

NEAR-ER SUMMER SCHOOL 2026

Africa-Europe Relations in a World in Rupture

Foundations and Critical Approaches

Support



UNIVERSITY OF
DAR ES SALAAM



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PROGRAMME

Monday 31 August

Location: Conference Room, 2.60 Huizinga Building, Doelensteeg 16, Leiden

12.00-12.45	Registration and lunch
12.45-13.15	Welcome and round of introductions
13.15-14.15	A Global History of European Integration <i>Anne-Isabelle Richard, Leiden University</i>
14.15-15.15	Origins and Functioning of European Integration from a Comparative Perspective <i>Gustavo G. Muller, KU Leuven</i>
15.15-15.30	Coffee
15.30-17.30	Interregionalism: Governance and selected issues in Africa-EU relations <i>Christopher Nshimbi, University of Pretoria</i>

Tuesday 1 September

Location: Living Lab, Schouwburgstraat 2, The Hague

9.00	Meet in front of Leiden Central Station
9.18-9.29	Train to The Hague Central Station
10.00-13.00	Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
13.00-13.45	Lunch
14.30-15.30	Guided tour of the slavery history of The Hague by the Haags Historisch Museum.

Wednesday 2 September

Location: Conference Room, 2.60 Huizinga Building, Doelensteeg 16, Leiden

10.00-12.00	Health as a Shared Responsibility. The Right to Health at the Crossroads of Africa-Europe Cooperation <i>Mirjam Sombroek, Leiden University</i>
12.00-13.00	Lunch
13.00-15.00	Tale of Two Continents: Demographic Transitions, Dividends and Futures in Africa and Europe: Should African Countries Pursue Replacement Level Fertility? <i>John Mushomi, University of Makerere</i>
15.00-15.15	Coffee
15.15-17.00	Ownership, Memory, Power. Introduction to Memory Studies and Heritage Interpretation <i>Lucja Piekarska, Uniwersytet Jagiellonski</i>

Thursday 3 September

Location: Conference Room, 2.60 Huizinga Building, Doelensteeg 16, Leiden

9.00-10.30	Investing in Partnership? A strategic and practitioner approach to the EU-Africa investment approaches. Session I <i>Hezron Makundi, University of Dar-es-Salaam</i>
11.00-12.00	Tour of the Africa Collection of the Museum of World Cultures <i>Annette Schmidt, curator Museum of World Cultures.</i>
12.30-13.15	Lunch – Conference room
13.15-15.15	Investing in Partnership? A strategic and practitioner approach to the EU-Africa investment approaches. Session II <i>Sonia Sanchez, IBEI</i>
15.15-15.30	Coffee
15.30-17.30	African Regional Integration and Development in Cape Verde: The ECOWAS Monetary Union Challenge <i>Odair Barros-Varela, Universidade de Cabo Verde</i>

Friday 4 September

Location: Conference Room, 2.60 Huizinga Building, Doelensteeg 16, Leiden

9:00 – 18:00	Student Conference
18.00	<i>Conclusion and farewell</i>

SESSIONS & LECTURES

A Global History of European Integration

Anne-Isabelle Richard, Leiden University

This class discusses the history of European Integration from a global perspective from the end of World War I onward. It examines how Europeans started to consider cooperating on a regional level as a result of developments outside of Europe, as well as because of the effects of World War I. It considers the significant role colonies played in European regional projects from the start well until decolonization and beyond.

Required reading (in shared folder):

A.I. Richard, 'A Global Perspective on European Cooperation and Integration since 1918', in Mathieu Segers, Steven van Hecke (eds.), *Cambridge History of European Union. Volume 2: European Integration Inside-Out* (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2023) 459-480.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108781480.017>

Origins and Functioning of European Integration from a Comparative Perspective

Gustavo G. Muller, KU Leuven

The lecture discusses why European states decided to give up part of their sovereign authority and agreed to create a regional organisation with unparalleled supranational features – the European Union (EU). It explores how European integration functions today, the origins of institutions, the competences and decision-making of the EU, the 'division of labour' and interaction with other organisations such as NATO and the Council of Europe, and the EU's cooperation with other regions and organisations, including Africa.

