

## **The 7<sup>th</sup> Biannual CRG African History Conference (Ghent University, 18-19 June 2026)**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Biannual CRG African History Conference is co-organised by the AEGIS Collaborative Research Group African History and the Research Group ‘Global and Regional Histories’ of Ghent University. The aim of the conference is to strengthen the academic network of the CRG, while also giving young scholars and colleagues from the Global South a possibility to present their work.

The members of the organising committee are:

- Prof. Felicitas Becker (Ghent University)
- Prof. Samuël Coghe (Ghent University)
- Max Hufschmidt (University of Basel – Secretary of the CRG African History)
- Prof. Margot Luyckfasseel (University of Antwerp)
- Prof. Gillian Mathys (Ghent University)
- Prof. Iva Peša (University of Groningen – President of the CRG African History)

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- Faculty of Arts and Philosophy of Ghent University
- Research Foundation Flanders FWO
- Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS)
- Special Research Fund Flanders (BOF)

Conference Venue:

KANTL (Koninklijke Academie voor Nederlandse Taal en Letteren), Koningstraat 18, 9000 Gent, Belgium

## Conference Programme

### Thursday, June 18

8:30-9:00	Entrance Hallway: Welcome coffee	
	<i>Grote Vergaderzaal</i>	<i>Tapijtenzaal</i>
9:00-10:45	<p><b>Panel: Wars and Revolutions</b> Chair: Gillian Mathys</p> <p>Benoit Beucher (Université Paris Cité): <i>War as Spectacle: Stage Performances and French Colonial Expansion South of the Sahara (1860s–1900s)</i></p> <p>João Moreira da Silva (University of Cambridge): <i>Enlightenment and Revolution in São Tomé and Príncipe (1787-1820)</i></p> <p>Ouro-Agoro Djamilou (Université de Lomé): <i>L'Effort de Guerre du Marabout Seydou Nourou Tall en Afrique Noire Francophone: Parcours et Influences au Togo à Partir des Archives Coloniales (1939-1945)</i></p> <p>Stacey Hynd (University of Exeter): <i>'We are Kadogos, not Child Soldiers': Contested Understandings of Children and Youth in African Conflicts, c. 1970-2000s</i></p>	<p><b>Panel: Trade, Exchange, and Networks</b> Chair: Paulo Matos</p> <p>Alessandro de Cola (University of Vienna): <i>Translating Values: Making Sense of African Demand for Glass Beads in East Africa (1850s-1890s)</i></p> <p>Louise Barré (Ghent University): <i>Frozen Meat, Female Traders and the Cold Chain in Congo-Brazzaville (1979-2025)</i></p> <p>Femke de Nil (Ghent University): <i>Connecting the Local to the Global: Railway History as Premise and Method for Writing the Copperbelt's Global History</i></p> <p>Naomi Nabami (University of Antwerp): <i>Women Vendors Across the Uganda-Congo Border: Trade and Female Agency During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (from 1930s to 1960s)</i></p>
10:45-11:15	Coffee break	
11:15-12:45	<p><b>Panel: Histories and Legacies of Structural Adjustment Programs in Sub-Saharan Africa</b> Chair: Alice Bellagamba</p> <p>Alice Bellagamba (University of Milan-Bocca): <i>Who was Pathe Bangura? Liberal Reforms and the Flourishing of Banditry in the South-Eastern Part of Senegal (1980s- 1990s)</i></p>	<p><b>Panel: Land, Cattle, and Commodification</b> Chair: Baz Lecoq</p> <p>Paulo Matos (Ghent University): <i>A Comparative Study of Colonial Strategies for the Commodification of Native Cattle in Angola and Mozambique (1917-1975)</i></p>

