

COUNCIL ON AFRICAN STUDIES

SYMPOSIUM 2026

Date: April 10, 2026, Location: HQ 134 Time: 12:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Theme: *The Politics of Survival: State, Body, and Imagination in African and Diasporic Contexts*

12:30 PM – 12:40 PM: Opening Remarks

- Welcome Address: Dr. Cajetan Iheka
- Introduction to the symposium's themes: Paul Essah

Panel 1 – Ground Conditions: Land, Waste, and Ecological Precarity in Africa (Chair: Paul Essah)

12:45 PM – 2:00 PM

- 12:45 PM – 12:55 PM: Siwei Lu – *Re-Engineering Public Life: Senegal's Social Housing Program and the Urban Poor*
- 12:55 PM – 1:05 PM: Rita Nwanze – *The Waste Is Mine: Dumpsites, Livelihood, and Pollution in Sub-Saharan Africa*
- 1:05 PM – 1:15 PM: Eriko Kawajiri – *Sustaining Forests and Livelihoods: Off-Season Strategies Among Rice Farmers in Madagascar*
- 1:15 PM – 1:25 PM: Patience Neshiwa – *Weaponization of Environmental Vulnerabilities: The Case of Drought in Zimbabwe, 1965–1979*
- 1:25 PM – 1:45 PM – Q&A Session

Panel 2 – State Violence, Exclusion, and the Politics of Recognition (Chair: Siwei Lu)

1:55 PM – 2:45 PM

- 1:55 PM – 2:05 PM: Nana Ama Ocran – *Bureaucratic Exclusion and Health Inequity: Nubian Citizenship and Biometric Governance in Kenya*
- 2:05 PM – 2:15 PM: Faith Maritim – *Conflict, Cobalt, and Care: Sexual Violence, Humanitarian Response, and Post-Donor Withdrawal in the DRC*
- 2:15 PM – 2:25 PM: Layan Nazzal – *"Tunisia Had Its Revolution — Now I'm Having Mine"*
- 2:25 PM – 2:45 PM – Q&A Session

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM: Break

Panel 3 – The Body Under Pressure: Disease, Vaccines, and Health Systems in Africa (Chair: Okuchukwu Akpe)

3:00 PM – 3:55 PM

- **3:00 PM – 3:10 PM:** Hanifah Ouro-Sama – *The Unseen Patient: Skin Bleaching, Clinical Blind Spots, and the Public Health Imperative in Sub-Saharan Africa*
- **3:10 PM – 3:20 PM:** Modupe Karimi – *Beyond the Malaria Belt: Human Mobility, Climate, and the Shifting Geography of Sickle Cell Disease in Sub-Saharan Africa*
- **3:20 PM – 3:30 PM:** Elon Atlaw – *Genetic Variants of Pfrh5 and Immune Evasion: Implications for Next-Generation Malaria Vaccine Design*
- **3:30 PM – 3:50 PM** – Q&A Session

Panel 4 – Religion, Interpretation, and Political Spirituality (Chair: Rita Nwanze)

4:00 PM – 4:50 PM

- **4:00 PM – 4:10 PM:** Nana Boahen – *Beyond Religious Nationalism: African Feminist and LGBTQ+ Voices in Pentecostal Christianity*
- **4:10 PM – 4:20 PM:** Okuchukwu Akpe – *Jugular Jugular: AfroGospel, Spiritual Warfare, and Youth Political Agency in Nigeria's Fourth Republic*
- **4:20 PM – 4:30 PM:** Elikplim Zanthia – *Deciphering Involves Cognition: A Case of Mental-Model Reading of Exod 20:21–23*
- **4:30 PM – 4:50 PM** – Q&A Session

4:50 PM – 5:00 PM: Closing Reflections: Paul Essah