



# AFRICA

## AND THE CHANGING WORLD ORDER

*Perceptions, Pretensions, Plans*

9<sup>th</sup>

## PÉCS AFRICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

**April 28-29, 2025 – University of Pécs**  
Vargha Damján Hall, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
(7624 Pécs, Ifjúság street 6.)

**HYBRID EVENT**

Live: PTE1367 Youtube





# PÉCS AFRICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE



**April 28, Monday**

**09:30 – 10:00 Onsite registration** (Vargha Damján Conference Hall, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Pécs, Ifjúság útja 6) and **welcome coffee**

**10:00 – 10:30 Welcome addresses**

**10:30 – 11:15 Keynote lecture / Ian Taylor Memorial Lecture:**

**Dr. Dominik Kopiński (PL)**, Chinese Investment in Africa: Beyond Eurocentric Lens  
followed by a Q&A until 11:30



**Dominik Kopiński** is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Economics, University of Wrocław, where he heads the Department of International Economic Relations. He is a co-founder of the Polish Centre for African Studies. His research focuses on economic development in Sub-Saharan Africa, foreign direct investment, development aid, resource policy, and China-Africa relations. He has conducted field research in Angola, Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia. His work has been published in leading academic journals, including *African Affairs*, *Global Governance*, *Third World Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Southern African Studies*. His most recent edited volume is *The Political Economy of Chinese FDI and Spillover Effects in Africa* (Palgrave, 2023).

In this memorial lecture, Dr. Dominik Kopiński challenges conventional understandings of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by exploring its complex and often overlooked dimensions in the Global South. Drawing on field research and empirical evidence from Chinese firms operating in Zambia and Angola, the lecture critically examines how Western-centric definitions and theories of FDI fail to capture the diverse realities of investment practices in Africa.

The lecture interrogates the conceptual limitations of traditional FDI frameworks—particularly the assumptions embedded in OECD and IMF definitions—and highlights how South-South flows, especially from China, defy these categories. Dr. Kopiński explores forms of investment that fall outside classic FDI metrics, such as infrastructure construction financed by state-owned enterprises, small-scale diaspora-led ventures, and sovereign wealth fund engagements. These cases illustrate how capital flows often bypass formal FDI channels, yet exert significant developmental influence.

Beyond empirical analysis, the lecture engages with broader decolonial critiques in economics, advocating for epistemic pluralism and the inclusion of perspectives from the Global South. Concepts like “conceptual Eurocentrism” and “reciprocal comparison” are discussed as tools for rethinking how we understand economic development, firm behavior, and international investment.

This lecture invites scholars and policymakers to rethink global capital flows, question the universality of Western economic categories, and consider how re-centering marginalized perspectives can lead to more inclusive and accurate economic theory and policy.

## **11:30 – 12:50 Panel 1**

**Chair: István Tarrósy (HU)**

*The Sahel Region within the Changing World Order*

**11:30 – 11:45 Zoltán Vörös (HU):** China in the Sahel

**11:45 – 12:00 Danilo Lorenzo S. Delos Santos (PHIL):** War Minerals, Energy, and the Sahel Region's Importance to Global Order

**12:00 – 12:15 Nóra Hanna Csőke (HU):** The Geopolitical Basis of the “Alliance of Sahel States” Cooperation

**12:15 – 12:30 Samat Kozhobaev (KG):** Russian Gambit – Geopolitical Spillover from Syria to Sahel

**12:30 – 12:50 Q&A debate**

**12:50 – 14:00 buffet lunch**



## 14:00 – 15:00 Panel 2

**Chair: Zoltán Vörös (HU)**

*Dynamics within the Horn of Africa*

**14:00 – 14:15 Yonas Ashine Demisse (ETH):** The Geopolitics of Regionalism in the Horn of Africa

**14:15 – 14:30 Zelalem T. Gebreegzabher (ETH):** Maritime Insecurity in the Horn: The Perspective from Ethiopia

**14:30 – 14:45 Bayuligne Zemedagegnehu Bahru (ETH):** Ethiopia's Security Challenges in the Horn of Africa

**14:45 – 15:00 Q&A debate**

## 15:00 – 16:00 Panel 3

**Chair: Dániel Solymári (HU)**

*Human rights, Africa and external f/actors*

**15:00 – 15:15 Pamela Chemelil (KE):** EU-Ethiopia Partnership in Human Rights and Civilian Protection Following the Tigray Conflict

**15:15 – 15:30 Ayoub El Alaoui (MO):** EU Human Rights Initiatives for South Sudan Throughout and After the Civil War

**15:30 – 15:45 Melinda Szappanyos (HU):** Human Rights Diplomacy of the EU in Africa – What Does It Say, What Does It Do and What Does It Mean?

