



ASA 2008 Annual Meeting

Theme Statement

"Knowledge of Africa: The Next Fifty Years"

Program Chair: Patrick Manning, University of Pittsburgh, pmanning@pitt.edu

THEME

Over the past fifty years, the types and levels of academic knowledge produced in African Studies have advanced impressively. African knowledge has gained growing recognition in all fields, from music to the environment, and new constituencies have generated and applied their knowledge to situations on the ground. The fiftieth anniversary of the annual meetings of the African Studies Association marks an important milestone and offers an opportunity to take stock of African Studies and map out possible future directions in the field, which has been characterized by complex interplay between academic analysis and social concern, theory and policy, and knowledge within and outside the continent. Also, knowledge production practices in African Studies have varied between disciplinary and interdisciplinary modes of inquiry; some disciplines and interdisciplinary fields have made greater advances than others.

The theme for the 2008 ASA annual meeting centers on current and projected advances in African Studies as a body of knowledge. The past fifty years of African Studies involved vigorous debate and attempts to overcome Eurocentric theories and analytical models and their application in scholarly and policy discourses. In various disciplines and interdisciplinary fields scholars debated about the relevance of existing theories and methodologies, and sometimes sought to develop new ones, in explaining African phenomena. The applicability of ostensibly universal conceptual schemas was particularly fraught in the realm of policy formation. Many scholars and social activists queried the relevance, and stressed the devastating consequences, of policy prescriptions devised by international agencies and Western governments, such as structural adjustment programs, that were imposed on African countries and took little account of African realities.

As we ponder the next fifty years, based on the past half-century of debate, empirical study, and conceptualization, what are the likely trajectories of knowledge production in the various fields of study and inquiry in African Studies? What are the likely intersections between Africanist and global knowledges, knowledges produced within and outside the continent, and knowledge production and policy formation? Mapping out future directions in African Studies requires an understanding of the changing institutional architecture and ideological trends within Africa and in the major external centers of Africanist knowledge production including the United States—the profound transformations taking place and that are likely to take place in higher education institutions and research systems and in regional and global policy regimes.

This fifty-year anniversary, therefore, provides a good time to review the state of knowledge production in African Studies: the central problems that have been examined, the theories and concepts that have been applied and developed, the most useful principles and methodologies of research, and the relationships among theory, empirical evidence, and policy. Conceptualization and especially theory are central to the development of knowledge in each area of African Studies, so it is critical to interrogate the theoretical and conceptual foundations in the various areas of inquiry in the field. The guiding theories may of course differ in the various categories of disciplines: social science, humanities, arts, liberal professions, natural sciences, and interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary studies.

Out of this systematic attention to knowledge production, it is hoped that the conference will yield an assessment of what the disciplines have become and how African Studies have transformed them. It is also hoped that discussion at the annual meeting will yield a sense of the evident needs and directions of change in African Studies knowledge production.

SUB-THEMES

The sub-themes identified for the 2008 Annual Meeting address most of the fields within African Studies. In addition, several sub-themes give particular attention to cross-disciplinary work. The theoretical issues and debates outlined below are meant to frame possible responses to the Call for Proposals. Contributions that examine other fundamental topics in African Studies are also welcome.

(A) Africa and the Diaspora

This multidisciplinary sub-theme is open to proposals on all aspects of the African Diaspora and links of the African continent to the Diaspora.

(B) Agriculture

This multidisciplinary sub-theme includes agriculture and other aspects of rural African life, including those seen through environmental studies and geography, as well as links among these fields.

(C) Anthropology

This multidisciplinary sub-theme includes archaeology, social and cultural anthropology, and other fields within and adjoining anthropology, as well as links among these fields.

(D) Communication

The Communication sub-theme addresses all aspects of communication, information technology, and related fields, as well as links among these fields.

(E) Economics

The Economics sub-theme includes all aspects of economics, economic history, and economic policy, as well as links among these fields

(F) Education

This sub-theme is open to proposals on all aspects of education, especially including higher education.

(G) Gender Analysis

This multidisciplinary sub-theme is open to papers and panels on African gender issues in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

(H) Health

The Health sub-theme calls for proposals on such health-related issues as medicine, psychology, traditional healing, and health policy.

(I) History

Proposals on history, on cross-disciplinary historical studies, and the place of history in policy studies are welcomed.

