



AEGIS
Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies

AEGIS Summer School, Cagliari, 24-28 June 2014

Mobilisation and the State in Africa: Multiple Spaces for Political Action

The 2014 Summer school will focus on the theme of *Political Mobilisation and the State in Africa: Multiple Spaces of Political Action*. The continent is marked by both older and emerging forms and spaces of political action, as well as familiar and new types and combinations of political actors. The aim of the School is to explore the historical roots of contemporary political behaviour in a range of settings; that is, it aims to trace how historical dynamics and evolving conditions have helped to shape both old and new spaces for political and civil society actions; how they may have been part of re-moulding or creating alternative political spaces, actors and practices. The School will also encourage the analysis of political representations and cultural mediations of power in a way that goes beyond simple binaries (such as formal vs. informal and high politics vs. politics from below). The spatial, social and symbolic arenas where power is exercised, contested and mediated may be both material and discursive in nature, opening up for a variety of sites of investigation and of theoretical and methodological approaches. The School will be structured around thematic yet interdisciplinary panels, facilitated by a senior researcher with a specific interest in the theme, who will present some of his/her own work in a plenary session. Papers in the thematic panels will be presented by the participating students. Both the senior researcher and the students will perform the role of discussants on these papers. Special attention will be given to methodological discussions, and to the place of history in understanding contemporary politics; in addition papers from the full range of disciplines and geographical and topical research sites are welcomed.

Indicative sub-themes:

1. Media, cyberspace and public spheres
2. Popular culture and spaces of knowledge production
3. Religious bodies and political mobilisation
4. Civil and minority rights activism
5. Urban politics and policies
6. Social movements, political parties and the state
7. Networks, migration and transnational citizenship
8. African state and inter-state relations

The 2014 Summer School is organized by the Centro di Studi Africani in Sardegna – CSAS (AEGIS-Cagliari) in collaboration with the AEGIS Centres of Edinburgh, Napoli, Copenhagen, Leiden, Roskilde, Lisbon, Birmingham. The aim of the Summer School is: a) to bring together advanced Ph.D. students and teaching staff from AEGIS Centres in order to exchange field and research experience; b) to improve the students' ability to prepare and present their research

in an international context and more specifically to serve as a 'feeder' for ECAS 6; c) to promote graduate training within AEGIS and stimulate African-European inter-university cooperation.

Both students and senior researchers are expected to present papers on their current research. The emphasis will be on field methodology and comparative research results, both in writing and oral presentation. The workshop is open to some 20 Ph.D. students and young researchers coming from AEGIS Centres and their affiliates in Europe and Africa. Applicants are invited to submit proposals (500-word abstract as well as a one-page outline of their Ph.D. status and current research) that address the general topic of *Mobilisation and the State in Africa: Multiple Spaces for Political Action* within possible themes or subthemes favouring interdisciplinary encounters. Papers that apply and/or refine conceptual and theoretical approaches to the subject matter, as well as presenting fresh empirical information, will be especially welcome. Applicants will be selected on the basis of their research outline and their ability to engage with wider issues in African Studies today. Priority will be given to students and researchers with recent field experience and fresh research results. Application by African students based in African Universities is encouraged; subsidies for the participation of a limited number of successful African applicants will be available on the basis of merit. The deadline for submitting proposals is **28 February 2014**. Participants will be informed of acceptance by **15 March 2014**.

Each AEGIS member participant will be asked to contribute to the Summer School expenses by paying a lump-sum of €100 to partly cover registration, food and lodging in Cagliari. The cost of travel to and from Cagliari is to be met by individual participants. Candidates coming from AEGIS Centres can apply to their Centre for financial assistance. External candidates will have to pay for their own expenses. A limited number of grants are available for African students. Participants are expected to register in the afternoon of Monday 23 June 2014. Working sessions will be held from Tuesday 24 June to Saturday 28 June 2014.

For more details please write to:

Local Organizing Committee:

CagliariSummerSchool2014@gmail.com

Logistical enquiries may be directed to Dr. Isabella Soi, CSAS Scientific Co-ordinator at:
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Cagliari Summer School 2014 Application form

Full name			
e-mail address			
Date and Place of Birth		M <input type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>
Citizenship			
Place of Residence			
Are you in possession of a Shengen visa? (For non European students)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Title of proposed paper			
Title or topic of the PhD Thesis			
University, Department, Town, Country			
Name of the Supervisor(s)			
Discipline(s) of study			
Is your PhD project part of a wider teaching or research programme?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
If yes, please briefly describe this programme.			
Dates and place of field work			
Further field work to be done			
If no field work has been done, when do you plan to do field work?			
Language skills	English	very good <input type="checkbox"/>	good <input type="checkbox"/> weak <input type="checkbox"/>
	French	very good <input type="checkbox"/>	good <input type="checkbox"/> weak <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other:		
Are you, or is your University, affiliated to an AEGIS Centre? If so, which one?			
Other remarks you find relevant for the organizers to know			
What do you expect to gain from your participation at CSS?			

Do you have any special dietary requirements?	
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