africa
Conveners: *David O'Kane* (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle [Saale], Germany); e-mail: okane@eth.mpg.de, *Oleg I. Kavykin* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: atrociter@mail.ru (on behalf of *the Africanist Network, the European*

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* Please note that according to the Russian visa regulations, the host organisation has to pay fees to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for every international participant and even a bigger sum for accompanying persons. However, all the foreigners wishing to enter the Russian Federation must not only apply for visas at the Russian Consulates or Embassies in respective countries but also pay another fee on their own for the visas' granting.
** For the list of the Institute for African Studies official partners please, visit the page "Cooperation" on the Institute's website at the address http://www.inafran.ru/en/node/144.

Association of Social Anthropologists)

As we approach the end of the second decade of the 2st century, we can observe that the continent of Africa is experiencing rapid and unpredictable changes. Economic growth continues in many African economies; innovations in education continue to occur; a demographic transition seems to have begun. These changes, and the many others that are taking place in the continent, are the result of both external pressures, and of internal developments specific to Africa's various societies and cultures. In all cases, they involve the deliberate strategizing and responses of African peoples. And in all cases, they also present real challenges to those who seek to understand African societies and cultures today, especially for anthropology. Born out of the colonial encounter between the west and Africa, the Anthropology of Africa has gone through many forms, and has had to consistently reinvent itself in order to renew its relevance to the continent. Can the discipline reinvent itself for the twenty-first century, and survive the current changes occurring in the African continent? This panel, organized in conjunction with the Africanists' network of the European Association of Social Anthropologists seeks to answer this question through both empirical and theoretical forms. We therefore invite papers from anthropologists involved in the study of twenty-first century Africa, whatever their regional focus or ethnographic concerns may be, and which can help document the social and cultural changes African is experiencing through increased economic growth, environmental problems, urbanization, the persistence of ethnic and religious conflict, the emergence of new middle classes, et cetera. We also seek synoptic contributions that can give considered opinions on the role of anthropology in the study of Africa today.

I-2. Human Sciences and Identity Studies for Cooperation and Development in Africa – Examples from the Field
Conveners: *Ilaria Micheli* (University of Trieste); e-mail: imicheli@units.it, *Mauro Tosco* (University of Turin); e-mail: mauro.tosco@unito.it

Africa is a continent whose huge diversity of traditional cultures have until now been neglected in the global arena. In a world which is getting quicker and quicker in its transformations and where phenomena like climate changes, migrations due to civil and economic wars or terrorism can have devastating impacts on ethnic and linguistic minorities, Africa represents one of the most endangered areas for what concerns the survival and preservation of diversity. Most African indigenous languages and cultures are at stake, and often only a change in attitudes and perspectives in the design and implementation in the field of cooperation and development projects can make the difference in the preservation, survival or re-vitalization of languages and cultures. In order to do this, all disciplines of the Human Sciences should find a place and have a role in imagining and developing a "new cooperation". The Italian project "ATRA – African transitions" (www.africantransitions.it) in its three years lifespan (2013–2016) has shown that the inclusion of disciplines like linguistics, archaeology, philology, anthropology and history in many projects of cooperation, mainly in the Horn of Africa, has been crucial for the empowerment of local communities and for stimulating their sense of cohesion and cultural and linguistic identity. The panel conveners were members of the ATRA research team and their aim in this conference is to bring the discussion on the role of Human Sciences in Cooperation to a wider, international context. Papers by experts in the field of African languages, cultures and folklore, as well as contributions by archaeologists, historians and philologists will be particularly welcome.

I-3. Languages of Africa: Traditions and Perspectives
Conveners: *Viktor Ja. Porkhomovsky* (Institute of Linguistics, Moscow, Russia), Andrey B.

Shluinsky (Institute of Linguistics, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: conf_africa@mail.ru

The panel deals with all issues of African linguistics: typological and cross-linguistically oriented studies in lexicon and grammar of African languages; comparative and historical studies of African languages; issues in genealogical classification of African languages; dialectal and areal studies of African languages; sociolinguistic studies of linguistic situations in Africa; language contact in Africa.

I-4. Long-Term Ethnography in Africa: Its Peculiar Contribution to the Development of Local Civil Societies
Conveners: *Mariano Pavanello* (University of Rome "Sapienza", Italy); e-mail: mariano.pavanello@uniroma1.it, *Pino Schirripa* (University of Rome "Sapienza", Italy); e-mail: pino.schirripa@uniroma1.it

Ethnographic research has gone through a radical revision in the last few decades, which in turn led to a critical reconsideration of its epistemology, theory, fieldwork practices and scientific objectives as well. As far as the Italian scenario is concerned, African ethnographic studies are largely rooted in specific academic traditions that have historically flourished within groups of scholars whose research practice has developed within an institutional framework, provided by both academic and governmental agencies. Since 1954 – when the Italian Ethnological Mission to Ghana was established by Vinigi Grottanelli – other ethnological missions have been promoted with the twofold aim of investigating African societies on a long-term perspective, and providing young trainees in anthropology with an ethnographic field to experience. The institutional networks and the long-term relations with local people established by the scholars who had done fieldwork in the same contexts have facilitated these initiatives. Such a scenario, partly common to other countries, calls for a comprehensive and critical reflection, that should not only address the epistemological aspects of ethnography, but also consider its political implications, legitimacy, and the restitution of the knowledge produced with local people. Moreover, the peculiar nature of an intergenerational ethnographic effort that unravels in a wide time span should stimulate members of ethnological *équipe* to take stock of the changes occurred in time in their way of comprehending and experiencing the field. The panel aims at gathering contributions based on a critical and reflexive assessment of the opportunities and challenges linked to the reiterative frequentation of African fields by anthropologists under the institutional umbrella of a Mission. It welcomes proposals that: (a) enlighten the rich variety of theoretical and methodological approaches implemented in different times and contexts; (b) reflect in an original way on the restitution strategies adopted by scholars to share the outcomes of their research with local actors; and (c) stress the multiple ways that the recurrent frequentation of the field may contribute to the development of the local civil societies. The following key-questions could be addressed: what are the opportunities disclosed by the reiterative frequentation of a field? What are the implications of local people getting used to the pervasive presence of anthropologists and their intellectual curiosity? What role do obsolete Africanist ethnographies acquire in the current theoretical and methodological debate? How can contemporary scholars undertake the sensitive task of revising the interpretative categories used by their "ancestors" in their past research? How can the local cultural heritage explored during long-term ethnographies contribute to the development of local communities? Lastly, the panel aims to provide an open forum for a debate about the theoretical and methodological implications of doing ethnography in a collective dimension and in a long-term perspective in African contexts. Such an enterprise should arise from the papers as a historically determined cognitive practice, which largely depends on the political, cultural and economic contingencies that affect the ethnographic relation.

I-5. Regional, National and Global Dimensions of Festivals in Africa (20ᵗʰ – 21ˢᵗ C.): How to Provide New Insights into the Global Impacts of Local Identity Building Processes
Convener: *Jean-Luc Martineau* (Université Paris Diderot, France); e-mail: paris18jlm@gmail.com

Festivals or major cultural gatherings have been and still are very important milestones and tools in various identity building processes at city, regional or nation level. By organising such events, Africans (political leaders, ordinary citizens, civil society actors, intellectuals...) involved in theses processes, mainly in cities, target various audience locally, nationally and internationally. These cultural practices yield to popular mass meetings as well as elite groups rallies or commercial events; many different places in towns are committed to mobilizing citizens, commercial, cultural and religious actors. Festivals creating or strengthening identities are a way to invent self-consciousness at a local level, to increase the visibility of a group, a city or a region at a state level or to promote a state or a region at the global level. UNESCO interferences into local cultural affairs or national patrimonial laws are good examples of such policies. Studying festivals shed the light on new actors – individuals, groups, institutions – involved in public life in Africa; it has an impact on the understanding of new social and cultural phenomenon but also on their way to modify urban planning, ancient building uses and urban practices. When they meet their audience significantly on the long term, these cultural gatherings contribute to raising awareness of local, national but also global issues. The panel will be an opportunity to pay attention to the origins of models of self-celebration and to the circulation of cultural forms and objects being part of these more and more global events even though locally rooted and organised. It will allow the meeting of several researchers who could support the hypothesis that such cultural events have not only regional or national dimensions but also global consequences. Searched impacts and indirect consequences should be factored likewise into analysis. The panel will open up a debate on the degree of efficiency and relevance of these events in the stabilisation of post-decolonisation African states and more recently democratised societies.

I-6. The Creole World and Creoles of Africa
Convener: *Vladimir A. Popov* (St. Petersburg State University, Russia); e-mail: popoffwladimir@gmail.com

Creoles, or Crioles, Crioulo, Kriolu, Krio – the ethnic (often ethnoracial) communities of the mixed origin formed during the colonial period, mainly in America, Africa and Asia. They differ in the origin from the population of mother countries, indigenous people and later immigrants of the 19ᵗʰ–20ᵗʰ centuries. Now problems of Creole communities, Creole cultures and Creole languages – in the center of attention of anthropologists, ethnographers, demographers, specialists in folklore, linguists and even political strategists. It occurs not only in those countries where Creole communities and their cultures play a significant role in social processes. In a number of countries of Western Europe and the USA these researches have both a theoretical and practical orientation, in connection with finding solutions to the internal problems connected with modeling and regulation of social processes in multinational societies and serious problems of the relations with Diasporas. Being a specific form and result of cultural interaction, the Creole perspective is extremely important within development of dialogue of cultures during a globalization era. Besides, the tendentious ideologized historical researches in which the complex of the communities united by the African origin on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean is treated as some kind of civilization take place. The theory of "a Yoruba transatlantic complex" concerns to those (or *yorubanidade mundializada* – "the world Yoruba identity"). Such alternative approaches arise among the African and Latin American scientists and are interesting

as the fact of history of science and a scientific mythologization. The declared section will be devoted to discussion of results of researches of the most urgent problems of the Creole world, first of all identification of ethnocultural, ethnosocial and ethnolinguistic factors of genesis and regularities of historical development of Creole communities of Africa and Latin America, and also cross-cultural researches of development of Creoles of Sierra Leone, Angola, Cape Verde, American Liberians, Cape Malayans, Mauritians and Afro-Brazilians. The analysis of specifics of various forms of social and kinship institutes and the importance of a confessional factor in integration of Creole societies (Islam in South Africa, Kandomblé in Brazil), and also concepts of racial democracy in the state ideology is supposed: reflections, a mythologization, political correctness (on the example of Brazil) and the so-called "Creole syndrome".

I-7. Tradition and Innovation: Insights into African Art
Convener: *Anna Siim (Moskvitina)* (Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, St. Petersburg, Russia); e-mail: anna.siim@gmail.com

African arts have long been in the centre of attention of anthropologists and specialists in religious and fine art studies. The powerful influence of African masks and sculptures on the early 20th-century European artists inspired a number of theoretical works about "Negro Art" which positively changed the attitude to the former "pagan idols and fetishes" and gained them a place in museums and private art collections in Europe and Americas. However, this purely aesthetic and generalizing approach lacked insider's insight and took the art out of its social context. African art studies based on field researches have been providing a deeper understanding of the role of art in everyday life and religious practices of ethnic groups as well as of their aesthetic concepts, sense of beauty, features of numerous regional styles, innovations in traditional art and the evolution of modern trends – applying Western styles and techniques (e.g. painting on canvas) yet demonstrating a strong link with African identity and spirituality. All these factors led to the development of various criteria of provenance and authenticity and methods of collecting and exhibiting in different museums depending on their specialization, sometimes resulting in dramatic museum reforms and rebrandings. Nowadays, there are more and more projects on African art and spiritual heritage all over the world within the frames of international cultural policies. Russia has its own history of studying, collecting and exhibiting African art. In Moscow and Saint Petersburg, important museum events dedicated to the art of Sub-Saharan Africa have recently taken place and new ones are being organized. The panel focuses on traditions and innovations in African art and its studies, the problems of representing African art and material culture in museums of anthropology, history and fine arts.

