

Call for Papers

Theme: Africa's View of Itself: One People or An Agglomeration of Weberian States



Presented by



In Collaboration With



Conference Venue:
Institute of African and
Diaspora Studies,
J.P. Clarke Building,
University of Lagos,
Nigeria

Does Africa perceive itself as a unified entity, embodying a common identity and purpose, or does it see itself as a collection of Weberian states defined by distinct political entities and bureaucracies? This question stems from the long history of failed or ineffective efforts to engender continental self-identity and consciousness. Given their colonial foundations, African states carry on colonially imposed identities that continue to make it difficult for a continent to see itself differently. Early post-colonial leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah noted the

Danger of segregated identities in Africa and advocated for the establishment of the United States of Africa. The aim was to foster a sense of oneness on the continent such that Africans could see one another as people rather than as citizens of different colonially created states. Further efforts, such as the African Union (AU) and regional economic communities, reflect the desire for collective action and solidarity. However, challenges such as internal conflicts, weak governance, and competing national interests often hinder progress towards unity. The establishment of the African Continent Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is one of the latest efforts to engender African unity and development based on correct self-identity. However, this does not yield optimal results, as intra-African economic engagement remains low. The Weberian identity of African states is at the heart of issues and challenges such as xenophobia, ethnic violence and tensions, religious intolerance, cross-border violence and crime, irredentism, and undue external manipulation, among others. The implications of Africa's unity, regional integration, cultural exchange and collaboration, and global influence are dire. As Africa navigates the complexities of the 21st century, fostering a sense of shared identity and purpose is essential for addressing common challenges and unlocking the continent's full potential. Given this, academics, students, researchers, CSO and NGO practitioners, government officials, policymakers, and other stakeholders are invited to explore the following and other relevant sub-themes.

Conference Date:
**1-4
December
2024**



Sub-themes:

- Theoretical and conceptual perspectives on Africa's self-identity crisis
- Historical perspectives on Africa's self-identity crisis
- Cultural and linguistic diversity in Africa
- Politics of Africa's self-identity crisis
- Economic perspectives on Africa's self-identity crisis
- Ethnicity in Africa
- Religion in African society
- Africa diaspora and Africa's identity crisis
- Personality and national psychology in Africa's identity crisis
- Xenophobia in Africa
- Border crime and violence in Africa
- Pan-Africanism and African solidarity

Submission guidelines:

Interested presenters should send abstracts of no more than 250 words along with a short bio of 100 words to glotanresearchservices@gmail.com, and oesuola@unilag.edu.ng. Contributors should state the subtheme that best suits 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 an edited book coordinated by Prof. Victor Ojajorotu 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:

Institute of African and Diaspora Studies (IADS), University of Lagos, Nigeria

Important dates:

Submission of Abstracts due: 30 September 2024

Decision on abstracts announced: 1 October 2024

Full Papers are submitted: 20 November 2024

Registration for the Conference.01– 30 November 2024

Conference dates: 1-4 December 2024

Fees: Participants: \$ 450 (Covering the international tourist tour)

Nigerian/West African participants: N25000

Key Note Speakers

- Prof Sat Obiyan (Department of Political Science Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria)
- Prof Jendele Hungbo(Department of Mass Communication Kola Daisi University, Ibadan, Nigeria)

Conference Conveners

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