(J) Interdisciplinary Studies

This sub-theme focuses on the experience of interdisciplinary analysis regarding the African continent. It is open to proposals on work in the social sciences, arts and humanities, and law and society, including research methods in these fields and their intersections.

(K) Languages

This multidisciplinary sub-theme invites proposals on languages, linguistics, historical linguistics, and the interactions of these fields.

(L) Literature

This multidisciplinary sub-theme encompasses literature and such related fields as cultural studies, postmodern and postcolonial studies, and the interactions of these fields.

(M) Philosophy

This sub-theme invites proposals on the full range of philosophical issues and programs relevant to Africa.

(N) Political Science

This sub-theme invites proposals on the full range of issues in political science, government, and international relations.

(O) Religious Studies

This sub-theme invited proposals on theology, practice, and institutions in all the religious traditions of Africa, and on their interactions.

(P) Sociology

This sub-theme calls for proposals in sociology and its various subfields, with particular note of social movements and to Africa's youth.

(Q) Visual & Performance Arts

This sub-theme invites proposals on the full range of visual and performance arts.

Updated sub-theme statements as of March 7, 2008:

Agriculture and the environment

Richard Schroeder, Rutgers University (rschroed@rci.rutgers.edu)

There is perhaps no other analytical domain in which the "knowledge of Africa" gleaned over the past fifty years has been so partial and inadequate as in the realm of natural resource management. Whether the issue is the status of the continent's forests, perennial shortfalls in food and livestock production, or the complexity of fish and wildlife ecologies, the unknowns affecting African rural livelihoods are vast and deep. The next fifty years of African Studies will accordingly require a reconsideration of "baseline" ecological, political-economic and cultural knowledge in all aspects of agricultural and environmental management. A host of new issues also present themselves for exploration: (1) Bio-fuels: Will home-grown bio-fuels help reduce African dependence on fossil fuels? How will the expanding market for bio-fuels affect the availability of locally grown foodstuffs and imported food aid commodities? (2) Genetically modified organisms (GMOs): where, when and how will GMOs make new entries on the continent, and how will they affect local ecologies, dietary practices and agricultural markets? (3) Fair, ethical and organic trading networks: consumers are increasingly demanding detailed knowledge of the conditions under which the commodities they buy are produced. How will imposed quality and ethical standards affect coffee, cotton, tea, mining, and other key commodity chains with origins on the continent? (4) Climate change: What empirical evidence exists to document the changes that have already taken place due to global warming trends? What does the future hold for rural livelihood seekers (agriculturalists, pastoralists, charcoal makers, fisherfolk, etc.) and the resources they depend on as the cumulative effects of climate change take hold? The program committee will work to accommodate proposals centered on these and similar emerging themes connected to knowledge production in the realm of agriculture and environmental management.

* * * * *

Africa and the African Diaspora

James H. Sweet, University of Wisconsin (jhsweet@wisc.edu)

In 1965, only seven years after the first ASA meeting in Chicago, the International Congress of African Historians met in Dar es Salaam. There, Joseph Harris, George Shepperson, and others drew attention to a vibrant and emerging field in African studies—the African diaspora. Though these scholars concentrated primarily on the historical roles of Africans in the diaspora, their ideas were informed by linkages that tied the diaspora to contemporary movements of resistance and anticolonialism. These linkages remain as salient today as they did in 1965, as demonstrated by the recent initiative to integrate the African diaspora into the African Union as Africa's sixth region.

The panels in this section will reflect on the African diaspora as a conceptual tool for understanding the linkages of the past; they will also examine the possibilities for continued study and political realization of African and diaspora linkages into the future. Proposals relating to the overall conference theme on the history of knowledge and conceptualizations of the African diaspora are particularly welcome. We also invite proposals relating to slavery and resistance, including religion, music, dance, and memory; repatriation movements and ongoing links between Africa and the diaspora in the post-emancipation, colonial, and post-colonial periods; political, economic, and cultural linkages between Africa and the diaspora in the contemporary period. Proposals should not be limited to the African/North-South American nexus. We especially invite those working on the diaspora in the Indian Ocean, Asia, and Europe to submit proposals.

