

SUDAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

33rd Annual Conference

Sudan and South Sudan: Boundaries, Borders and the Challenges of Nationhood

University of San Francisco,

San Francisco, USA

May 23rd, 24th and 25th 2014

Call for Papers

The Sudan Studies Association calls for proposals for pre-organized panels, round tables, thematic conversations and individual papers for its 33rd annual meeting to be held on May 23rd, 24th and 25th 2014, in San Francisco, California.

The inauguration of the Republic of South Sudan as an independent country on the 9th July 2011 has created the potential to rethink the idea of the nation and national belonging. This opportunity applies not only to the population of South Sudan; it also applies to the people of Sudan and their ability to re-imagine new forms of inclusion that reflect the rights of women and other historically marginalized groups. In this situation, identity formation processes and inter-group relations play an important part in setting the foundations for constructive change. The ability to re-think the nature of belonging exists not only within the political sphere, but also across the whole spectrum of the arts and cultural communities as they come together from diverse backgrounds to envisage a shared future.

However, while there are many possibilities created by these new developments, many challenges still remain. In particular, issues still exist with regard to boundaries and border zones and with regard to the equitable distribution of resources between both countries. In areas such as Blue Nile, South Kordofan and Darfur, conflict continues which threatens the livelihoods, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all those involved. In South Sudan, where a nation-state is being built from scratch, challenges remain to create the institutional frameworks and capacity needed for sustainable and just governance. All of these possibilities and challenges provide fertile grounds for creative thinking and the exchange of ideas between academics, political actors and civil society organizations.

We therefore invite papers that engage with, but are not limited to, the theme: *Sudan and South Sudan: Boundaries, Borders and the Challenges of Nationhood*. As always, we expect to bring together scholars working in different disciplines to consider a wide array of ideas connected to this theme. With this in mind, we invite scholars working on any aspect of Sudan and South

Sudan in contemporary or historical perspective to contribute theoretically innovative and empirically grounded papers, panels and presentations that might enhance our understanding of these issues. Though the central focus of the conference will be on this broader theme, we would also welcome contributions on other substantive topics that consider Sudan and South Sudan in general perspective.

You must be registered in order to participate in panels and activities of the conference. If you would like to vote and attend business meetings you must be a paid up member. Panelists may present only one paper or one other presentation in an alternative format such as a thematic conversation or roundtable. We have set this limit in order to make limited participant spaces available to as many participants as possible.

Standard conference technology for Power Point will be available in all rooms. If you think that you may require other forms of technology please notify us ahead of time so that we are better able to accommodate you.

(1) Thematic Conversations:

Thematic Conversations are extensions of on-going conversations among scholars while exploring new trends and approaches to current or old questions. The conference provides an intellectual venue for like-minded scholars to continue in their discussion, deliberations that they started before in websites or other forums and engage into a face-to-face open academic exchange in an informal structure and within an open though captured audience. Although, there might not be formal presentations, the conversations must have a session chair, participants and a topic.

(2) Roundtable:

Roundtables provide group(s) or team(s) of scholars an opportunity to sit down to discuss an issue, share opinions, or just to brainstorm through informed discussion and debate concerning the current issues and their state within the wider or the particular fields of scholarship. The roundtable format generally provides an open discussion where the chair and the participants engage themselves and the audience in active discussion.

Participants might or might not prepare papers but they should not lecture to the audience. For panel proposals, thematic conversations and roundtables, an abstract of maximum 250 words should be sent together with a 250 word abstract for each paper. Please also include a proposal, names of chair and participating members of each proposed thematic conversation and roundtable.

All proposals will be peer reviewed.

Abstracts of proposed papers, panels and roundtables should be sent by March 1st, 2014 to Dr. Anne Bartlett, Department of Sociology, Kalmanowitz Hall, 2130 Fulton Street, San Francisco, CA, 94117 USA. Email: albartlett@usfca.edu .A preliminary program will be announced by April 1st, 2014. Late proposals for papers will be considered only if space is available. Proposals and paper abstracts submitted earlier will receive preferential treatment in scheduling.

Acceptance for presentation will depend on the quality of the abstract and the judgment of the program committee. Registration and conference fees must be paid before presenters will be placed in the formal conference program. Stipends are available for assistance to a limited number of graduate students. Interested persons should contact SSA President Dr. Abdullahi Gallab, Associate Professor African and African-American Studies, Arizona State University E-mail: abdullahi.gallab@asu.edu Tel: (480) 965-2921_

Local host: Dr. Anne L Bartlett, Director, Graduate Program in International Studies, University of San Francisco.