	<p>Felicitas Becker (Ghent University): <i>The Layering of Different Versions of 'Progress' in Personal Styles and Careers: Still-Socialism and Post-Socialism in Tanzania Around 2000</i></p> <p>Joanna Da Sylva (Harvard University): <i>Gendered Knowledge and Economic Survival: Senegalese Women's Responses to Structural Adjustment Policies</i></p> <p>David Glosvky (Harvard University): <i>Innovation in the Face of Liberalization: Senegambians and the Making of Weekly Border Markets</i></p> <p>George Roberts (University of Sheffield): <i>Money at the Apex of Structural Adjustment: Forgery, Foreign Exchange, and Fraud in Kenya</i></p>	<p>Kato Desaeveer (KU Leuven): <i>Claiming the 'Vacant': Colonial Land Doctrine and Sovereignty in the Congo Free State (1885-1908)</i></p>
12:45-14:00	Lunch break	
14:00-15:45	<p><b>Roundtable: Capitalism in African Environmental History: Current Debates and Future Perspectives</b> <u>Chair: Benoît Henriët</u></p> <p>Benoît Henriët (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)</p> <p>Chanelle Adams (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)</p> <p>Iva Peša (University of Groningen)</p> <p>Jabulani Shaba (University of Groningen)</p>	<p><b>Panel: Intimate Partner and Domestic Violence in Africa up to the 1960s: Sources, Dynamics, and Representations</b> <u>Chairs: Coralie Klipfel and Margaux Herman</u></p> <p>Margaux Herman (INALCO; CESSMA): <i>Domestic and Intrafamilial Violence in Ethiopian Societies in the First Half of the 19th Century</i></p> <p>Coralie Klipfel (INALCOC; CESSMA; ISJPS): <i>The Selective Juridicisation of Domestic Spaces in Colonial Africa</i></p> <p>Julie Maestri (INED; IMAF; LPED; Aix-Marseille University): <i>Violence against Girls and Women and the Consolata Catholic Missionaries in Central Kenya (1900-1960)</i></p>
15:45-16:15	Coffee break	

<p>16:15-18:00</p>	<p><b>Panel: Aftermaths of Slavery in East Africa and Beyond: Recent Findings, Open Questions</b> Chair: Clélia Coret</p> <p>Enid Guéné (Ghent University): <i>The Afterlives of Slavery: Conceptualisations of Labour and Foreignness in Twentieth Century Uganda</i></p> <p>Margot Luyckfasseel (University of Antwerp) &amp; Igor Matonda (Ghent University): <i>Slavery and its Diverging Aftermaths in the Eastern DR Congo. Comparing Kisangani and Kasongo</i></p> <p>Salvatory Nyanto (University of Dar es Salaam) &amp; Felicitas Becker (Ghent University): <i>Shame, History, and Slave Antecedents: What Does it Mean that the Slave Past is 'jambo la aibu'?</i></p> <p>Nives Kinunda (University of Dar es Salaam): <i>Aftermath of Slavery and Women's Proliferated Roles in Nurturing Children and Ownership of Rights: Southern Tanzania Life Histories</i></p> <p>Ngala Chome (Ghent University) &amp; Clélia Coret (CNRS): <i>'From Slaves to Squatters': Re-examining Coastal Kenya's Land Issues from a Post-Slavery Perspective</i></p>	<p><b>Roundtable: Public and Private Savings in Post-War East Africa</b> Chair: Niels Boender</p> <p>Niels Boender (University of Edinburgh): <i>Debating Social Security in Late-Colonial Kenya</i></p> <p>Justin Willis (University of Durham): <i>Saving for the Future: Provident Funds in 1960s Kenya</i></p> <p>Christian Omar Velasco Reyes (Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, Mexico City): <i>From Cooperatives to Banks: African Saving Practices in Kenya, 1940s–1970s</i></p>
<p>18.00-19.00</p>	<p><b>Keynote lecture I</b> Girma Negash (Addis Ababa University): <i>Biography of a Footwear – Barabarso - and the Artisans: A History of a Precarious Occupation in Ethiopia, 1960s-2000</i></p> <p>Introduction by Samuël Coghe</p>	
<p>19:00-21:00</p>	<p>Entrance Hallway: Aperitivo for all conference participants</p>	

**Friday, June 19**

8:30-9:00	Entrance Hallway: Welcome coffee	
	<i>Grote Vergaderzaal</i>	<i>Tapijtenzaal</i>
9:00-10:45	<p><b>Panel: Historicizing Objects of the Contact Zone: Methods, Challenges, and Concepts for Analyzing Congolese Drawings from the Interwar Period</b> Chair: <u>Diana Salakheddin</u></p> <p>Diana Salakheddin (Royal Museum for Central Africa; Ghent University): <i>Treating Drawings as Historical Sources: Congolese Watercolors as a Visual Archive of the Contact Zone</i></p> <p>Ophélie Laloy (Royal Library of Belgium; VUB): <i>Recovering What Can Be Attributed to Congolese Makers in Colonial Sources and Narratives (1926-1939): Some Methodological Reflections</i></p> <p>Bambi Ceuppens (Royal Museum for Central Africa): <i>The First Watercolours as Popular Art Forms</i></p> <p>Michée Diansana (University of Kinshasa): <i>When the Field Challenges the Archive: Rethinking Albert Lubaki through Contradictory Narratives</i></p> <p>Yvette Ikando (University of Kisangani; Ghent University): <i>Peintures Murales du Nord-Est Congolais: Art, Culture et Communication Avant, Pendant et Après la Colonisation.</i></p> <p>Vicky Van Bockhaven (Ghent University): <i>Cultural Heritage, Wellbeing and Repair: Community Demands and Museum Frictions from an In-Between Position in Northeast DR Congo</i></p>	
10:45-11:15	Coffee break	
11:15-12:45	<p><b>Panel: Faiths and Beliefs</b> Chair: <u>Samuël Coghe</u></p> <p>Éric Amoussou (Université Paris 1): <i>Changes in Church Property in Ethiopia During the 17th and 18th Centuries: Some Observations on the Land Holdings of the Dabra Berhān Śelāssē Church (Gondar)</i></p>	<p><b>Panel: Women and Politics of Liberation and Decolonization</b> Chair: <u>Felicitas Becker</u></p> <p>Mick Feyaerts (KU Leuven): <i>Persecution or Opportunity? Female Religious, the Roman Catholic Church, and Mobutist Politics in Zaire (1971-1978)</i></p>