* * * * *

Anthropology

Chapurukha Kusimba, Field Museum (kusimba@fieldmuseum.org);
Sibel Kusimba, Northern Illinois University (t20sbk1@wpo.cso.niu.edu)

Anthropology and African Studies: Holistic and Historic Studies. Anthropology continues to provide a holistic perspective on understanding the inter- and intra-connections of African societies and cultures. The discipline of anthropology includes sociocultural anthropology, archaeology, linguistics and biological approaches, and ambitiously seeks a broad and unified perspective on the complexity of human and social phenomena in

Promoting African Studies Since 1957

Africa. Historically African anthropology developed as an adjunct to the colonial experience as a descriptive and structural –functionalist effort, largely isolated from the reality of African historical experience. Archaeology and linguistics developed a historical perspective in the mid-twentieth century. Today, African anthropology seeks an ambitious, inclusive documentation and theory building about Africa.

This broad brush approach is nevertheless made up of a particular set of methodologies whereby knowledge is created by anthropologists; those of qualitative and quantitative ethnographic research as well as archaeological methodologies and historical approaches emphasizing a sensitivity to the interpretation of oral traditions. Our sub-section will examine recent research in the diverse fields of anthropology in Africa as related to knowledge. How have human societies in Africa defined, created, stored, and disseminated knowledge throughout time? What kinds of knowledge have Africans developed about science, human beings and human history, the environment and their interactions with it? How has knowledge served as a currency of human power and sustenance in Africa? We will also examine how anthropologists have created knowledge about Africa. What have been the cultural and historical contexts of the creation of anthropological knowledge throughout precolonial, colonial, postcolonial, and globalizing Africa and what will future contexts be? Finally, What are the likely intersections between Africanist and global knowledges in the present day and future? How is anthropological knowledge produced within and outside the continent, and what is the future for developing centers of knowledge in African anthropology, such as universities, museums, non-governmental and community organizations and so on?

* * * * *

Communications

Wisdom Tettey, University of Calgary, (tettey@ucalgary.ca)

Access to, engagement with, and appropriate use of relevant information are critical to the development of any society. This sub-theme aims at exploring how various communications media and institutions can be used to foster knowledgeable and active citizenship; promote accountable and capable institutions; and build networks of knowledge production, mobilization and dissemination – for the benefit of particular sectors, communities, countries, and indeed the continent as a whole. It also seeks critical analyses of the extent to which developments in, and use of, traditional mass media, new information and communication technologies, as well as other communicative channels are expanding the capacity of African institutions and peoples to deploy information in ways that engage citizens, create responsive and effective institutions, and (re)define the relative power of different actors within the continent's social, economic and political systems. It will also examine the impact of such knowledge production, exchange and application on the position of African countries within the global political economy. We seek proposals that address these issues from theoretical, empirical and/or policy perspectives. Proposals may address aspects of the following issues or variants thereof:

- Media and Public Accountability
- Access to Information Legislation and Good Governance
- Information, Civic Engagement and Democratic Citizenship
- Media, Rule of Law and Human Rights
- Communication Technologies and Education
- Communication and Nation Building
- Globalization, Communication Technologies and Transnational Knowledge Networks
- Knowledge Mobilization, Knowledge Transfer and Socio-Economic Development
- Organizational Communication and Institutional Capacity Building
- The Publishing Industry and Knowledge Dissemination
- Media Technologies and Cultural Preservation

* * * * *

Economics

Nathan Nunn, Harvard University, (nunn@fas.harvard.edu)

Despite improved economic performance in the past few years, the continent of Africa, and the region of sub-Saharan Africa in particular, remains vastly underdeveloped. Many African countries now have average levels of real income levels that are lower than the levels at independence. As of yet, a consensus view of the origins of Africa's persistent underdevelopment has not been reached. Some argue that the reason lies in the past exploitation of the African continent. Others argue that the explanation is Africa's high levels of ethnic fragmentation. Even less consensus has been reached about what the best policies are to help alleviate poverty on the continent, with some researchers arguing that a "big-push" is needed with very high levels of foreign aid, while other argue that this will simply exacerbate the problem causing increased corruption and rent-seeking.

Although over time, the need for answers to these questions has become more and more pressing, research in development economics has only very slowly begun to examine economic development within Africa.

Instead, research has focused on India and China, which are two of the most rapidly developing countries in the world today.

This sub-theme invites proposals that address topics relevant to economic development and poverty alleviation in Africa. The sub-theme is intended to be multidisciplinary. It is open to papers and panels on all aspects of economics, economic history, political economy and economic policy, as well as links among these fields. Relevant papers from other fields are also encouraged.