II. Economics

II-1. Commercial Farming and Agribusiness in South Africa and Their Changing Roles in Africa's Agro-Food System
Conveners: *Ruth Hall* (University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa); e-mail: rhall@uwc.ac.za; *Ben Cousins* (University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa)

Spurred by rapid deregulation and liberalisation, the overall trajectory of agrarian change in South Africa over the past two decades has seen consolidation of the hegemony of large-scale commercial farming and corporate agri-business within agricultural value chains. Ownership and control have become highly concentrated and centralised, high-tech production systems are focused on lucrative new crops and markets, and employment continues to decline. In a context of constrained domestic demand due to high levels of poverty and emerging opportunities for

geographic diversification, both farming and agribusiness capitals are now expanding into various African countries. By so doing they are promoting agro-food systems centred on the dominance of large capital. This is evident in the financialisation of agriculture and the emergence of South African-based 'farmland funds'; the growing influence of multinational and South African input supply industries; the prevalence of land deals premised on the expansion of industrial farming systems; interest in South African models of food processing, manufacture, logistics and distribution; and the rapidly expanding reach of South African supermarkets and fast food chains. But South African capital has also encountered substantial obstacles to entry, and been challenged by competition in destination markets, both in and from other middle-income countries with expanding agro-food industries of their own. Civil society activists are beginning to question capital-centred agro-food systems. Success as a regional hegemon in Africa's agro-food system is thus far from assured.

II-2. Harnessing Indigenous Knowledge for Mineral Resources Development and Management in Africa for Wealth Creation and Employment Generation: Opportunities, Challenges and Policy Recommendations

Conveners: *Olawale R. Olaopa* (North-West University, Mafikeng Campus, South Africa); e-mail: olawale.olaopa@gmail.com, *Victor Ojakorotu* (North-West University, Mafikeng Campus, South Africa); e-mail: Victor.Ojakorotu@nwu.ac.za

The inadequacy and unsustainability of the business-as-usual pattern and paths of development exemplified by its inability to resolve some world's development challenges as well as the dangers and pressures they pose to environmental resources and governance is apparent. While the global discourse and plethora of academic researches concentrated on the issue of resource-curse in resource-rich African countries, majorly the metallic and energy resources, little has been done on solid minerals that are most necessary for transformational development and are less sensitive to global market forces. Africa is endowed with a huge and vast array of solid mineral resources. Of the total world mineral resources, Africa mines 90% of the diamond marketed, 81% of cobalt, 62% of platinum, 70% of gold, 50% of magnesium and chromium, and 30% of copper in addition to its rich reserves of coal, oil and iron ore. In spite of these, Africa contributes only 2% of the total industrial output of the world's market economies, the economies remain poor and underdeveloped with its accompanying high level of debts and unemployment rate. This confirms the fact that, possession of abundant natural resources does not determine the greatness or competitiveness of a nation but the availability of knowledge, talent and creativity that is adequately applied for adding value to the endowed resources for wealth creation and employment generation, and how fast it can learn new things. The author is motivated to bring into limelight and discuss the efficacy and propensity of indigenous knowledge (IK), an important component of global knowledge on development issues but an underutilized and undervalued resource in Africa, to catalyse sustainable development. This is with a view to correcting the various misconceived opinions about IK of Africa at international discussions and in modern literature regarding its role in resource development, management, wealth creation and employment generation. Against this background, this paper relies on qualitative and historical method of analysis as well as informal discussion with some Nigerian in order to examine the key opportunities and challenges in harnessing Indigenous Knowledge for solid mineral resources development and management for sustainable development. Thus, it is majorly a review of very essential literature flavoured with statistical information and citations from journals, published books, unpublished reports and other grey material. It concludes with the recommendation of policy strategies for harnessing IK practices and incorporating it into the African Union's development blueprint - Agenda 2063 for effective solid mineral resources development and management in Africa.

II-3. New Technologies for Sustained Development of African Economies
Convener: *Evgenia V. Morozenskaya* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: evmorozen@mail.ru

The major topic to be discussed during the panel sessions is the multiplicity of ways new technologies can come to Africa. Among these ways are:
1. UN Goals for the Sustainable Development (2016-2030): the innovations as a base for their implementation in Africa:
- promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (Goal 9);
- ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all (Goal 7).
2. The cooperation between African enterprises and foreign companies in the framework of global value chains (GVC).
3. The use of IT in the sphere of production and services.
4. Institutional and financial tools for ensuring technological progress in African economies.

II-4. Popular Economies and Mutual Aid in Africa in the Era of Uncertainty
Convener: *Daria A. Zelenova* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: d.zelenova@gmail.com, *Vladislav Kruchinsky* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: vladislav.kruchinsky@gmail.com

Over the course of the 20th century, unregulated economic activities in forms of various mutual aid groups served as the main economic safety cushion for the African urban poor. In the last twenty years, after the introduction of economic practices and ideologies of neo-liberalism in many African countries, the idea of "self-help" and economic empowerment associated with social uplifting of the poor has become a dominant concept and essentially the backbone of many state policies. In the academic literature a popular vision of contemporary African urban poor as "heroic entrepreneurs" (de Soto 2000) which should take their destiny in their own hands is challenged from the left and Marxist thinkers who find it unfair to place responsibility on the poor to solve the problems of structural unemployment, exploitation and inequality which were caused by neoliberal policies (Ballard 2016). At this panel we would like to foster the debate which looks closer at this dilemma and discuss informal and semi-formal money making practices of the urban poor in different African contexts. We encourage ethnographically and theoretically informed contributions dealing with the contemporary popular economic practices in the African cities. Key issues to be discussed at the panel:
- Informal money making (ponzi schemes, gambling, multi-level marketing schemes): between economic opportunism and survival strategy;
- Risk-taking as an economic strategy: survival or enrichment?
- The changing role of the 'classical' mutual aid schemes and Rotating Credit and Savings Associations in the context of the global financialization, precarization and uncertainty;
- The role of the state in economic mutuality practices of the poor;
- The dichotomy of formal (visible) and informal (invisible) in considering everyday economic activities of the urban poor.

III. *Global Issues*

III-1. Africa in the Global Climatic Measurement
Convener: *Vladilen I. Gusarov* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: Vladilen.Gusarov@yandex.ru

During the work of the panel, it is intended to discuss the global and continental problems of Africa, as well as regional and national issues related to the panel's general topic. Among them, there would be problems of the influence of the African continental, as well as global, climatic changes on individual countries and on different spheres of life and activities of the African peoples.

III-2. Globalization and Africa; The Impact of Global Economic Integration on Africa in the 21st Century *(friendly merged panel)*
Conveners: *Mojúbàolú Olúfúnké Okome* (City University of New York, USA); e-mail: mokome@brooklyn.cuny.edu, *Peter Adebayo* (University of Ilorin, Nigeria); e-mail: peteradebayo2000@gmail.com, *Emmanuel Ojo* (University of Ilorin, Nigeria); e-mail: eojo12000@yahoo.com, *Adepoju Toyin Adewale* (Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijebu Ode, Nigeria); e-mail: adepojuadewale@gmail.com

Globalization and Africa (proposed by Mojúbàolú Olúfúnké Okome)
As a result of globalization, the movements of Africans from one country to another with the aim of permanent settlement have been on the increase. The most compelling motivation leading African people to uproot themselves from their native lands and to emigrate towards foreign shores has been the desire to find greater opportunity and security somewhere else. In the last two decades, the nature and scope of African immigration has changed dramatically due to the processes of globalization and neoliberal democratization. The quest for security has taken on more urgency, and the popular response in host countries such as the United States reveals much of the limits of globalization as a win-win situation where we all co-mingle in an infinitely permeable and all-embracing global village. There are many reasons why a person laboring under the burdens and tedium of life would desire immediate exit from her/his home country. However, there are as many, or even more reasons to stay home if the opportunity exists because there may be more job satisfaction in an African workplace than in an American one. There are numerous intangible elements that make for a rich life - friends, family, the familiar routines and activities of daily life, even the predictability of a recognized bully's oppressiveness. To depart is to leave these things behind, a process that could generate a feeling of rootlessness and disconnectedness. In a sense then, to leave is to become homeless, or at least unmoored, and to be condemned to wandering hither and thither, condemned to a perpetual cycle of arrival and departure, all the while not feeling comfortable anywhere. Education also features prominently. Many young Africans hanker after a foreign education, believing it to be of better quality than the homegrown variety. Together with the dreams of accessing such education are grand dreams of "making it." Many firmly believe that such progress can never be found in their own countries. We can see then, future trends toward increased outmigration from the African continent by those more able to do so. Scholars have pointed out the dangers of this brain drain to the development of the African continent. Others claim that brain drain can be turned around and converted to either brain circulation or brain gain. Yet, white dominance and xenophobia thrive in the most favored destinations—Europe, the United States of America, and current political trends reveal more open expressions by nationalist movements that reject migration, particularly from non-white regions of the world, including Africa. This panel will consider the causes, consequences, and implications of these phenomena for Africa and Africans.

The Impact of Global Economic Integration on Africa in the 21st Century (proposed by Peter Adebayo, Emmanuel Ojo, and Adepoju Toyin Adewale)
This panel is to provide answers to the following questions: Has global economic integration in the 21st century raised the hope of Africa beyond the traditional approach of providing aid to help her end poverty? Are there remarkable differences in the approaches of some regional

economic bloc like BRICS, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and multi-lateral groups such as IMF, World Bank etc. towards Africa? What has been and should be the basis of bilateral or even, multilateral development relationships between these groups and Africa? To answer the questions, the study explores a comparison of the philosophies behind the donor-recipient and equal-partners approaches to development. It juxtaposes the depredatory effects of the socio-political and economic conditionality that the West has inflicted on Africa (ranging from integrated rural development in the 1970s, to policy reform (structural adjustment programmes) in the 1980s, to governance in the 1990s, and respect for human rights in the 2000, especially the gay right movement and so on) and alternative models. In drawing comparisons, it observes that the burden of foreign aid, loan agreement, economic and technical cooperation agreement, debt sustainability and similar indices have deepened Africa's vulnerability rather than brighten its prospects in a globalised market place. By hinging its argument on the assumption that any global economic integration that imposes political and economic conditionality in exchange for aid is anti-development, this paper further submits that African countries should be free to negotiate their own pathway out of poverty as equal partners in development. It further posits that only by comparing and exchanging views, rather than tutorials, on lessons learned and approaches to aid and cooperation, that more useful engagement between Africa and the rest of the world could become possible. It concludes that mutually–beneficial relations between Africa and economic cooperation blocs such as BRICS will, however, become possible if and only if African governments can take hold of the encounter in ways that will benefit their people. It recommends that Africa governments should focus on win-win approach that is not about aid but business.

