Since the end of the Cold War African countries have been experiencing deep and rapid transformations that have had a relevant impact on their interaction with the rest of the world. If soon after the end of the Cold War scholars predicted a downscaling of Africa’s global strategic relevance, today the continent is again drawing international attention for its security and economic challenges. Within this context, the relations between the African countries and the emerging powers from the Global South are accelerating internal transformations on the continent, while contributing to a redefinition of Africa’s international relations.

This international conference aims at debating the limits and potentials of the growing political and economic interaction between the African countries and the “emerging powers” within a broader historical and political perspective. In particular, the conference will analyze the role of African governments and multilateral institutions in shaping economic, political and security relations with the emerging powers, the political and economic priorities of the latter in Africa, and the reactions of the Western countries to the increasing assertiveness of the emerging powers in Africa.
programme

thursday, 4 may

9.00 welcome and introductory remarks

9.30-11.00 session 1: states and african resources
chair: henning melber (nordic africa institute)
gerold krozewski (osaka university)
transnational economic dynamics and statehood: a historical perspective on early 21st century africa

jack hogan (university of the free state)
new’ powers and ‘old’ powers? the upper zambezi borderlands

mario zamponi (university of bologna)
land grabbing in africa: the role of the brics

friday, 5 may

9.30-11.00 session 4: external actors – local impacts
chair: ulf engel (university of leipzig)

barbara onnis (university of cagliari), isabella soi (university of cagliari)
japanese politics in africa: old actors or old politics?

maria stella rognoni (university of florence)
india and the peacekeeping missions in the congo: ethics, business and power politics.

arrigo pallotti (university of bologna)
the european union and africa at 60: politicization of cooperation, depoliticization of development

11.30-13.00 session 5: african actors
chair: arrigo pallotti (university of bologna)

ulf engel (university of leipzig)
the african union peace/security and democracy/good governance agendas: between donor dependency and member state obstruction

redie bereketeab (nordic africa institute)
regional and international interventions, alliances and consequences in the horn of africa

victor adetula (nordic africa institute and university of jos)
emerging powers and threats to regional hegemonies in africa

aditi lalbahadur (south african institute of international affairs)
peacebuilding with ‘southern’ characteristic: a case study of south africa in the democratic republic of the congo

13.00 closing remarks