* * * * *

Education

* * * * *

Gender Studies

Gracia Clark, Indiana University (gclark@indiana.edu)

The analysis of African gender has fueled its share of vigorous debate over theory and practice among scholars and practitioners on the continent, not least over the meaning and legitimacy of the concept. This sub-theme expands the definition of gender as broadly as possible, corresponding to the theme's multivalent definition of knowledge. Reassessing the past, present and future of African gender studies has special value now, when institutions and paradigms in the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences, and even the learned professions face deep challenges and transformations. The work-in-progress of overcoming Eurocentric representations, theories and analytic models, a prominent feature of African gender studies for decades, remains crucial. Gender studies has historical experience of the kind of trans-disciplinary scholarship often proposed by intellectuals today, placing it in a unique position to model and to critique these innovations.

Topics about past, present and future trajectories of knowledge can address specific cases or conceptual schemes ranging from structural functionalism to globalization. Presentations in various formats and media will be welcomed to explore these and other questions of gendered practice in knowledge production:

- How has African gender studies challenged and transformed the theory and practice of particular disciplines and professions, including Gender Studies itself?
- How have changes in institutional architecture and transformations in public policy regimes on and off the continent affected Africanist research questions and methodologies?
- In the continuing interplay between scholarship and activism, between theory and policy, between academic and applied work, and between ideas inside and outside the continent, what are the likely trajectories of knowledge production about gender?
- How can the right balance be struck between disciplinary rigor and interdisciplinary fluidity, across the full range of sciences, arts and humanities?
- What intersections between African and global concerns in scholarship and activism might be most productive of empowerment at all levels of knowledge production?

* * * * *

Health

Collins Airhienbuwa, Penn State University (aou@psu.edu)

Framing the Contexts of African Health Scholarship, Programs, and Policies. The centrality of African culture and identity has never been as critical as today in the analysis and framing of solutions for health issues and policies. We seek to move beyond the discursive dialectic of us and them (Western based psychosocial models of behavior change) into Framing an African-centered strategy for advancing the debate and scholarship on health programs and policy in Africa. This sub-theme on Health will focus on analysis of African health issues from social cultural, historical, and political perspectives. The goal and objectives of the theme are to debate the various theoretical and discursive contributions on African Identity to our understanding of health behaviors and health policy in Africa. We invite research, program, and policy papers that engage an analysis of the possibilities and the challenges in framing an African-centered approach to addressing health issues in Africa.

* * * * *

History

James Searing, University of Illinois – Chicago (jsearing@uic.edu)

Fifty years ago African history emerged with the agenda to decolonize history and challenge beliefs that African history began with the arrival of Europeans on the continent. The focus was on recovery of African agency and sources, with a great deal of emphasis on the pre-colonial period. Fifty years later much research focuses on Africa since World War II and has shifted to new domains: popular culture, gender, health and the environment, to name a few. Europeans and empires have been brought back in through studies of colonial encounters and constructions of imperial subjects. The history of territorially sovereign nation-states influences research and its links to policy despite debate about the status of the post-colony.

Some methodological issues have remained controversial over the past fifty years, such as the contested status of “oral traditions” in historical research. Debates about the naming of African peoples and languages and the political significance of ethnicity and religion abound. Historians face multiple choices about how to frame their research: as a study of local terrain and identity, as a contribution to African area studies, to the history of empires, to the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds or world history in the context of globalization.

Enormous strides in the production of knowledge about specific topics have occurred: studies of slavery across the continent with links to various African Diasporas are a clear example and an exception to the focus on colonial and post-colonial history. Gender and migration are firmly established as lenses for the analysis of changing identities. On the other hand, studies of the state, economic change and politics have been subject to the fortunes of theoretical debate. The program committee invites reflections on past and future practices of history that address theoretical and conceptual issues that have influenced or should influence knowledge production.

* * * * *

Interdisciplinary Studies

Patrick Manning, University of Pittsburgh (pmanning@pitt.edu)

Of all area-studies scholars over the past half century, Africanists have been among the most serious in applying interdisciplinary methods. The idea of maximizing learning through analysis from multiple perspectives has been privileged in African Studies, and it has arguably accelerated the accumulation of academic knowledge of Africa. In addition, Africanist scholars have argued that interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches help to ensure greater attention to the insights, perspectives, and needs of African communities.