III-3. Strategic Communications at the Age of the Global Information Warfare: Afraasian Zone of Instability Issues

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

In the modern world when knowledge and information become an integral part of our everyday life, key instrument which can ensure the sustainable social and economic development of the nation, it becomes evident that information technologies also can play a destructive role. One can explain this situation by the radical change in the peoples' life due to the active implementation of the Internet. Nowadays the Global Network is considered as a shopping, emolument, self-education, creativity and leisure. When one need information of any kind or has any question he doesn't ask friends or specialists but goes to Internet and asks Google. It is very convenient. But for such convenience sometimes we need to pay very high price. Taking to the account this fact, nowadays it's hardly to imagine the organization of effective operations without well determined and well thought strategic communications. It means that information technologies when used effectively can destroy a current world order and put an end to regimes which used to be rather stable and influential. As a result, the information has become the instrument of defense and offensive. The states build strategies to protect its national media and the Internet sphere from outside attacks, and, at the same time, to make its influence in other countries with the aid of propaganda, soft power strategies and public diplomacy. That's why it is possible to conclude that the State when realizing its information policy should not only pay the attention to the development of its ICT-sector but also to think how to secure its interests at the informational field and ensure the security of the society, individual and the State. As an example we'd like to show protest movements which took place in North Africa and Middle East starting from the year 2011. Those movements are known as "Arab spring". But they are also known as "Tweeter revolutions" which points the role of the information technologies and Western mass media in the organization of protests and the defamation of the heads of those States. Thus the mission of the panel is to analyze up-to-date trends in the ensuring of the information security both in global

and regional levels and the organization of the comparative analyses of informational and psychological warfare issues in the countries which compose the Afraasian zone of instability.

III-4. The Islamist Movement in the Afro-Asiatic Zone of Instability (in Geopolitical and Geocivilizational Measurements)

Convener: *Anatoly D. Savateev* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: asavat@mail.ru

Revolution in the Arab world that began in 2011 under the democratic slogans of the struggle for the overthrow of the dictatorial, corrupt regimes and the establishment of forms of government of the Western type, the rule of law and equality of citizens before the law, very soon found a new focus, was replaced by a different content: the forebearers of the traditional movements, representatives of fundamentalist currents in Islam came for. They have identified a new face of revolutions in the Arab world, and it was the face of radical Islam, demanding compliance with all the Quranic norms not only in the domestic and cultural life, but also in political life – the transition from the idea of the Caliphate (al-Qaida, banned in Russia) to its practical implementation (the Islamic State – an organization banned in Russia). Driving forces for implementation of this idea, along with extremist groups, which aimed to establish a worldwide Caliphate through military Jihad, in the epicenters of the Islamic world (Iraq, Syria) were former officials of the banned Baath party and dismissed officers of the Iraqi army, which ensured the success of the army of IS in 2014-2015. What are the main features of the current Islamist movements? First, a strong desire to realize the idea of a worldwide Caliphate. Second, the collapse of national States, the political type with the replacement of consolidation of the foundations of the religious-political. Thirdly, an unprecedented expansion of their influence in the Muslim world and the minds of Muslims. Fourth, the transformation of the religious factor being the factor of geopolitics, supported by moral, political, economic, spiritual and religious support of the Ummah in almost all countries, even with minimal presence of Muslims. Fifthly, the difference of this stage lies in the fierce desire to not only give back, but to defeat the collective West and other States, including Russia, in the struggle for the right to exist. So, the effect of the clash of civilizations takes place. Sixthly, extremist movement has created a real threat to the internal integrity of Islamic civilization. However, the important question is – what are the social composition, attitudes and expectations of participants of the movements, which can be hardly reduced to simple "terroristic". Especially difficult to analyze is the wide range of issues concerning religious, socio-cultural, geopolitical and geo-economic situation in the countries of the greater Middle East, North and sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia in light of the global spread of Islamist ideas and movements. However, the list of named regions of the Islamist movement is not limited – the same ideas can develop themselves in Europe and Southeast Asia, not to mention Russia, where Islamism has its roots. The main questions (which do not necessarily cover all problems) are:
- The nature, background and causes of Islamist movements becoming global, their features and qualitative contrast to previous Islamist groups.
- Civilizational content of a global Islamist projects of our day in social, cultural, religious, political and economic dimensions; the general and the particular in these projects.
- IS and al-Qaeda as evidence of geopolitical and geocivilizational shift in afroasiatic space. Do they have a future?
- The fate of Islamic civilization in the light of the global expansion of jihadist movements and the deterioration of relations Sunni and Shiite branches of the Ummah. Trends and prospects of escalating religious conflicts in Africa as an expression of inter-civilizational contradictions.
- The aggravation of contradictions on the world stage as a result of geopolitical and geocivilizational shifts under the influence of Islamist movements. Risks and threats the emergence of a global military-political crisis and world war.

- Quranic humanism, religious education, and other ideological and civilizational, political and cultural-philosophical trends and ways of combating extremism in Islam.
- Russia in the face of global halftime: its interests, and proposed solutions to the Islamist problem inside the country and internationally, scenarios and forecasts their implementation in Africa and other regions of the Muslim world.

III-5. Violent Extremism and Social (Dis)order in Africa; Africa and Global Terror: Dimensions of Terrorism across the Sahel *(friendly merged panel)*
Conveners: *Nadine Machikou Ngameni* (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); e-mail: nadngameni@yahoo.fr, *Alessio Iocchi* (University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy); e-mail: alesiocchi@gmail.com, *Camillo Casola* (University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy); e-mail: camillo.casola@gmail.com

Extremism and Social (Dis)order in Africa (proposed by Nadine Machikou Ngameni)
The relationship between violent extremism and poverty is well established. It has been underscored that Boko Haram, AQMI, or Al Shebab initially recruit both in Nigeria, Northern Africa, Mali, Cameroon and Kenya, from the pool of vulnerable, unemployed youths and Almajiris (street children begging in exchange of acquiring Quranic and moral teachings in Cameroon and Nigeria). For the Almajiris and the unemployed young people, without employable skills and the connections to get jobs, the mosque and the madrassa promises food and shelter (Davis 2012). This explanation has to be articulated around push-pull factors such as reputation (hero for defending country and religion), mental manipulation, fighting Islam's enemies, obtaining paradise (Hassan 2012), etc. These various factors can be linked to a profound transformation of the pattern of social order in the four countries. These transformations are related both to changes of position of the youth, one of the most important segments of social cadets (with the women and the poor, to use the expression of Jean-François Bayart) as against the strong (old, male and wealthy). Marchal (2011) led emphasis on three main tools used by the al-Shabab in the recruitment process. The first one is da'wa and muhadara (orientation) which has a strong impact on the youth because of their age and their lack of religious knowledge. A second important point is the economic reward for killing people. A third tactic is a smart process of de-socialisation/re-socialisation of the young recruits. This has a number of consequences that could be positive (unifying the militias) or negative (provoking more resentment from the lay population) for the violent organisation. (Marchal 2011: 35). In the process, challenging generational privileges is very important and has been underlined by Muhsin Hassan in the driving factors (Hassan 2012). The identity of the youth is also very important in the radicalization process as Abdullahi (2013) rightly argued in the case of northern Nigeria, pointing to suppressed identities and resentments that were dormant during decades of military dictatorship and that emerged with the wave of democratization and have been brought to the forefront of identity contestations especially in the struggle for rights, power, privileges and resources. From 1999 up to now, a large part of generational (youth) identities which hitherto were at the backstage of events, suddenly rose to prominence, stimulating militancy in the South and insurgency in the North of the four countries. This panel intends to question the complex relationship between violent extremism and the quest for a moral, social and religious order on the one hand, and the production of disorder in Africa on the other hand. Presentations focused on socio-cultural reproduction, the fight against violent extremism and social order and disorder in various parts of Africa will be welcome.

Africa and Global Terror: Dimensions of Terrorism across the Sahel (proposed by Alessio Iocchi and Camillo Casola)
During the last fifteen years Africa has emerged as a relatively new battlefield for the so-called Global War on Terror (GWOT). The rise of Jihadi-Salafi organizations with different domestic

and regional agendas represents a crude reality for many African countries, especially in the Sahel: Al Shabaab in Somalia, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in Mali along with smaller allied groups and splinter cells, the so-called Boko Haram organization in Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin; moreover it is possible to observe a rise of countless minor groups. Apart from the often misleading labelling under the "Jihadi-Salafi" category, these organizations share very few features: they resort to a variety of different ways to wage war (guerrilla-style, full-scale war, bush ambushes, etc.) and to support themselves, by exploiting existing trafficking routes, hijacking economic activities and assaulting villages and towns. Meanwhile, at a global level, the call for global Jihad has become more complex, giving place to an effective dichotomy in terms of ideology and strategy: the progressive decline of Al Qaeda and the contemporary rise in importance of Al Dawla Al Islamiyya (Islamic State, IS, banned in Russia and many other countries) represents a further element of destabilization and a sprawl of inner divisions and factional fights. In Africa, the continuing shifting in methods, tactics and strategies bears witness to an increased economic and military capacity of adjustment face to the various State-led responses. This configuration contributes to progressively redefine the evolving role of States and Jihadi-Salafi organizations in the present time. In light of the long academic discussions about the eventual decline of the State in Africa and about the formation of "buffer zones" of discontinuous sovereignty in border and peripheral areas, this panel welcomes papers that examine the current security situation and field practices adopted by both State and non-State actors in different Sahelian and Sub-Saharan countries in relation to terrorist concerns. In which way are those mainly Sahelian states reacting to this relatively new political situation? Which strategies are employed? Which have proved to be more efficient? What is at stake in those peripheral areas? What is effectively at stake in the each State political arena? The panel aims to gather paper which propose to contribute with insights about political and military governance in States facing terrorism activities, about the connection between Jihadi-Salafi organizations and informal (as well formal) actors and about the practices put in place by State and non-State actors to cope with the ensuing humanitarian crisis which terrorism unavoidably provokes.

IV. History

IV-1. African History Studies: The State of the Art
Conveners: *Apollon B. Davidson* (National Research University – Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia), *Galina M. Sidorova* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: gal_sid@mail.ru

In the panel session it is planned to consider the question which are related to new problems (issues) of modernity about the historical studies of Africa. Studies of the problems will be covered with inextricable connection with the traditions of the foretime, connection establishment of the times. Considering it, it is necessary to cherish the memory of those people who stood at the origins of the African Studies, to know the tragic fates of the first Soviet Africanists, having formed the basis of the African Studies as a science. Most of them got hurt one way or another in the years of the Stalinist repressions. In the 21st century the international relationships have changed. Also Africa has changed with its varieties. The voice of Africa rings from the tribunes of General Assembly of the UN, in the United Nations Security Force and in other international organizations. Within these conditions it is essential to assign the new tasks which should have relation with the both positive and negative experience of the Soviet African Studies. Without knowledge of the historical past of Africa it is difficult to understand and make sense of the modern process, happening in the continent.

IV-2. Cultures of Black Internationalism; Pan-Africanism between Past Aspirations, Current Challenges, and Future Prospects *(friendly merged panel)*
Conveners: *Malik Gaines* (New York University, USA); e-mail: mgaines@nyu.edu, *Aziz Mostefaoui* (Ahmed Draia University, Adrar, Algeria); e-mail: az_mostefaoui@yahoo.fr

Cultures of Black Internationalism (proposed by Malik Gaines)
This panel addresses internationalist and Pan-Africanist cultural efforts that deployed the revolutionary energy of the 1960s and 70s. Paper topics outline a transnational circulation of socialist aesthetics, mapping a political discourse that connected communist states, African independence projects, and black American radical movements. These anti-racist works reimagined the national, regional, and global dimensions of black life, organizing important alliances across state borders, colonial boundaries, and Cold War divisions. Papers expose the creative revisions international black movements made to Marxist and communist premises, while focusing attention on the relationship between racism and capital.

