

The Collaborative Research Centre “Dynamics of Security” (SFB/TRR 138) and the Anthropology of Peace, Conflict, and Security (APeCS) network of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) are organizing the joint, interdisciplinary conference:

**Peace, conflict, and security in times of existential crises:
Critical, interdisciplinary, and public engagements**

21–22 March 2024, Marburg, Germany

Call for papers

Panel 6. Contemporary Discourses on Conflict Management in Africa

Convenor:

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This panel seeks to reflect on some of the important discourses on the trends of conflict and security management in Africa. The region has remained a hotbed of armed conflicts with debilitating effects on human security and general well-being. Although the conflicts are multifaceted and cross-cutting, they are emblematised by the growth of migration and border governance deficits, human trafficking, drugs and firearms, land use, separatist uprisings, and inter-ethnic disharmony. Accordingly, the panel is designed to interrogate the causes, dynamics, and effects of these security concerns and their management in Africa.

For instance, the securitisation of migration and border governance impinges on regional economic cooperation and integration, especially in the light of the African Continental Free Trade Area. From xenophobic violence in South Africa to land border closure in the Sahel region, Africa has continued to witness a rise of far-right ultra-nationalist thinking and discriminatory immigration policies. The penchant of the relevant state actors to externalise the causes of insecurity in their domains not only undermine intra-regional cooperation in Africa but also substantially overshadow well-meaning measures designed to mitigate the harmful effects of irregular transnational migration.

On separatist uprisings, there is need to examine the nuances of their historical antecedents in explaining the contemporary existential crises of statehood in Africa. The unpleasant memories, documentaries and traumas arising from civil wars leave indelible imprints in the consciousness of war survivors and their progenies. Hence,

different separatist groups, such as the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in Nigeria, have continued to champion the restoration of independent statehoods given the prevalence of perceived political and economic marginalisation.

The dialectics of women's progressive victimhood in conflict situations and their under-representation in the construction of conflict mitigation measures in Africa deserves some investigation. Despite global campaigns for women inclusion in peacebuilding, especially through the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, peacebuilding and conflict transformation in Africa continue to be perceived as an androcentric project. Thus, the challenges to women participation in the praxis of peace and conflict resolution in the continent should be identified and corrective measures recommended.

Inter-ethnic rivalry and disharmony have been identified as fallouts of colonial treaties in Africa. Analysing the historical connections and conceptualising strategies for mitigating such ethno-political conflicts is imperative as they continue to engender profound petrifying state of insecurity in postcolonial African states.

The panel, therefore, invites submissions that analyse the dynamics of conflict situations in Africa from colonial to contemporary times. Submissions should also conceptualise the construction of conflict mitigation strategies.

Abstract proposals of up to 300 words, accompanied by titles, names, bios of up to 100 words, and affiliation and contact details of authors should be sent to the convenors by **the 2nd of October 2023**. We expect to notify the selected participants by the 16th of October.

We also remind you that (limited) funding will be available to precarious scholars on a reimbursement of real costs basis. Also, for scholars from the Global South in need of a visa, the organisers can issue letters of invitation.