

9th African Association for the Study of Religions Conference in Africa

“Creativity, Innovation, and Imagination in African Religions”

The University of Nairobi



Nairobi, Kenya

2-4 August 2023

The African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR) invites proposals for individual papers, panels, roundtables, and poster presentations for its biennial conference to be held at the University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya from 2-4 August 2023.



This conference is co-sponsored by the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) and is recognized as an IAHR Regional Conference.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Religion in Africa and African religions in the diaspora have always been creative, innovative, and imaginative. It has been a major part of politics, art, culture, philosophy, and quotidian realities. It transforms societies on the continent and is transformed by those same societies. Sometimes those creative impulses entangle multiple religions. Sometimes religious innovation challenges political powers – colonial and local. Sometimes religious imagination creates new futures constantly beckoning with hopes and fears, be it via gender, sexuality, race, colonialism, health, wealth, or the environment. In recent years, African religions have addressed emergent global and continental challenges through technology, reinventing and reorganizing. Creativity, though, is not merely about the new but often pays close attention to the past.

Based on the assumption that none of the religions that populate Africa are static, unchanging, or homogenous, we invite paper proposals that explore the creativity, innovation, and imagination of African Religions, contemporarily and historically, theoretically and empirically.

We invite proposals for papers and panels relevant to the theme including but not limited to the following subthemes:

1. Religion and Society
2. Religion and Health
3. Religion and Gender/Sexuality
4. Ethics in Africa
5. Religion and Media/Technology
6. Politics and Religion in Africa
7. African Religions – Beliefs and Practices
8. Religion and Migration
9. Religion, Arts, and Popular Culture
10. Appropriation and Hybridity in religions
11. New Religious Movements
12. Secularism, Atheism, and Non-religiosity

Submission Information:

Please submit an abstract to aasrkenya@gmail.com by February 10, 2023. Each proposal will receive a response by March 1, 2023.

Participants in the conference must be registered by May 1, 2023.

Helpful information:

- Abstracts should not exceed three hundred words
- Each proposal should include a title that reflects the content of the abstract
- Include each Author's contact details (name, position, institutional affiliation, email address)
- You may submit more than one proposal

For further enquiries, please contact:

Dr. Nathanael Homewood, nathanael.j.homewood@rice.edu

Dr. Telesia Kathini Musili, telesia.musili@uonbi.ac.ke

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Halkano Abdikadir Abdi Wario



He is a Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies (field of specialization – Islam) at Egerton University, Kenya. In addition, He is a senior Volkswagen Foundation Humanities Research Fellow at the same university with a research project that explores the nexus of religious knowledge and counter-radicalization strategies in Muslim majority urban spaces in the Horn of Africa. He also is the Associate Director, Center for Study of Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalization at the HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies, a non-profit, applied research, and policy think-do tank based in Nairobi, Kenya.

He completed his doctoral studies in 2012 at Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS), University of Bayreuth, Germany focusing on localization of Tablīghī Jamā‘at in Kenya an apolitical translational Islamic movement with links to the Indian subcontinent.

His research interests span mediatization of religious knowledge, religious transnationalism, religion and spatiality, religion and security, Islamic reformism in Eastern Africa and emerging trends in Islamic law and Muslim politics in Africa and dynamics of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) in the Horn of Africa.

Over the last decade years, he has studied dynamics of CVE and VE in the Horn of Africa region in general and Kenya in particular, surveyed and analysed intervention programmes and research productions on the same themes and teamed up with established and emerging researchers, research think-tanks and policy practitioners in production of CVE policy documents such as for devolved governance structures in Kenya, topical policy briefs, academic writings and participation of CVE related forums and exchanges.

OUR PLENARY SPEAKERS



Her current research interests are on contemporary issues and the interface with religion.

Mary Getui: Mary N. Getui is professor, Department of Religious Studies, Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), where she has also held the position of Director, Quality Assurance (2011-2017). Previously, she was at Kenyatta University (KU) where she held various offices-Chairman Department of Religious Studies; Director, Board of Undergraduate Studies; Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences. In both CUEA and KU, Professor Getui has acted Deputy Vice-Chancellor-Academics. She has published widely in the areas of religion, education, gender, culture, peace and health. 2009-2015, she served as Chairperson, National AIDS Control Council, Kenya.



(Cultural Anthropology) from the University of Illinois, USA.