Pan-Africanism between Past Aspirations, Current Challenges, and Future prospects (proposed by Aziz Mostefaoui)
Beginning as a concept during the 1900 London Conference organized by the West Indian Henry Sylvester Williams, Pan-Africanism grew throughout the years in form and in substance to become one of the most noticeable and influential movements among African peoples the world over. The period after the First World War was particularly decisive with regard to Pan-African history as it witnessed the initiation of the Pan-African Congress movement and the organization of a series of congresses. The latter considerably contributed to the spread of Pan-African ideas among people of African descent and continental Africans, mostly through the leadership of the 'Father of Pan-Africanism', W. E. B. Du Bois. Continental Africans had been closely following the evolution of Pan-Africanism since its first days; however, by the end of the Second World War some young African nationalist leaders would take over the leadership of this movement from African Americans and West Indians. This remarkable change took place during the 1945 Manchester Pan-African Congress, mainly through the initiatives of the indefatigable Kwame Nkrumah. It became clear for the young African nationalists who attended that congress that the battle for the liberation of Africa from the colonial yoke should be fought on African soil. From then on Pan-Africanism had focused more on continental Africans rather than on the diaspora, thereby aspiring to the ending of European colonization all over the continent and the promotion of African unity that would eventually lead to the establishment of the "United States of Africa". Such was the ultimate ideal of Kwame Nkrumah who believed that the independence of Ghana would remain meaningless as long as there were African countries under European colonization. By the 1960s and the acquisition of independence by most African countries, Pan-Africanism seems to have lost momentum, giving the impression that its *raison d'être* was European colonization. Despite the various efforts to bring the emerging African states together through regional groupings, most of which disintegrated in a matter of a few years, the Pan-African ideal of full continental unity has remained a utopia. Many reasons have been advanced to account for such a situation, most important of which are the political and economic factors. Nevertheless, what made it difficult for the newly independent African states to achieve unity through close cooperation and partial surrender of sovereignty to an all-African body remains a complex and debatable subject. Today, the African continent faces tremendous challenges (such as poverty, corruption, mismanagement, diseases, ethnic conflicts, and terrorism) that require a revival and redefinition of Pan-Africanism so as to devise strategies and mechanisms that are likely cope with the current state of affairs and pave the way for a better future. Therefore, this panel invites papers that are related (but not limited) to the following themes:
- Historical Background to Pan-Africanism.
- Pan-Africanism or Pan-Africanisms?
- Pan-Africanism and Communism.

- National Sovereignty vs Pan-African Unity.
- Obstacles to Pan-African Ideals.
- Pan-Africanism and Globalization.
- Pan-Africanism between Idealism and Pragmatism.
- Pan-Africanism and Future Prospects.

IV-3. Educational Cooperation among Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe: Alliances that Strengthened the Decolonization of Africa
Convener: *Maria Paula Meneses* (Coimbra University, Portugal); e-mails: menesesp@fe.uc.pt, mpmeneses@gmail.com

Profound political transformations have shaped the world since World War II, symbolizing the emergence of the Third World / Global South aspiration to self-determination. An important element that characterizes this struggle is the emergence of new education projects in Africa, projects involving various actors and concepts. Education became fundamental in shaping the role of Third World countries in the context of the Cold War. It also symbolized a new space of economic and cultural cooperation between Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe, and the support and solidarity with the struggle for decolonization have shaped the world since Bandung. Indeed, one of the key moments that signals the emergence of the Third World was the growing opposition to the colonial situation worldwide, a political position that received support in 1955, at the Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung, an event that facilitated the formation of the non-aligned movement (1961). This reality was fundamental for the takeoff of the transition processes that lead to the African independences in the 1960s. An important moment of these new political alliances were the scientific-educational exchanges between African, Asian and Eastern Europe, a less studied front of the Cold War world. This panels aims to bring together contributions that a) discuss various aspects of the multidimensional cooperation strengthening its impact in educational public policies in Africa and b) contribute towards strengthening the discussion of the meaning of 'decolonization', taking how perceptions about Africa changed dramatically (regional and globally) from the anti-colonial solidarity across Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. The main goal of this panel is to contribute towards the discussion of the meaning of decolonization across the Global South.

IV-4. Entangled Cooperation. Communist Countries and the Cold War in Africa
Convener: *Przemysław Gasztold-Seń* (Institute of National Remembrance, Warsaw, Poland); e-mail: przemyslaw.gasztold-sen@ipn.gov.pl

Eastern Bloc countries tend to be described as a cohesive force, whereby each has overtly followed the path designated by Moscow and acted on its command. Internal differences within the "socialist community" are noticeable but often overlooked by the paradigm of Communist "unity", where all the Moscow's satellites used to play a precisely defined role on the international arena. This approach is commonly seen when researching Africa in the context of the Cold War – a place where two superpowers used to compete through their "proxies" in this fascinating, and sometimes, veiled struggle for power. However, during our panel we would like to challenge this widely adopted myth not only by reconstructing the behind-the-scenes motivations which propelled communist involvement in Africa, showing sometimes their two-pronged approach, but also by analyzing the Chinese role on this continent. Beijing's Africa policy, if ever existed, needs proper consideration for its rationale and impacts on both the US and Soviet decision-making process. Our panel is intended to bring together scholars who work on archival documents and research still widely unknown events from African Cold War history. We would like to discuss the circumstances, results and effectiveness of Communist involvement

in Africa focusing on particular countries, as well as by presenting comparative studies. We would like to reconsider ideological motivations and economic factors which paved the way for establishing mutual and multilateral relations between Communist countries and newly established African states in the 1960s. Contrary to predominant understanding of a monolithic Communist presence in Africa, we are going to look at behind-the-scenes factors as cost-effectiveness, profitability of the investments, and the focus particularly on safeguarding own interests – values which laid the groundwork for economic, scientific and cultural collaboration. We would like to gather scholars researching the Hungarian, Czechoslovak, Polish, Soviet, Romanian, Bulgarian, East-German, Cuban, North-Korean and Chinese ties with Cold War Africa and try to explore the complexities and even contradictions in the Communist camp.

IV-5. Russian Studies on Africa in the Past and Present: People, Problems, Theories, Perspectives
Conveners: *Apollon B. Davidson* (National Research University – Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia), *Anatoly D. Savateev* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: asavat@mail.ru

Every science acquires full consciousness of its role and importance in the professional research community and only then it is able to present its own stories – successes and setbacks. Our science took shape in the twentieth century, was born in the depths of Oriental studies long before the decision of state bodies on creation of the first sector of Africa within the framework of the Institute of Ethnography of the USSR, and then in the form of an independent Institute for African studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1959. The period before the emergence of these institutional bodies seems to be *terra incognita* to many Africanists, a time when Africa was allegedly outside the purview of Russian scholars. Meanwhile, as shown by surveys of the Center for African Studies of IOS RAS, the contacts of Russia and Russian subjects with Africans started long before Peter The Great, and in the end of XVIII century scattered information about the continent was already received. But essentially, the story of the African studies in Russia/USSR writes this Center only. Essential part of African studies are the scientists themselves, their discoveries and fortunes in the diversity of life and scientific twists and turns. Having experienced the enthusiasm of the Marxist materialist theory, ideas of class struggle as driving force of the historical process, the Soviet/Russian Africanists understood the need to update the methodology of their research. Different conceptual approaches became available not only due to Western science, but the results of the upheavals in the Eastern world, particularly the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979. Then began a period of domination of the civilization theory, world-system approach was developed and other, mostly Western concepts of social and political development were widely used. Revealing new ways of thinking about African realities, these concepts are simultaneously split in the ranks of the Orientalists and Africanists, inadvertently dividing them into supporters of one or another theory of historical and political development. Strong is the contradiction among the researchers about understanding what are the African studies, and what should not draw their attention. Such contradictions in a professional environment in the current period of sequestration spending significantly weaken the position of African studies as an expert of the science, reduce the authority of the community of Africanists, creating the pretext for a sharp reduction and spending cuts for research in African theme. Consequently, Russian African studies have a chance to survive only if:
a) most creative research approaches that take into account diverse characteristics of African peoples and of civilizations would be chosen;
b) Africanists would consolidate as a professional research community, leaving the theoretical and organizational differences aside;
c) the practice of regular scientific conferences of Africanists would be restored (for example, Readings in memory of Dmitri Olderogge and other mandatory meetings of fellows of the

Association of Russian Africanists);

d) it would be considered necessary to consolidate the forces of the Africanists to study current problems and developments that emerged in the last quarter of a century in Africa and Asia and have changed geopolitical and geocivilizational shape of the continents; in the light of these pressing realities at the forefront should be nominated major projects proposed by the management of the Institutions of African and Oriental studies, and these projects should be addressed to experts in the field of civilizational theory, historians, economists, philologists, etc.

All the outlined problems of methodology, the balance of economic and socio-cultural approaches, inclusion of new research methods that emerged in the Soviet period and aggravated in recent years should draw the attention of Africanists interested in the preservation of traditions and development of their own scientific field. The discussion of these issues will be the topic of the proposed section.

IV-6. USSR and Decolonization of Africa

Convener: *Andrey Yu. Urnov* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: aurnov@yandex.ru

The USSR policy in Africa during the years of liberation struggle has always been a subject of both praises and criticism. The controversy continues today. So the suggested theme is topical and the panel discussion will contribute to the search of truth. The process of colonization had been developing along side with the cold war. It was global and one of its front lines ran across the colonial (third) world. The cold war had its impact on the anticolonial struggle, its forms and methods, political and ideological orientation of liberation movements and newly independent states. Both blocks pursued their own interests. The fact remains, however, that the struggle of the colonial people for the liberation and the consolidation of their independence objectively ran contrary to the interests of the West and corresponded to those of the East. In the course of all its history the Soviet Union consistently stood for the liquidation of colonialism. Through rendering support to this just anticolonial struggle the USSR and its allies were on the side of the Right Cause, while the West was on the other side of the barricade. That doesn't mean, of course, that the policy of the East was irreproachable. Mistakes were made, the assistance was not always effective. For the Panel discussions we suggest the following topics:

- Colonial question and the policy of the USSR;
- The decolonization of Africa in the context of the Cold War;
- USSR – US policies in Africa at the time of the Cold War comparative analysis;
- Armed struggle as a legitimate and at times unavoidable form of the liberation movement;
- Decolonization and neocolonialism;
- Socialist orientation of newly liberated states;
- USSR contribution to the liberation of the Portuguese colonies and the liquidation of racism and apartheid in the South of Africa;
- Assistance to liberation movements, rendered by the Soviet Afro-Asian solidarity committee and other soviet nongovernment organizations.

We welcome other suggestions from prospective papergivers.

V. International Relations
V-1. Africa in a Polycentric World

Convener: *Tatiana L. Deych* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: tdeich@yandex.ru

The role and influence of Africa in contemporary world have increased. Africa becomes a full-fledged actor in global politics. African countries are involved in decision-making on

international issues. The independence of African foreign policy is growing, its priorities are restructuring. This process resulted in profound geopolitical and geo-economic shifts. The leadership of the Western countries tends to lessen. African foreign policy vector shifts to the East. In the 2000s, emerging countries made a breakthrough on the continent. The new partnership permitted African countries to reduce reticence on Euro-Atlantic vector, to empower their participation in world economic ties and global politics. BRICS, other emerging countries become the locomotive of Africa development. Cooperation with them fosters economic growth, creates the possibilities to realize the national projects in infrastructure, healthcare, education, science. China is the most active in Africa. Contrary to predictions about the decline of cooperation with Africa in terms of a slowdown in China, Beijing pledges itself new commitments. The new strategy of the Chinese-African partnership foresees the growth of financial aid and investment; focus on African infrastructure, new technologies, human resources development. In conditions of fierce competition with traditional and new players Russia managed to keep the potential for cooperation with Africa. The aggravation of Russia relations with the Euro-Atlantic community increases the importance of Russia-Africa cooperation. The urgent task is building equitable and long-term partnership with Africa. Challenges and threats are the obstacles to Africa development. In recent years, the number of African conflicts decreased, but they became more prolonged and bloody. The conflicts in DRC, Darfur and southern Sudan received the regional dimension and are difficult to resolve. A terrorist threat has acquired truly planetary scale. Regionalization of modern terrorism has found a vivid manifestation in the cross-border phenomenon – the Islamic state of Iraq and the Levant – ISIS, later self-proclaimed Islamic State (IS; banned in Russia). Terrorist groups in African countries adjoin to IS. Only in 2016 Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Somali, Uganda have become the targets of terrorist attacks. An important issue concerning African security is migration. Mass influx of refugees to the EU has demonstrated the crisis of Western migration policy. Conflicts and terrorist threats cause displacement of large masses of the population. At the same time refugees and migrants are the breeding ground for recruitment members to rebel groups and terrorist organizations. The UN, whose peacekeeping missions involved in African conflicts resolving, contributes to security problems decision. Africa's development and security occupy an important place in the African Union's policy. The panel will focus on the problems: Africa' role and influence in world politics and economics; new partners of Africa; the influence of BRICS and other 'emerging' countries on economic and political renewal in Africa; challenges and threats to Africa: conflicts, terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking, international migration, climate changes; changes in Western countries' African policies; Russian-African relations, the African Union and regional organizations; Africa and the UN.

