



**Call for Papers: 4th Annual Institute of African Studies Undergraduate Research
Conference
Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada
20th October 2018**

Theme - Africa: Climate Change, Environmental Sustainability, and Afrofuturism

Calling all undergraduate students with a passion for African Studies! The Institute of African Studies (IAS) at Carleton University (carleton.ca/africanstudies) is hosting its fourth international undergraduate research conference, organized by the Institute of African Studies Students Association (IASSA). The goal of this one-day interdisciplinary conference is to provide a platform for emerging researchers in the field of African Studies. It is understood that this may be an undergraduate student's first time completing a scholarly paper, therefore this conference has been timed to allow students the summer to work on their research papers and present at Carleton University in mid-October.

This year's conference seeks to encourage interdisciplinary discourse among a new generation of continental and diasporic Africans on the topical global and continental agendas of climate change, environmental sustainability, and, Climate Change, Environmental Sustainability, and Afrofuturism. The conference is intended to offer a space for discussions concerning the ever-changing relationship between Africans and their environment. The goal is to conceptualize environment and climate change in terms of how they challenge us to imagine alternative futures for the African continent in geographic, political, economic, techno-cultural, and epistemological terms. We seek to discover ways in which, among others, climate change affects themes such as Health care, Resource Management, Infrastructural development, Economic advancement, Food Security, Human Rights, Migration and Refugees, Community Development, Social Cohesion, Gender Politics, and Innovation. We are also interested in exploring social policy implementation, technological advancements, and communal efforts as they relate to everyday continental African and/or Afro-diasporic experiences. Papers which must remain within the scope of African Studies and the foregoing fields, may address the following in-exhaustive subtopics:

- Renewable and Sustainable Development in Africa
- Digitalization of Africa: Globalization and popular culture
- African cities of the future
- Youth and the environment
- Food security
- Technology and cultural aesthetics
- Gender and reproductive rights for Sustainable Development in sub-Saharan Africa
- Conservation of Energy and Waste Management
- Ecotourism in Africa
- Fantasy, eco-literature, and ecocriticism
- Environmental degradation and its impact on migration

- Climatic change as a disruptive effect of social cohesion

We encourage students from the following disciplines: Global and International Relations, Policy and Political Science, Earth Science, Art History, Cultural Studies, Geography, Musicology, Religion, Film Studies, Business, Media and Communication Studies, Technology, Literature and Critical Studies, Architecture, Anthropology, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, Law. We also strongly encourage science students interested in interdisciplinary conversations with the humanities and social sciences to consider participating. Students interested in participating are invited to submit abstracts by **July 8th, 2018** to the organizing committee at: communications.iasconference@gmail.com Abstracts of between **300-500 words** in length should include the following would be considered:

- Name, institution, field of study, address, email and phone number.
- The title of your presentation.
- A thesis statement, two or more research questions, and a brief description of the argument the paper seeks to make.

Applicants whose abstracts are accepted will receive confirmation of acceptance by **July 27th, 2018**

Final Research Papers are due **September 8th, 2018** and must be a minimum of 3000 words.

For participating students, this conference is an excellent opportunity for professional development and network, as well as for improving academic portfolios, especially for those interested in future graduate studies or a career that requires writing reports or policy papers for international agencies, government establishments, NGOs, etc. There will be prizes for the best papers at the conference, including being awarded publication opportunity in *Nokoko*, the open-access academic journal of Carleton University's Institute of African Studies.

IASSA plans to make this a memorable experience for students by incorporating distinguished guest-speakers, cultural components, and an environment that fosters the kind of support and encouragement that undergraduate students treasure. More information on these activities as well as about accommodation, possible travel subsidies, possible tour of Ottawa (Canada's capital city), and so forth, will be made available in due course.

For more information, please email the organizing committee at communications.iasconference@gmail.com and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.