Ntarangwi is widely published on popular culture, youth culture, African Christianity and the practice of anthropology and a sought-after speaker globally. His publications include the following books: *The Street is my Pulpit: Hip Hop and Christianity in Kenya* (2016); *Engaging Children and Youth in Africa: Methodological and Phenomenological Issues* (2015, co-edited volume); *Jesus and Ubuntu: Exploring the Social Impact of Christianity in Africa* (2011, edited volume); *Reversed Gaze: An African Ethnography of American Anthropology* (2010); and *East African Hip Hop: Youth Culture and Globalization* (2009). His other publications include forty-three (43) journal articles, book chapters and encyclopedia entries; twenty-nine book reviews and opinion pieces, and a hundred fifty-five conference paper presentations and/or keynote speeches around the world.

Mwenda Ntarangwi: Mwenda Ntarangwi, PhD, is currently servicing as Deputy Principal (Provost) in charge of Academics, Students, and Research at NIRUC, a Constituent College of the NDU-Kenya. Among his other recent administrative positions include as CEO and Commission Secretary for Commission for University Education (CUE) from 2017-2022, as Vice President at Theological Book Network and as Executive Director for the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Education (IAPCHE). An Associate Professor of anthropology, Ntarangwi holds a B.Ed. (Language Education) and MA (Swahili Cultural Studies) from Kenyatta University and a MA and PhD

FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AND EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS

TRAVEL GRANTS

We are providing travel grants for some graduate students and early career scholars. The grants range from \$200-\$500. In order to be eligible, applicants must:

- Be based on the African continent
- Be AASR members (or part of the award will be used to cover membership fee)
- Be a postgrad student (MA or PhD) or early career scholar (up to 5 years post-PhD)
- Have an accepted proposal for presentation at the conference
- Actively seek additional funding from other sources

In order to receive consideration for a travel grant, check the box in the registration form that confirms your eligibility. In the space provided please provide a rough budget, the amount requested, and a brief narrative explaining your financial needs and the academic benefit of attending the conference

SPECIAL SESSION FOR STUDENTS & EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS ACADEMIC JOBS, GRANTS, AND PUBLISHING



Led by Prof. Afe Adogame, the Maxwell M. Upson Professor of Christianity and Society at Princeton Theological Seminary, USA. Afe is a leading scholar of the African Diaspora. He holds a PhD in history of religions from the University of Bayreuth in Germany and has served as Associate Professor of World Christianity and Religious Studies, and Director International at the School of Divinity, New College, at The University of Edinburgh in Scotland. His teaching and research interests are broad, but tend to focus on interrogating new dynamics of religious experiences and expressions in Africa and the African Diaspora, with a particular focus on African Christianities and new indigenous religious movements; the interconnectedness

between religion and migration, globalization, politics, economy, media and the civil society

HOW TO REGISTER

Please visit <https://www.a-asr.org/aasr-conference-kenya-2023-registration/> to register.

*Please note that you will only be considered registered after your payment of 2023 member dues and conference fees have been confirmed.

Conference Fees

Regular Members: \$150 (\$170 after May 31, 2023)

Student/Retired Members: \$100 (\$120 after May 31, 2023)

Conference registration includes the following: entrance to the conference, reception dinner, tea breaks and light refreshments, daily lunches, and conference materials.

Conference fees can be paid through the bank or PayPal and instructions will be provided in an email after registering.

Membership Fees

Scholars from the Global North:

Fully employed: \$60 USD

Students/Retirees/Underemployed: \$30 USD

Scholars from the Global South:

Fully employed: \$50 USD

Students/Retirees/Underemployed: \$25 USD

Membership fees can be paid through the bank, PayPal, or Stripe. Please visit www.a-asr.org to pay membership fees.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

The Local Organising Committee recommends the following accommodation options. Participants are requested to book their accommodation independently by either calling or booking online. In addition to the hotel websites, participants can also book online with sites such as Tripadvisor, Expedia, Booking, etc.

*listed in descending order of proximity to UON Campus

Norfolk Hotel (half board) 21,000/-

<https://www.fairmont.com/norfolk-hotel-nairobi/>

Nairobi Safari Club (half board) 13,000/-

<https://nairobisafariclub.com/>

United Kenya Club (B/B) Single 4,500/-

<https://unitedkenyaclub.com/>

Best Western Meridian Hotel Single 8,500/-; Double 10,500/

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-nairobi/best-western-plus-meridian-hotel/propertyCode.75152.html

Sarova Stanley (half board) 15, 500/-

<https://www.sarovahotels.com/stanley-nairobi/>

Sarova Panafric (half board) 15,500/-

<https://www.sarovahotels.com/panafric-nairobi/>

The Heron Hotel (half board) 10,000/-

<http://www.theheronporticohotelnairobi.com/>

Weston Hotel (B/B) Single 10,000/-; Double 13,000/-

<https://www.westonhotel.com/>

Jacaranda Hotel (B/B) Single 8,500/-

<https://www.jacarandahotels.com/nairobi-hotel/>