

Yorkshire Africa Studies Network Conference



Liberalism in Action in Africa: 'State Rebuilding, Security Reform and Justice'

Hosted by

**The John & Elnora Ferguson Centre for African Studies (JEFICAS)
Peace Studies Department,
University of Bradford**



On the 21st of May 2014

11:00am to 4:00pm

Pemberton Building, Room P2.11

For the last quarter of a century, liberalism has been the dominant policy paradigm in the realms of politics, development, economics and security in Africa. Indeed, Africa has had little choice but to liberalise, at least officially, given the continued need for Western aid. Liberalism has thus manifested itself in fields ranging from democracy, civil society and state re-building, to the Millennium Development Goals and poverty, to natural resources and economic liberalisation, and to security sector reform and transitional justice. Notwithstanding the rather uneven, limited or hybrid nature of its impact and the growing threat on its influence which has emerged from the presence of China and India in the last few years, it is still the dominant policy player. The conference aims to uncover some of the fine grain details concerning the implementation of liberal policies underpinning state rebuilding, security reform and justice in African countries and to identify the successes, obstacles and hybridities that have emerged when liberalism has met African realities – i.e. 'liberalism in action'.

Keynote speaker: Dr Tom Young - School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

The conference is free to attend. Please register your interest in attending on the following link <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/yasn-conference-liberalism-in-action-in-africa-state-rebuilding-security-reform-and-justice-tickets-9628630493>

For further enquiries send an email to the JEFICAS Coordinator

Ms Sarah Njeri on S.Njeri@Bradford.ac.uk or to Dr. David Harris on D.Harris7@bradford.ac.uk

Conference Programme

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21st of May 2014

Pemberton Building Room P2.11

10:45am – 11:00am	Opening Remarks: Dr David Harris, University of Bradford
Panel 1: Paper presentations	Digging Down: The Nuts and Bolts of Liberalism in Africa
11:00am – 12:30 pm	<p>Pamela Nzabampema (PhD Candidate) University of Bradford ‘Reconstructing <i>‘les mémoires de l’état’</i>: police reform in South Kivu, DRC’</p> <p>Kudakwashe Chirambwi (PhD Candidate) University of Bradford ‘Liberalism in Africa and its contribution to the privatisation of security sector and violence: the case of Zimbabwe.’</p> <p>Bryn Higgs (PhD Candidate) University of Bradford ‘The International Criminal Court (ICC) indictments of the Lord’s Resistance Army leadership – a case study of liberal interventionism in Africa.’</p>
12:30pm – 1:00pm	LUNCH
Panel 2: Paper presentations	Broader Perspectives on Liberalism in Africa
1:00pm -2:30 pm	<p>Nyambura Wambugu (PhD Candidate), University of Leeds ‘South Sudan - the unstable and insecure state: a failure of liberal peace?’</p> <p>Dr Simona Vittorini, SOAS, University of London ‘India in Africa: Nehruvians, non-interferers or neoliberals?’</p> <p>Dr Alex Beresford, University of Leeds ‘South Africa, the Libyan crisis, and the future of humanitarian interventions in Africa.’</p>
Key Note Address 2.45 – 3.45 pm	Dr Tom Young , SOAS, University of London ‘The ‘Liberal Project’ in Africa: Where are we now?’