

CALL FOR PAPERS: ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG SCHOLARS IN AFRICAN STUDIES

“Keywords in African Studies”

June 4, 2018, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

June 5, 2018, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Recent years have seen resurgence in academic interest in Africa across disciplines in Israel. This constitutes an essential correction to the academic landscape, as Africanists have been insisting that the empirical, epistemological, and methodological absence of Africa threatens to diminish the overall value of the academy as a window into the full range of human experience. Around the world and in Israel in particular, the study of Africa enriches the understanding of political, cultural, economic, and social life in all its complexity and diversity, and challenges categories, concepts and ideas that are erroneously accepted as universal while actually masking underlying Eurocentric biases.

The two-day conference “Keywords in African Studies” aims to provide a forum for questioning the tensions between universal and localized systems of thought and practice in African contexts. Presentations will scrutinize the ways in which specific words and concepts are interpreted and applied in various settings, and show how such functions provide windows into Afro-specific ways of knowing, experiencing, and doing. In this manner, the conference will establish creative lines of dialogue across research projects and across disciplines, with the intention of helping researchers to find new directions for conceptualizing and framing their work and to facilitate new intellectual exchange and collaborations.

Targeting, but not limited to, graduate students and early-career scholars, we invite submissions that revolve around specific keywords and their interpretation, application, and possible contestation by various social actors. Though by no means exhaustive, inspiration for keywords may be drawn from the following list:

...freedom; debt; childhood; leader; family; wealth; success; nation; authority; development; nature;
faith; feminism; human rights; justice; beauty; love; agency; citizenship; ...

In order to facilitate discussions, presentations will be limited to 15 minutes. Please submit abstracts of no more than 200 words to: Africa@bgu.ac.il. Multiple abstracts and joint submissions are welcome. Abstracts should be submitted by January 31, 2018. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by March 1, 2018.



מרכז אפריקה על שם תמר גולן
באוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב

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