

AFRICA ONLINE & PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY(AOPL) CONFERENCE 2023

1 SERIES AND THEME

The November 18th, 2023, conference on building sustainable partnerships between African and Polish researchers is the first in a series of conferences to be organised by Africa Online & Publications Library. The entire series, titled *Bridging Borders: African-Global Research Collaborations*, will be conducted annually, initially online and, in the future, likely in person and in hybrid format. This year's conference, which will be held under the theme “**Building sustainable partnerships between African and Polish researchers for a shared future,**” is vital for fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and confronting common challenges faced by Africa and Poland. Through this theme, the conference seeks to establish new research partnerships and strengthen existing ones between African and Polish researchers conducting research in their respective regions.

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2 SUBTHEMES AND PANELS

1.1 A talk on the Arts, history, and literature

The Republic of Poland's website states, “There is no Polish Cultural Institute in South Africa or any other country on the African continent.” This can serve as a springboard for the subtheme on Africa-Poland: a discussion of arts, history, and literature. The purpose of the subtheme is not to establish a Polish systematic and governmental cultural institute in Africa or vice versa, but rather to initiate a series of conversations with researchers and artists about how this type of cooperation can be formulated in the coming years. Even though a multitude of cultural events, such as concerts, exhibitions, workshops, lectures, and screenings of Polish films, are “systematically organised” in Africa, it is time to take additional steps, bring together academics and researchers, and find ways to expand the scope of these activities. We invite submissions that investigate transcultural influences, African and Polish arts, literature and identity, cultural diplomacy, historical connections, cinematic dialogue, music and performance, cultural institutions and infrastructure, language and translation, education, and cultural exchange programmes.

1.2 Twin cities: advancing local governance, civil society and economic development

Africa is largely unknown to Poles, with the exception of its northern region, and there is no cooperation besides humanitarian assistance to areas afflicted by conflict and natural disasters. A significant number of Poles know Africa almost exclusively from Henryk Sienkiewicz's antiquated and insufficient depiction in “In Desert and Wilderness”. By adopting a subtheme on the concept of twin cities to the African-Polish context, we expect to spark research comparing solutions implemented across both spectrums, allowing the best ideas to be gleaned from each other, which has a positive effect on the development of civil society and democracy. Cooperation of this nature also enables the attraction of investors and, by extension, economic growth. We are particularly interested in topics that provide a comparative analysis of local governance challenges and successful strategies, as well as the identification of best practises that can be mutually beneficial in building civil society and democracy,

the role of twin cities in attracting investment and fostering economic development, enhancing the perception of Africa among Poles, empowering civil society, evaluating contributions to humanitarian aid initiatives, and gaining a better understanding of both regions.

1.3 Education and differences: Gifted education, special education, inclusive education, learning difficulties and disability

Education is an essential aspect of personal development and plays a crucial role in shaping the destiny of an individual. However, not every individual has the same educational requirements or learning style. This subtheme concentrates on various educational programmes that accommodate to the varied learning requirements of students, such as special education, inclusive education, learning difficulties, and disabilities. It seeks to provide a forum for educators, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to share their knowledge, experiences, and insights regarding how to best support and empower students with diverse learning needs. We welcome papers from researchers who provide insightful perspectives on the challenges and opportunities associated with educating students from diverse backgrounds, abilities, and aspirations.

1.4 Sustainable development and environmental conservation: Collaborative strategies for Africa and Poland

This subtheme focuses on research that specifically targets sustainable development, conservation efforts, and environmental preservation in the context of Africa and Poland. This is a unique opportunity for those conducting research on innovative approaches, policies, and technologies that effectively address urgent environmental challenges and promote sustainable practises in both regions. We are particularly interested in papers that showcase effective case studies and best practises from Africa and Poland, highlighting inspirational initiatives that contribute to the attainment of sustainable development objectives. The conference aims to pave the way for meaningful partnerships and collective action towards a more sustainable future for Africa and Poland by fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing.

