



GENESIS EPISTEMOLOGIES: ORIGINS, SYNCRETISM, AND HUMAN EVOLUTION IN AFRICA

Yale University and the University of South Africa Conference

First day: Thursday, 07 November 2024
Mode: In-person/Online (hybrid)
Registration: Luce Hall. Meeting room HQ 276

Program

Morning session: (EST) or (GMT -6hrs)

Conference link for online participation: <https://yale.zoom.us/j/92114918776>

Thursday, 7 Nov. 2024	Venue: Luce Hall HQ 276
Opening: 9h00-9h25	Veronica Waweru (Co-convenor, Council on African Studies, Yale University)
Welcoming: 09h30-09h50	Cajetan Iheka (Chair of Council on African Studies, Yale University)
Keynote address: 10h00-10h45	Afe Adogame (Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton University) Topic: <i>"Looking Back to the Future: Reimagining indigenous genesis epistemologies as contested ways of knowing in Africa"</i> .
Q&A session: 10h45-11h00	
Tea Break	
Presentation 11h15-11h45	Asmeret Merahi (Independent researcher) Topic: <i>"Paleoanthropology: From Giving to Receiving"</i>
Presentation: 11h45-12h15	Katherine Ranhorn (School of Human Evolution & Social Change, University of Arizona) Topic: <i>"Navigating power imbalances in paleoanthropology toward sustainable stewardship"</i>
Q&A session: 12h15- 12h30	
Lunch Break	



GENESIS EPISTEMOLOGIES: ORIGINS, SYNCRETISM, AND HUMAN EVOLUTION IN AFRICA

Yale University and the University of South Africa Conference

Afternoon session: (EST) or (GMT -6hrs)

Conference link for online participation: <https://yale.zoom.us/j/92114918776>

Thursday, 7 Nov. 2024	Venue: room HQ 276
Presentation: 13h30-14h00	Christian Tryon (University of Connecticut) Topic: <i>“Origins narratives viewed from the archives: The long but forgotten legacy of the Archdeacon Owen’s 1939-1940 excavations at Nyarindi, Kenya”.</i>
Presentation: 14h00-14h30	Nelson Maldonado-Torres & Ayabulela Mhlahlo (University of Connecticut) Topic: <i>“Beyond the Myth of Modernity: African Sources for Decolonial Myth Making and Knowledge Production from the Combat Zones of Modernity/Coloniality”</i>
Q & A: 14h30-14h45	
Presentation: 14h45-15h15	Jessica Thompson (Yale University) Topic: <i>“Structural obstacles to Community-Centered Research”</i>
Presentation: 15h15-15h45	Veronica Waweru (Yale University) Topic: <i>“Paleoanthropology in the central highlands of Kenya Using a Knowledge Co-production model”</i>
Q&A: 15h45-16h00	
Q & A, Announcements: 16h00-16h10	
Story performance: 16h30-17h00	Amarachi Ammatah. <i>NDU: The Essence of Being, Chants, and Verses.</i>



GENESIS EPISTEMOLOGIES: ORIGINS, SYNCRETISM, AND HUMAN EVOLUTION IN AFRICA

Yale University and the University of South Africa Conference

Second day: Friday, 08 November 2024
Mode: Online
Conference link: [Genesis Epistemologies Conference | General | Microsoft Teams](#)

Program

Morning session: (SAST) or (GMT +2 hrs.)

