



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Conceptualizing and understanding the role of the African diaspora(s) in Europe and in Africa

Friday, April 8, 2022

**[Deadline for the submission of proposals: March 20, 2022]**

The interrogations about global population movements and the diasporic communities constitute a transversal subject, correlated to the specific systemic conditional factors present in Eastern and Central European states, as well as in the African context. Social sciences have provided early analyses regarding the African Diaspora in the United States - even before the independence of African states - in virtue of the connections that existed between African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade and the African continent itself. In the recent past, the term "diaspora(s)" has gained visibility also in Europe, and the recognition of diasporic communities worldwide is another relevant observable tendency. But is it because in Europe a particular interest for African diasporas has recently been developed, or is it that African Diasporas present, suddenly, some special characteristics? The reading of the phenomenon considers different perspectives linked not only to the slave trade and colonialism, but to complex, global phenomena, such as industrialization, urbanization, and neoliberalization.

Following the perspective of Jayne Ifekwunigwe (2010), that "any comparative interrogations of African diasporas must be interdisciplinary, historically grounded, ethnographically situated, and mindful of institutional hierarchies and infrastructural deficits that contribute to the perpetuation of hegemonic discourses", the conference is articulated around three axes:

**A.** From a theoretical and historical perspective, how do social sciences define and study the socio-economic, cultural and ethnic actors to be integrated under the concept of "diaspora" - and more precisely "African/black diasporas" [the plural being appropriate when dealing with such a diversity of countries and communities]?

**B.** From the social, political, economic approaches, or those belonging to cultural studies, what are the historical evolutions and contemporary dynamics of the Black diasporas in Europe and in Africa?

**C.** What differences can be quantified between the configurations inherent to diasporas and those connected to large groups of people on the move, linked to migration and displacement, resulting in the concept of the "refugee", in the aftermath of humanitarian crises, economic and institutional collapse, and conflicts?



The study of the African diasporas allows us to better understand present-day challenges and their dynamics – such as economic crisis, democratization, social movements, contestation, gender, racial issues, heritage discourse, identity etc. Thus, we encourage papers that propose interdisciplinary reflections (political science, sociology, anthropology, ethnology, history, culture etc.) on the following broad topics connected to African diasporas and migrant studies:

- Diaspora Studies as a field of social sciences in different contexts (national, continental, global). The way in which different disciplines define diaspora.
- Reflections on the African diaspora intellectual genealogy (W.E.B. Du Bois, C.L.R. James, Aimé Césaire, Eric Williams, Oliver Cox, George Padmore, Frantz Fanon, Walter Rodney, Samir Amin etc.).
- Methodological observations and approaches linked to the analysis of other diasporic communities, and to open comparative perspectives.
- The contemporary dynamics of the African diaspora in Europe and in Africa (through temporary, regular, and permanent “returns” from Europe).
- The structural characteristics, socio-economic effects, and levels of remittances on the Europe-Africa direction.
- Reflection on the recent expansion of scope in European social studies.
- Case studies regarding the dynamics among these communities.
- Race, class, gender, sexuality in the diasporic contexts.
- The dimension of political representation, participation, and/or mobilization.
- Identity, collective memory, real or imagined/idealized homeland.
- The (de)construction of the image of diasporans as agents of development in their home countries.
- The analysis of evolutions of African diasporic communities.
- Reflections on the difference between diasporas and other groups (migrants, refugees etc.).
- What mechanisms make (institutional) observers link African diasporas to the developmental perspective and what is the perception on the matter for diasporans?
- Integration policies, humanitarian, healthcare provisions, for the migrant communities.
- Specific integrational/transactional mechanisms correlated to social class, educational attainment, racial issues, gender, bureaucratic routes, and other characteristics of differentiation among diaspora groups and within specific diaspora groups.

**Working languages:** English and French (with powerpoint in English).

The conference will be **online**, on Zoom.

**Organizers (from the University of Bucharest):** Domnica Gorovei, PhD; Alexandru Vasiliu, PhD; Vladimir Crețulescu, PhD.



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**Conference Scientific Committee:**

- Carlo G. Cereti, Prof., University of Rome, Department of Letters and Philosophy;
- Simona Corlan, Prof., University of Bucharest Institute of African Studies;
- Aspasia Dania, Ass. Prof, School of Physical Education and Sport Science, University of Athens;
- Fataneh Farahani, Prof., Department of Ethnology, History of Religions and Gender, University of Stockholm;
- Domnica Gorovei, PhD, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Political Science, Institute of African Studies.

Please send your proposal by **March 20**, 2022, to the following address:  
[domnica.gorovei@unibuc.ro](mailto:domnica.gorovei@unibuc.ro).

The proposals must include:

- 1) a title;
- 2) a 250-words abstract of the paper to be presented;
- 3) a ½ page-presentation of the author (or a CV in English or in French).

Notifications will be sent to authors about the acceptance/rejection of their papers by **March 30**, 2022.

The conference is part of the project *Conceptualizing and understanding the role of the African diaspora in Europe and in Africa*, financed by the Hub 2 CIVIS (Society, Culture and Heritage). Furthering the European students' understanding of this matter via the CIVIS project constitutes one of the goals of the project.