

## Shaping Europe's Future with Sub-Saharan Africa

### How Academic Research and Political Consultancy can contribute to the improvement of European Policies towards Africa

Conference Centre of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung „Villa La Collina“,  
Cadenabbia/Lago di Como, 28th-30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

European research on Africa provides significant findings that are of high relevance to decision-makers in politics, business and the media. Despite the alarming political, social, economic and ecological challenges in sub-Saharan Africa, which will also have a long-term impact on Europe and North Africa due to demographic developments, European research on Africa seems to find it challenging to make its voice heard sufficiently in the stream of global events. In this context, research findings could increasingly serve to correctly assess developments in Africa thereby supporting decision-makers in pursuing a constructive Africa policy that defines itself between what is necessary as the minimum and what is feasible as the maximum. For this, it is crucial to adopt a holistic and realistic perception of Africa. On the one hand, the exclusive description of Africa as a "disaster continent" is neither helpful nor expedient in supporting Africa's development. On the other hand, an all too positive, almost neo-paternalistic image of Africa not only prevents correct analysis but also spirals expectations of politics into the unrealisable.

The sole description of events or certain status quos in Africa limits the scope of work of journalists and other media professionals and prevents in-depth analysis. By doing so, power structures or structural problems do not receive sufficient attention. This contributes to the promotion of a distorted perception of African countries in Europe. Another challenge is that the legacy of the colonial past is very present, thus a stumbling block to an unconstrained and future-oriented European-African relationship. The ways of dealing with and interpreting history range from denial of the colonial past to political instrumentalisation, which ultimately does not serve to overcome the past and stand in the way of shaping a shared future.

The perception of Africa in the European public sphere is a crucial factor because it actively affects the relationship between the two continents. Therefore, it has a direct effect on political possibilities since those are indentured to the acceptance of political approaches. Science and policy advice plays an important role here, as they can provide reliable findings that point to opportunities and offer both voters and political decision-makers guidance incorrectly classifying Europe's foreign, trade, security, development and migration policy with Africa.

In this context, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung organizes the conference "*How Academic Research and Political Consultancy can contribute to the improvement of European Policies towards Africa*", with the overall aim to exchange ideas, between European and African researchers in the economic, humanities and social sciences, political decision-makers and media professions. The critical questions of discussion, amongst others are, how European research on Africa can have a more substantial advisory effect on politics and the media? Also, how science can better meet the needs and demands of the latter? Finally, the question of whether a non-contorted African perspective is adequately taken into account in the policy-making process is explored at this conference.

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## Programme

### Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Morning/early afternoon**      **Arrival and check-in at the conference venue**

15:45 hrs

**Welcoming Remarks**  
Tilmann Feltes, KAS, Berlin

16:00 hrs

**Panel 1: In and Out: Current Issues and Prospects of European Research on Sub-Saharan Africa**

Key Note (20 min)      **Amanda Hammar, CAS, Copenhagen**  
Comment (10 min)      **Luis Ravina, University of Navarra, Pamplona**  
Comment (10 min)      **Lisa Hoffmann, GIGA, Hamburg**

**Followed by discussion**

**Moderation:**      **Sabine Odhiambo, German Africa Foundation, Berlin**

18:00 hrs

**End of Panel 1/Day1**

19:00 hrs

**Joint dinner at Villa la Collina**

### Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

09:00 hrs

**Panel 2: European Think Tanks and Africa: How to engage with politics?**

Key Note (20 min)      **Alex Vines, Chatham House, London**  
Comment (10 min)      **Melanie Müller, SWP, Berlin**  
Comment (10 min)      **Carl Michiels, ECDPM, Brussels**

**Followed by discussion**

**Moderation:**      **Victoria Hasson, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, London**

10:30 hrs

**Break**

10:45 hrs

**Panel 3: Strategic goals of Europe's policies towards Africa**

Key Note (20 min)      **Denis Schrey, KAS, Brussels (Zoom)**  
Comment (10 min)      **Hildegard Bentele, MEP, Brussels (Zoom)**  
Comment (10 min)      **Giovanni Faleg, EUISS, Paris (Zoom)**

