



Nordic Africa Days 2012

Call for papers

The Nordic Africa Days (NAD), the bi-annual conference of the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala, Sweden, will be hosted at University of Iceland in Reykjavík on October 18-19, 2012.

Africa unplugged

Musical performance without electronic amplification or modification is commonly referred to as 'unplugged' or acoustic music. Such music may be perceived as basic or traditional but also as characterized by improvisation and innovation. In similar vein 'unplugged' art is presented as original, creative and fashionable. The term 'unplugged' has been associated with Africa's past, its nature and wilderness, celebrations of African diaspora and innovative approaches to constraints. The term has also been used to highlight the importance of cross-cultural interaction and in support of charity. Thus, the word 'unplugged' conveys diverse meanings that may simultaneously refer to the essence or core, and their novelty, connections and temporality. The interplay of these aspects will be the focus of the Nordic Africa Days 2012 in Reykjavík.

The Nordic Africa Days will highlight Africa's multiple positions in a global world, looking simultaneously toward the past and the future, while asking about Africa's situation in the world today and the near future. We welcome abstracts that examine these issues from diverse theoretical and disciplinary approaches of the social sciences and humanities, such as economics, law, development studies, sociology, geography, anthropology, gender studies, education, health sciences, history, literature and art just to mention few.

We especially encourage broad inter-disciplinary perspectives that speak across boundaries and address, for instance, the following questions: Has the continent been 'plugged' in with the rest of the world? What are the consequences and lived realities of those involved? Does the continent need more connection with the outside world for increased prosperity, or should it be unplugged to find its own way to a better future? Should Africans unplug from the past or re-engage with their historical and cultural heritage? How are the emerging donors interacting with Africa? Is increased aid effectiveness, in line with the Paris Declaration, Africa's solution? What about African agency? What direction should the African states take in crafting out their future? Is there a progressive entrance to the future that takes notice of the past? Is Africa 'unplugged' in relation to current day mediascape? How is social construction of gender and sexuality related to processes internal to Africa or global ones? In what ways are human rights, education and health issues addressed in the context of global governance? How can transnationalism and Africa's historical relationship with the rest of the world be assessed, and in what ways does African agency represent itself within these relationships?

Panel and paper submission

The deadline for proposing papers and panels is **March 1, 2012**. Authors and panel organizers will be notified of acceptance by April 1, 2012. Send abstracts to: NAD2012@hi.is. Please list the following in the mail-heading: Type of submission (paper or panel) and your full name.

Registration fee is 80 euros in general and 40 euros for registered students and participants resident in Africa. Information about forms of payment will be given together with notification of acceptance.

A person can only present one paper and propose one panel. In the same session a presenter may have these combinations of roles: organizer/chair, organizer/discussant, organizer/paper.

Paper abstract: The submitted paper abstracts should be no more than 200 words. Papers can either be a part of a panel submission or individually submitted. Papers that are part of a panel submission must mention clearly the name of the respective panel. The conference committee will either transfer the individual proposed papers into the submitted panels if they see fit or classify them into new panels according to thematic criteria. Please give information about your affiliation and whether you are a student or not.

Panel submission: Panel submissions must include a 300-word description of the topic, list of included presenters and titles of included papers, as well as information of the panel organizer and chair. All of those submitting panels have to send in abstract for their individual paper as well, clearly stating the panel it is a part of.

For further information please send e-mail to nad2012@hi.is



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