	<p>Lies Busselen (KU Leuven): <i>Claiming the Ancestral: (Post)Colonial Necropolitics</i></p> <p>Philipp Hofmann (University of the Free State): <i>Property-Owning Women and Religious Charity in Angola (c. 1760-1834)</i></p> <p>Adeyemi Akande (London Metropolitan University): <i>Native MisUnderstanding of Freemasonry in the British Colony of Lagos, 1860-1960</i></p>	<p>Husseina Dinani (University of Toronto Scarborough): <i>Women of the Colony: Rethinking Decolonization in Africa from the Perspectives of Rural Women in Lindi District, Southeastern Tanzania</i></p>
12:45-14:00	Lunch break, including the CRG African History Business Meeting	
14:00-15:30	<p><b>Roundtable: Gendering African Labour: For a Social History of Female Labour in Africa</b> <u>Chair: Elena Vezzadini</u></p> <p>Elena Vezzadini (CNRS) &amp; Barbara Wabuye (EHES): <i>Introduction to the Panel: Women at Work: Reflecting on a Blind Spot in the History of African Labour</i></p> <p>Florence Wenzek (University of Paris 1): <i>Homemakers, Professionals or Self-employed Workers? Blurred Boundaries in Tanzanian Women's Experiences of Work (from the 1940s to the 2010s)</i></p> <p>Juliet Tiwaah Gyabeng (EHES): <i>"I Have Many Daughters, and I have Never Lacked Anything Because of Them": Ambiguity in Dressmaking Apprenticeship Relations in Kumasi</i></p> <p>Domenico Cristofaro (University of Bologna): <i>Working Ethics and Market Networks: Northern Ghanaian Traders and the Making of Urban Economies, 1920-1970</i></p>	<p><b>Panel: Courts, Laws, and Jurisprudence</b> <u>Chair: Gillian Mathys</u></p> <p>Olasunkanmi Victor Asaju (University of Ghana): <i>African Litigants in Colonial Courts: Rethinking Legal Agency in Kabba Division Native Courts, Northern Nigeria 1904-1968</i></p> <p>Chiedozie Obia (University of Exeter): <i>"A Harm Not Grievous": State Responses to Sexual Violence in Late Colonial and Early Post-Colonial Nigeria, c. 1950s-1990</i></p>
15:30-16:00	Coffee break	

<p>16:00-17:00</p>	<p><b>Panel: Perceptions, Sensations, and Emotions</b> Chair: Iva Peša</p> <p>Didier Nativel (University of Paris Cité): <i>Let's Talk about Atmospheres in African History!</i></p> <p>Pieter De Coene (Ghent University): <i>The Intimate Vulnerability of Public Healing in East Africa's Great Lakes Region: A Long-Term Analysis of Kubandwa through Linguistic Historical Lenses</i></p>	<p><b>Panel: Science, Health, and Insects in the Colonies</b> Chair: Max Hufschmidt</p> <p>Zarah Cleve (Ghent University): Controlling Flies and Managing Landscapes: Veterinary Science and Tsetse in the Belgian Congo</p> <p>Hannah de Korte (KU Leuven): <i>The Pathology of a Colonial Ideal: Insecticides, Sanitary Brigades and the Belgian 'Medical Model Colony'</i></p>
<p>17:15-18:30</p>	<p><b>Exciting Lecture in African History</b> Vincent Hiribarren (King's College London): <i>African History, Digital Humanities and AI</i></p> <p>Introduction by Iva Peša</p>	