



**We are pleased to invite you to join us for the Opening Ceremony of the
AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA (ASAA)'s Second Biennial
Conference**

Date: Oct 12, 2017, Great Hall, University of Ghana

Time: 9.00 a.m prompt; guests are advised to be seated by 8.45

Keynote by renowned journalist Ms Elizabeth Ohene

Special guest: Nana Nketsia V Omanhene of Essikado

**For those who want to participate in the entire programme (Oct. 12-14) please
visit www.as-aa.org to register and to view the entire Programme**

The African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) was established in 2013 during the climax of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana, Legon, to promote Africa's own specific contributions to the advancement of knowledge about the peoples and cultures of Africa and the Diaspora. The ASAA is currently the only multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary *professional association* on the continent dedicated to the study of Africa from an Africanist perspective, what Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of Ghana, referred to as studying our societies and experiences in an African-centred way.

The ASAA's goals are to:

1. Promote and support networking and interdisciplinary exchanges among Africanist scholars, centres and institutes of African Studies on the continent.
2. Promote research and discussions on topical issues of concern to the wellbeing of Africans.
3. Promote and encourage research by African scholars on the continent.
4. Promote and encourage Africa-centred education - an informed understanding of Africa through museums, archives, schools, policymakers, NGOs, media, business, learned societies, and other interested communities.
5. Promote links with Africans and institutions in Africa and the Diaspora involved and interested in African Studies.
6. Encourage partnerships with existing Associations of African Studies and other organizations interested in promoting African affairs.

The first biennial conference was held at the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ibadan in October 2015.

**The 2017 ASAA Conference co-hosted by the Institute of African Studies,
University of Ghana (Legon).**

Theme: "***African Studies and Global Politics***"

The African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) 2nd Biennial Conference convenes to offer a forum for intellectuals, academics, and practitioners—to collaborate with us

to engage in the important undertaking about the global African condition, the quality of life of Africans on the continent and the African Diaspora, and the effects of global socio-politics on Africa and African people around the world.

Certain global events present special challenges and portend particular futures for Africa. The fact that a significant segment of Africa's population is composed of our youth presents challenges such as young men stranded on boats in open sea as they seek new homes in Europe, or the spectre of young women seeking greener pastures in the Middle East and South-East Asia. Our youth are also increasingly likely to be victims of trafficking or sucked into terrorist organizations such as ISIS and Boko Haram. However, the youthful population also presents a demographic dividend evidenced in hip hop cultures, film and music industries, and international football, business and skills gains.

Brexit and the election of Donald Trump have brought discussions of right wing movements, governments and racist agendas into sharp focus. What does the free movement of goods, people and ideas mean in such a context, and how are questions of citizenship, race, ethnicity and religion conflated here? Simultaneously, movements such as Black Lives Matter in the US and Europe, and the Decolonizing Intellectualism and Educational Movements in parts of Africa have gained ground and thrown the teaching of African(a) Studies in Historically White Colleges and Universities (HWCU) in the Diaspora into sharp relief.

The key global economic issues that drive processes call us to examine big institutions and their commitment, or lack thereof, to an African agenda. Much progress is being made by continental and regional financial and other corporate institutions, such as with mobile banking, which has revolutionized small business transactions and social relations through money transfers. At the same time, there are also still many challenges around money and financing in Africa, such as with exchange rates and foreign transfers, raising capital for SMEs, and the role of the central and commercial banks.

We are pleased that this conference provides 63 panels addressing 27 sub-themes:

- African Agency In International Relations;
- Decolonizing Intellectualism and Educational Movements;
- Institutional and Non-Institutional Approaches to Conflict Resolution and Peace Building;
- Health, Vulnerabilities and Healing;
- African Traditional and Modern Justice;
- Pan-Africanism, African Unity and The African Union;
- Global Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism and African Lives;
- Music, Dance and Film: Revivals and Appropriations;
- Politicizing Debates and Women and Gender;
- Democratic Consolidation and Discourses of Development;
- The Paris Agreement, Climate Change, Droughts and The Environment;
- The Movement of African Peoples and Citizenship(S);
- Traditional Approaches to Conflict Management and Peace Building in Africa;

- Responding to The Refugee Crisis in Africa: Reflections from The Social Science; Research Council's Next Generation of Social Scientists In Africa Program
- Contemporary Religious Movements;
- Challenging, Deconstructing and Reimagining Educational Systems: Cases from Ghana, Niger, Nigeria And South Africa;
- Internationalizing Education; Impact Factors, The "Africa Campus" And Knowledge Systems;
- African Migrations: National Security and The Politics of Representing the Movements of Persons;
- Social Movements, Social Media and Talking Back;
- Community Struggles in The Eastern Cape, South Africa;
- Postcolonial Imaginaries: Spatial and Territorial Perspectives;
- The Lifecycle of Digital African Studies Project;
- Disjointed Modernization in the 21st Century Urbanization in Africa;
- The Idea of Public Policy in The Global South;
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Africa's Agenda 2063;
- A Sexuality Agenda: Rights, Rhetoric and Citizenship;
- Pan-Africanism In the Diaspora and Africa;

Additionally, there are special panels:

- Exploring the Close Connections Between Menstrual Hygiene Management and Wash Programmes in Ghana:
- Three Panels on Peace and Security by Fellows of The Social Science Research Council's Next Generation of African Scholars Programme;
- A Roundtable on the journal *African Affairs*;
- A Workshop: Publish That Article: A Workshop Featuring Editors of African Studies Journals;
- Two Panels by The Critical Investigations Into Humanitarianism In Africa (CIHA) Blog;

And:

- A CODESRIA Roundtable on The Politics of Funding Knowledge Production in Africa.