



INTERDISCIPLINARY CONGRESS OF AFRICAN STUDIES COAFRO25

11-12 September 2025, Cluj-Napoca (and online)

ORGANISERS:

Centre for African Studies & the Faculty of European Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University,
Institute of African Studies and the Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest,
Ubuntu Centre of the West University of Timișoara

In partnership with:

University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar (FLSH)
ARUA-GUILD Cluster CoRE Water and Land for Wellbeing in Africa,
University Abomey-Calavi (CESPO)
Free University of Bruxelles (CEVIPOL)
University of Szeged (CUF)
Stellenbosch University (SPL)
Romanian National Commission for UNESCO

Call for Papers

The 4th edition of the **Interdisciplinary Congress of African Studies (online/hybrid in Cluj-Napoca)** aims to bring together specialists in African studies in order to analyse the political transformations in Africa and the current political and societal dynamics of the continent. Like the three previous iterations, the proceedings of COAFRO25 will take place in **French** and in **English**, with both bilingual and monolingual panels.

This year's edition will focus (mainly but not exclusively) on **three major thematic areas**.

Under the **Thematic Area (A)**, we echo the scientific concerns of the Cluster called *Water and Land for Wellbeing in Africa* ([Sustainable Water and Land Resource Management for Human Well-Being - Africa-Europe CoRE](#)) related to the increasingly complex relationship between **climate change**, the **access to water and land resources**, and the diversification and the intensification of the social, economic and political **conflicts**, we invite the interested contributors to submit proposals dealing at large with corresponding topics approached from a mono- or multidisciplinary perspective. A more specific call for papers for this thematic area is attached to this general call.

Thematic Area (B) will group the proposals exploring the way the revolution engendered by the explosion of the **new forms of communication** and the generalization of the use of the **social media** has dramatically challenged the political and social frameworks of the African societies. We encourage both the proposals dealing with theoretical and methodological aspects of studying the transformation of communication and of the social media, as well as those focus on one or several case studies.

Thematic Area (C) will consist in a wider exploration of the **new wave of democratic challenges** that the African societies have been facing in a **geopolitical** context marked by the **return of power politics**. The panelists are invited to problematize and analyse phenomena such as illiberalism, populism, autocratisation, coups d'états, secessionism, ethno-religious conflicts etc., with a focus on their particularities in Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa.

In function of their specific interests, the contributors are kindly invited to **submit** their proposals before **15 July 2025**, by an email sent to afro.conference@ubbcluj.ro. The accepted proponents will be notified by 25 July. The proposals, consisting in the following elements, are expected to be written in French or in English:

- The title of the proposal
- A 200–250-word abstract
- The academic title and affiliation
- The thematic area where the proposal fits better: A, B, or C.