

Japan Society for Afrasian Studies

1st Conference 2018 Call for Abstracts, Papers & Round Table

Venue: Kansai University, Osaka

October 6 2018

Theme: “Navigating Afro-Asian Studies”

We are very much pleased to announce that the first conference of Japan Society of Afrasian Studies will be held at Senriyama Campus of Kansai University in Suita, Osaka on 6th October 2018. This conference follows the inaugural workshop of the Japan Society for Afrasian Studies (previously Afro-Asian Studies Initiative {AASI}), an English academic forum for scholars and students in Africa and Asia.

Africa and Asia relations are as old as the formation of the world and without doubt their trade, diplomatic and commercial connections through maritime and land silk roads anticipated the competition among Iberian maritime powers (Portugal and Spain) for the dominance of the world. Europeans helped by their technological, demography and industrial advantage suggest that their military and economic rise was inevitable as the Afro-Asian world system gradually declined after the 14th century, also as a result of European discoveries. Between the 15th and the 18th centuries, the center of world shifted from the Indian to the Atlantic ocean. Meanwhile, Europe industrialized and began its colonialist and imperialist “crusade”. The question is was European expansion inevitable? Could Africa and Asia have done something to counteract Western economic, political, cultural, trade and demographic expansion? Could Africa and Asia have avoided colonialism and imperialism? Perhaps not, perhaps yes. Looking back what could Africa and Asia have done to prevent it?

In other words, what can Africa and Asia do currently to avoid new forms of neo-colonialism, neo-imperialism in terms of imposition of new economic or development models? How does the current Afro-Asia sub-system differ from the previous political, economic, diplomatic and cultural system in terms of political and economic development models. Without doubt, many reasons can be pointed out for the resurgence of Africa and Asia in the current digital and internet global world system. Slavery, colonialism, imperialism is over, but the World is far from being a safe and equal place to live. The World is still in danger. Conflicts, human insecurity, refugees and internally displaced persons, hunger, diseases, poverty, climate change, trade competition, urbanization, demography and gender related issues (discrimination, lack of equity), depletion of natural resources, terrorism lead us to argue that insecurity dominates the present digital world whereas some people have too much compared with the approximately 800 million people that live with less than US\$1.90 per day.

Today, the centre of gravity of the world political economy is moving toward Asia, and this movement has had a profound effect on Africa. The rise of East and South Asia in general and China and India in particular is closely connected to the recent course of economic and political development in Africa. African interest in Asian models and Asian interest in African resources and potentials leads to deeper ties between the two world regions and building reciprocal relations. The second group of questions are as follows: what is the impact of the resurgence of Asia and Africa relations in the World. What are the main differences between Africa-Asia relations today when compared to earlier eras?

What kind of responses is Asia providing to help Africa ending with endemic poverty towards sustainable economic growth? Clearly, part of the solution is in Asian countries to increase academic and research cooperation, trade and investment as well as financial development and economic development cooperation with African partners. Ultimately the solution lies with Africans themselves, all them – their leaders and the society all together with special relevance for the role of women and young Africans (and Asians) based on equity and justice where “no one is left behind.”

In this backdrop this conference attempts to enlarge and deepen the scope of the study of Africa-Asia relations since ancient times till the present day by addressing facets of those geographic, socio-economic, politic-diplomatic, gender and cultural interactions over time that somehow are still neglected in modern and contemporary scholarship. We aim to offer historically contextualized insights about the various ways in which the African and Asian regions and studies engage with each other and explore those engagements from a variety of theoretical standpoints and frameworks. The conference draws on the expertise of Asianists and Africanists in direct dialogue, exploring histories, dynamics, and outflows within the above framework interaction between the two regions and studies.

Thematic topics include a Trans-regional Afrasian history, politics and international relations, Africa and third world politics, Asian politics, international political economy, security studies and international relations, history (Africa and Asia), economics and finance, politics and development, and development and environment studies.

Sub-topics may include, but are not limited to:

Afrocentric versus Asiancentric perspective of the World, silk road, Indian Ocean, slavery, colonialism and colonization models, imperialism, capitalism and modernization, decolonization, globalization, neoliberalism, conflicts, human rights and NGOs, human (in) security, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), terrorism, capacity building and related issues (education, science, knowledge), South-South cooperation or South-South development cooperation, foreign aid, development cooperation models and regional partnerships (TICAD, FOCAC, AIF, KAF, etc), infrastructures and socio-economic development; poverty and vulnerability, hunger, diseases, environment and climate change; land grabbing, depletion of natural resources, agrobusiness; corruption and transparency, regionalism and integration, trade and commerce, natural resources depletion, foreign direct investment, privatization, public-private partnerships, world supply chains, regionalism, economic agreements, (MoU), digital trade; societal issues such as urbanization, migration and diaspora, demography, development and gender related issues (discrimination, lack of equity), good governance and economic growth.

Guidelines for Submission of Abstracts:1

Please send your abstract (eventually, full paper) by word file attachment by July 15th 2018 to Kitagawa Katsuhiko "KITAGAWA,Katsuhiko" <kitagawa@kansai-u.ac.jp>

Abstract includes (a) Title, (b) Names of presenters, complete affiliation (c) and should not exceed 300 words.

The Japan Society for Afrasian Studies (JASAS) organizing committee will examine the submitted abstracts. Successful candidates will be notified by the 30th July of 2018.

The deadline for submitting full papers to the organizing committee (to KITAGAWA, Katsuhiko" kitagawa@kansai-u.ac.jp) as of 6000 words is 20th September 2018.

Please note that prospective presenters need to be members of the Japan Society for Afrasian Studies. In order to become a member, visit our website (<https://infoaasi2017.wixsite.com/aasi>) and register from the "Become a Japan Society for Afrasian Studies Member". In terms of the student presenters, we offer the exemption of the event fee in this conference.

Workshop Programme:

The one day conference will be held on October 6th (Saturday) 2018. In the morning we will have one keynote speech followed by plenary roundtable session. Academic presentations will take place in the afternoon at 14:00. The conference programme will be released in the middle of September.

Venue : Hosted by Asian and African Studies Group (AASG) of the Faculty Economics Kansai University, Senriyama Campus, Suita-shi, Osaka (please see: <http://www2.kansai-u.ac.jp/AASG/link.html>)

Event Information and Registration:

Event: "Navigating Afro-Asian Studies" on our website

URL: <https://infoaasi2017.wixsite.com/aasi>

By AASG host organizing committee, as follows:

GOTO Kenta; KITAGAWA Katsuhiko; KITABA Michiko; TSUYAMA Naoko; MUNEMURA Atsuko; and RAPOSO Pedro