NEGOTIATING THE FABRIC OF THE AFRICAN UNIVERSITY: GLOBAL TRENDS AND LOCAL REALITIES

PROGRAM

12 September | DAY 1: University of the Western Cape (UWC)
13 September | DAY 2: University of Cape Town (UCT)
14 September | DAY 3: Stellenbosch University (SU)
A ‘global’ model currently shapes our imagination of universities in the 21st century. This prototype responds to global trends in policy discourse and practices, including the embrace of Research Excellence Initiatives, University League Tables (rankings), Market-driven Funding Models (e.g., Cost-sharing), Climate change and other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, there are growing concerns with Quality, Diversity, Employability, Decolonisation, and Emancipatory agendas. Against this backdrop, African universities are braced with existential challenges at regional and national levels. These universities have to negotiate their character between the pursuit of excellence and difficult political and economic conditions. In the convergence of global trends and local realities, the modern African university’s character and fabric emerge and gain specific forms.

Against this background, we are excited to welcome the second international conference on the theme “Negotiating the Fabric of the African University” to be held in Cape Town from 12 to 14 September 2023 at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), University of Cape Town (UCT), and University of Stellenbosch (SU). The program builds on a first conference, which took place in Maputo, Mozambique, and was also organized at three sites, namely, Eduardo Mondlane University, Joaquim Chissano University and Pedagogical University of Maputo. The conference in Cape Town is jointly organised by Patrício Langa and David Kaldewey with the assistance of colleagues from various institutions including the University of Bonn, (Lea Weigel, Berit Stoppa), Goethe-Institute Johannesburg (Philina Wittke), UWC (Seamus Needham, Ibrahim Harun, Nigel Prinsloo, Jamey Santon), and UCT (Divine Fuh).

The conferences are partially funded by the Volkswagen Foundation and aim to bring together selected scholars from different geo-epistemological locations and traditions, providing a unique opportunity for multiple academic and intercultural exchange, engagement and networking while reflecting on the character of the university in Africa. The 2023 edition is intended to consolidate the reflections started in Maputo last year as we re-examine and enquire into the global multilayered trends shaping and reshaping the fabric of the modern African university, including teaching and learning, research and innovation, engagement, outreach, and governance – with a renewed attention to emerging local models.

We hope the discussion will provoke some new foci for enquiry and help to understand more deeply the character of contemporary changes and (dis)continuities in the various African higher education settings. To do so, the salient sociological understanding of the university as a unified global cultural reference system will have to be interrogated and recalibrated. What are the peculiarities of African universities and how should they respond to the push for global standardisation? Finally, from a political standpoint, the conference aims to enrich the debate and strengthen the development of the higher education systems in which African universities are located.

We expect to unearth the defining and emerging features of the current university in Africa as we begin the second quarter of the millennium. We will examine the different lines of inquiry and understanding of African universities’ organisational, institutional, and systemic features.

Patrício Langa (University of the Western Cape) and David Kaldewey (University of Bonn)
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<td>- Director of Institute for Post-School Studies – <strong>Seamus Needham</strong></td>
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<td>10:00</td>
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<td><strong>Anna Kosmützky (Leibniz University Hannover, Germany)</strong></td>
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<td>- <em>Is the University a Global Institution? Varieties of the University as Organization and Institution</em></td>
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<td><strong>Judy Peter (Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa)</strong></td>
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<td>- <em>Equity-sensitive Strategies for Internationalisation Higher Education in the Global South</em></td>
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<td><strong>Emmanuel Intsiful (University of Johannesburg, South Africa)</strong></td>
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<td>- <em>(Re)imagining a Socially Just University in Africa</em></td>
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<td><strong>Berit Stoppa (University of Bonn, DAAD, Germany)</strong></td>
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<td>- <em>Diversity Strategies in Ghanaian Universities</em></td>
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<td><strong>Mariah Mosomi (Freelance Consultant)</strong></td>
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<td>- <em>The Power of Academic Practice during Higher Education Massification</em></td>
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<td>Edward Mboyonga (University of the Free State, South Africa)</td>
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<td>William Jethro Mpofu (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)</td>
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<td>- The Decolonised University in Africa: A Philosophy of Liberation Perspective</td>
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<td>Conrad John Masabo (Hong Kong Baptist University, China &amp; University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)</td>
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<td>- Knowledge Production as Discourses of Power: A Critique to the Use of Archive in the Production of African History (online)</td>
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<td>Lea Weigel (University of Bonn, Germany), Patricio Langa (University of the Western Cape, South Africa)</td>
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<td>- Rethinking the Fabric of the University in Africa through Oldéfémi Táiwó’s Call Against Decolonisation</td>
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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session III: Teaching, Learning, and Languages</th>
<th>Session IV: Universities, Science, and Religion</th>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td><strong>Chair</strong>: Philina Wittke</td>
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<td>Akponi Tarno (Université de Lomé, Togo)</td>
<td>Bakheit Mohammed Nur (University of Bayreuth, Germany)</td>
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<td>- Teaching English as a Foreign Language in a Multicultural Community: A Negotiation Between and Among Cultures</td>
<td>- (Re)Building Epistemology or (Re)Shaping Societal Outlook: A Critique of the Islamization of Knowledge (online)</td>
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<td>Juliet Munyaradzi (University of Johannesburg, South Africa)</td>
<td>Maike Maria Domsel (University of Bonn, Germany), Leonie Schoelen (University of Johannesburg, South Africa)</td>
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<td>16:45</td>
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<td><strong>Chair</strong>: Kaylianne Aploon-Zokufa</td>
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<td>- Director of IPSS: Seamus Needham</td>
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9:30 Welcome
Performance
Chair: Director of HUMA - Divine Fuh
Conference Conveners: Patrício Langa & David Kaldewey
- DVC for Research & Internationalisation – Sue Harrison
- Director of School of Education – Azeem Badroodien
- Dean of CHED UCT – Kasturi Behari-Leak
- Dean Faculty of Humanities – Shose Kessi
Vote of Thanks
Family photo

10:00 Public Keynote
Chair: David Kaldewey
Teboho Moja (New York University, USA)
- Emerging Operating Modes in African Universities: Innovations in Teaching, Research, and Community Engagement

11:00 Coffee and Tea Break

11:20 Round Table | Governance
Chair: Anna Kosmützky
Emnet Tadesse Woldegiorgis (AMCHES, University of Johannesburg, South Africa)
- Neoliberalism and the Decline of African Scholarship: A Critical Reflection
Alex Asakitikpi (The Independent Institute of Education, Johannesburg, South Africa),
Aretha Asakitikpi (Southern Business School, Johannesburg, South Africa)
- The Decolonization Project: Fostering Innovation and Creativity in African Universities for Sustainable Development
Valentine Ubanako (University of Yaoundé 1, Cameroon)
- Global Realities and Local Solutions to Challenges in Teaching and Learning in Sub-Saharan Universities: The Case of the University of Yaoundé 1, Cameroon
Stephen A. Mforteh (University of Yaoundé 1 & Ministry of Scientific research, Cameroon)
- Putting Together Theoretical Research at the University and Research for Development at the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation in Cameroon

12:00 HUMA Doctoral Seminar | Gibson Ncube
(Stellenbosch University, South Africa)
Venue: Humanities Building, Room 3.21
Chair: Ayanda Manqoyi
- Archives, Keywords and Languages: Navigating Challenges in Doing Research in African Studies

13:00 Lunch
- Venue: Humanities Building, Room 3.2A
14:00  Session V: COVID Disruptions  
Venue: Humanities Building, Room 3.21  
Chair: Berit Stoppa

Joy Marjawar (University of Cape Town, South Africa)  

Patrick Swanzy (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana)  
- Post Covid-19 Quality Assurance Outlook of Ghanaian Private Universities: are the Pandemic-proof Artefacts Decommissioned or Active?

Amy-Jean Viljoen (University of the Western Cape, South Africa)  
- Exploring Postgraduate Psychology Students’ Perceptions and Experiences of Empathy in an Online Learning Environment, amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

15:30  Coffee and Tea Break

16:00  Closing Remarks  
Chair: Dominique Somda

- Conference Conveners: Patrício Langa & David Kaldewey
- Vote of Thanks
- Director of HUMA: Divine Fuh

16:15  Session VI: Governance  
Venue: HUMA Tibouctou Room 4.2.3  
Chair: Fanny Chabrol

Alcides André de Amaral (Federal University of Ceará, Brazil)  
- Political Power Relations in Mozambique and its Impact on University Autonomy: Reflections from the Case of Eduardo Mondlane University from 1962 to 2012 (online)

