

THE INNER LIFE OF APSA : IN WEST AFRICA AND THE WIDER SAHEL

Wednesday February 16th 2022

Zoom 4 :00 pm to 5:30 pm (Dakar time)

CONTEXT

This is a seminar series jointly organised by ReCentGlobe at the University of Leipzig, the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) and the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation (FES). This seminar series aims to revive a much-needed conversation amongst scholars and practitioners involved with the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) about ongoing developments and the policy implications of scholarship. The shifts in African regionalism and African peace and security governance challenge scholars and practitioners alike to adjust their understanding of these processes and consequentially their responses to them. Generally speaking, it can be difficult to gain insider knowledge about African organisational dynamics, especially in regard to decision-making dynamics and inner operations of the various African regional organisations. This has inspired the publication of **Researching the Inner Life of the African Peace and Security Architecture. APSA Inside-Out (BRILL, 2021)**, edited by Katharina PW Döring, Ulf Engel, Linnéa Gelot and Jens Herpolsheimer.

The editors and authors of **APSA Inside-Out** explore innovative methods and concepts to unpack ongoing changes among actors, practices, and narratives within African peace and security governance. The seminar series will share and disseminate research findings and novel perspectives on how to study the inner life of APSA and simultaneously bring out where these findings are most relevant for practitioners and policymakers.

APSA Inside-Out offers a better understanding of the inner life of APSA. The notion of inner life highlights the realisation that the day-to-day dynamics of decision-making, bureaucratic intricacies, and implementation practices really inform and shape the contours of APSA. These dynamics at the very core of understanding the workings and operations of African peace and security governance are not apparent at all from reading the communiqués, declarations or public pronouncements by the various bodies and pillars.

Among the volume's main contributions are novel analytical perspectives that emphasize inter alia informality, practices, socio-spatial relations, gendered narratives, and decision-making. The volume stands out as it pays critical attention to different methods and research practices among them media analysis, survey research, research collaboration, roll-call analysis, and work-based research. The authors introduce these conceptual and methodological reflections through concrete empirical analysis of ongoing and emerging trends in African peace and security, such as the role of gender in intervention narrative and practices, mediation, societal perspectives on African interventions, regional military coalitions, as well as relations among donors/partners and African regional organizations.

These conceptual and empirical findings will be discussed throughout this three-part seminar series. The first seminar will focus on the kind of research necessary to excavate these 'new stories from within', while the second and third seminar will turn empirically towards West Africa and East Africa, respectively.

We are therefore pleased to invite you to the discussion of its conceptual and empirical results on Wednesday February 16th 2022 from 4 pm to 5:30 pm (Dakar time) via Zoom.

PROGRAMME

04:00 – 04:15 pm

Opening session

Introduction of the theme by **Dr. Jens HERPOLSHEIMER**, researcher with ReCentGlobe at Leipzig University – Moderator;

Welcome by **Mr. Philipp GOLDBERG**, Director of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Peace and Security Centre of Competence Sub-Saharan Africa (FES PSCC);

Speech of **Dr. Katharina P.W. DÖRING**, Research Centre Global Dynamics, University of Leipzig;

04:15 – 04 :45 pm

Preliminary discussion

Mrs. Yvonne AKPASOM, Head of Conflict Prevention and Electoral Affairs at the GiZ Abuja (15 min)

Dr. Lori-Anne THÉROUX-BÉNONI, Regional Director Institute for Security Studies, Regional office for West Africa, the Sahel, and the Lake Chad Basin (15 min)

04:45 – 05:25 pm

Discussions

05:25 – 05:30 pm

Closing

Synthesis of the activity by **Dr. Jens HERPOLSHEIMER**, researcher with ReCentGlobe at Leipzig University – Moderator