

Call for Abstracts

Virtual African Diaspora Conference

Theme: Old and new African Diaspora Networks:
Before and After COVID-19

Venue: The University of the Witwatersrand,
Johannesburg, South Africa

Dates: 21 May, 2020

Introduction

This conference was initially planned as a physical event at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. This became impossible in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will now be held virtually and further details on the technological modalities will be communicated to those selected.

Because of the pandemic, we have decided to extend the theme to also consider ways in which COVID-19 will potentially impact diaspora studies and engagements. Papers that consider this impact or examine the status of diaspora prior to the rise of the pandemic are welcome.

Abstracts of no more than 300 words covering the sub-themes listed below are invited. Given the current circumstances, we shall be happy to entertain initial and prospective thoughts and ideas.

Registration fee: Free

Potential Participants

- Senior and established scholars
- Non-academic participants: diplomats, civil society, techies
- Early career scholars (postdocs, recent doctoral graduates)
- Students (honours, masters, doctoral)

Objective

The virtual conference will bring together scholars and intellectuals from the African diaspora, and/or those engaged in African diaspora research and engagement. It will offer perspectives on old and new diaspora from various theoretical, conceptual and disciplinary perspectives. The aim is to generate new knowledge that can inform not only scholarship but also work in the policy/government, civil society and business spheres as the world grapples with new

Submissions to: ACSUS.research@wits.ac.za, copy,
adam.levin2@wits.ac.za

Important dates

22 April, 2020: Abstracts submission deadline

30 April, 2020: Notice of acceptance

5th May, 2020: Registration deadline

Sub-themes:

- Trans-Regionalism, power and ethics in global research, and global connections
- The notions of "Africans in diaspora" and "the diaspora and Africa"
- Geographical, cultural, political and economic dimensions
- Identity and allegiances
- Spatial and temporal considerations
- Distinctions between old and new diaspora
- Convergences between old and new diaspora
- Digital diaspora
- Diaspora, soft power and public diplomacy
- Intra-Africa migrations and diaspora
- Brain drain versus brain gain
- Comparative analyses (with European, Asian, Semitic, etc.) diasporas
- Conceptual, theoretical and methodological approaches
- The place for inter-disciplinary studies
- Country and regional case studies
- Diaspora networks and interests
- Pan-Africanism
- Perceptions and image
- Diaspora and global, regional, national and local policies and strategies
- Links between universities