

AFRICA ON THE MOVE

An introduction to contemporary Africa
from the Social studies perspective



Intensive workshop
Turin, Campus Luigi Einaudi
3-6 June 2019

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from the Social Sciences perspective

The workshop will offer an introduction to contemporary Africa from the perspective of Social Studies, mainly focusing on the Sub-Saharan regions. It is organized by Department of Culture, Politics and Society of the University of Turin in collaboration with the College of Humanities of Makerere University (Uganda), one of the leading university of Sub-Saharan Africa, thanks to the Erasmus partner countries program run by the two universities. It is open to MA students and professionals seeking a general, multidisciplinary approach touching on some of the most relevant, updated topics in the field of African studies.

Most of the ideas of Africa circulating in the West originated from the complex and ambiguous history of the relations between Europe and the African continent. Exploitation - carried out for centuries through the Slave trade and then through Colonization - was based on a pejorative vision of Africans, in order to justify the Civilizing Mission of the West. Still today it is very difficult to observe, describe and analyze the social and anthropological history of the continent with an informed, objective glance able to grasp and problematize its complexity. The Western representation of the so called "Dark Continent" is filled with images of primitiveness, stagnation and absence of historicity: among the large public it is not unusual to notice a substantial ignorance of the pre-colonial history of black civilizations, a superficial awareness of the colonial and post-colonial situation and, finally, of the vibrant, dynamic present. While multidisciplinary researches in the different phases of African history are fast growing, their results are not easily communicated outside the Academy, so that stereotypes and misunderstandings continue to affect relations between Africa and the Western World.

In the last decades, Africa is experiencing a Renaissance in many different domains: economy, communication, culture, urbanization, ICT, demographic dynamics and mobility of people are characteristic features of this new deal. This innovative trend is relocating the continent at a global level (as China has very well understood). The workshop will focus on different aspects of the present situation of sub-Saharan societies, looking at them from various disciplinary perspectives: history, anthropology, geography, political science, development studies, strategic and diplomatic approaches. The program will be enriched by film screenings and book presentations.

A maximum of 50 places in all will be available for MA students and to external auditors.

Applicants must send an email by May 20th to alessandro.gusman@unito.it. including a CV and a brief motivation letter.

Applicants will be selected on the basis of the CV and of the Motivation letter.

Students can obtain 3CFUs for the full attendance, integrated by a short essay (max 10 pages) on a topic chosen by them and submit to the teaching staff.

A certificate of attendance will be released on demand.

Attendance is free of charge.