



# Asia and Africa in Transition

21-23 October 2020

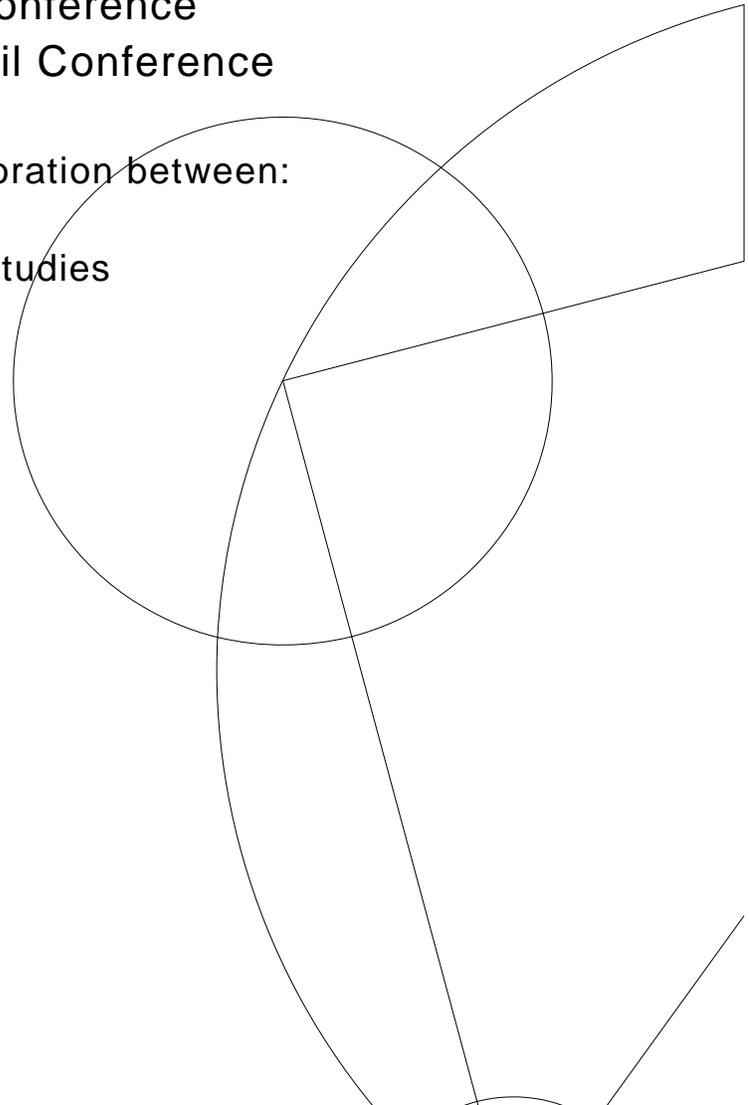
## Call for Papers

12<sup>th</sup> annual international ADI Conference

13<sup>th</sup> annual Nordic NIAS Council Conference

A University of Copenhagen collaboration between:

- Asian Dynamics Initiative (ADI)
- NIAS – Nordic Institute of Asian Studies
- School of Global Health
- Sustainability Science Centre
- ThinkChina
- UCPH Global Development



# Introduction

Linkages between Asia and Africa have a transformative impact across the globe in areas ranging from economic development, health care, climate to politics and entertainment. This conference places Asia-Africa engagement as a focal point but also explores the diverse transitions that are occurring within each continent.

Asia and Africa, with a population of 4.6 billion and 1.3 billion respectively, represent about 80 percent of the world's population. Not only have both continents experienced population booms in the last few decades, but they also have access to a wealth of natural resources and represent immense ecological and biological variety, opening up future potentialities. Africa and Asia in transition are creating new imaginaries and leveraging new possibilities, and the linkages between the two are leading to change that ripples across the globe.

Several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia have experienced spectacular economic growth over the past few decades. They generate new global markets and opportunities, reshape trade and flows, and create innovative models of investment. At the same time, each continent has experienced shifts in poverty levels, massive wealth accumulation and increasing inequality, all of which raises questions about sustainable and equitable growth and redistribution.

In the last fifty years, these regions have also been sites of political revolutions and transitions. After decolonization, countries of the African continent have experienced democracy in some cases, dictatorship and repressive governments in others. Political revolution in Asia brought the rise of the Communist Party in some places like China and Vietnam, while regimes collapsed in other countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Korea. These shifts have been accompanied by changing political configurations, and escalating tensions at borders and in disputed territories, making the two continents central to global diplomacy, security and governance.

Political changes, along with economic growth, climate change, demand for resources and food security, changes in disease burden and health care needs, as well as demographic shifts, including an aging population and migration going across the two continents are all driving transitions. They are remaking trade routes, building new infrastructure, creating new public-private models of investment, new types of bilateral, regional and global governance, and setting new standards. Some parts of Asia and Africa are in the forefront of technological change, as they leapfrog previous leaders and drive forward solutions to global challenges. The synergy gained from linkages between the two continents has decentered our existing political, social and economic order.