V-2. Africa's Small States and Geopolitical Realignment
Convener: *Niklas Hultin* (George Mason University, Fairfax, USA); e-mail: ihultin@gmu.edu

It is widely recognized that we are living in tumultuous geopolitical times, with uncertain consequences for sub-Saharan Africa. While the rise of China as a play in Africa is much commented upon, the enduring influence of Russia and Eastern European countries as well as new players such as India, Turkey, South Korea, and Qatar, is less frequently discussed. Where this is discussed, the focus tends to be on Africa's regional powers such as Nigeria, Ethiopia, and South Africa. In contrast, this panel will consist of papers focusing on Africa's smallest countries, its island (SIDS) and enclave states. This is a geographically dispersed and politically and economically heterogeneous group – a World Bank definition of small states encompasses Botswana, Cape Verde, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Mauritius, Swaziland, etc. – but they have in common the fact they are overshadowed by larger and more powerful neighbours in the geopolitical imagination. Furthermore, small states have long been a focus of international relations scholars who look to their relations as a challenge to

prevailing dogmas (e.g. Elman 1995, Keohane 1971, Vickers 2013). With this in mind, this panel seeks to gather together papers examining how Africa's small states are interacting with countries not traditionally understood as significant powers in Africa (e.g. UK, France, US). The issues that presenters are invited to consider include, but are not limited to:

- Security relations and militarization of small states by new actors, e.g. China's increased involvement in Djibouti, India's maritime collaboration with the Seychelles, etc,
- Interactions with different powers to further international recognition by unrecognized states or breakaway regions, such as Somaliland's push for recognition by Russia (and the Russian legislature's push for recognition of Somaliland)
- Cultural and religious collaborations including support by Turkey the Gulf states for religious organizations.
- Attempts to strengthen ties with non-Euro-American powers in light of the latter's critiques (or hectoring, depending on your point of view) of human rights.
- The role of China, India, Russia, and other newer powers as alternative models for economic development.
- The role of collective arrangements by Africa's small states to foster relationship with new powers.

Presenters are asked to consider questions such as the above ones in order to examine whether there is something distinctive about small states in the context of African geopolitics or whether the present moment of a great deal of uncertainty surrounding US, UK, and EU policies toward Africa offers an opening for new countries to play a significant role in Africa's small states.

V-3. African Integration and Peacekeeping
Convener: *Keith Gottschalk* (University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa); e-mail: kgottschalk @ uwc.ac.za

The African Union family of organizations, including its regional communities such as ECOWAS, have both remarkable achievements in economic integration and peacekeeping, compared to intergovernmental regional organizations on other continents, but also serious and persisting, protracted problems. For example, over 75 000 African troops participate in UN and hybrid peacekeeping operations, but the AU has failed to set up its merely 20 000-strength African Standby Force, whose launch was originally scheduled for 2010. Similarly, while the AU summits regularly sign treaties and declarations whose full implementation would require a partial ceding of sovereignty to a supra-national entity, the reality is that the member states regularly fail to implement even less momentous resolutions. For example, the Yamoussoukro Declaration is unimplemented after seventeen years. This panel invites papers exploring any of this comprehensive range of continental challenges and topics. Papers may focus on either the continent, or a sub-regional organization's terrain.

V-4. BRICS and Resistance in Africa: Thriving or Surviving?
Convener: *Justin van der Merwe* (University of Stellenbosch, South Africa); e-mail: justinv@ma2.sun.ac.za (in collaboration with *the Online Colloquium Series of Stellenbosch University and the Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences*)

This panel seeks to bring together scholars from a wide network covering the global South and particularly the BRICS states. It seeks to cover the well-worn thread of resistance in Africa, only now resistance is gathering renewed vigour due to the accelerated processes of accumulation by dispossession set in motion by the rise of the BRICS. This rise has led to both internal and external crises in African states eliciting responses from local and regional elites, and through the actions of "ordinary" people and groups as they seek to push-back or generate creative responses

"from below". At a micro-level, these responses span new ways of surviving in impoverished communities (group savings schemes and promoting minority interest groups) as well as civic mass mobilisation (student, environmental and political protests). At the macro level, new forms of development finance (development banks and regional initiatives) are being generated to pave the way for an alternative means of developing. These initiatives make "localized" forms of generativity possible but also serve the bigger purpose of speaking truth to power. However, despite their ostensible revolutionary basis, one should question whether these responses are actually forms of acquiescence (co-option and accommodation), as opposed to true resistance to neoliberalism.

V-5. BRICS: Innovative Development Trajectory

Conveners: *Eldar Salakhetdinov* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: e.salakhetdinov@gmail.com, *Vasily Sidorov* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia), e-mail: vasilsid@yandex.ru

One of the priority directions for cooperation within BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) – is decrease in degree of technological dependence of organisation's member countries. In 2014, within the framework of enhanced cooperation in the sphere of science, technologies and innovations (STI), Cape Town Declaration in which countries expressed commitment to the programme of cooperation in the domain of science and innovations was signed. The document recognises the crucial role of STI in ensuring countries' strategic development. Declaration recognizes and endorses the establishment of five thematic areas and leadership, namely:
1. Climate change and natural disaster mitigation, led by Brazil;
2. Water resources and pollution treatment, led by Russia;
3. Geospatial technology and its applications, led by India;
4. New and renewal energy, and energy efficiency, led by China;
5. Astronomy, led by South Africa.
The panel aims to answer the following questions:
- to give an assessment of BRICS cooperation viability in STI, and also to define the current state of cooperation in this sphere between BRICS countries;
- to explain the selection of five thematic areas and to understand whether these areas match countries strategies in these spheres. What bilateral agreements in the sphere of science and technologies already exist and what are the outcomes of their implementation?
- to what degree the Cape Town Declaration complies or contradicts the cooperation process of India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA)?
- how the growth of geopolitical tension (in the Black Sea and South China Sea regions) can limit or contribute to the scale of cooperation in science and technologies?

V-6. Foreign Competition in the Horn of Africa

Conveners: *Abdeta Diribsa Beyene* (Centre for Dialogue, Research and Cooperation, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia); e-mail: beyeneabdeta@gmail.com, *Belete Belachew Yihun* (Centre for Dialogue, Research and Cooperation, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia); e-mail: beletebelachewm@gmail.com

True to long-existing traditions, the region along the shores of the Red Sea, Indian Ocean and the eastern parts of the Mediterranean Sea continues to witness alignments between and among powers-to-be in the region and beyond. Shifting alliances, often assuming new dimension and complexity inform developments, which at times are difficult to comprehend. The Horn of Africa sub-region, constituting Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia (and for the sake of this panel including South Sudan), strategically situated along the shores of the Indian Ocean and the

Red Sea and straddling a vital land mass connecting the Middle East and Africa particularly draws the attention of world powers. In a bid to control the strategic trade routes feeding into the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, major powers from the region and beyond are flocking en masse to the sub- region. Gulf States (particularly Saudi Arabia, UAE, Iran and Turkey), China, Japan, the United States of America, EU member states and even Egypt are competing to assert their presence in the region. This panel would comprehensively assess the overall implications of these developments on peace and security of the respective states and people of the sub-region.

V-7. Four Decades after: Assessing the Politics, Dynamics and Depth of Integration in West Africa
Conveners: *Lere Amusan* (North-West University, Mafikeng Campus, South Africa); e-mails: Lere.Amusan@nwu.ac.za, lereamusan@gmail.com, *Luqman Saka* (North-West University, Mafikeng Campus, South Africa); e-mail: owolabisaka@gmail.com

May 2015 marked four decades that the Treaty of Lagos, which formalized the establishment of the Economic Community of West Africa State (ECOWAS) was signed by the organization's then sixteen Heads of States and Governments. The formation of the ECOWAS was, in part, spurred by the successes recorded by the then European Economic Community (presently the European Union). It was also informed by an understanding that regional integration remains a veritable pathway for promoting socio-economic growth and development in peripheral regions like West Africa. Given some shared socio-political and historical experiences among members facing common economic, political and security challenges, integration was seen as a pragmatic way in addressing these (Ogwu and Alli 2009; Boas 2001). Since its establishment, ECOWAS has recorded modest achievements especially as it relates to the adoption and ratification of treaties, protocols, conventions, and rules seen as central to the realization of the objectives of integration of economies, communities and peoples of West Africa. The most significant of these protocols, treaties and conventions been the: the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Person; Right of Residence and Establishment, 1979; the West African Monetary Agency Protocol, 1993; Protocol on Court of Justice, 1991; Protocol on the Fight against Corruption, 2001; and the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security of 1999, which institutionalized the earlier *ad-hoc* ECOWAS peacekeeping outfit, the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) (Thonke and Spliid 2012; Jaye and Amadi 2011; Adetula 2009; Ogwu and Alli 2009). This said, it is important to note that the process of integration in West Africa through the instrumentality of ECOWAS continue to face numbers of challenges, which have greatly undermine the organization's efforts at promoting the deepening of economic relations among member states. Curios enough, such challenges are enhancing unhindered interaction among the community citizens across national boundaries (Akokpari 2008). To this end, the need to further the interrogation of the political dynamics, successes and challenges of integration journey embarked upon by West Africa nations in the last four decades continue to be of paramount importance. Informed by this position, this panel seeks contributions from some identified students of economic integration, with special interest in West Africa's development to interrogate the politics, trends, and dynamics of integration within ECOWAS from theoretical and empirical standpoints. Particularly, it seeks theoretically grounded and empirical informed articles that examine how domestic and sub-region wide politics, weak governance institutions, tensions over the application of community protocols, treaties, rules and conventions especially on factor mobility and tenuous security situation has constrained and weakened the process of integration in West Africa. The identified academic colleagues are not only identified, but also ready to come up with quality papers based on their previous knowledge on ECOWAS policies and politics with emphasis on the implosion of regional integration caused by Brexit.