In an academic world where the term “interdisciplinary” is bandied about freely, this sub-theme provides an opportunity to reconsider where we have achieved major advances in understanding through linking disciplines, and where we lack advances. The papers and panels in this sub-theme are intended to bring a critical review of interdisciplinary scholarship on Africa over the past fifty years, and to identify expected developments in cross-disciplinary knowledge and methods for the future.

The theme is intended to be open to papers and panels on work in the social sciences, arts & humanities, and law & society, including research methods in these fields and their intersections. The following are examples of the organization of papers and panels that will facilitate this review: (1) How pairs of disciplines have influenced each other in methods, interpretations, and empirical data. Pairs might include anthropology and history, history and literature, or political science and economics. (2) How scholarship in African Studies has influenced the humanities in general or the social sciences in general. Papers might address how interdisciplinary Africanist work has influenced the fields of economics or art history. (3) How research methods in African Studies have combined disciplinary approaches. Examples could be drawn from surveys, field studies, participant observation, or archival analyses.

* * * * *

Languages

Sam Mchombo, University of California, Berkeley (mchombo@berkeley.edu)

Proposals are invited for the panel on ‘Languages’ to be held during the 50th African Studies Association annual conference. In recent times studies of African languages have contributed significantly to advances in research into grammatical theory and phonological theory within the generative paradigm, as well as to conceptual issues in morphosyntactic relations. The structure of African languages has informed the articulation of the architecture of grammatical theory and illuminated the impact of theoretical linguistics on studies of human cognition. This was typified by the debates between the theory of Lexical Functional Grammar (LFG) and that of Government and Binding (GB), that later developed into Principles and Parameters Theory (PPT). Further, African languages proved instrumental in the development of Autosegmental and Metrical Phonology, and have contributed to progress in Optimality Theory (OT). While the ‘Languages’ panel invites abstracts dealing with linguistic descriptions (phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, pragmatic, etc.) within any theoretical framework, as well as historical linguistics and historical accounts of African languages, it will also place emphasis

on multidisciplinary approaches to the study of language. In keeping with this general theme of the conference, the panel seeks and encourages submission of papers that highlight research or work on, but not necessarily limited to, language documentation, endangered languages, creation of orthographies, language pedagogy, computational linguistics, language and education, language planning and language policy (language and politics), language and gender, language acquisition.

* * * * *

Literature

Ato Quayson, University of Toronto (a.quayson@utoronto.ca)

Roots, Routes, and Orientations: African Literary Criticism and Theory at 50.

Both African literature and the literary criticism and theory that have developed around it have undergone a series of transformations over the past 50 years. From Achebe's landmark *Things Fall Apart* of 1958 to Nobel Prizes for Mahfouz, Gordimer, and Coetzee and a clutch of high literary honors for various others the field of African literary studies has reached an international watermark.

Papers are invited that will engage with the literary history of the field from a wide range of perspectives. Questions to be addressed will include:

- What is the relationship between African literature and various models of world literature?
- How might African literature be used in the sentimental education of its various diasporas?
- What does African literature have to say to the disciplines (Anthropology, History, Postcolonialism, Urban Studies, Gender Studies, Ethnic Studies, Disability Studies, and Environmental Studies, among others)?
- How have language and translation issues been framed in debates on African literature?
- What are the intersections between orality and the new media (internet, hip hop, Nollywood)?
- What is the role of African literary study in the quest for a new humanism post-Sept 11?
- What are the main orientations of literary theory as they have been applied to the field of African literature?

Proposals with a literary historical bent (answering the questions of what, why, where, and who), will be particularly welcomed as will those attempting a cross-disciplinary reading of the field.

* * * * *

Philosophy

John Murungi, Towson University (jmurungi@towson.edu)

African philosophy has rich histories and by all measures a brighter future. It includes ancient written traditions in Egypt, medieval Islamic Scholarship in Timbuktu, the sixteenth century religious rationalism of Zera Yaacob and his disciples in Abyssinia, and the empiricist tradition of William Amo's modernism. In the contemporary period it expands to include a variety of methods and currents: Systematic and critical ethnophilosophy and Sage Philosophy, African Liberation Philosophy and the social and political thought from Nkrumah, Nyrere to Towa, Fanon, Biko and Tutu; the hermeneutics of Okere and Serequeberhan and the analytic approaches of Wiridu and Hallen; and the reflections on African identity in a postcolonial era by Okonda, Masolo, and Kebede. In addition, there is the philosophical reflection embedded in the works of African artists and writers such as Senghor, Achebe, Soyinka, and others.

