Asia and Africa in Transition
21-23 October 2020

Internal Call for Panels

12th annual international ADI Conference
13th annual Nordic NIAS Council Conference

A University of Copenhagen collaboration between:
- Asian Dynamics Initiative (ADI)
- NIAS – Nordic Institute of Asian Studies
- School of Global Health
- Sustainability Science Centre
- ThinkChina
- UCPH Global Development
Introduction

Linkages between Asia and Africa have a transformative impact across the globe in areas ranging from economic development, health care, climate to politics and entertainment. This conference places Asia-Africa engagement as a focal point but also explores the diverse transitions that are occurring within each continent.

Asia and Africa, with a population of 4.6 billion and 1.3 billion respectively, represent about 80 percent of the world’s population. Not only have both continents experienced population booms in the last few decades, but they also have access to a wealth of natural resources and represent immense ecological and biological variety, opening up future potentialities. Africa and Asia in transition are creating new imaginaries and leveraging new possibilities, and the linkages between the two are leading to change that ripples across the globe.

Several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia have experienced spectacular economic growth over the past few decades. They generate new global markets and opportunities, reshape trade and flows, and create innovative models of investment. At the same time, each continent has experienced shifts in poverty levels, massive wealth accumulation and increasing inequality, all of which raises questions about sustainable and equitable growth and redistribution.

In the last fifty years, these regions have also been sites of political revolutions and transitions. After decolonization, countries of the African continent have experienced democracy in some cases, dictatorship and repressive governments in others. Political revolution in Asia brought the rise of the Communist Party in some places like China and Vietnam, while regimes collapsed in other countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Korea. These shifts have been accompanied by changing political configurations, and escalating tensions at borders and in disputed territories, making the two continents central to global diplomacy, security and governance.

Political changes, along with economic growth, climate change, demand for resources and food security, changes in disease burden and health care needs, as well as demographic shifts, including an aging population and migration going across the two continents are all driving transitions. They are remaking trade routes, building new infrastructure, creating new public-private models of investment, new types of bilateral, regional and global governance, and setting new standards. Some parts of Asia and Africa are in the forefront of technological change, as they leapfrog previous leaders and drive forward solutions to global challenges. The synergy gained from linkages between the two continents has decentered our existing political, social and economic order.

The interconnects across Asia and Africa generate clashes of identities, beliefs and ideologies far beyond their own regions, reclaiming and re-contextualizing the past, remaking the present, and reimagining the future. The histories of nation-states in the post-colonial era, overlaid by transnational shifts in technology, economics and the physical landscape, have seen profound changes and contestation in literature, art, and subjectivity. This is reflected in complex developments in modes of expression and performance that have taken place in the novel, poetry, cinema, music, aesthetics, ethics, and other forms of daily life.
Internal call for panels

The goal of this conference is to engage scholarship that recognizes and highlights the long-standing, complex and extensive nature of the dynamic relations and rapidly increasing engagement across the two continents. At the same time, amidst the growing linkages, we find spaces where this is not happening, which also raises important questions.

We thus welcome and encourage contributions that explore the multiple forms of engagements occurring between Asia and Africa, or that delve deep into places, processes or phenomena of transition within one of these continents.

Researchers from the University of Copenhagen and NNC member institutions are invited to submit proposals for panels and roundtables that fit into one of the conference streams listed below.

Proposals should include:
- Name and affiliation of convener(s)
- Title, stream and format of the panel
- Panel abstract/description – no more than 300 words
- Possible participants – if applicable

Deadline for submitting panel proposals: 1 December 2019

Proposals should be submitted via email to asia-africa-2020@ku.dk

In the event that we receive more proposals than we can accommodate, the organising committee will decide among the submitted proposals.

Notification of Acceptance: 18 December 2019

Hereafter an open, external call will be announced for:
- Applications (including paper abstracts) to participate on accepted panels
- Applications for full panels
## Conference Streams

1. Economics and Development
2. Demographics and People
3. Science and Technology
4. Politics, Institutions and Relations
5. Arts, Culture and Humanities

### Subthemes for inspiration:

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Formats

Those organising a panel can consider one of the following formats:

- **Paper Presentation Panel** – Paper presentations grouped by topic or theme into a panel. Each panellist is often given between 15-20 minutes to present, leaving a short time for discussants and/or questions from the audience.

- **Discussion/Debate Panel** - In panel discussions, two or more speakers will present different aspects, perspectives or thoughts on a particular topic, research problem, or question. Each speaker will have an opportunity to present their information and when all the speakers are finished, there is typically time for discussion.

- **Roundtable Panel** – The roundtable panels will have presenters who have papers that are works-in-progress, position papers, policy analyses, and other types of topics that benefit from extended discussion time.

- **Visual Media Poster Session** - A poster presentation consists of an exhibit of materials reporting research activities or informational resources in visual and summary form. Poster presentations are a terrific platform for facilitating personal discussion of work with interested colleagues and allowing attendees to browse current research at their own pace.

- **Book Panel/ Author Meets Critic Panel**: A panel/debate format which highlights major scholarly book(s) of interest and provides critics or discussants.

- **Training and Workshop Panels**: These panels are more participatory and interactive, with a focused goal of either deep engagement with presented works; training in an aspect of academic practice or discussing solutions to a given case/problem by a panel representing different views/methods possibly with active audience participation from the beginning.

Organisers

In 2020, the annual ADI conference and the annual NNC conference will join forces with a number of globally oriented networks and centres at the University of Copenhagen.

- Asian Dynamics Initiative
- NIAS – Nordic Institute of Asian Studies
- School of Global Health
- Sustainability Science Centre
- ThinkChina
- UCPH Global Development

The organising committee comprises representatives from each of the above listed entities.