Required reading (in shared folder):

Schuman Declaration, 1950: https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu/1945-59/schuman-declaration-may-1950_en

Communiqué of the meeting of Heads of State or Government of the Member States at The Hague (1 and 2 December 1969) <https://www.fransamaltingvongeusau.com/documents/cw/EC/1.pdf>

Interregionalism: Governance and selected issues in Africa-EU relations

Christopher Nshimbi, University of Pretoria

The session will consider governance and the conceptual basis of interregional relations and go on to focus on the relationship between Africa (and/or the African Union, AU) and Europe (and/or the European Union, EU). The session will then discuss selected issues and dynamics in the Africa/AU-Europe/EU relationship.

Required reading (in shared folder):

1. Taylor, Ian. (2018). 'Africa's international relations', *African Politics: A Very Short Introduction*, Very Short Introductions (Oxford, 2018; online edn, Oxford Academic, 27 Sept. 2018), <https://doi.org/10.1093/actrade/9780198806578.003.0009>
2. Landau, L. B. (2019). A Chronotope of containment development: Europe's migrant crisis and Africa's reterritorialisation. *Antipode*, 51(1), 169-186.
3. Fioramonti, L. (2017). South Africa's perceptions of the EU in energy governance: A partner in decline? *Comparative European Politics*, 15, 99-114.
4. Nshimbi, C. C. (2020). African Union and European Union Politics: The Veiled Account of Long-standing Interregional Relations. *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. <https://oxfordre.com/politics/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-1128>.

Interactive session at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Required reading (in shared folder):

1. (Executive summary of the) [Africa Strategy](#)
2. Information on dilemma's for 3 work groups
3. Does your home country have an Africa/Europe strategy? If yes, what does it say?

Health as a Shared Responsibility. The Right to Health at the Crossroads of Africa-Europe Cooperation

Mirjam Sombroek, Leiden University

Health connects us all. But what does that really mean when health, resources and opportunities are so unequally distributed? In this lecture, we will explore health as a shared responsibility through stories and cases that bring the right to health to life. From COVID-19 vaccination and the global COVAX initiative to Tabitha, a young Congolese girl whose journey through Europe raised profound questions about health, human rights and state responsibility. We will look beyond borders and ask what the right to health means for equality, migration, dignity and social justice and for the relationship between Africa and Europe. Expect compelling stories, difficult questions and surprising connections. Most of all, expect a conversation about why the right to health matters to all of us. Come curious. Leave challenged. No required reading.

Tale of Two Continents: Demographic Transitions, Dividends and Futures in Africa and Europe: Should African Countries Pursue Replacement Level Fertility?

John Mushomi, University of Makerere

This session places Africa and Europe side by side, comparing fertility rates, age structures and old-age dependency ratios using the latest UN and Eurostat evidence. Fellows will locate both continents on the classic demographic transition model, unpack the concept of the demographic dividend, and calculate dependency ratios themselves through a short hands-on exercise. The session builds toward a structured, evidence-based debate: should African countries actively pursue replacement-level fertility, or does development depend on jobs, investment, governance and rights-based choice rather than a fertility target? Fellows leave with a curated reading list and open questions to carry into the rest of the school.

Required reading (in shared folder)

Chapter 1 The state of demographics in Sub-Saharan Africa, in David Canning, Sangeeta Raja, and Abdo S. Yazbeck (eds.), *Africa's Demographic Transition. Dividend or Disaster?* (2015).

Ownership, Memory, Power. Introduction to Memory Studies and Heritage Interpretation **Lucja Piekarska, Uniwersytet Jagiellonski**

Heritage is often understood as playing a significant role in defining who we are, both individually and as communities. Much of its power derives from the fact that, even when the past is not directly remembered, shared cultural tools allow us to reconstruct it and appropriate it in accordance with contemporary needs and existing legacies of power. The authority to interpret fragments of the past, as well as the structures that make it possible to narrate them, thus becomes a form of symbolic power whose impact extends far beyond the conservation and storage of objects in museums.

