



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

“NEGOTIATING THE FABRIC OF THE AFRICAN UNIVERSITY – BEYOND LOCALITY AND UNIVERSALISM”

13-15 September 2022

Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo, Mozambique



Our images and imaginations of universities in the 21st century is very much shaped by an ‘Emerging Global Model’. Against this background, the conference reflects on the past, present and future character of the modern ‘African’ university and the university in Africa. It aims to shed light on the conditions of possibility of a decolonial African university as it negotiates its characters between pressures of local realities and global trends. By doing so, it intends to better understand the trajectories of universities in Africa and to contribute to strengthening the development of these institutions and the higher education systems in which they are embedded. Furthermore, the salient sociological understanding of the university as a unified global cultural reference system is to be challenged and recalibrated.



The two-part conference will be organized and held in Mozambique and South Africa, respectively, in September 2022 and September 2023, assembling a selected number of scholars from across the globe to critically examine the historical genealogy, current developments and the emerging features of the ‘African’ university as we enter the beginning of the second quarter of the millennium. Both conferences are open for presentations on conceptual approaches on the “Fabric and future of the modern African University” as well as empirical research and case studies. Therefore, contributions to the following research questions are welcome:

Emerging identities:

- Is the decolonial quest for the ‘African’ university anti-universal?
- Is there an ‘African’ university devoid of locality and universalism?
- What, if any, specific models and ideas of the decolonial African university and its role in society are being proposed? And if so, where do they come from, how influential have they been?
- Are the universalistic trends in higher education (e.g., global rankings, research excellence initiatives, internationalisation), contrary to the ethos of the ‘African’ university?

Emerging forms of cooperation:

- How do African Universities calibrate their local, national, and international cooperation?
- In what regards could African Universities (and the ideas and models behind them) be a source of innovation and inspiration for universities in other contexts (both in the Global North and in the Global South)?
- What role do these different types of cooperation play in their identities and strategies? And how do these corporations feed back in the models and ideals of African Universities in general?

Emerging forms of diversification:

- How do Western models and ideas of the University (e.g., the idea of 'excellence' or 'world class universities') influence the perception of African universities by different actors and stakeholders (both in Africa, in other parts of the Global South, and in the Global North?)
- How do we make sense of the institutional diversity of Universities in the African context without again copying Western models of functional differentiation (e.g., by comparing flagship research universities with teaching only institutions)?
- How do we make sense of the sociocultural diversity within African Universities (e.g., in regard to gender issues)?



The conference intends to advance the next generation of academics, scholars and researchers. Therefore, it will integrate workshops for doctoral students and early career researchers in the fields of comparative higher education, sociology of science, technology, and innovation, research policy and related disciplines or area studies.



Participants can apply with an **abstract of 300-500 words** to be actively included in the program workshops. Successful candidates compete for a sponsored conference attendance and a possibility to contribute a chapter in an edited volume (to be published open access in cooperation with a renowned publisher). The sponsored attendance covers airfare, accommodation, visa fees, Covid-19 tests, travel insurance, and meals. After having been selected for presenting at the conference, participants will be asked to hand in their paper for contribution before the conference. The selection of the best papers will be made and announced during the conference. Keynotes and panel discussions will be open to the public

Application Deadline: 25th June, 2022

We invite scholars to submit a short abstract (300-500 words) through the
online application form:

<https://forms.gle/yH1dsBmzWtBQ97as7>

If you have any questions, please contact: l.schubert@uni-bonn.de

Language: Presentations and discussions are to be held in **English**. Abstracts can also be handed in French, German and Portuguese.

Mode of conference presentation: **Hybrid** (Face-to-face / Virtual)

Organizers:



Prof. Patricio Langa
*University of the Western Cape, South Africa
& Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique*



Prof. Dr. David Kaldewey
Universität Bonn, Germany

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Funders:



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Invited Partners:

