

SUDAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

36th Annual Conference

“Hope or Despair?”

Two Sudans in the midst of Mounting Crises”

The Sudan Studies Association calls for proposals for pre-organized panels, round tables, thematic conversations and individual papers for its 36th annual meeting to be held on May 25th to 27th 2017, at Long Island University, New York.

South Sudan’s independence in 2011 heralded a new era not only for the South, but also for the Sudan as it struggled to manage old crises and adapt to a new set of realities. In the North, wars in the periphery of the country such as Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile continued to create significant challenges for the governance and control of the country. These challenges continue to deepen at time when economic crises exacerbate partially because of the loss of oil revenues. Inflation rate is estimated to have reached 100 percent within one year. Sudan’s economy is verging on collapse, with external debts escalating to a new high of \$43 billion in 2013. These events, coupled with rising food prices and a crackdown on civil society and political activism, set the scene for continuous political unrest in the capital Khartoum and violent suppression political opponents.

If the post-secession period has been difficult in the North, then the situation has proved even direr in the South. In December 2013, following the power struggle between Riek Machar and Salva Kiir, a dispute over leadership degenerated into ethnic violence which erupted across the entire country. In the last three years, this situation has resulted in millions of new refugees who crossed the borders of neighboring countries to escape the violence and another estimated 1.5 million who are internally displaced. The most recent reports from the international community indicate that South Sudan is actually approaching a full scale genocide and complete chaos. The central government has no control over much of the land and the shadow of total war looms largely everywhere.

Multiple peace agreement were mediated by IGAD aims to move the situation forward. However, the quest for peace and stability in both countries still has many dimensions to resolve and a long road to travel. Both countries appear to be living in a very dark era with mounting crises that leave very little space for hope. Yet, in these moments of despair and likely chaos, a quest for better future remains a remarkable weapon for bringing about peace and stability, for what is there beyond the bottom of the abyss but hope.

We therefore invite papers that engage with, but are not limited to, the theme: Hope or Despair? Two Sudans in the midst of Mounting Crises “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, 2017 to SSA President-Elect, Dr. Souad T. Ali at TAJ_1234@MSN.COM preliminary program will be announced by April 15th, 2017. 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.

Local host: Dr. Bakry Elmedni. Long Island University- Brooklyn, 1 University Plaza, H700
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