

**Political crisis, Exile and Knowledge Construction in Burundi:  
Regional and Transdisciplinary Approaches**

**4th Conference of the Burundi Research Network**

**Nairobi 2, 3 and 4 July 2019**



**Call for Papers**

The 4<sup>th</sup> conference of the Burundi Research Network (**BRN**) will be organised in Nairobi, Kenya, with the idea to contribute to academic decolonization of knowledge in Nairobi on 2, 3 and 4 July 2019. Researchers from different social science disciplines will gather in Nairobi to present and discuss academic research related to Burundi. The conference will cover the broad themes of political crisis, exile, and knowledge construction in Burundi from a regional perspective. This fourth conference follows earlier meetings in Ghent (2015), Brussels (2017) and Antwerp (2018). The conference will take place in Kenya to contribute to the delocalisation of knowledge production and its diffusion within the East African region. The **French Institute of Research in Africa (IFRA)** and the **Columbia Global Center of Nairobi** are partner of the event.

This Call for Papers is particularly aimed at Burundian scholars.

Two key themes will be privileged:

- Issues related to exile, refugees' status and mobility
- Social, political and economic causes and effects of political crises

In relation to these themes, two approaches will be given priority:

- Regional approaches that situate the Burundian crises within the geopolitical dimensions of the African Great Lakes region
- Epistemological approaches that engages with decolonisation of research and the closure of academia

As it is now becoming tradition, the BRN also offers to organise discussions on diverse themes to advance academic debates on Burundi. Here is a non-exclusive list of accepted topics: land and population, corruption, health, education, refugees and migration, violence, conflict and peace, ethnicity, transitional justice and memory, gender, poverty, journalism and media, elections, international or regional relations, academic freedom, etc. And this, from a local, national, regional or international perspective.

The 2 of July will be dedicated to methodology aspects, specially targeting for PhD students. This day will includes theoretical discussions on epistemological aspects as well as exercises on research practice in small groups. If you want to join this workshop, please let us know.

**We invite researchers to send their abstracts by 31 March 2019** at the latest, using the following email address: **brn.nairobi.2019@gmail.com**. The abstract should count maximum 500 words. It must include a main outline of the argument and explain the methodology used. The abstract must also indicate the main scientific discipline in which the paper is situated and mention 3 to 5 key literature references. The abstract can relate to papers that have been already completed or papers that remain to be written. In addition, a short bio of the author(s), of max 100 words, must be added.

The conference will be bilingual. Presenters and discussants can use English or French. There will be no translation service. Paper presenters will be given 20 minutes to present to core ideas and results of their research, followed by a discussants' reply and questions from the audience (20 minutes per panel). Papers on similar topics will be grouped together in the same panel in order to have a conference discussion on one topic.

The Burundi Research Network believes that there is a need for independent, scholarly work on Burundi's past, present and future and. Through this conference, the Network provides a forum for scholarly exchange. All presenters and discussants must adhere to the rules of academic inquiry, free speech and scholarly discussion, thereby avoiding purely political points of view and pamphlet rhetoric.

Practical information:

- The conference will welcome keynote speakers.
- The fee for the conference (3-4 of July) is **60 USD for researchers affiliated to an African university and for students, 80 USD for researchers affiliated to a Western university, and 120 USD for late inscriptions (after the 1<sup>st</sup> of June)**. It will cover registration, coffee, lunches and reception.
- The fee for the methodological workshops (2d of July) is **50 USD**.
- Participants need to organize their own travel and accommodation
- For participants, who would be unable to secure the founding of their trip by their own institutions, the organizers will try to cover transport and accommodation expenses in case the abstract of the paper is selected from the audience

Conference proceedings will not be published. However, in March or April 2019, there will be a call for abstracts for the third volume of the *Conjonctures de l'Afrique Centrale* year-book serie. Authors and abstract that is accepted for the conference may also consider sending their abstract to *Conjonctures de l'Afrique Centrale*.

The organizing committee includes Gérard Birantamije (Université du Lac Tanganyika), Aurore Vermeylen (Université Catholique de Louvain), Marie-Aude Fouere (IFRA), Chloé Josse-Durand (IFRA), Pauline Muthoni (Columbia Global Centres), Astrid Jamar (Université d'Edimbourg/Open University), Jean-Benoît Falisse (Université d'Edimbourg), Marie-Soleil Frère (Université Libre de Bruxelles), Emmanuel Klimis (Université Saint-Louis de Bruxelles), Antea Paviotti (Université d'Anvers), René-Claude Niyonkuru (Université Catholique de Louvain), Tomas Van Acker (Université de Gand) and Julien Moriceau (Université Catholique de Louvain et C-Lever)