

CONGOLESE HORIZONS: WEAVING TEMPORALITIES IN CONGO STUDIES

Scholarly Conference

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



PUBLIC CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Day 01

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

9:30 AM

REGISTRATION

10:00 AM

WELCOME REMARKS

Hoor Al Qasimi – President, Global Studies University (GSU), UAE

Salah M. Hassan – Chancellor, Global Studies University; Dean, The Africa Institute (GSU), UAE

10:15 AM

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

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

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

10:30 AM

**PANEL 1 –
COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS AND POSTCOLONIAL
REVERBERATIONS**

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

Panelists:

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

Wandile Kasibe – Independent Researcher, South Africa

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

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

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

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

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

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

12:30 PM

LUNCH

Venue – Courtyard, The Africa Institute, GSU

2:00 PM

**PANEL 2 –
COLONIALISM, ENVIRONMENT, AND TERRITORIALITY IN
CENTRAL AFRICA**

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

Panelists:

Colonizing Landscapes: Reforestation Schemes and Multispecies Territoriality in Colonial Burundi

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

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

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

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

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

3:30 PM

BREAK

Venue – Courtyard, The Africa Institute, GSU

3:45 PM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Of Dreams and Broken Circles: A Lecture-Performance

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

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

5:10 PM

FILM SCREENING

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

Director: Nelson Makengo

Day 02

Thursday, January 30, 2025

8:30 AM **REGISTRATION**

9:00 AM **PANEL 3 –
EPIDEMIC ACCRETION AND TEMPORALITIES OF DISEASE IN
CONGO**

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

Panelists:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jules Villa – Postdoctoral Researcher, Institut Pasteur, France

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

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

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

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

11:00 AM

BREAK

Venue – Courtyard, The Africa Institute, GSU

11:15 AM

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

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

Panelists:

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

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

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

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

Project AIDS: Writing the History of AIDS in Congo

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

12:45 PM

LUNCH

Venue – Courtyard, The Africa Institute, GSU

2:00 PM

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

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

Panelists:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Day 03

Friday, January 31, 2025

8:30 AM **REGISTRATION**

9:00 AM **PANEL 6 –
CRAFTING MEMORY AND IDENTITY THROUGH MATERIAL
CULTURE**

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

Panelists:

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

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

Traversing Contexts: The Multilayered Biography of Albert Lubaki

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

L'Image d'Albert Lubaki dans la Presse Européenne de l'Entre-Deux-Guerres: de 1929 à 1932 [The Image of Albert Lubaki in the European Press During the Interwar Period: 1929 to 1932]

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

Temporal Escape: Papa Mfumu'eto Premier's Comics

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

11:00 AM

BREAK

Venue – Courtyard, The Africa Institute, GSU

11:15 AM

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

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

Panelists:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Multiple Temporalities and Futures in the Congo Basin

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

12:45 PM

LUNCH

Venue – Courtyard, The Africa Institute, GSU

2:00 PM

**PANEL 8 –
SHIFTING LABOR AND SOCIAL IDENTITIES IN CONGO**

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

Panelists:

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

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

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

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

Les Enjeux de Gouvernance et la Menace du State Building en RD Congo
[The Issues of Governance and the Threat of State Building in the Democratic Republic of the Congo]

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

3:30 PM

BREAK

Venue – Courtyard, The Africa Institute, GSU

4:00 PM

**PANEL 9 –
PROTESTS, DIASPORA, AND DIGITAL SPACES IN CONTEMPORARY CONGO**

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

Panelists:

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

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

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

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

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

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

5:30 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

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

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