At the same time, heritage remains an important element of identity construction. How does it shape us? Who has the right to interpret it? How can—and how should—the conflictual dimensions of heritage be constructed, represented, and discussed?

In this conversational lecture, I will introduce some of the core concepts of memory studies as well as key approaches to heritage interpretation. The lecture will also provide preparation for the museum visit, where we will encounter a collection that embodies and reflects many of the dilemmas at the heart of both contemporary and classical heritage studies.

Required reading (in shared folder)

Smith, L. 'Introduction', *Uses of Heritage* (2006).

Investing in Partnership? A strategic and practitioner approach to the EU-Africa investment approaches. Session I

Hezron Makundi, University of Dar-es-Salaam

Since the launch of the EU's Global Gateway strategy (2021) and the Africa–Europe Investment Package (€150 billion pledged for 2021–2027), "investment" has become the master concept of Europe–Africa relations, significantly displacing the long-standing term "aid." Much criticism is directed at the EU for its investment turn, following the steps of other countries amid accelerated aid budget reductions worldwide. However, limited resources and a critique of how aid has performed over the years, coupled with European citizens' perception that aid envelopes are very large – even

up to 15 percent in some countries, far from reality – have paved the way for a conceptual change that aims at preserving the focus on poverty, coupled with renewed geopolitical and competitiveness dimensions. What is the role for both Africa and Europe in this new context, and how can both better leverage their interests, priorities, and instruments in a realistic and impactful manner?

The course aims to take stock of recent changes and reflect on present and future developments and their impact on key aspects such as the core objective of aid, to eradicate poverty, versus new challenges from a European and African perspective.

Required reading (in shared folder)
TBC

Investing in Partnership? A strategic and practitioner approach to the EU-Africa investment approaches. Session II
Sonia Sanchez, IBEI

The second session will cover new developments, including the Global Europe framework, and the deployment of the Global Gateway, financial volumes, delivery, and cross-cutting issues. Special attention will be paid to the migration nexus as a determinant of aid vs human rights and democracy conditionalities, or fragility vs. perceived impact in more successful partner countries. Because aid allocations can be based on need, merit, or donors' interest, the session will include, after the presentation, a case negotiation to show how regional and national interests from both continents play out and the feasibility of arriving in practice at win-win partnerships. Students will be split into teams and will be invited to present their suggestions as if they were negotiating a real allocation with the European Union (Delegation or HQ).

Required reading

Arbouch, Mahmoud, and Pelkes, Asya (2024). [Bridging Gaps, Building Futures: Aligning the EU's Global Gateway and AFCFTA for Africa's Sustainable Integration](#). Policy Center for the New South.

Bilal, San, and Teevan, Chloe (2024). [Global Gateway: Where now and where to next](#). ECDPM.

Gavas, Mikaela (2024). [The EU's Global Europe Instrument: Ambition, Tension, and What Needs to Change](#). Center for Global Development. Blog Post.

European Parliament's Foreign Affairs and Development Committees (2026). [Draft Report on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Global Europe](#). European Parliament.

Kumar, C. et al. (2025). [The case for development in 2025: exploring new narratives in the context of the EU's new strategic agenda](#). Overseas Development Institute.

African Regional Integration and Development in Cape Verde: The ECOWAS Monetary Union Challenge

Odair Barros-Varela, Universidade de Cabo Verde

This session examines African regional integration, focusing on Cape Verde's role within ECOWAS, particularly regarding the proposed single currency, the Eco. It traces the historical evolution from Pan-Africanism to regional blocs, outlining the institutionalist and functionalist theories underpinning ECOWAS. The core debate centers on Cape Verde's potential accession to the Eco, contrasting conservative, Eurocentric arguments favoring the current currency peg to the Euro with perspectives highlighting long-term benefits and the need for deeper regional ties. The analysis critiques the lack of a clear government position and emphasizes the importance of informed policy decisions for Cape Verde's development.

Required reading (in shared folder):

Odair Barros-Varela, 'Eco: The Future Currency of Cape Verde?', *CODESRIA Bulletin*, No. 5, 2021, 21-25.

S. K. B. Asante, in collaboration with David Chanaiwa, *Pan-Africanism and regional integration*.