**Followed by discussion**

**Moderation:**      **Mathias Kamp, KAS, Berlin**

12:30 hrs

**Joint Lunch**

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14:00 hrs	<b>Panel 4: Understanding Africa: The image of Africa in the European public and the role of the media</b> Key Note (20 min) <a href="#">Samira Sawlani, Freelance Journalist, London</a> Comment (10 min) <a href="#">Wolfgang Drechsler, Handelsblatt, Cape Town</a> Comment (10 min) <a href="#">David Soler Crespo, El País and University of Navarra, Pamplona</a>
	<b>Followed by discussion</b> Moderation: <a href="#">Alex Vines, Chatham House, London</a>
16:00 hrs	<b>End of Panel 4</b>
Optional	<b>Networking: Boat trip to Bellagio or walk to the chapel</b>
20:00 hrs	<b>Joint Dinner</b>

### Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

09:00 hrs	<b>Panel 5: Europe's Colonial Heritage and the Future of its relations with Africa</b> Key Note (20 min) <a href="#">Adam Habib, SOAS, London (Zoom)</a> Comment (10 min) <a href="#">Egon Kochanke, former Ambassador/German-African Business Association, Berlin</a>
	<b>Followed by discussion</b> Moderation: <a href="#">Tilman Feltes, KAS, Berlin</a>
10:30 hrs	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <a href="#">Mathias Kamp, KAS, Berlin</a>
11:00 hrs	<b>End of Conference</b>
12:00 hrs	<b>Lunch</b>
Afternoon	<b>Departure</b>

## Shaping Europe's Future with Sub-Saharan Africa

### Participants

1. Wolfgang Drechsler, Correspondent Handelsblatt, Cape Town
2. Tilmann Feltes, Policy Advisor Southern Africa, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Berlin
3. Prof Amanda Hammar, President European African Studies Association (AEGIS) / Head Centre of African Studies (CAS), University of Copenhagen
4. Dr Victoria Hasson, Senior Parliamentary Adviser, Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), London
5. Lisa Hoffmann, Research Fellow Africa Department, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg
6. Mathias Kamp, Policy Advisor Eastern Africa, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Berlin
7. Egon Kochanke, former German Ambassador to Namibia and Tanzania / German-African Business Association, Berlin
8. Carl Michiels, Director European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), Brussels
9. Dr Melanie Müller, Senior Associate Research Division Middle East and Africa, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin
10. Sabine Odhiambo, Deputy Secretary General German Africa Foundation (DAS), Berlin
11. Prof Luis Ravina, Director Navarra Center for International Development, Universidad Navarra, Pamplona
12. Samira Sawlani, Freelance Journalist, London
13. David Soler Crespo, Journalist El País / Junior Researcher Navarra Center for International Development, University of Navarra, Pamplona
14. Dr Alex Vines OBE, Director Africa Programme / Managing Director Ethics, Risk & Resilience, Chatham House, London

### Via Zoom

15. Hildegard Bentele, Member of the European Parliament (MEP), European People's Party / Member Development Committee and Industry, Research, Energy Committee, Brussels
16. Dr Giovanni Faleg, Senior Analyst Sub-Saharan Africa, European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), Paris
17. Prof Adam Habib, Vice-Chancellor and Principal University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg / Incoming Director School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London
18. Denis Schrey, Director Multinational Development Policy Dialogue, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Brussels

## Shaping Europe's Future with Sub-Saharan Africa

### Conference Venue

Villa La Collina

Via Roma 11, I-22011 Griante-Cadenabbia (CO)

Cadenabbia, Italy

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### Organisation

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### Local Organisation

KAS Department Sub-Saharan Africa

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