

Afro-Asian Relations in the Post-COVID Era
International event as part of the Pécs African Studies Conference series

April 27-28, 2023

Pécs (Hungary), UNESCO Global Learning City

April 27, Thursday

09:30 – 10:00 **Onsite registration** (Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Pécs, Aula Magna foyer, Rákóczi út 80. 2nd floor)

10:00 – 10:30 **Welcome addresses** (Aula Magna)

- Prof. Attila Miseta, Rector of the University of Pécs
- Prof. Judit Kiss, President of the Africa Sub-Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- Dr. Agnes Ngoma Leslie, Coordinator of the China-Africa Working Group of the Center for African Studies, University of Florida
- Prof. István Tarrósy, Director of the Africa Research Center and the International Center of the University of Pécs

10:30 – 11:15 AM **Keynote lecture / Ian Taylor Memorial Lecture by: Prof. Pádraig Carmody: 'Post-peak China in Africa? Geopolitical Strategies'** followed by a Q&A until 11:30



Padraig Carmody is Professor of Geography at Trinity College, the University of Dublin (TCD). He is also a Senior Research Associate at the University of Johannesburg. His Ph.D. is from the University of Minnesota in the USA, where after graduation he taught at the University of Vermont. At TCD he directs the Masters in Development Practice and CHARM-EU. His research centres on the political economy of globalisation in Africa. He is the author of nine books and publishes regularly in journals such as *European Journal of Development Research*, *Review of African Political Economy*, *Economic Geography* and *World Development*. He is on the boards of *Political Geography*, *African Geographical Review*, *Journal of the Tanzanian Geographical Society* and *Geoforum*, where he was formerly editor-in-chief. He is currently associate editor of *Transnational Corporations* published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. He is a Fellow of Trinity College and was elected to the Royal Irish Academy and the Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences in 2018. He has been Chair of the Development Studies Association of Ireland and is co-Chair of the Global Association of Masters in Development Practice and is a member of the Academic Advisory Committee of the Sustainable Development Goals Academy.

In this second *Ian Taylor Memorial Lecture*, Prof. Carmody will explore China's increased engagements in Africa over the past two decades which have been as notable as they have been controversial. While some have predicted China's economic stagnation as a result of issues such as debt, supply chain shortening as a result of the impact of COVID and the impact of strict lockdowns in that country, others see its economy dramatically rebounding. However, it appears that Chinese lending to Africa has now peaked and is in precipitous decline. Other powers are now vigorously contesting for space on the continent, with the US having emerged again as Kenya's biggest trading partner, for example. This presentation will examine whether we are now in a period "post-peak China in Africa" and the reconfiguration of strategies of influence. This will have important implications for future politics and development on the continent.

11:30 – 12:50 Panel 1

Geopolitics, Current Conflicts and Their Implications

Chair: István Tarrósy, University of Pécs

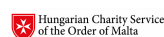


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- 11:30 – 11:50 *The New Geopolitics of the Red Sea*
László Csicsmann, Széchenyi University
- 11:50 – 12:10 *Africa's Stance in the Russia-Ukraine War: An Opportunity for Partnership with China and Russia*
Annie Abena Aku Agyemfra, Corvinus University of Budapest
- 12:10 – 12:30 *Ills and Tribulations of China's and Russia's Assistance in Africa: A Preliminary Look at the "Good, the Bad and the very Ugly"*
Anita Spring, University of Florida
- 12:30 – 12:50 Q&A debate
- 12:50 – 14:00 buffet lunch
- 14:00 – 15:30 Panel 2**
African Perceptions and Agency in China-Africa Relations
Chair: Isabella Soi, University of Cagliari
- 14:00 – 14:20 *African Perceptions of "China Model" of Development*
Oscar Otele, University of Nairobi
- 14:20 – 14:40 *Agency in China-Zambia Relations: Examining the Friction and Fluctuations in the "All Weather Friendship"*
Agnes Ngoma Leslie, University of Florida
- 14:40 – 15:00 *The Chinese Government Scholarship and its implications on African Students in China Perception of Chinese Soft Power*
Emmanuel Frimpong Sarpong, University of Nottingham (China Campus)
- 15:00 – 15:20 Q&A debate
- 15:20 – 17:00 Panel 3**
Asian and U.S. Perspectives, Soft Power and African Development
Chair: Ronnie Donaldson, Stellenbosch University
- 15:20 – 15:40 *Rethinking Afro-Asian Relations – Japan's Approach to African Development*
Pamela Chemelil, University of Pécs
- 15:40 – 16:00 *The Compulsory Study of Mandarin by African Students in Chinese Universities: A Soft Power Tool?*
Emmanuel Frimpong Sarpong and Dominic Winston Kaku, University of Nottingham (China Campus)
- 16:00 – 16:20 *From Scramble for to Harmony on Ethiopia*
Alemseged Abbay, Frostburg State University
- 16:20 – 16:40 Q&A debate



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16:40 – 17:00 coffee break

17:00 – 18:20 Panel 4

Investment, Infrastructure and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

Chair: Robert Klosowicz, Jagiellonian University

17:00 – 17:20 *Another Chapter of China's Railway Investment: The Cairo LRT*
Zoltán Vörös, University of Pécs

17:20 – 17:40 *The Impact of Chinese Investment on the Development of Djibouti's Position in the Horn of Africa Region after 2016*
Agata Markowska, Jagiellonian University

17:40 – 18:00 *China's Belt and Road Initiative in Nigeria: A Blessing or A Damp Squib?*
Emmanuel Ojekunle Olutomiwa Binuyo, Oluwaseun Lawal and
Oluwaferanmi Afolabi, University of the Western Cape, Olabisi Onabanjo
University and University of Ibadan

18:00 – 18:20 Q&A debate

The Thursday evening program will be offered as part of the Annual Africa Days of the International Seasons 2023 of the University of Pécs.

April 28, Friday

10:00 – 11:50 Panel 5

Women and Development in Contemporary Morocco

Chair: Joanna Mormul, Jagiellonian University

10:00 – 10:10 *Introduction to the Fulbright Field Study Seminar of MSU Denver in Morocco, 2022*
Akbarali Thobhani, Metropolitan State University of Denver

10:10 – 10:30 *The Importance of Women Artists and Artisans to the Development of Morocco in the Covid-19 Era*
Leila Armstrong, Metropolitan State University of Denver

10:30 – 10:50 *The Role of Women in the Development of the Moroccan Society from a Political Science Perspective*
Douglas Mpondi, Metropolitan State University of Denver

10:50 – 11:10 *The Place and Role of Women in Moroccan Foreign Service, Contributing to the Dynamic Image of the Country's Diplomacy*
István Tarrósy, University of Pécs



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11:10 – 11:30 *Social issues among Saharawi women living in Morocco, Algeria, and in the diaspora*

Joanna Mormul, Jagiellonian University

11:30 – 11:50 Q&A debate

11:50 – 12:00 Closing remarks

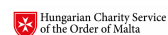
12:00 – 13:00 buffet lunch



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China-Africa Working Group

Center for
AFRICAN STUDIES
at the University of Florida



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