



GLOTAN RESEARCH SERVICES

081 744 7429

glotanresearchservices@gmail.com

www.glotanresearch.com



International Conference

Theme:

**Re-imagining Africa:
Prospects and Opportunities.**
Venue: University of Witwatersrand
Johannesburg, South Africa
(Humanities Graduate Centre)

Date:

18-20 April 2024

Africa's evolution in the 21st century has been marked by a mix of remarkable, even if unheralded, strides as well as daunting challenges. There are claims that not only did Africa seem to have 'lost' the 20th century, there is the fear that the continent might also not be taking sufficient advantage of the hope and opportunities presented by the current century. This is due to the challenges to political stability, conflict management that have dogged Africa in the early part of this century. These difficulties extend also to the economic arena where growth has been uneven with some countries appearing to do well while others still grapple with alarming levels of poverty, unemployment and infrastructural shortages. Amid these challenges, Africa has demonstrated resilience and resourcefulness. Economic growth in various countries, advancements in technology, and improvements in healthcare and education in certain regions depict a continent striving for development. Efforts, such as the African Union's Agenda 2063, underscore the commitment to inclusive growth, sustainable development, and peace across the continent. Some observers argue that this should only be viewed with cautious optimism, citing oft-repeated litany of perceived 'deficits' stereotypically associated with the continent.

While not ignoring the myriad of difficulties experienced in Africa, this conference challenges potential presenters and participants to think rather in terms of the opportunities, prospects and possibilities that Africa has, as well as the contributions that the continent can make in addressing, not only its internal issues, but also the multitude of problems facing the entire planet today. What unique advantages can we find in the history of past and present African civilisations? What lessons can be learnt from the continent's contemporary resilience in the face of such daunting crises as the COVID-19 pandemic? What cultural, historical and intellectual resources can Africans draw from in the attempt to chart a more auspicious future pathway for its people and the world? What kinds of collaborations, both within and beyond Africa, can be developed to address these challenges. Indeed, what would it take – in broad terms – for Africa to become “the Africa we want” in the words of the AU's 2063 Agenda? Academics, students, researchers, CSO and NGO practitioners, government officials, policy-makers, and other stakeholders are invited to contribute to these discussions using the following (and other relevant) sub-themes:

- Economic transformation and developmental paradigms
- Environmental sustainability and climate change
- Healthcare access and pandemic responses
- Social movements, identities and cultural resilience
- Technology, innovation and digital divide
- Education and human capital development
- Conflict resolution and peacebuilding
- Gender equality and women empowerment
- Historical perspectives on Africa's evolution



Submission guidelines:

Interested presenters should please send abstracts of no more than 250 words along with a short bio of 100 words to glotanresearchservices@gmail.com. Contributors should state the subtheme that best suits their submission. Upon acceptance of abstracts, presenters are expected to send 10-page slides and a well-researched manuscript of between 6,000 and 8,000 words.

Publishing opportunities

Authors whose papers are presented at the conference as well as those who might be unable to attend have the option of submitting their full papers for peer review and publication in any of the four accredited journals listed below including in an edited book coordinated by Prof. Victor Ojatorotu and Dr. Bamidele Olajide.

- African Renaissance
- Journal of African Affairs
- AYIKA: Journal of Environment and Politics in Africa
- Africa and Global Issues Quarterly

Conference venue:

University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg ,South Africa (Humanities Graduate Centre)

Important dates:

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15 February 2024
Announcement of decisions on abstracts: 16 February 2024
Submission of full papers: 31 March 2024
Conference registration: 1 – 17 April 2024
Conference: 18 – 20 April 2024

Conference fees: R5000 (students – R3500)

Conference conveners:

Prof V Ojatorotu, NorthWest University, Mahikeng, South Africa
Prof P Mashau, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa
Prof TJ Mudua, Institute of Gender & Youth Studies, University of Venda, South Africa
Prof K Esuola, Institute of African & Diaspora Studies, University of Lagos, Nigeria
Prof P Marumo, School of Philosophy, NorthWest University, Mahikeng, South Africa

Confirmed keynote speakers:

Prof. Tsoaledi D Thobejane, Institute for Gender and Youth Studies, University of Venda, South Africa.
Prof A Akpome, Department of English, University of Zululand, South Africa

References

Internal Displacement Management Center (2023, May 4). Country Profile: Nigeria. Retrieved from <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/nigeria#:~:text=As%202022%20concluded%2C%20Nigeria%20was,north%2Deastern%20state%20of%20Borno> (December 9, 2023)
UNFPA (2023). Crisis in the Horn of Africa. Retrieved from <https://www.unfpa.org/crisis-horn-africa> (accessed December 9, 2023)
UNICEF (2023). Malaria. Retrieved from <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-health/malaria/> (Accessed December 8, 2023)