This rich history raises expectations about the future directions of philosophy in Africa. What are the emerging new paths for the field? What challenges can be expected along these paths? With no attempt to be exhaustive, we invite contributors to submit proposals for panels, papers, symposia, or author-meets-critics around these and related themes:

1. Reinterpreting the history/ies of philosophy in Africa: Black Athena and Beyond
2. Developing contemporary African epistemologies: e.g., relations between mythic and symbolic thought, theoretical and empirical scientific procedures, and philosophical reason
3. Philosophy in relation to African art and literature
4. Philosophy in African languages
5. African revisioning of social and political and ethical life: Ideal and Reality
6. Philosophy and the quest to decolonize the African mind
7. African philosophy as a site of interdisciplinary and intercultural thinking
8. The contribution of African philosophy to the global dialogue of cultures
9. Universality and Particularity of Philosophy: Reason, language and representability
10. Philosophy of Gender in the African contexts
11. Philosophy and the construction of African identity: The politics and philosophy of recognition

* * * * *

Political Science

* * * * *

Religious Studies

Elias Bongmba, Rice University (bongmba@rice.edu)

We invite proposals that address the study of African religions, religious experience, and religious phenomena. We are interested in papers that offer a critical analysis of religion including but not limited to the history and historiography of particular traditions or communities within indigenous religions, Christianity, African Initiated Churches, Islam, Asian and South Asian religions in Africa. We also encourage papers with critical perspectives on theological developments (liberation, feminist, reconstruction, political theologies and popular theologies), religious practice (rituals, social ministries), institutional developments, and projects of academic associations such as The Circle of Concerned Women Theologians, the African Association for the Study of Religion, and the South African Academy of Religion. Such papers may analyze institutional adaptation, cooperation; inter religious dialogue, and peace building. In the case of Islam, we are interested in papers that explore textual traditions, Islamic thought and jurisprudence.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Annual Meeting, we encourage submissions that continue but also bring innovation and methodological sophistication to current interdisciplinary research on religion and religious institutions in religious studies, theology, anthropology, history, sociology, and political science. We encourage interdisciplinary proposals exploring the interconnection between religion, religious ideas, religious practice, or religious impact on ethics, health and healing, politics, economic, colonial/apartheid and the postcolonial/ apartheid era, and religion and the arts. Such interdisciplinary innovation is reflected in works by The Comaroffs (anthropology and missions), John Peel (History), J. Olupona (rituals), S. Blier (arts), Al Roberts (arts), M. Oduyoye, Musa Dube, John de Gruchy, and Jim Cochrane (theology), Obgu Kalu and Lamin Sanneh (Church History), and more recently D. Hodgson, B. Cooper, Oyeronke (missions and gender).

* * * * *

Sociology

David Wiley, Michigan State University (wiley@msu.edu)

* * * * *

Visual and Performance Arts

Chika Okeke-Agulu, Penn State University (coo3@psu.edu)

Methods, histories, theories: New scholarship in the Arts. Scholarship in the visual and performing arts of Africa has grown tremendously in the past few years, and this has led to questions and debates about effective and appropriate methodological, theoretical and critical approaches to, and even the development of a historiography of African expressive arts. The changing contexts of cultural and artistic productions on the continent call for the displacement, revision, or reexamination of established methods, theories and perspectives on visual and performing arts of Africa; indeed the need for new approaches to the scholarship has never been more urgent. Panels investigating problems of knowledge production within the continent, and/or the relevance of indigenous knowledge systems in the development of critical methods and theoretical approaches to specific fields of the arts are welcome, as are panels on the effect of globalization, new technologies and ideas on the arts of Africa. Proposals directly or indirectly related to the tensions and challenges, as well as possibilities of the interface of local and global sites and networks of knowledge production in African expressive arts are encouraged.

As conceived, this sub-theme broadly covers the visual and performing arts of classical and indigenous African societies, as well as modern/contemporary practices from any and all parts of the continent and its Diaspora.