



# ASAI



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO

## 6th ASAI Biannual Conference

# AFRICA. IN, OUT, ABOUT

*Historical, political and cultural perspectives from the  
continent and the diasporas*

Università degli Studi, Milan, 16-18 September 2020

**Call for panels**

**deadline 1st April 2020**

The Association of African Studies in Italy (ASAI) organizes its 6th Conference at the Università degli Studi in Milan.

The African continent has been historically characterized by multiple flows and movements of people, goods and ideas, both across the continent and in relation to other regions. This articulated and multifaceted mobility has contributed to shape the relations among societies within Africa as well as the relations of the continent with the external world. The formation of diasporic communities in the Americas, Europe, Middle East and Asia is only one of the results of these mobilities. In these global processes, Africa has remained a point of reference through which identities, belongings and relations are formed and negotiated. This complex picture highly conflicts with a public discourse that simplistically overlooks or ignores the historical, political and cultural processes from which these mobilities originated in the past and develop in the present. Through this impoverished debate – that sometimes also



derives from a sort of amnesia of the past relations between Africa and Europe – Africa looks as static, or even as a threat.

For its 6th biannual conference, ASAI aims at stimulating an interdisciplinary debate on these themes, as a way to also promote a more informed and responsible public debate, as well as to shed light on the history, multi-directions and hierarchies of these exchanges and relations. ASAI encourages the submission of panel proposals that will explore in an interdisciplinary perspective the movements and mobilities of people, goods and ideas within, to and from the continent, as well as how they are represented and interpreted. Also in light of ASAI's thematic clusters "Representations of Africa" and "Africa, Migrations and Mobilities", themes that will be privileged are:

- mobility and migrations: demographic dynamics, policies of control and exclusion, forms of inclusion, intergovernmental and interinstitutional relations between Africa and Europe on migration;
- diasporas: transnational practices, citizenship, participation;
- representations and images of Africa and Africans in Europe, and of Europe and Europeans in Africa;
- the production of knowledge about Africa;
- social dynamics, discourses and imaginaries reconfiguring the spatial and temporal dimensions of local realities in Africa and the diasporas;
- media, technologies, infrastructures: policies and social dynamics;
- mobility/immobility; spatial and socio-economic inequalities;
- investments, wealth redistribution, welfare systems, extraction of resources.

Panel proposals in English and/or Italian should be sent to the email address [info@asaiafrica.org](mailto:info@asaiafrica.org) before 1st April 2020. All panel proposals should include:

- a title;
- a panel description of maximum 300 words;
- name and surname, affiliation and e-mail address of the convenor/convenors.

Information on acceptance will be sent on 3rd May 2020. A Call for Papers will follow.

### Scientific Committee

Anna Baldinetti, Alice Bellagamba, Luca Ciabbarri, Cristiana Fiamingo, Karin Pallaver, Antonio Pezzano, Silvia Riva, Vincenzo Russo