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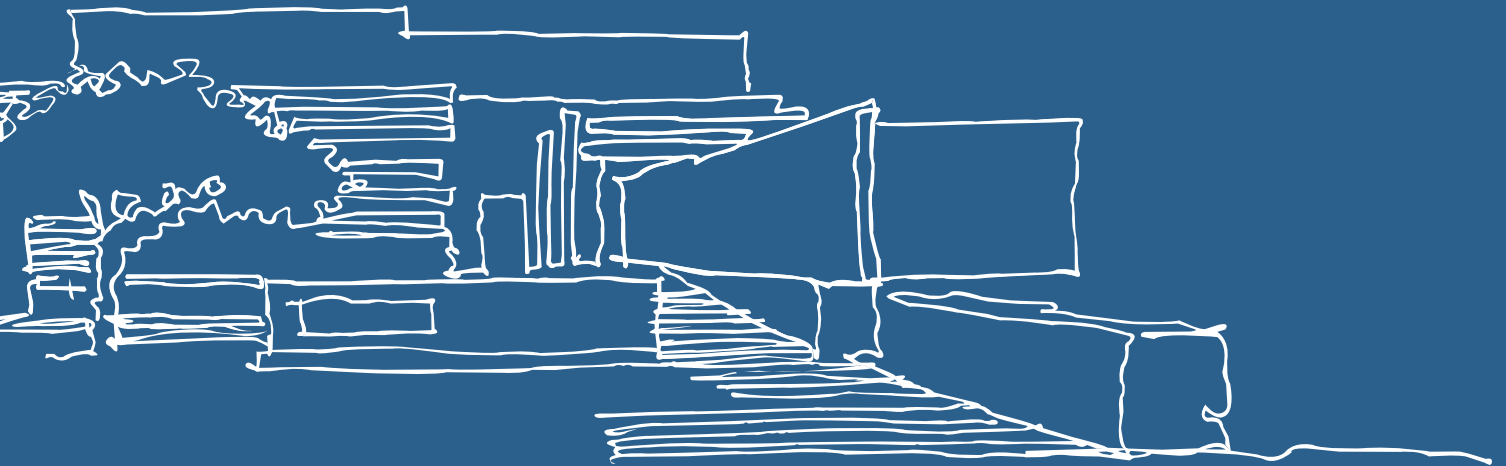
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FRIEDRICH-SCHILLER-
UNIVERSITÄT
JENA

MERIAN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICA
(MIASA) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
PROSPECTS FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN AFRICA
A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE
13-15 SEPTEMBER 2021

A CREATIVE SPACE FOR THE MIND



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STELLENBOSCH INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
STELLENBOSSE INSTITUUT VIR GEVORDERDE NAVORSING

INTRODUCTION

The African Union (AU) has recently taken bold steps to integrate the continent further. In 2015 members agreed on a broad integration plan, the Agenda 2063. A first success has already been achieved: The Agenda 2063 foresees a comprehensive free trade agreement which was to be finalized in 2017, and was eventually agreed upon in March 2018. Other steps are to follow, implying deeper integration with respect to movement of people, education and financial deepening, among others.

It seems as if the European model of integration is seen – consciously or by implication, and mostly uncritically – as a role model for African economic integration. This is not least because the EU has supported African integration efforts in the past in different forms, i.e. conceptually as well as materially. That said, it is by no means clear whether and if so, to what extent the European integration can be easily applied to African countries and their citizens. In addition, it is not obvious that it should. Indeed, many African policymakers and scholars raise doubts about the EU's function as role model. They argue this with reference to historical analogies as well as institutional and cultural differences between the two continents.

Against this background, there is a need to carefully analyse the implications of more than sixty years of European integration. However, In addition, other continents' (including African) experiences for the nascent African integration process have to be studied. Although it seems as if the European experience dominates the discussion, there is much potential to learn from integration processes all over the globe. African integration can very much benefit from a thorough study of integration successes and failures in Europe, Asia and Latin America as well as in Africa itself. A necessity for such an analysis is a multi-disciplinary setting that explicitly considers an African perspective.

An ideal form to bring together different – and probably rather diverse – experiences, is a book project in combination with an international conference organised by the Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa (MIASA) – in collaboration with the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, the Goethe University Frankfurt/Main and the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) – where research results will be presented and discussed with a wider audience. Based on this conference, the book chapters shall be drafted by the scholars, either single-authored or co-authored.

THE THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE AND BOOK

The planned international conference and book will highlight the significant similarities and differences between integration paths in Africa and other continents and thereby help policymakers to understand the mutual lessons from different integration experiences. It will provide opportunities for an informed and nuanced discourse on interdisciplinary perspectives, empirical findings and policy implications between non-African and African scholars, political office-bearers, policymakers in government, and representatives of international bodies. The book consists of three Parts.

Part I: The State of intra-African co-operation: ambition vs. reality

- In the first paper the theoretical arguments for regional integration shall be discussed with a perspective on African idiosyncrasies.
- In the second paper of Part I, different approaches to regionally integrated African economies – starting with the oldest customs union, SACU – shall be discussed.
- The third paper shall provide an analytical overview about the current state of economic and political cooperation in Africa, using empirical methods.
- Next, political aspects shall be analysed. What are the implications for African economic integration of changes in the balance of power between leading nations in the world? How do external relations to other countries or blocs (notably China) affect the internal equilibrium within the continent?
- Paper five shall discuss the performance of African integration; the question of what the obstacles and challenges of African integration are as well as the achievements shall be thoroughly assessed.
- Paper 6 shall discuss the reasons for the shortcomings in the African integration process, in particular the political economy aspects, which include trade and industrial policy, undiversified economies, corruption, weak states and rent-seeking, the colonial legacy as well as geographical challenges.