Friday, 8 Nov. 2024	Venue: Online via Zoom
Welcoming: 9h00-9h15	Joel Mokhoathi (University of South Africa, Pretoria)
Keynote address: 09h20-10h45	Tunde Bewaji (Emeritus professor, University of West Indies)
Keynote address: 10h50-11h15	Isaac Boaheng (Christian Service University College, Ghana)
Q&A session: 11h20-11h35	
Presentation: 11h40-12h00	Mookgo Solomon Kgatle (University of South Africa, Pretoria) Topic: <i>“Pentecostal Reading of the Genesis creation narrative in tracing human origins”</i>
Presentation: 12h05-12h25	Desalegn Amsalu (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia) Topic: <i>“Exploring epistemologies of genesis through oral traditions: A multifaceted study of Ethiopian ethnic communities”</i>
Presentation: 12h30-12h50	Allen Babatunde Bakare (Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife) Topic: <i>“Theatrics of Human Creation and Evolution: from Yoruba Perspective”</i>
Q&A session: 12h55-13h10	
Lunch Break	



GENESIS EPISTEMOLOGIES: ORIGINS, SYNCRETISM, AND HUMAN EVOLUTION IN AFRICA

Yale University and the University of South Africa Conference

Afternoon session: (SAST) or (GMT +2hrs.)

Conference link: [Genesis Epistemologies Conference | General | Microsoft Teams](#)

Friday, 8 Nov. 2024	Venue: Online via Zoom
Presentation: 13h30-13h50	Makhtar Diop (Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal) Topic: <i>“Nationalism and Paleoanthropology: When the origin of humanity inspires the fight for independence”</i>
Presentation: 13h55-14h15	Wessel Bentley (University of South Africa, Pretoria) Topic: “Why is it important to consider our origins?”
Presentation: 14h20-14h40	Leah Simiyu (National Museums of Kenya) Topic: <i>“Leveraging Digital Archaeology for Conservation and Planning in Kenyan Museums”</i>
Q&A: 14h45-15h00	
Transmission: 15h05	Joining the in-person mode at Yale



GENESIS EPISTEMOLOGIES: ORIGINS, SYNCRETISM, AND HUMAN EVOLUTION IN AFRICA

Yale University and the University of South Africa Conference

Second day: Friday, 08 November 2024

Mode: In-person/Online (hybrid)

Registration: Luce Hall Common room

Program

Morning session: (EST) or (GMT -6hrs)

Conference link for online participation: <https://yale.zoom.us/j/92114918776>

Friday, 8 Nov. 2024	Venue: Luce Hall 203 & Common room
Welcoming: 9h05-9h25	Michael Glerup (Council on African Studies, Yale University)
Keynote address: 09h30-10h15	Freda Nkirote (National Museums of Kenya) Topic: <i>"Triad of Origins Narratives in Africa: Reflections on Human Genesis and Indigenous knowledge"</i>
Keynote address: 10h15-10h55 (Online)	Jacob Olupona (Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University) Topic: "A Cosmogogenesis: Knowledge and Meaning-making in African Oral Narratives"
Tea Break	
Q&A session: 11h10-11h30	
Presentation: 11h30-12h05	Kipro Kimutai (Writer/Journalist) Topic: <i>"Old Bones Speak"</i>
Presentation: 12h05-12h35	Soraya Hosni & Sityana Abdu (Yale University) Topic: <i>"The Future of our Sacred Heritage: From Abandonment to Revitalization the case of Zawiyas in North Africa"</i>
Q&A session: 12h35-12h45	
Lunch Break	



GENESIS EPISTEMOLOGIES: ORIGINS, SYNCRETISM, AND HUMAN EVOLUTION IN AFRICA

Yale University and the University of South Africa Conference

Afternoon session: EST or (GMT -6hrs)

