



# CHINUA ACHEBE

**THEME:**  
Africa's  
Democratisation  
Journey: Historical  
and Contemporary  
Perspectives

**23-25 JULY, 2025**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**VENUE: INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA**

The Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, in collaboration with the Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts, University of Chicago, invites scholars, graduate students, practitioners, activists, politicians, artist(e)s, and policymakers to its 6<sup>th</sup> Chinua Achebe International Conference entitled *Africa's Democratisation Journey: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*.

The conference provides a significant opportunity to re-examine Africa's experiment with electoral democracy since the 1960s

when Chinua Achebe published his critical novel, *A Man of the People*. With at least eight African countries currently under military regimes, the regression from civilian rule to military dictatorships in recent years has created palpable fears of the expansion of the Coup Belt. Such developments are threats to democracy across the continent. The unending separatist agitations, violent extremism, sectarian violence, severe economic downturn, corruption, and abject poverty in the continent are fueling volatility and the breakdown of electoral democracy. The slide to military autocracy in Africa does not only

deepen the failed state status of many African countries but also risks reversing the modicum of gains made in electoral democracy since the 1990s. Are Africans returning to the era when economic issues forced many African countries to institute transitions to democracy as demanded by the World Bank, the Paris Club and other Western institutions, as exemplified in the Structural Adjustment Programmes? What could be the implication of more military dictatorships in Africa, with the possibility for increased human rights abuses, economic instability, social unrest, and broader costs of deepening regional crises such as civil wars?

Topics of interest around Africa's experiment with democracy since the decolonisation era would include but are not limited to:

- What democracy means in Africa
- Democracy and populism in Africa
- Art, music, theatre, literature and democratic questions in Africa
- The economies of democratic institutions in Africa (or a particular country)
- Gender equality and democracy in Africa
- Human rights and democracy in Africa
- Corruption and the democratic order in Africa
- Military coups and democracy in Africa (single country case studies accepted)
- The quota and affirmative systems in Africa's democratic politics
- Transitions to democratic orders in Africa
- Military politics and democratisations in Africa
- Democracy and leadership recruitment in Africa
- Ethnicity and democracy in Africa
- Power-sharing and the future of democracy in Africa
- Approaches to democracy in Africa (such as regionalism vs. federalism)
- Local government systems in African democracy
- Accountability, transparency and the democratic order in Africa
- The minority question and democracy in Africa
- Separatist movements and democracy in Africa
- Insurgencies and democracy in Africa
- Resource sharing and democracy in Africa
- Violent extremism and democracy in Africa
- Religion and democracy in Africa
- Education and democracy in Africa
- Neocolonial influences on African democracy
- Social/News Media and the democratic struggle in Africa
- Environmental crises and democracy in Africa
- Regional and sub-regional organisations and democracy in Africa
- Governance institutions and democracy in Africa

Graduate students are highly encouraged to attend and present papers. At the end of the conference, selected papers will be peer-reviewed for publication in *Ikenga*, the IAS-UNN SCOPUS-indexed journal, and as volumes under the new IAS-UNN Book Series.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES:

Participants & Residents from Europe, Asia, and the Americas: **\$50**

Graduate Students from Europe, Asia, and the Americas: **\$20**

Participants from Nigeria/Africa: **N25,000**

Graduate Students from Nigeria/Africa: **N15,000**

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

All submissions must be in MS Word and sent as attached files to [ias.conference@unn.edu.ng](mailto:ias.conference@unn.edu.ng).

### Individual paper proposal format:

- Name of the presenter (no title; first name first; surname last)
- Institutional affiliation
- Phone/WhatsApp number
- Email address
- Title of the work and an abstract (170 words max.)
- Mode of participation: (indicate whether in-person or virtual)
- Three to five keywords related to your paper.

### Panel proposal format (4-6 presenters):

The panel's title and a collective panel summary (170 words max.)  
Institutional affiliation of each presenter  
Phone/WhatsApp numbers, Email addresses  
Title of each speaker's paper and an abstract of 170 words (with three to five keywords provided)  
Mode of participation: (indicate whether in-person or virtual)

### DEADLINES:

Submission of abstracts: **April 30, 2025.**

Announcement of accepted abstracts: **April 30, 2025.**

Submission of full papers: **May 30, 2025**

The conference registration fee must be paid upon acceptance of the abstract. Only registered participants will have their abstracts listed in the book of abstracts and receive certificates at the end of the conference.

All submissions, correspondences and inquiries should be directed to the official conference email: [ias.conference@unn.edu.ng](mailto:ias.conference@unn.edu.ng).

## LOC CHAIR:

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## CONVENERS:

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