Part II: Experiences in other continents

- Two papers shall deal with the European integration process, and also adopt a historical perspective.
- The first paper shall give a short account of European integration, looked at from an African perspective, i.e. with a comparative view to African integration steps.
- In the second paper, the shortcomings of European integration shall be discussed. Again, an African perspective is taken, this is necessary to avoid a fallacy of composition.
- The subsequent 4 papers shall look at regional integration attempts in two other developing areas, namely Latin America and Asia respectively. These are Mercosur and the Pacific Alliance respectively for Latin America and ASEAN and subsequently the newly installed RCEP as an ASEAN plus. In addition, it seems advisable to also carefully analyse the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) as a cross-continent free trade agreement.

Part III: Direct Lessons from other regional integration efforts

- Based on Parts I and II, the project subsequently proceeds by drawing lessons from other continents' integration for African integration efforts, be they regionally restricted or aimed at the entire continent. This Part will be written by the editors.

MERIAN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN AFRICA (MIASA)
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
PROSPECTS FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN AFRICA: A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

AT STELLENBOSCH INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY (STIAS), 13-15 SEPTEMBER 2021
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GOETHE UNIVERSITY FRANKFURT/MAIN

CONVENERS

Andreas Freytag, Friedrich-Schiller-University of Jena, University of Stellenbosch, CESifo Research Network and STIAS
Abena Oduro, University of Ghana, Legon, Department of Economics and Maria Sibylla Merian Institute for Advanced Studies in Africa

PROGRAMME

For each author, we plan 45 minutes, of which 15 minutes is for the presentation, 10 minutes for the discussant and 20 minutes overall discussion.

TIME	ACTIVITY	AUTHOR	DISCUSSANT
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13			
08.00-09.00	Registration		
09.00-09.45	Welcome: STIAS and MIASA Representative Introduction: Abena Oduro and Andreas Freytag		
09.45-10.30	Keynote by Amanda Bisong: Advancing regional integration in Africa through connecting markets and people		
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break		
11.00-12.30	SESSION 1		
	Theoretical arguments for regional integration: A perspective on African idiosyncrasies	Woldegiorgis, Mesfin Mulugeta	Peter Draper
	Rethinking Regional Integration in Africa from the 'Epistemologies of the South' attempt to domesticate an 'exotic' approach to regional science	Koé, Ndzomo Lazare	Helmut Asche
12.30-14.00	Lunch at STIAS		
14.00-15.30	SESSION 2		
	Economic integration in Africa: Ambitions and Realities of a collective dream, case study of Central Africa	Pountougnigni Njuh, Ludovic Boris	Anabel Gonzalez
	Examining regional intensity of trade in Africa and implications for intra-Africa trade in the AfCFTA	Mutambara, Tsitsi Effie	Krige Siebrits
15.30-16.00	Coffee Break		
16.00-17.30	SESSION 3		
	A pre-theory reality check: Structure and substance of heterarchy in processes of African unity.	Kuditchar, Nene-Lomotey	Ursula van Beek
	The challenges facing efforts towards regional integration: A legal perspective	Nyajeka, Kimberly Wadzanai	Estian Calitz
18.30	Conference Dinner at STIAS (Dinner Speech by Stan du Plessis)		

TIME	ACTIVITY	AUTHOR	DISCUSSANT
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14			
09.00-10.30	SESSION 4		
	Regional Integration and Income Inequality Dynamics in Africa	Kunawotor, Mark Edem	Pierre Siklos
	The Performance of African Integration: An Assessment of Challenges and Achievements	Van Reenen, Natalie	Rainer Klump
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break		
11.00-12.30	SESSION 5		
	Pan-Africanism and the Language Factor in Regional Integration: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities	Mandillah, Lucy KL	Michelle Störmer
	Africa and the Paradox of ethno-nationalism and integration	Olaniyan, Azeez	Efua Prah
12.30-14.00	Lunch at STIAS		
14.00-15.30	SESSION 6		
	Reasons for the Shortcomings in the African Integration Process	Biniza, Siyaduma	EO Ogunkola
	Exploring the Shortcomings of the African Integration Process	Manchishi, Shimukunku	Estian Calitz
15.30-16.00	Coffee Break		
16.00-16.45	SESSION 7		
	Formal education and regional integration in Latin America	Diallo, Alpha Mamadou	Ada Jansen
17.00	Visit at the Covid Test Centre in Stellenbosch for international participants		
18.30	Dinner (tba)		

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15			
09.00-10.30	SESSION 8		
	A short account of European integration: An African perspective	Nubong, Gabila Fohtung	Stan du Plessis
	The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of European economic integration as seen from an African lens: Avoiding the Fallacy of composition	Nyaga, Brian Kelly	Ebo Turkson
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break		
11.00-12.30	SESSION 9		
	Shortcomings of European Integration from an African perspective	Simms-Golo, Thelma	K Afesorgbor
	Consolidating African regional integration through the AFCTA: Lessons from the ASEAN Free Trade Area	Vhumbunu, Clayton H.	Helmut Asche
12.30-14.00	Lunch at STIAS		
14.00-15.30	SESSION 10		
	Leveraging Regional and Free Trade Agreements: Vietnam's Economic Integration in Southeast Asia and Beyond	Zürpel, Christian	Lawrence Edwards
	Insights and lessons from integrating Asian economies: (What) Can Africa learn from Asian market-led regional integration?	Kalkschmied, Katja	David Stadelmann
15.30-16.00	Coffee Break		
16.00-16.45	The Way forward		
17.00	Visit at the Covid Test Centre in Stellenbosch for international participants		
18.30	Dinner		

PARTICIPANTS (in alphabetical order)

Name	Affiliation
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