

Call for Papers

Academy for African Studies (AFAS) Annual
Conference 2026

Repositioning Africa: Power, Policy and Practice in a Disrupted World

Date: 10-12 August 2026

Format: Hybrid (In-person and online)

Location: University of Greater Manchester, United Kingdom

Conference Chair: Professor Christian Harrison

Conference Chair: Dr Kingsley O. Omeihe

Background

It is a great pleasure to invite contributions to the Academy for African Studies Annual Conference 2026.

We will start by drawing out the key points.

Across Africa, organisations and communities are confronting changes that are reshaping development itself. Economic pressure, technological change and shifting global relationships are changing how authority is exercised, how policy is made and how development practice unfolds. Although this uncertainty persists, these changes are not happening within stable institutional arrangements. Alongside this, they are taking place in a world where the rules, norms and centres of power that once structured development are increasingly uncertain.

We think this summary shows that the international order that shaped development thinking for decades is also changing. Power is no longer concentrated in a small number of global actors or institutions. Instead, Africa is engaging in a more fluid and contested global system marked by multiple centres of influence and overlapping political and economic alliances. This new multipolar order creates new opportunities for choice and bargaining, but it also introduces greater uncertainty in global engagement.

At the same time, many institutions, both domestic and international, are under strain. In several African contexts, state institutions face limits in capacity, legitimacy and coordination. International development institutions and multilateral frameworks are also losing their ability to set clear norms or enforce shared rules. As a result, policy making increasingly occurs in environments where formal rules coexist with informal practices, ad hoc arrangements and negotiated authority. We believe that understanding how institutions function under these conditions is central to contemporary African scholarship.

For us, these shifts place power and practice at the centre of analysis.

Our impression is that we have made more progress. However, the AFAS Annual Conference 2026 provides a scholarly space to engage these transformations directly. A central question for the conference is how African actors are responding to a fragmented international system, how institutions adapt or fail under pressure and how development practice is evolving as global norms become unsettled. As such, we seek contributions that move beyond diagnosis to offer analytical insight into how power, policy and practice are being reconfigured across African contexts.

Submissions are also welcomed from across disciplines. Papers may examine institutional resilience and breakdown, leadership and organisational practice, entrepreneurship, financial systems, artificial intelligence governance and Africa's positioning within emerging global and regional orders. Research that connects micro level practices with macro level political and economic structures is especially encouraged.

Clearly, the overall point is that the conference values scholarship that is theoretically engaged, empirically grounded and attentive to African histories and lived realities. We, of course, need rich methodological diversity, including qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods, historical and participatory approaches, provided they demonstrate analytical rigour and clarity of contribution. One final point here: comparative and interdisciplinary research is encouraged where it advances understanding rather than flattening context.



Kingsley O Omeihe
President



Christian Harrison
Chair

Conference Tracks

	<p>Submissions are invited across the following areas. Interdisciplinary and cross-cutting submissions are encouraged.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Human Resource Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ International Business and Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Organisational Behaviour
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Leadership
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Financial Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Development Studies

	■ Knowledge and Learning
	■ Technology and Innovation
	■ Entrepreneurship
	■ Sustainability
	■ Operations, Logistics, and Supply Chain Management
	■ Gender
	■ Marketing
	■ Strategy
	■ Research Methodology

Types of Conference Paper

The conference accepts two categories of paper

- **Development Papers**
Early-stage research, conceptual papers, pilot studies, or work in progress with a clear scholarly direction.
Maximum length: 3,500 words
- **Full Papers**
Fully developed theoretical, empirical, or critical research contributions.
Maximum length: 10,000 words

Awards

The conference will recognise scholarly excellence through Best Paper Awards for both Development Papers and Full Papers

Submission Information

- The conference will be delivered in a hybrid format, allowing participation in person or online.
- Selected papers may be considered for post-conference publication opportunities.
- **Paper submission deadline: Monday, 15th June 2026 at 23:59 (UK time)**

[Submit your papers here](#)



Key Conference Information

Conference Registration Fee:

Standard registration (including conference dinner) – £250 per person

Student fee (subject to availability) – £100 per person

Rate per day -- £150 per person

Virtual Rate -- £50 per person

Conference Contact:

Please refer all initial queries regarding the conference and your abstract submission to:

c.harrison2@greatermanchester.ac.uk

king.omeihe@uws.ac.uk

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND PANELLISTS

Our conference brings together key notes and panel discussions of the top academics and practitioners in their field who would share their insights and discuss their work. See the conference website for more details.

Why Attend?

This is more than a conference — it's an academic, professional, and personal growth experience that will:

- Boost your publication journey
- Expand your network globally
- Expose you to cutting-edge ideas and practices
- Leave you inspired, refreshed, and connected

Conference Programme

Conference Venue:

University of Greater Manchester

Highlights include:

Keynote sessions from renowned industry experts

Small-group clinics focused on academic writing, research design, and methodology

Expert insights into crafting impactful abstracts, introductions, and overall scholarly work

Personalised feedback on your paper or research proposal

Panel Discussions

Roundtable and fireside chats with industry experts and practitioners

Doctoral Mentorship Programme

Supporting the next generation of scholars through tailored guidance and development.

Publication Opportunities

- Enhance your academic profile with pathways to publication in reputable outlets.
- Papers presented at the conference have opportunities for a Special Issue and Edited Book on African Studies by Emerald Publishing, UK

Interactive Workshop Sessions

- Insights from Leaders and Practitioners: Learn from top business leaders and industry innovators.
- Development Workshops: Learn from coaches and experts
- Meet the Editors: Engage directly with journal editors to understand the publication process
- Paper Development Workshops: Refine your research paper with expert advice

Conference Programme

Conference Venue:

University of Greater Manchester

Gala Dinner & Networking Night

Celebrate impact, scholarship, connections, and collaboration in an elegant setting. An evening dedicated to building lasting relationships across academia and practice.

Awards Ceremony

Recognising excellence in research and presentation:

- Best Paper Award
- Best Presenter Award
- Best Participant Award

Winners will be honoured during the Gala Dinner

Entertainment & Leisure Activities

Experience an exciting blend of relaxation and engagement:

- Bolton Arena Visit: Explore world-class sports and leisure facilities
- Formula Race Simulation Experience: Challenge yourself with a thrilling racing simulation!

Virtual Programme

Conference Venue:

Zoom/Teams Meeting

What will you get:**Highlights include:**

- Keynote sessions from renowned industry experts
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- Small-group clinics focused on academic writing, research design, and methodology
- Expert insights into crafting impactful abstracts, introductions, and overall scholarly work

Panel Discussions

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Doctoral Mentorship Programme

Supporting the next generation of scholars through tailored guidance and development

Publication Opportunities

Enhance your academic profile with pathways to publication in reputable outlets.

Papers presented at the conference have opportunities for:

Books published by Emerald and Routledge

Publication in ABS 2* and 3* rated journals

We make virtual feel personal and powerful with:

PDF & interactive online agenda

Live polls