1.5 Health equity and Access: bridging the gap between African and Polish healthcare systems

This subtheme seeks to address extant disparities in access to and delivery of healthcare between Africa and Poland while identifying opportunities for collaboration. Participants who investigate strategies for promoting health equity, reducing inequalities, and bolstering healthcare systems in both regions are welcome to submit their papers. Through the sharing of knowledge, experiences, and innovative approaches, the conference aims to cultivate partnerships and initiatives that result in enhanced healthcare outcomes and greater access to quality healthcare services for all in Africa and Poland.

1.6 Agriculture and food security: enhancing collaboration for sustainable food systems

This panel's objective is to promote research that effectively addresses agricultural, food production, and food security challenges in Africa and Poland. Participants will engage in discussions regarding sustainable agricultural practises, climate-smart solutions, and innovative approaches to improve food

production and distribution. The panel will provide a forum for the exchange of valuable experiences and insights learned from successful agricultural initiatives and programmes in both regions. The conference aims to contribute to the development of sustainable food systems, assure food security, and foster resilience in the face of emergent challenges by promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange.

1.7 Social innovation and entrepreneurship: Empowering communities for sustainable development

The objective of this panel will be to demonstrate the transformative power of social innovation and entrepreneurship in fostering sustainable development and empowering African and Polish communities. The panel will accentuate the role of social innovation and entrepreneurship as change agents, emphasising their potential to promote social inclusion, economic empowerment, and the development of sustainable livelihoods. In addition, the panel will examine illuminating case studies of successful social enterprises, community-driven initiatives, and policies that generate measurable and significant impact. Through the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practises, the conference aims to cultivate a culture of innovation and collaboration, ultimately resulting in the creation of a road map for the development of resilient and sustainable communities in Africa and Poland.

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3 CONFERENCE TIMELINE

3.1 Abstract submission deadline

- August 15, 2023.
- Authors are required to submit their abstracts based on the conference guidelines (see registration form) and topics of interest within the specified deadline.

3.2 Full paper submission deadline

- December 31, 2023.
- Authors are required to submit their full papers based on the conference guidelines and topics of interest within the specified deadline.

1.3 Notification of acceptance

- September 15, 2023.
- Authors receive notifications regarding the acceptance or rejection of their papers. Accepted papers are provided with detailed feedback for revision and final submission.

1.4 Conference date

- November 18, 2023.
- Conference takes place over 7 hours, featuring keynote speeches, paper presentations, panel discussions, and networking opportunities.

1.5 Post conference awards

- November 30, 2023.
- Participants receive certificates of participation.

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4 CONFERENCE DURATION (10:00-17:00 Central European Time)

- Opening session (15-30 minutes)
- Keynote speeches (60-90 minutes)
- Presentation sessions (60-10 minutes)
- Networking/break sessions (30-60 minutes)
- Lunch break (30 minutes)
- Panel discussions (30-60 minutes)
- Closing session (15-30 minutes)

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5 ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ngege Ransom Tanyu
Ransom Tanyu is the Founder and Executive Chair at Africa Online & Publications Library, and a PhD candidate in Political and Administrative Sciences at the Pedagogical University of Krakow.
Doreen Basemera
Doreen is a PhD student and researcher in Political and Administrative Sciences at the Pedagogical University of Krakow.
Kamil Golebiowski
Kamil is a PhD candidate Political and Administrative Sciences at the Pedagogical University of Krakow.
Khifidotur Rofiah
Rofiah has been a lecturer at the University of Negeri Surabaya in the Department of Special Education since 2014. She is also a PhD candidate at the Pedagogical University of Krakow.
Fatemeh Gholami
Fatemeh is a PhD student and researcher in the fields of literary studies and environmental humanities at the Pedagogical University of Krakow.
Blerta Krasniqi
Blerta is a certified speech and language pathologist from the Republic of Kosovo. She is also a PhD student in linguistics at the Pedagogical University of Krakow.
Francisca Zakaria
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