The interconnects across Asia and Africa generate clashes of identities, beliefs and ideologies far beyond their own regions, reclaiming and re-contextualizing the past, remaking the present, and reimagining the future. The histories of nation-states in the post-colonial era, overlaid by transnational shifts in technology, economics and the physical landscape, have seen profound changes and contestation in literature, art, and subjectivity. This is reflected in complex developments in modes of expression and performance that have taken place in the novel, poetry, cinema, music, aesthetics, ethics, and other forms of daily life.

## Keynote speakers

- Ching Kwan Lee, Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles
- Jonathan Rigg, Professor and Chair in Human Geography at the University of Bristol
- Reiner Klingholz, Former Director of Berlin Institute for Population and Development

## Panels

The conference will focus on the multiple forms of linkages and engagements occurring between Asia and Africa in an increasingly multi-polar world. Besides the plenary keynote sessions, it will feature a range of panels and roundtables across disciplines, temporalities and themes in the study of Asian and African dynamics.

## Call for papers

We invite **abstracts for paper presentations** addressing one of the below listed panels. Your submission should include:

- Name, affiliation, short bio
  - Abstract including title, argument and methodology (up to 250 words)
  - Intended panel
- 

We also invite **full panel proposals** for Asia and Africa related themes not covered in the panels listed below. Your submission should include:

- Name, affiliation and contact details of convener/contact person
  - Title and description of panel (up to 250 words)
  - Name and affiliation of 3-4 presenters in the panel, title of their presentations and abstracts (each up to 250 words)
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**Deadline for submitting abstracts or full panel proposals: 15 April 2020**

**Proposals should be submitted via email to [asia-africa-2020@ku.dk](mailto:asia-africa-2020@ku.dk)**

In the event that we receive more proposals than we can accommodate, the organising committee will decide among the submitted proposals.

Notification of Acceptance: mid-May 2020

**The following panels are open for abstract submissions ([read more here](#)):**

***Asian partners in the transition of ports in Africa***

Convener: Annette Skovsted Hansen, Japan and Global Studies, Aarhus University

***Banal democracies: Beyond electoral temporality***

Conveners: Frauke Mennes and Asmus Rungby, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen

***China going global: Historical trajectories, current debates, and future prospects***

Convener: Jun Liu, Dept. of Communication, University of Copenhagen

***Constructing historical and identity narratives in Central Eurasia***

Convener: Ildikó Bellér-Hann, Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen

***Engendering humanity in Africa and Asia***

Convener: Lauraine Vivian, Global Health Section, University of Copenhagen

***Foreign agricultural investments as driver of rural transformation?***

Conveners: Rikke Brandt Broegaard, Dept. of Geoscience and Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen and Helle Munk Ravnborg, Danish Institute for International Studies

***From recipients to donors: New engagement of Asian countries in humanitarian aid in Africa***

Conveners: Stig Jensen, Centre for African Studies, University of Copenhagen and Shiling Xu, Innovation Center for Risk Governance, Beijing Normal University

***Health systems in transition: Human health resources as agents of change***

Conveners: Bishal Gyawali & Tania Dræbel, Global Health Section, University of Copenhagen

***Local expressions of global ideas: Negotiating modernity, aesthetics and cultural heritage in African and Asian museums***

Conveners: Jens Sejrup, Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies and Vibe Nielsen, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen

***Situated natalisms – familial and filial forms in Africa and Asia***

Conveners: Ayo Wahlberg Dept. of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen, Tyler Zoanni Ethnologie, University of Bayreuth

***Sustainability strategy and Asian investments in energy in Africa: Regulation, governance and investment***

Conveners: Jørgen Delman, Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, Wen Xiang, Law Faculty, University of Copenhagen and Yang Jiang, Danish Institute for International Studies

***The geopolitics of China's rise in Africa: Implications and challenges for democratisation and human rights***

Convener: Yosef Kamal Ibssa, Dept. of Sociology and Political Science, University of Copenhagen

***The geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific***

Conveners: Andreas Bøje Forsby, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Peter Marcus Kristensen, Dept. of Political Science, University of Copenhagen

***The making of Belt and Road Initiative projects in African states: Local actors, interests and policy link-ups***

Convener: Julie Yu-Wen Chen, Dept. of Cultures, University of Helsinki

***Urbanization in rural regions of Africa and Asia***

Conveners: Torben Birch-Thomsen and Jytte Agergaard, Dept. of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management

## Organisers

In 2020, the annual ADI conference and the annual NNC conference will join forces with a number of globally oriented networks and centres at the University of Copenhagen.

- Asian Dynamics Initiative
- NIAS – Nordic Institute of Asian Studies
- School of Global Health
- Sustainability Science Centre
- ThinkChina
- UCPH Global Development

The organising committee comprises representatives from each of the above listed entities.

Conference website: <https://asiandynamics.ku.dk/asia-and-africa-in-transition/>