V-8. Sino-US-Russian Policies and Africa
Convener: *O. Igho Natufe* (Institute of World History, Kyiv, Ukraine); e-mail: oinatufe@ukr.net

The election of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States (US) has caused trepidations in several countries and regions, including Africa, with most of them frightened by the impending uncertainties that may come from a Trump presidency. During his campaign for the presidency, Trump articulated various positions which gave rise to this wave of global anxiety. He considered Russia's President, Vladimir Putin a better leader than his soon-to-be predecessor, US President Barack Obama, saying that he could construct a rapprochement with the former on US-Russia relations. He questioned the contributions of member-states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) who have failed to meet their membership obligations, and hinted that defaulting members should not expect NATO's support if attacked by a third party; a proposition which renders obsolete NATO Treaty's Article 5 that says an attack on one is an attack on all members. His condemnation of regional trade agreements involving the US, particularly the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and Mexico, the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the European Union, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TTP) with countries of Asia Pacific, which has been signed but not ratified by parliaments of its signatories. He views these trade agreements as injurious to US industrialization and economic prosperity. In their place, he intends to enter into bilateral trade agreements with individual countries. He also promised to discard the 5+1 nuclear agreement with Iran. His anti-immigration and anti-Muslim policy raises fears in several continents, including Africa. He has challenged Beijing's "One China Policy". All of the above were articulated before his inauguration on January 20, 2017. This Panel shall explore the global ramifications of Trump's policies vis-à-vis Russia and China, with emphasis on Africa. Will a US-Russia rapprochement lead to a new Yalta; and how would this affect Africa? How will a US anti-China trade policy impact on Chinese policy in Africa?

V-9. The "African Vector" in the Policy of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP)
Convener: *Andrey A. Tokarev* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: stp79@yandex.ru

The panel is expected to cover the cooperative experience of the Portuguese-speaking countries within the Community (CPLP), which has been accumulated during the twenty-year history of this organization, as well as the "African vector" and the language policy of CPLP. The matters of interest include bilateral and multilateral relations of the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa inside the regional group PALOP, the leading role of Angola in it; the manifestations of paternalism and partnership regarding the members of the group; cooperation of the CPLP and PALOP with other regional organizations; importance of the CPLP's experience for Russia.

V-10. The Dynamics of Solidarity in Africa: History – State of the Art – Future Challenges
Convener: *Peter Kneitz* (Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, Halle [Saale], Germany); e-mail: peter.kneitz@ethnologie.uni-halle.de

As a result of many decades of deep and enduring socio-political crises of all sorts, the African continent tends to be associated with a rather grim picture of general disorder and decline. The present movement of sub-Saharan African refugees daring their lives by crossing the Continent and the Mediterranean Sea to come to Europe at all costs reinforces such long established

images. The aim of the proposed panel is to elaborate the other and rather silent side of the ubiquitous perceptions outlined: that of the many ways and forms solidarity is lived, practiced and transferred from one generation to another on the African continent. In fact, all kinds of social structures depend inevitably on a balance of "give" and "take", of a very finely woven arrangement between the "me" and the "other". Does the emblematic figure of the corrupt African political leader not hide more often than not a man who is very much caring for his loyal followers, for his region of origin, for his clan and his family? Does the war lord notwithstanding his supposed cynical disregard of human lives of all those who do not subdue to his will, not depend on the support of his warriors and his ability to establish some kind of social structure? And are those desperate refugees at and in the Mediterranean "Water front" not, on closer scrutiny, daring their lives in many cases on behalf of their families and clans, and therefore be regarded as acting out some particularly visible and tragic form of solidarity? The proposed panel wishes to trace some aspects of the many different and particular ways solidarity is generated, lived and performed on the African continent. The following questions might be of central interest, besides many others: How, in Africa, the capacity of individuals to relate meaningfully within a given social setting is elaborated in a complex socialization process? In what way cultures, normative concepts and social settings of solidarity can be discovered and described here, in the past and the present? How the practices of solidarity have been altered, reinvented or newly organized within time, according to the contingent context of a given region, of specific events, of colonization and the ongoing process of modernization? In what way do the past and present dynamics of African solidarity offer a useful platform for the ongoing processes of intensive social and political negotiations? And, finally, how and why, the dynamics of solidarity in Africa have been undermined, and under what conditions they were and are eroding? Such questions are touching fields of study as different as social anthropology, history, political studies, sociology, developmental psychology, parenting, cross cultural studies and brain studies. The panel is open to all kinds of contributions related to the proposed subject, though preference will be given to case studies based upon empirical evidence or theoretically-driven papers.

V-11. The EU and Africa: Security – Development Nexus

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

The panel will be devoted to the consideration of the complex political, economic, social and cultural ties between the EU as a supranational organization, as well as between its individual member countries, and the countries of Africa and African continental and regional organizations, at the present stage. The analysis of the new challenges in the field of security provision and development assistance, which the EU and Africa face, as well as the new prospects of cooperation between the EU and the African countries in these areas, is welcomed. The authorities of the European Union are aware that to ensure long-term stability in African countries is hardly possible without assisting them in solving urgent problems of the socio-economic and human development. The task of ensuring peace and development on the continent is also a priority for the African Union's leadership and regional economic communities (RECs). These questions are of particular relevance in connection with the adoption in 2016 of the new Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy, as well as in the light of the implementation processes of the African Union's "Agenda-2063" adopted in 2015 and the "Road map" for the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy for 2014 -2017 years, adopted in 2014. Participants are offered the following general topics for discussion:
- The nexus between the security and development issues in the interaction between the EU / EU member countries and African countries / African continental and regional organizations;

- "Securitization" of development assistance and/or "developmentalization" of security issues: the European and African contexts;
- Political discourse and practice of the EU on the security-development nexus issues in Africa;
- Political discourse and practice of African countries/ African organizations on the issues concerning the security-development nexus;
- The concept of "human security" in relation to African realities: a view from the European Union;
- Processes of conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, peace-building, and state-building in Africa and participation of the EU in them;
- Interaction between the EU and the African countries in the field of counter-terrorism, tackling illegal migration and organized crime;
- Cooperation between the EU and Africa in the regulation of legal and illegal migration between the continents;
- The issue of migration from Africa to the EU as a point of intersection of security, development, and human rights' protection issues;
- The interaction between the EU and Africa in the area of coping with the climate changes and in ensuring food security on the African continent;
- EU-Africa cooperation in the implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals introduced by the UN in 2015;
- Cooperation between the EU and African countries in the development of human potential in the countries of Africa; protection and promotion of women's rights in Africa; the interaction between the civil society organizations of the two continents; continents' cooperation in the exchange of innovative technologies and in the field of education.

VI. *Migrations and Diasporas*

VI-1. Diaspora, Indigenous Investors, Economic Development and National Vision
Convener: *Kamini Krishna* (University of Zambia, Lusaka); e-mail: kaminik15@yahoo.com

The panel welcomes papers on the interrelation between diaspora, indigenous investors, economic development and national vision in any African country, as well as integrating experience of different states of the continent. The panel focuses on various encouraging policies which have been implemented by the African governments which recommends investors to risk their hard earned capital. It further examines the areas where the local people and diaspora are investing their money and importantly the panel highlights the number of jobs that have been created for the local Africans, due to new investment. Additionally the panel assesses some short comings which are hindering the creation of jobs. Above all, the panel suggests some areas where both indigenous and diaspora should spend more capital to promote job opportunities for Africans. Finally the panel emphasizes on collective responsibility, whether by indigenous or by diaspora, to make African countries more prosperous than they are today.

VI-2. Migration Dynamics in Southern Africa: Understanding the Past, the Present and the Future
Convener: *Ricky M. Mukonza* (Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa); e-mail: MukonzaRM@tut.ac.za

Migration as an activity is as old as human kind itself. Over time it has developed owing to changes in changes in other facets of human life, it can be argued that technological developments as well as. It goes without mention that the globalised nature of world affairs have allowed movement of people and goods to take place with less difficulties. It can be noted that

technological development, migration and globalisation are closely interlinked. Traditionally in migration; South to North migration was a common trend due to the disparities in economic developments, however in recent years South to South migration has been on the rise. It thus becomes imperative that academics in the Social Science discipline endeavour to understand how migration is changing over time. The panel limits its focus to migration within Southern Africa. Although there is considerable literature on the migration as it has unfolded with this region, more still needs to be unravelled particularly new patterns that have emerged in the turn of the century. Can there be empirically backed causal theories that can be propounded on this phenomenon? Authors are thus encouraged to come up with papers around this theme.

VI-3. Pan-Africanism and Migration

Conveners: *Dmitri M. Bondarenko* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mails: dbondar@hotmail.com, dmitrimb@mail.ru, *Harold D. Weaver* (Harvard University, Cambridge, USA); e-mails: weaverhal@yahoo.com, hweaver@fas.harvard.edu

The topic of this panel is twofold. On the one hand, Pan-Africanism is an ideology formulated and advocated by concrete, outstanding Black thinkers and political figures on both sides of the Atlantic. On the other hand, Pan-Africanism can be understood as a sense of – and a commitment to – "African unity" shared by African-Diasporic people throughout the world. The panel's objective is to study the intersection of Pan-Africanism and migration, both in Europe and the Americas, in particular, the extent to which Pan-Africanism has influenced (and continues to influence) the consciousness of Black people outside Africa, from liberated enslaved Africans in the New World in the 18th and 19th centuries to African migrants in Europe, in the Americas, and elsewhere in the 20th and 21st centuries. At the same time, the panel welcomes papers discussing the place that Pan-Africanism occupies in the minds and actions of Black people born or residing outside the African continent. For example, the following specific topics may be of interest, among many others: What is the relation between and hierarchy of the Pan-African sentiment compared to ethnic and national in the minds of contemporary first, "first-and-a-half," second, and third generation African migrants in the New World and Russia? How does Pan-Africanism influence the thought and political behavior of Africans in the Diaspora? Is the pan-African sentiment basically the same and plays the same role in the minds of recent African migrants as Africans in the African Diaspora over generations or not? Does this sentiment most often embrace all Black people or only indigenous Africans? To what extent is it based on the idea of Black people's common cultural roots, and to what extent on the memory of their common sufferings and oppression at the hands of Whites? How does getting education abroad influence the pan-African sentiment in Africans' minds and identities? How are their African identities enhanced by their treatment and adjustment to white dominated societies and nations? How can studies of Pan-Africanism be related to contemporary research on "Blackness" and "Whiteness", as well as to criticisms on the very notion of "race" as "cultural construct"? Concentrating on these and other issues relevant to the topic, the panel intends to contribute to a better understanding of the intricate relationship between Africans on the continent and those outside Africa in the African Diaspora regarding their relationship to their adopted lands.

VII. *Politics*

VII-1. Democratic Election Process in Africa: Progress, Paradoxes and Challenges (*friendly merging of the panels:* Democratic Elections in Africa: Progress, Prospects and Challenges *and* Tropical Africa: Paradoxes of Electoral Processes)

Conveners: *Andreas Velthuizen* (University of South Africa, Pretoria); e-mail:

Velthag1@unisa.ac.za, *Tatyana Denisova* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: tsden@hotmail.com

Democratic Elections in Africa: Progress, Prospects and Challenges (proposed by Andreas Velthuizen)

The panel is formed against the background of significant progress made in the management of democratic elections since the dawn of the 21ˢᵗ century within the context of the revival of Africa or what is called "the African Renaissance". In this regard the management of democratic elections took place amidst African knowledge systems, philosophical principles, shared values, decolonization, political independence, and a framework of revival that is in many ways unique to Africa, driving African renaissance and change or transformation through activities such as democratic elections. A critical analysis and complementary reflection on progress made in the management of democratic elections since the beginning of the 21ˢᵗ century is required. Such an analysis and reflections would include close scrutiny of issues such as the normative and legal framework of democratic elections in Africa, the application of population census and demarcation, the application of voter registration and electoral democracy education, the legislative framework for running elections including the funding of political parties, the role of the media during the electoral process in an African context, planning and organizing of resources, the role of armed forces and logistics during democratic elections in an African context, management of vote counting, declaring the results, examining the freeness and fairness of elections including monitoring and observation processes, the role of gender and research and knowledge management as well as election management training. The main aims of this panel will be to:

- Promote collaboration among scholars of elections, democracy and governance in Africa, African Diaspora and elsewhere in the world;
- Promote cross-pollination of ideas on the issues discussed in the panel;
- Share the latest ideas, methods and innovative practices on elections and democracy in the African continent;
- Learn from scholars from elsewhere in the globe on pertinent issues; and
- Identify issues for further research and analysis based on the outcome of the conference and issues raised during debates by various participants.