**15:45 – 16:00 Fabiola Stephanie Todisoa (MD):** Climate Change Undermines Human Rights

**16:00 – 16:15 Réka Brigitta Szaniszló (HU):** Humanitarian Crises in International Relations: What Is Happening in Eastern Congo?

**16:15 – 16:40 Q&A debate**

**16:40 – 17:00 coffee break**

## 17:00 – 18:00 Panel 4

**Chair: Akbarali Thobhani (USA)**

*MSU Denver's Current Initiatives in Rwanda and Morocco*

**17:00 – 17:20 Andrea Maestrejuan (USA):** Global Environmental Crises, Challenges, and Responses: The Case of Morocco

**17:20 – 17:40 John Rief (USA) & Jean Michel Habineza (RW):** IDebate Rwanda: Post-Genocide Generation(s), Global Dialogue, and the Cultivation of Democratic Culture

**17:40 – 18:00 Q&A debate**

*The Monday evening programme is part of the Africa Days/Afrika Napok of the International Seasons 2025 of the University of Pécs.*



Concert from 20:00 in Szabadkikötő



# PÉCS AFRICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE



**April 29, Tuesday**

## 09:00 – 10:00 Panel 5

**Chair: Réka Brigitta Szaniszló (HU)**

*External relations*

**09:00 – 09:15 Viktor Marsai (HU):** Continuity or Change? – The Perspectives of US Africa Policy under the Second Trump Administration

**09:15 – 09:30 István Tarrósy (HU):** Africa's External Relations with the Two Koreas

**09:30 – 09:45 Dániel Solymári (HU):** Break the Silence – The Rebirth of the Hungarian Presence in Africa after 1990

**09:45 – 10:00 Q&A debate**

## 10:00 – 11:45 Panel 6

**Chair: Viktor Marsai (HU)**

*Migration*

**10:00 – 10:15 Ons Chaabane (FR):** Migration Crisis in Tunisia

**10:15 – 10:30 Hajer Trabelsi (TN):** The New Gateway to Europe: Tunisia as an Emerging Transit Hub for Sub-Saharan Migrants

**10:30 – 10:45 Imen Khemakhem (TN):** Paradoxes of Democratization: Migration Governance and Human Rights Challenges in Post-Arab Spring Tunisia

**10:45 – 11:00 Aadi Rajesh (IN):** Parallel Societies and Challenges for Integration of Indian migrants in East Africa, with a focus on Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania

**11:00 – 11:15 Márk Palócz (HU):** Hungarian *Émigrés* in South Africa

**11:15 – 11:45 Q&A debate**

**11:45 – 12:45 buffet lunch**

## 12:45 – 14:00 Panel 7

**Chair: Márk Palócz (HU)**

*Human security and development issues*

**12:45 – 13:00 Tibor Pintér (HU):** Why Is It Difficult to Defeat the Mozambican Jihadist Organisation in Cabo Delgado?

**13:00 – 13:15 Míra Rana Hussein (HU):** The Heritage of Timbuktu – The Importance of Cultural Heritage Protection in the Sahel Region

**13:15 – 13:30 Arthur Muhia (KN):** Role of Kiswahili-English Spoken Word Poetry in Rise of the 2024 Gen Z Protests Against Patrimonial Political Culture in Kenya

**13:30 – 13:45 Chi Thuy Nguyen (VT):** E-Citizenship and Digital Identity in Africa: Comparative Lessons from South Korea's Governance Reforms

**13:45 – 14:00 Rovatiana Salema Andrianasolomahefa (MD):** Evaluation of the Relative Efficiency of the 22 Regional Directorates of National Education (DREN) Based on CEPE Results Using the DEA Method in Madagascar

**14:00 Closing of the conference**



**AFRICA RESEARCH CENTRE**  
UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS

**ORGANIZED BY:**

Africa Research Centre and  
International Centre, University of Pécs



**CO-ORGANIZER:**

Africa Sub-Committee,  
Hungarian Academy of Sciences



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