Joy V. Nyondo (University of the Western Cape, South Africa & College of Business Education, Tanzania)  
- Critiquing Makerere University’s 2008/2019 Strategic Plan Arguments for Becoming a Research University: An Application of Fairclough’s Framework of Practical Argumentation

Pauline Mateveke Kazembe (University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe)  
- Emerging Frontiers in Teaching, Learning and Researching in the Arts and Humanities: The Case of the University of Zimbabwe’s Education 5.0 Driven Curriculum
08:30 Registration

09:00 Welcome

Chair: Liezel Frick (Stellenbosch University)
Conference Conveners: Patrício Langa & David Kaldewey

Vote of Thanks
Family photo

09:30 Public Keynote

Chair: Divine Fuh

David Mills (University of Oxford, UK)
- Restitching Africa’s Research Infrastructures: Research Publishing Beyond ‘Global’ Bibliometrics

10:30 Book Launch


11:00 Coffee and Tea Break

11:20 Round Table | Teaching and Learning

Chair: Emnet Tadesse Woldegiorgis

Karin Chinnian (University of the Western Cape, South Africa)
- Rethinking Postgraduate Supervision: Creating Communities of Practice Based on Ubuntu

Paul Maluleka (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)
- A Personal Anecdote of Teaching and Learning Through and With Decolonial Love at a South African University

Philina Wittke (former Director of DAAD Information Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa)
- Diverse and International Learning Spaces in Higher Education Institutions in South Africa

Nompilo Tshuma (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)
- Educational Technology and Postgraduate Supervision: A Critical Review of Key Issues

13:00 Lunch
14:00 Session VII: Internationalization and Cooperation

Chair: Berit Stoppa

Bosen Lily Liu (ENS & EHESS, France)
- Realities of Triangular Partnership Model in Higher Education: Is South-South Cooperation the Future of African Higher Education? (online)

Lerato Posholi (University of Basel, Switzerland)
- Internationalisation of Higher Education: Masking the Extraversion of Universities in Africa (online)

Isaac Olawale Albert (University of Ibadan, Nigeria)
- Strengthening Peace and Security Studies in Africa through the Quadruple Helix Model of Innovation Dynamics (online)

15:30 Coffee and Tea Break

16:00 Closing Session

Chair: David Kaldewey

- Comments: Divine Fuh, Anna Kosmützky, David Mills, Teboho Moja, Patrício Langa
- Vote of Thanks

Session VIII: Engagement

Chair: Alex Asakitikpi

Ntimi Mtawa (University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)
- Philosophies, Models and Intentions of University-Community Engagement in Africa and Latin America: Perspectives from Tanzania, South Africa and Costa Rica

Teboho Moja (New York University, USA), Samuel Kehinde Okunade ((Wits Business School, Johannesburg, South Africa) & Kojo Parris (University of Pretoria, South Africa)
- Universities Re-envisioned: Capacitating the State through Knowledge Generation for Evidence-based Decision Making

Rubina Setlhare (University of the Western Cape, South Africa)
- The Role of Universities in the Transition of Mental Health Services for Southern Africa

Sibonokuhle Ndlovu (University of Johannesburg, South Africa)
NEGOTIATING THE FABRIC OF THE AFRICAN UNIVERSITY: GLOBAL TRENDS AND LOCAL REALITIES

Organizing Team
Patrício Langa (IPSS, UWC & FIW, Uni-Bonn)
David Kaldewey (FIW, Uni-Bonn)
Lea Weigel (FIW, Uni-Bonn)
Berit Stoppa (FIW, Uni-Bonn & DAAD)
Philina Wittke (Goethe-Institute, Johannesburg)
Ibrahim Harun (IPSS, UWC)
Divine Fuh (HUMA, UCT)

Further Thanks to
Seamus Needham, (IPSS, UWC)
Kaylianne Aploon-Zokufa (IPSS, UWC)
Nigel Prinsloo (IPSS, UWC)
Lydia Steer (IPSS, UWC)
Jamey Santon (IPSS, UWC)
Hardi Zacharias (UWC)
Nuraan Allie (HUMA, UCT)
Amina Soulimani (HUMA, UCT)
Doris Westhoff (FIW, Uni-Bonn)