Tropical Africa: Paradoxes of Electoral Processes (proposed by Tatyana Denisova)

In the late 1990s-early 2000s, a "wave of democratization" swept through the African continent. As a result, domestic and foreign political scientists, who for years had studied the evolution of authoritarian regimes, suddenly found themselves facing an entirely new reality – multivector political changes in most countries of the continent. As a rule, holding of parliamentary and presidential elections is among the key indicators of "democratisation". Yet the real democracy implies not only the very fact of holding an election, but a punishment for falsifying its results, as well as presence of checks and balances that limit the power of an elected leader: he, at least, should not persecute the unsuccessful contenders. In nearly all countries of Tropical Africa presidential, parliamentary, gubernatorial, provincial, local and other elections have become a familiar feature of political life, and if observers do not reveal serious violations, the elections are considered valid, and society, whether it gets a new leader or keeps the old, walks along the path of democratization. This does not take into account the fact that in the African context, an election may become a matter of life and death for candidates or their voters, as contenders often resort to extreme methods to protect their electoral interests. After the end of the Cold War it was no longer necessary to fund dictatorships in order to keep them as allies in the struggle between the two military-political blocs. Foreign governments, financial institutions and aid agencies began to demand democratic reforms from African leaders in exchange for financial assistance. Their main "request" was holding of "free and fair" election campaigns with the participation of international observers. It should be noted that Western donors and investors can force a leader

to implement reforms, but such external pressure often leads to the opposite results: not all rulers are ready to do something against their will, and some are remarkably resourceful in finding ways to avoid it. Meanwhile, the majority of politicians and voters were ready for or even insisted on holding elections. For the opposition, it was a promising path to power, while for the ruling party – a path to the legitimization of power in the eyes of citizens and foreign donors. By participating in elections, voters received satisfaction from using their ballot to express their sentiment, initiate a political process, be part of a mass action, etc. Naturally, you get more satisfaction by voting for a candidate who enjoys widespread respect. At the same time, many acting leaders, confident in the strength of their position, all of a sudden obtained the voting results that did not correspond to their expectations. Often, they suffered because of their own ignorance: surrounded by sycophants, the rulers had not been able to assess the mood of the electorate. In principle, a victory in a democratic election is seen as the main condition for legitimising a ruler, who thus receives the right to do what he promised during the election campaign. In case he implements the declared programme, he is able to confront the opposition confidently, the latter not being able to challenge the policies of the legitimate government legally. This should also help to reduce the level of violence: even if irreconcilable opponents of the regime do not recognize the rights of the legitimate government to pursue its policy, they will find it difficult to secure mass support for violent actions, because they cannot claim that their struggle is just. The section will focus on the causes of these changes and their essence and will try to answer these questions: has it really been democratisation? Are political regimes in Africa beginning to implement "people's power"?

VII-2. Post-Conflict Reconstruction Crises: What Long-Term Future for Africa's Dysfunctional States?; The Occurrence of Failed States in Africa after the Fall of the Berlin Wall and Its Relation to the Increase in the Number of Refugees from Africa Today *(friendly merged panel)*
Conveners: *Pierre Englebert* (Pomona College, Claremont, USA); e-mail: penglebert@pomona.edu, *Anselmo de Oliveira Rodrigues* (School of Command and General Staff of the Army, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil); e-mail: Capanselmo98@ig.com.br

Post-Conflict Reconstruction Crises: What Long-Term Future for Africa's Dysfunctional States? (proposed by Pierre Englebert)
Countries like the DRC, Central African Republic, Somalia or Mali have been dealing for several years with attempts to rebuild their states in the wake of destructive conflict. Each, as some others, has benefited from significant UN or African Union peacekeeping efforts and large inflows of reconstruction assistance. Yet, in each case, things might be getting worse rather than better. In Congo, the incumbent regime has reverted to authoritarianism while letting conflict pester; In Mali, insurgency has continued while the new regime has been unable to improve governance. In CAR or Somalia, statelessness endures. This panel invites papers who discuss or compare the problems of reconstruction in African states, focusing particularly on what kind of model of statehood and what kind of division of labor between domestic and international institutions might be appropriate for these countries in the long run.

The Occurrence of Failed States in Africa after the Fall of the Berlin Wall and Its Relation to the Increase in the Number of Refugees from Africa Today (proposed by Anselmo de Oliveira Rodrigues)
The panel's goal is to show the relationship between the increase in the number of refugees and the incidence of Failed States in Africa after the fall of the Berlin Wall. To scientifically prove this relationship, this scientific article was structured as follows: 1) Introduction; 2) Methodological Considerations; 3) The Emergence of Failed States in Africa after 1989; 4) The refugees from African countries as of 1989; 5) Final Considerations. In this context, this study

addressed themes that guide the current International System, such as the emergence of non-state actors, the protagonism of some issues that are now on the international agenda and the contextualization of them on the African Continent. The methodology presented the objective and the research problem, presenting in general terms, the path of this study to reach the proposed objective and, thus, to solve the presented research problem. Next, this study promoted a debate on the term "Failed States" in the academic world with the presentation of some indexes of state bankruptcy currently in the world and through these tables, it was sought to verify common aspects, as well as draw conclusions about the positioning of African countries in these indexes. In addition to this theme, this article held an academic debate on refugees in the 21st century, prioritizing the concepts that govern this definition and the common causes for this phenomenon in Africa. In addition, the numbers of refugees from the African Continent from 1989 to the present date were shown, inferring some observations based on these data. In an attempt to prove the relationship between the Failed States in Africa and the origins of African refugees, this study compared and cross-referenced data on African refugees with rates of state bankruptcy in the world in the world, again conducting a qualitative analysis of this relationship. At the end of this study, some observations and suggestions were made based on the theoretical currents adopted in this article and the intersection of information contained in the various tables and indexes presented throughout this research. It is noteworthy that the proposed comments aimed to obtain the following relation: Actual Instability – African Failed States – Refugees. With this, this research sought to prove this relationship by relying on scientific methodology based on consecrated world literature. Finally, some suggestions have been inserted to reduce the incidence of Failed States in Africa, because was in these countries that the largest number of African refugees having been concentrated today.

VII-3. Ruling in Rough Seas: The Portraits of Political Leaders in South Africa
Conveners: *Sifiso Ndlovu* (University of South Africa, Pretoria); e-mail: ndlovsm@unisa.ac.za, *Vladimir Shubin* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: vlgs@yandex.ru

It is planned that the participants of the panel will consider issues related to the role of the leaders of independent countries and liberation movements in Southern Africa. It is expected that researchers from Russia, African and other countries will present the political portraits of heads of state bodies, political parties (both ruling and opposition), and of organizations that fought against colonialism and apartheid. Consideration of this topic is particularly important in the context of growing instability in a number of countries in the region, connected in particular with the issue of transfer of power to a new generation of politicians. The work of the panel can be regarded as a continuation of the discussion at the previous Conference of Africanists in the panel on sources of the history of the liberation struggle in Southern Africa.

VII-4. Secessionist Movements in Africa: Identity, Governance and State-Building in a Changing Landscape
Conveners: *Ibrahim Ndzesop* (Université Paris I), *Nadine Machikou Ngameni* (University of Yaounde II, Cameroon); e-mail: nadngameni@yahoo.fr

Secession, generally through war has been the normal process of the birth of new states and is common to all continents. But since the 20th Century has witnessed a shape decrease in that process worldwide. Paradoxically, African states are still living the process. Since the 1960s when several Africa countries gained independence from European colonizers, several separatist movements have emerged in the continent. While some of these movements have expressed the need to revert to the precolonial status, others have advanced bad governance and failed statebuilding processes in support of secession. Africanist scholars have undertaken extensive

research on the question of secession in Africa. But most of these studies have been too focused on specific cases and have not been able to put it in the larger context of statebuilding and governance. This panel intends to fill this gap by considering newest research on this issue and by comparing secession movements not only across Africa, but elsewhere like in Ukraine or the Crimea. In order to draw the best from presenters, this panel will particularly focus on three cases of secessionist movements in Africa, viz; Southern Cameroon, Northern Mali and South-East Nigeria (Biafra). The goal is to question the processes and find a model explanation that can help scholars to understand the causes, actors and possible outcomes. Papers focused on comparative research are therefore welcome, especially those comparing the cases of Southern Cameroon, Northern Mali and South-East Nigeria (Biafra). Presentations related to the embarrassment of the African Union whose ambition is to build a European Unionlike continental organization while discouraging territorial fragmentation within states, are also welcome.

VII-5. Southern Africa: Political, Economic and Social Challenges in the Region at the Beginning of the 21st Century

Conveners: *Andrey A. Tokarev* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: stp79@yandex.ru, *Daria A. Zelenova* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: d.zelenova@gmail.com

The panel will consider a wide range of challenges that Southern Africa is facing at the turn of the century. Special focus will be given to political, economic and social developments of the region. We encourage contributions that analyze the prospects and the current state of inter-regional cooperation (including cooperation within the framework of the SADC), the policy of the regional states within the African Union. We hope to discuss possible forecasts for the region's development and look at possible scenarios in development of different countries of the region.

VII-6. Strengthening Local Government

Convener: *Michael Earl Bell* (George Washington University, McHenry, USA); e-mail: mebassociates2@gmail.com

Too often, governments, including those in Africa, fail to deliver adequate services to poor people in terms of access, quantity and quality. Thus, citizens across Africa are demanding greater self-determination and control of government institutions. In many cases this has resulted in shifting service delivery and finance responsibilities to local governments which are closer to the people. In fact, the first law that then President de Clerk in South Africa and Nelson Mandela agreed to the Local Transition Act of 1993. Both understood the critical role local governments play in the daily lives of all citizens.

VII-7. The Middle East and African Horn in the 21st Century. Political, Social and Economic Modernization: Global, Regional and Countries Features in the Light of Dynamic Relativity of Civilization Development

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

The panel will focus on the following issues:
- More acute problems of modernization in the MENA and African Horn countries in the light of the "Arab spring" and megatrends of the World development.

- "Old" and "new" models of political power: archaic elements and institutions, tradition and modernity.
- Civil society and Islamic tradition in the context of the "Arab spring".
- The political changes in the states of the Middle East and African Horn. Is potential of the model of authoritarian political power exhausted or not? The stable and unstable models of political power in the region.
- The interconnections between political, economic and social sides of modernization in the light of the "Arab spring".
- Radicalism, extremism and moderate Islam. Its connections and ties with internal and external factors.
- Conflicts and wars in the Middle East and African Horn. The prospects of its settlement in the light of the "Arab spring" and the growth of uncertainty in the region and the world.

