

**Africa and the new dynamics of the global system**  
**(Political Africa Studies 2)**  
***EDUC Journal Club***

Fall 2021  
Fridays via MS Teams

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**Course Aims**

The new dynamics of the global system, together with its actors (the newly industrialised economies and the more developed forces at play) and their relevant connections, co-operations with Africa will be in the centre of investigation.

In 2020, Africa celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of gaining independence from the former colonial powers and nation-statehood (17 territories got independent during the ‘annus mirabilis’, 1960). Many say Africa is the loser of globalisation, but many others think the new forces at play, i.e. China, India, Brazil offer alternative ways of development. In parallel, we witness (due to increased competition on African soil) the rethinking about policies on Africa on behalf of the US, the UK, the European Union, as well as re-engagements of countries of the former Soviet Bloc, including the Visegrad Four and even Russia. Can all these bring real development for Africa? The course will investigate current political processes and events, and will look into Africa’s potential place and role in a possible new world order.

**Competencies**

Students will have the chance to get more engaged with analysing Africa-related political issues – not only African politics, but e.g. Africa-strategies of China, India, the EU, etc. Students will understand more about the new dynamics of the global world and the changing world order.

Students will be able to critically analyse and evaluate the effects and possible scenarios of the involvement of the new actors in Africa.

Students will develop critical skills in working with different academic sources, mostly scientific journal articles, ranging from American, African to Chinese authors. They will develop both their oral and written argumentative skills about defending their opinions.

## Methodology

The course intends to present some fresh perspectives on the “consummate challenges and abundant opportunities” (as Robert I. Rotberg indicated it in the title of his book) of Sub-Saharan Africa and critically look at the “Africa rising” mantra. It will apply an interdisciplinary approach operating with a number of theories of International Relations, Political Science and Social Geography, but also presenting field research experience from sociological and anthropological perspectives.

During the module we will use the “journal club method” and thus, hold educational meetings, in which our group discusses already published journal articles about the central topic of the course. We will improve our skills to be able to differentiate, as Bhattacharya (2017) put it, “*a genuine recent advance from a clever but outright harmful rediscovery of the wheel which has been long discarded*”. We will look at how to formulate research questions, describe the methods, present the results and the conclusions of the given research. We will better understand how to present our research. At the same time, with the help of some invited journal editors and reviewers, we will learn about the entire editing process, with an emphasis on peer review, and therefore, on how to assess a manuscript.

## Requirements and Credits

Students are required to attend the sessions, work in groups, deliver in-class presentations (counting 50% of the final grade) and write one final review of an article (counting the other 50% of the final grade). Details of this review will be discussed during the first meeting.

Language level required: English B2

After completion, students will earn 3 ECTS.

## Detailed Course Structure and Timetable for EDUC Students

October 1. 15:30-17:00      Intro about the method and Lecture by Prof. Tarrósy about the African state and globalisation

October 15. 15:00-16:30      Lecture by Prof. Tarrósy about Africa’s international relations

October 22. 15:30-17:00      Group presentation 1.

November 12. 15:00-16:30      Group presentation 2.

November 19. 15:00-16:30      Group presentation 3.

December 3. 15:00-16:30      Group presentation 4.

December 10. 15:00-16:30      Closing session with journal editors and reviewers

**Deadline of application:** Friday, 24 September 2021

## Journal Articles for Analysis

Joseph, Richard. "Growth, Security, and Democracy in Africa." *Journal of Democracy* 25, no. 4 (2014): 61–75.

Hengari, Alfredo Tjiurimo. "The European Union and global emerging powers in Africa: Containment, competition or cooperation?." *South African Journal of International Affairs* 19, no. 1 (2012): 1–24.

Taylor, Ian. "Governance in Africa and Sino-African Relations: Contradictions or Confluence?." *Politics* 27, no. 3 (2007): 139–146.

Akokpatri, John K. "Globalisation and Migration in Africa." *African Sociological Review* 4, no. 2 (2000): 72–92.

Muth, Daniel. "What Destination Awaits the Development of Botswana. The Sharp Edges of Diamond Dependency: Some Political Economy Considerations." *Hungarian Journal of African Studies / Afrika Tanulmányok* 15, no. 3 (2021): 5–16.

Hyden, Goran. "Rethinking justice and institutions in African peacebuilding." *Third World Quarterly* 36, no. 5 (2015): 1007–1022.

Carmody, Pádraig. "The Geopolitics and Economics of BRICS' Resource and Market Access in Southern Africa: Aiding Development or Creating Dependency?." *Journal of Southern African Studies* 43, no. 5 (2017): 863–877.

Zajontz, Tim. "Debt, distress, dispossession: towards a critical political economy of Africa's financial dependency." *Review of African Political Economy*, published online August 2, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03056244.2021.1950669>

## Review Articles

Ethnicity and the State in Eastern Africa by M. A. Mohamed Salih; John Markakis. Review by: Christopher Clapham  
*Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* 70, no. 1 (2000): 165–166.

Race, nation, and citizenship in post-colonial Africa. The case of Tanzania by R. Aminzade  
by: Istvan Tarrosy  
*African Affairs* 115, no. 460 (2016): 583–584.