

CALL FOR PAPERS:

THE IAS-UNN 2024 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



The Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, in collaboration with the Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Conflict, University of Chicago, The Transatlantic Research Group, and the Whelan Research Academy for Religion, Culture and Society, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria, invites scholars and graduate students to an international conference entitled **Continuity and Change: Rethinking African-European Encounters**. The conference is scheduled for 18-20 July 2024, with a pre-conference workshop on Research and Fieldwork Methodology for graduate students on 17 July 2024 at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka Campus.

Continuity and Change: Rethinking African-European Encounters

Institute of African Studies
University of Nigeria, Nsukka
July 18-20, 2024

In recent decades, there have been intense debates on and around the role of European encounters in transforming African societies. Scholars of the African colonial experience agree that the historic arrival of Europeans in Africa, especially during the colonial period, produced an unprecedented change and transformation in African societies. What happened when Europeans encountered and mingled with African societies and people? What role did Europeans (Missionaries, Traders, Administrators, and Scholars) play in facilitating these encounters? In what ways did Africans respond and react to these encounters? In what specific ways have Africans improved (or discarded) the systems introduced (or imposed) by the Europeans? How is the current global power balance reflected in the unfolding continuity or change within Africa? How can one speak to the present by engaging with the history of these encounters? We will explore these questions at the Rethinking African-European Encounters Conference, a three-day-long scholars meeting at the Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Sub-themes will include, but not limited to, the following:

- Control, restriction, and colonial hegemony
- Colonial ethnography and representation of Africa
- Construction of identity and difference
- Christianity, Islam and spirituality in Africa
- Decolonial thinkers and critique of Eurocentrism

- Colonial economic models and their aftermath
- Indigenous forms of slavery
- Neo-slavery and other forms of servitude
- European languages and language ideologies
- Labour and production relations
- Reproducing colonial political economy
- The nation-state and loss of indigenous autonomy
- Texts, images, and colonial representation
- Otherness and Othering in the colonial context
- African resistance and colonial Institution
- Modern bordering and migration encounters
- Reinterpretations of cultural encounters
- Intersections of race and gender biases
- Women, motherhood and colonial ideology
- Mapping gender in the colonial context
- Pre-and post-colonial social organisations
- Elections and liberal democracy in the post-colonial era
- Art, education, literature, music, theatre, film and society in postcolonial Africa
- Art and art markets as playgrounds of European fancy in Africa?
- The arts as a platform/tool for the unbalanced Europe-Africa encounter

The conference honours the life and work of Professor Felix Ekechi (1934-2023), whose illustrious historic career as a teacher and scholar centred on Africa's engagement with Europeans. Ekechi's most influential works include *Missionary Enterprise and Rivalry in Igboland, 1857-1914* (nominated for the African Studies Association Herskovit's Award); *Tradition and Transformation in Eastern Nigeria: A Sociopolitical History of Owerri and Its Hinterland, 1902-1947*; and *Pioneer, Patriot, and Nigerian Nationalist: A Biography of the Reverend M.D. Opara, 1915-1965*. These groundbreaking works show how European encounters with Africa shaped history, indigenous responses, and identities.

Abstracts of 200 words or less should be sent as attached Microsoft Word files to ias.conference@unn.edu.ng on or before 20 May 2024. The author's name, institutional affiliation, email address, and contact phone number should be provided under the proposed paper title before the abstract. Successful abstracts will be announced by May 27, 2024. Completed papers are required no later than 30 June 2024.

THE CONFERENCE PRESENTATION FORMAT SHALL BE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL.

Conference Fees

Participants from outside Africa: \$100

Africa-based scholars and researchers: N15,000

Africa-based student participants: N5,000

All inquiries regarding submissions should be directed to ias.conference@unn.edu.ng
Prospective participants whose papers or panel proposals are accepted will receive further registration and payment details.

Contact Info:

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