VII-8. The Roots of Contemporary Conflicts in the Horn of Africa
Conveners: *Alemayehu Kumsa* (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic); e-mail: alemayehu.kumsa@fhs.cuni.cz, *Abera Dagafa* (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia)

We consider Horn of Africa in this panel the area which includes Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan and Sudan. This part of Africa is known for its various chronic violent conflicts for a long time. During colonial era, territory of one nation had been divided between west European colonizers and Abyssinia- latter known as Ethiopia, the only Africa empire state which participated in the 'scramble for Africa'. Majority of these violent conflicts are emanated from this historical time. The territory of Somali people was divided into five colonial enclaves, the homeland of the Afar people divided between French, Italy and Abyssinian colonies. Abyssinian empire state conquered and occupied its southern neighboring nations: Oromo, Kaffa, Sidama and other peoples, which became part of Menelik II new Empire of Ethiopia at the end of nineteenth century. Ottoman Empire led by Egyptians conquered and ruled Sudan 1821- 1885, Mahdist theocratic rule 1885-1898 and finally Anglo-Egyptian Condominium 1898-1956, which created the largest colonial territory known as Sudan. The papers of this panel will illustrate different types of conflicts of this part of Africa. The papers of the panel analyses:
- Intra-state conflicts between different peoples and the government of these states such as Darfur vis-à-vis Sudan Government; various peoples in Ethiopia with their different demands confronting the government for their given constitutional rights of the country;
- Inter-state conflicts between sovereign states of the region such as Ethio-Eritrean conflict which was started in 1998 and unsolved until today; the interference of Ethiopian and Kenyan governments into Somalian internal affairs under the cover of different reasons. The unsolved territorial conflict between Sudan and South Sudan on the area of Abyei region.
- Land grabbing is a new critical problem in the Horn of Africa, in which many governments particularly Ethiopian Government leasing millions of fertile farm lands for foreign and domestic commercial agricultural business investors, forcefully removing peasants from their ancestral lands, a good example is one of the causes of Oromo and Amhara (the 1st & 2nd largest nations in Ethiopia) non-violent protests in Ethiopia for more than a year.
- Addis Ababa "Master Plan": Addis Ababa is the capital city of Oromia state and capital city of Federal Democratic Republic Ethiopia (FDRE), in which economic and other Oromia state interests shall be respected according to FDRE constitution, but Addis Ababa municipality which is under the Federal Government publicized the Master Plan in 2014, which aimed to expand the territory of the city twenty times of the current area to Oromia state territory, which shocked the Oromo people, and non-violent protest started led by all Oromia Universities' students from all corners of the state, research paper on this topic also will be presented.
- Horn of Africa as geopolitical strategic region: United States of America's role will be

analyzed, in the view of USA support for authoritarian governments of the region which has a negative effect for regional stability and peace.

VIII. Social Issues

VIII-1. African Trade-Unionism in the 21th Century – Coming of Age?

Convener: *Maciel Morais Santos* (University of Porto, Portugal); e-mails: maciel999@yahoo.com, ceaup@letras.up.pt

Capital exports in colonial times induced the making of an African working class and later of African trade-unionism. From the 1940's to the 1970's the African trade-unions played a relevant role in fostering the growth and modernization of the African societies, in spite of an increasing governmental control and harassment for much of them. Yet, in the two following decades, the increase of public debts and the delocalization of capital fluxes blocked the power of the African labour organizations. In the mid-1990's the investment in Africa resumed. However, the correlation of forces in African labour markets was no longer favourable to the Trade Unions. African working class used to represent less than 8% of the total population (except in South-Africa), which created a very tight labour demand that favoured the worker's claims. The breakdown of traditional rural society, the rapid urban development and the social deregulation reinforced by the weakness of the African states allowed for a growing informal sector. The result was an excessive supply of cheap wage labour. The collapse of government control over the unions also brought them, in several cases, a pervasive side effect by accelerating the Union splits. In spite of the OATUU efforts, until now Union pan-African and regional organisations have not been able to reverse the trend of decreasing social role for the Unions. How can African labour Trade Unions frame these new and large sectors of African societies in order to recover its lost power for industrial action? Will African labour be able to restore its political role and fulfil the vacuum left in many of the African civil societies? This panel proposal intends to present a general view of the main features of African trade unionism during the last 50 years. It is part of ongoing project of research on African labour and its organisations. The discussion within this panel aims to widen the research network on this broad social topic.

VIII-2. Decolonial Education in South Africa

Conveners: *Everisto Benyera* (University of South Africa, Pretoria); e-mail: benyee1@unisa.ac.za

South Africa has been undergoing a series of students' demonstrations across the public universities with students agitating for *free decolonised education*. These calls are not new and promises for affordable education were made as way back as in the Freedom Charter of 1955. The extent of the demonstrations and the validity of the demands made by these students call to question the success of the decolonisation project and also questions what factors brought African education to where it is today. A situation where the education system produces redundant, unemployable and 'miseducated' graduates. This panel proposes to raise the importance of decolonial free education for the realisation of Africa's development. We will argue that as long as the education system remains western centric, commodified and commercialised, African people including their leaders will remain at the periphery of global affairs.

VIII-3. Globalization and the Emerging Issues of Development in Nigeria; Law, the Nigerian Economy and Corruption *(friendly merged panel)*
Conveners: *Irhue Young Kenneth* (Osun State University, Okuku Campus, Nigeria); e-mails: kenransley2013@gmail.com, kenransley@yahoo.com, *Benedicta Daudu* (University of Jos, Nigeria); e-mail: bennydaudu@yahoo.co.uk, *Edna Oiza Daudu* (University of Jos, Nigeria), dauduoz@yahoo.com

Globalization and the Emerging Issues of Development in Nigeria (proposed by Irhue Young Kenneth)
Globalization encompasses the network of interaction between countries all over the world in the area of trade, foreign investment, capital market (human and material) and technology. This has encouraged the identification of the area of strength and comparative advantages of each country in the sphere of global interaction. Indeed, it creates competition and development especially in the capitalist economy. Nonetheless, the quest for development in Nigeria within the framework of globalization has become a challenge due to inequality in economic power as a developing economy. Developed economies dominate global relations as increased competition has led to strangulation of weaker economies. Different policies have come to play in enhancing the power of capital such as IMF/World Bank-imposed economic reforms. Consequently, the socio-economic foundations of the state are fast collapsing, resulting in rising unemployment, hegemony of private initiatives, inequalities in income distribution and dampened confidence of the people and external partners. Thus, the developing countries struggle endlessly for survival. In identification of the above challenges, this paper made recommendations with emphasis that the recommendations be implemented by the appropriate authorities.

Law, the Nigerian Economy and Corruption (proposed by Benedicta Daudu andEdna Oiza Daudu)
Corruption has had severe negative consequences on the economic growth and development of nations. Corruption has affected many countries all over the world especially the developing countries. It has various implications for both the developed and developing economies. Corruption hampers development and thus raises the level of poverty in any economy that finds itself entrenched in corrupt practices. Corruption creates uncertainty and risk in the growth and development potential of any country. This panel will present a review of corruption as it relates to the economic development of Nigeria. By using a theoretical method of analysis, the panel is to reveal that corruption is Nigeria's biggest challenge. It is clear to every citizen that the level of corruption in the country is high. It is found in every sector of society. Be it a public or private sector, corrupt practices are easily observable. Corruption has been a deterrent to economic development in Nigeria. Corruption has a significant negative effect on economic growth and development. The panel is to provoke debate on the role of law in the anti-corruption crusade, strengthening the rule of law and promoting economic development and to propose policy recommendations that should underpin the road to Nigeria becoming the "next surprise", on indices such as transparency, accountability and the application of the rule of law, in dealing with corruption leading to improved CPI ranking, induce investment, and foster economic growth and development.

VIII-4. Justice and Development in Contemporary Africa
Convener: *Leonid L. Fituni* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: africa.institute@yandex.ru

This panel seeks to address a number of key issues relating to justice in the broad context of African development. The discussion of these issues is primarily from the perspective of legal justice, but it properly comprehends relevant social, economic and political considerations. The

panel focuses on a variety of broad areas: the institutions and instruments of justice in Africa; interconnection between local legal environments and development; specific legal issues in African development such as stability, security, integrity, human rights and the environment; stability in financial systems; governance and transparency; the control of corruption; serious crime, and other destabilising factors including terrorism. The panel will also research the newly discovered potential of the emerging powers (viz. BRICS) for the delivery of justice and development in Africa.

VIII-5. Security, Corruption and the African Development Discourse
Convener: *Nnanna Onuoha Arukwe* (University of Nigeria, Nsukka); e-mails: nnanna.arukwe@unn.edu.ng, noarukwe@yahoo.com

In the unending discourse on development and sustainable development in Africa issues that relate to security and corruption have often featured as among the key factors impinging on Africa's development. Security is currently a global concern; however, there is hardly any place where the imperative for security appears to be more than the African continent, with different forms of conflict in virtually every region of the continent. Sustainable development is therefore mortally threatened in diverse ways by the subsisting security challenges of the continent. Also, corruption, as a multidimensional phenomenon, takes different forms and has different impacts in different locations and situations. Corruption has a pervasive influence in many diverse social, political, and economic systems; hence it is reported variously in the literature as a bane of social-cultural, political and economic development in Africa among others. The Panel welcomes contributions that look into the issues of the nexus between security and development, corruption and development, corruption, security and sustainable development as well as those examining any other possible permutations of relationships between these issues in Africa in specific terms of but not limited to governance, culture, economics, social development, case study materials as well as areas of everyday life in Africa. Not limited to the foregoing the panel also welcomes papers that bring different innovative and strategic perspectives to not only examining but transforming the issues relating to security, corruption, and African development.

VIII-6. The Formal and the Informal City in Africa: Planning and Governance Dilemmas
Convener: *Geoffrey I. Nwaka* (Abia State University, Uturu, Nigeria); e-mail: geoffreynwaka@yahoo.com

Urban planning and governance have not adapted fast enough to the extraordinary situation of rapid urban change in Africa. The planning profession is in many respects still prisoner of received laws and codes tied to the colonial tradition, and established prior to the rapid urban expansion of the post colonial period. Many analysts have observed in post colonial Africa "a new process of urbanization unleashed by the masses of relatively low income migrants who have flocked into the cities since independence, and are seeking to solve their problems of accommodation and employment informally, and on their own terms…; the urban poor are dominant, and in most cases are transforming the city to meet their own needs, often in conflict with official laws and plans." UN-Habitat estimates that sub-Saharan African cities have over 166 million slum dwellers, most of who work in the informal sector where they simply do not earn enough to afford decent shelter and service. What does sustainability mean for such cities and townspeople? Government officials and planner, who often aspire to international standards of modernity, face a difficult dilemma of how to plan and manage this rapid urban growth in a way that promotes employment, income and shelter for the poor, and at the same time ensures a reasonably orderly, healthy and socially acceptable environment. Unfortunately, many of these officials tend to blame the victims, and to see the urban poor, the informal sector and the slums

in which they live as evidence of the failure of official policy, and therefore something to be removed though misguided policies of forced eviction and other forms of repression. But current research suggests that the path to urban peace and sustainability in Africa lies in building more inclusive and socially equitable cities "where everyone, regardless of their economic means, gender, age, ethnic origin or religion are enabled and empowered to participate productively in the social, economic and political opportunities that cities offer". The panel invites papers that consider appropriate, realistic and balanced ways to respond to the economic, social and governance challenges of rapid urban change in Africa.

VIII-7. The Gender Dimension of National, Regional and Global Changes in Africa
Conveners: *Natalia L. Krylova* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia); e-mail: krylovanl@yandex.ru, *Natalia A. Ksenofontova* (Institute for African Studies, Moscow, Russia

The panel will discuss the complex of problems connected with the historical component as well as the modern attitude to gender situation, with its influence on the development of African countries in conditions of global changes. Participants will be given the opportunity to analyze various aspects of the gender situation. Among them: the characteristics and causes of gender inequality in different countries and regions of the African continent; the costs of discrimination against women in basic rights, access to education, resources and economic opportunities, participation in public life and expression of their interests through women's public and political organizations. Presenters are also invited to address the gender aspects of national, social and cultural identity; problems of identity acquisition in movement migration flows etc. are also crucial questions about what efforts should be made by the state to overcome the obstacles that stand in the way. To implement these tasks it is planned to organize an interdisciplinary platform for scientific and practical dialogue between specialists from a wide range of social-humanitarian disciplines. For discussion are invited historians, ethnologists, anthropologists, sociologists, demographers, economists, psychologists, political scientists, pedagogues, literary critics, lawyers, culture experts, philosophers, representatives of public organizations.