



## NEW DIRECTIONS IN AFRICAN POLITICAL ECONOMY

A CONFERENCE IN HONOR OF THE LATE PROFESSOR THANDIKA MKANDAWIRE

November 14-16, 2024 | Auditorium, The Africa Institute, Global Studies University, Sharjah, UAE ([location map](#))  
Free admission, in-person and virtual | [Register to attend](#).

### PUBLIC CONFERENCE PROGRAM

#### Day 01

Thursday, November 14

3:00 PM

**REGISTRATION**

4:00 PM

**WELCOME REMARKS**

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

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

Grieve Chelwa – Associate Professor of Political Economy, The Africa Institute, Global Studies University (GSU), Sharjah, UAE

4:15 PM

**OPENING KEYNOTE**

**Thandika Mkandawire and the African Intellectual Decolonization Movement**

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza – Senior Advisor for Strategic Initiatives, Howard University, Washington D.C, USA; Advisory Board Member, The Africa Institute, GSU, Sharjah, UAE

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

5:30 PM

### **BOOK LAUNCH**

**Revisoning the African and American Academies** (Dakar: CODESRIA Press, 2024)

Author: Paul Tiyambe Zeleza – Senior Advisor for Strategic Initiatives, Howard University, Washington D.C, USA

Chair: Godwin Murunga – Executive Secretary of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Dakar, Senegal

## **Day 02**

**Friday, November 15**

9:30 AM

### **DIALOGUE**

#### **Building a Community of Progressive Scholars in Africa**

Abdalla Hamdok – Executive Chairman, Center for Africa Development and Investment (CADI), Abu Dhabi, UAE

Chair: Grieve Chelwa – Associate Professor of Political Economy, The Africa Institute, GSU, Sharjah, UAE

10:30 AM

### **BREAK**

10:45 AM

### **PANEL 1: SOCIAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

Panelists:

#### **The Nexus of Development and Social Policy: Breaking Bread with Thandika Mkandawire**

Jimi O. Adesina – Professor and South African Research Chair in Social Policy, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa

#### **Global Health Security, the Right to Health and Choiceless Democracies**

Adia Benton – Associate Professor of Anthropology, Northwestern University, Illinois, USA

**The State and Social Policymaking in Africa: Reflections from Thandika Mkandawire**

Marion Ouma – Postdoctoral Researcher, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa

**Social Policy, Structural Transformation, and Industrial Policy: A Thandika-Inspired Approach for South Africa**

Fiona Tregenna – Professor and South African Research Chair in Industrial Development, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Chair:

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

12:45 PM

**LUNCH**

Venue – The Africa Institute Courtyard

2:15 PM

**PANEL 2: DEVELOPMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENTAL STATE IN AFRICA**

Panelists:

**How State Investment in Public Health Shapes Perceptions and Well-being in Africa**

Kim Yi Dionne – Associate Professor of Political Science, University of California Riverside, USA

**Rethinking African Development and Reviving Development Thinking in Africa: The Contributions of Thandika Mkandawire**

Adebayo Olukoshi – Distinguished Professor, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

**The Political Economy of Industrial Policy in Africa: The Case of Kenya**

Ken Ochieng' Opalo – Associate Professor of Political Science, Georgetown University, Washington D.C, USA

**The Economist as a hunter of Western Myths and Pathologizing Constructs: On Mkandawire's contribution to African Political Economy**

Ndongo Samba Sylla – Director of Research, International Development Economics Associates (IDEAS), Oxford, UK

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

4:15 PM

**BREAK**

4:30 PM

## SECOND KEYNOTE

### **Can We Build Scholarship for Our People? Walking by the Durban Beach with Thandika Mkandawire in 2001**

Vijay Prashad – Executive Director, Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research, Santiago, Chile

Chair:

Elizabeth Giorgis – Professor of Art History, Theory and Criticism, The Africa Institute, GSU, Sharjah, UAE

## Day 03

Saturday, November 16

9:00 AM

## PANEL 3: INTELLECTUAL THOUGHT IN AFRICA

Panelists:

### **The Language-in-Education Conundrum in Africa: A Persistent Anomaly to Development**

Binyam Sisay Mendisu, Associate Dean and Professor of African Languages and Linguistics, The Africa Institute, GSU, Sharjah, UAE

### **Grounded Methodologies: The Power Behind Thandika Mkandawire's Work**

Godwin Murunga – Executive Secretary, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Dakar, Senegal

### **Two World-Renowned Development Economists in Sweden: An Analysis of Thandika Mkandawire's Views on Gunnar Myrdal's Work**

Maribel Morey – Executive Director, The Miami Institute for the Social Sciences, Miami, USA

### **Tracing Mkandawire's Thought on African Intellectuals and Higher Education in a Twenty-First Century Developmental State**

Steve Sharra – Independent Researcher and Educationist; Former Dean and Associate Professor, School of Education, Social Sciences and Technology, UNICAF University, Malawi

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

11:00 AM

## BREAK

11:15 AM

#### **PANEL 4: GLOBALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

Panelists:

##### **Is Egypt's Currency Free-floating a mark of a De-dollarization Era?**

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

##### **External Forces and Zambia's Permanent Debt Crisis**

Grieve Chelwa –Associate Professor of Political Economy, The Africa Institute, GSU, Sharjah, UAE

##### **AfCFTA: A Neoliberal Project with a Pan-African Clothing**

Eyob Balcha Gebremariam – Research Associate, University of Bristol, UK

##### **Capture of Democracy and Development in a Globalized World**

Rachel Beatty Riedl – Director of the Center on Global Democracy and Professor of Government, Cornell University, New York, USA

Chair: Semeneh Ayalew Asfaw – Fatema Mernissi Postdoctoral Fellow in Social and Cultural Studies, The Africa Institute, GSU, Sharjah, UAE; Lecturer and Researcher, Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

1:15 PM

#### **LUNCH**

Venue – The Africa Institute Courtyard

2:15 PM

#### **PANEL 5: AGRICULTURE, LAND, AND STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA**

Panelists:

##### **The Case for Decolonizing and Radically Transforming International Assistance**

Aude Darnal – Research Analyst, Founder, and Manager, Global South in the World Order Project, Washington D.C, USA

##### **Critical Perspectives of the Developmental State in Zambia's Agricultural Transformation: Power, Authority and Sovereignty**

Simon Manda – Lecturer in International Development, School of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds, UK

##### **Sugar Agroextractivism in Africa**

Giuliano Martiniello – Associate Professor of Political Science, International University of Rabat, Rocate de Sale, Morocco

**Africapitalism as a Distraction from Structural Transformation?**

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

Chair: Majid Hannoum – Ali A. Mazrui Senior Postdoctoral Fellow, The Africa Institute, GSU, Sharjah, UAE; Professor, Social and Behavioral Sciences Anthropology, University of Kansas, USA

4:15 PM

**BREAK**

4:30 PM

**CLOSING KEYNOTE**

**The Afterlife of Violent Histories: New Directions in Knowledge Production**

Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela – Professor and South African Research Chair in Studies in Historical Trauma and Transformation, Stellenbosch University, South Africa; Professor-at-large, The Africa Institute, GSU, Sharjah, UAE

Chair:

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

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