Conference link for online participation: <https://yale.zoom.us/j/92114918776>

Friday, 8 Nov. 2024	Venue: Luce Hall 203 & Common room
Keynote address: 13h30-14h15 (Online)	Peter Schmidt (Emeritus Professor, African Studies & Anthropology, University of Florida) Topic: <i>"Why Ontological Worlds are Central to the Practice of an Africa-based Theory in Archaeology"</i>
Q&A session: 14h15-14h30	
Presentation: 14h30-15h00	Francis Kirera (Mercer University) Topic: "Community-based participatory site documentation- A GIS-based conceptual mode"
Presentation: 15h00-15h30	Cecelia Ngugi, Freda Nkrote Mbogori, Peter Musili (National Museums of Kenya) Topic: <i>"Enhancing the Relevance of Scientific Research on Cultural and Human Evolution through Public Engagement"</i>
Presentation: 15h30-16h00	Ayabulela Mhlahlo (University of Connecticut) Topic: <i>"The Cosmo-Archaeology of Power: How 20th Century Africana Cosmogonies and Epistemic Archaeology Suggest an Anti-colonial Theory of Power"</i>
Q&A session: 16h00-16h15	
Announcements: 16.15h-16h30	
End of day 2	



GENESIS EPISTEMOLOGIES: ORIGINS, SYNCRETISM, AND HUMAN EVOLUTION IN AFRICA

Yale University and the University of South Africa Conference

Third day: Saturday, 09 November 2024
Mode: Online
Conference link: [Genesis Epistemologies Conference | General | Microsoft Teams](#)

Program

Morning session: (SAST) or (GMT +2hrs)

Saturday, 9 Nov. 2024	Venue: Online via Zoom
Welcoming: 9h00-9h15	Joel Mokhoathi (University of South Africa, Pretoria)
Presentation: 09h20-10h40	Khathuthelo Mpeiwa (University of South Africa, Pretoria) Topic: <i>“Towards maximization of mutual benefits to paleoanthropology and communities in Makapansvalley World Heritage Site in South Africa”</i>
Presentation: 10h45-11h05	Makarius Itambu (University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania) Topic: <i>“Early human climactic-environmental interactions in central Tanzania: A case from Singida region’s hunting-gathering communities to rapidly transition from settled lifeways toward agropastoralism”</i>
Tea break	
Presentation: 11h20-11h40	Andrei Bogden (University of West Timișoara, Romania) Topic: <i>“Genesis Meets Griot: Christian Engagement with African Narratives of Origin and Evolution”</i>
Presentation: 11h45-12h05	Amos Adediran Adekunle (Federal College of Education, Ogun State) Topic: <i>“Philosophical Analysis of the Bible: Ifa in Christianity and Yoruba Religion in Nigeria”</i>
Presentation: 12h10-12h30	Jane Mufamadi (Freedom Park, Pretoria) Topic: <i>“Heritage sites and giving back to communities”</i>
Lunch Break	



GENESIS EPISTEMOLOGIES: ORIGINS, SYNCRETISM, AND HUMAN EVOLUTION IN AFRICA

Yale University and the University of South Africa Conference

Afternoon session: SAST or (GMT +2hrs)

Conference link: [Genesis Epistemologies Conference | General | Microsoft Teams](#)

Saturday, 9 Nov. 2024	Venue: Online via Zoom
Presentation: 13h30-13h50	Wangari, Grace et al . Teachers Service Commission, Kenya) Topic: <i>"Involvement of Educators and Local Communities in Paleoanthropology projects of mount Kenya Region"</i>
Presentation: 13h55-14h15	Monique Scott (Bryn Mawr College, USA) Topic: <i>African Origins in the Museum"</i>
Tea break	
Presentation: 14h20-14h40	Sidy Ndour (Université Laval, Québec, Canada) Topic: <i>Atlantic expansion and transformations of religious spaces in Lambaye and its surroundings (1500-1900)"</i>
Q&A session: 14h45-15h00	
Announcements: 15h05-15h20	Vote of thanks and way forward
End of conference	

Time zones:

SAST: South African Standard Time (SAST) is the time zone used by South Africa, as well as Eswatini and Lesotho. The time zone is two hours ahead of UTC (UTC+02:00) and is the same as Central African Time.

EST: Eastern Standard Time (EST) is 5 hours behind Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) and is 6 hours behind South African Standard Time (SAST).

Times: If you are in Africa, the times differences should be between +1 to 2hrs. But if you are in America, the time differences could be between – 6 to 7hrs.