

Dear editor,

The '[Africa Knows!](#)' Conference will kick off on **2, 3 and 4 December**. *Africa Knows!* is about knowledge production in and about Africa. The knowledge landscape in African countries has changed radically in recent years. A growing demand for higher and scientific education has resulted in numerous (private) initiatives. Calls to decolonise knowledge and education are getting louder. At the same time, education has experienced a dramatic blow as schools have been forced to close their doors during the past year.

What are the trends and developments in education in Africa in 2020? How can equal African-European partnerships be built? And what opportunities does the digital revolution offer?

The opening days are devoted to keynote speeches, roundtable discussions, Wikicafés and the first panel sessions. Because the conference will take place completely online, the remaining of the **50 (!)** panel sessions will be spread over the months of **December, January and February**.

As a journalist you can attend the events on the opening days, online and free of charge. Send an email to Marieke van Winden: m.c.a.van.winden@asc.leidenuniv.nl. Places are limited, so please register only if you are definitely going to attend the conference.

You can also attend one or more of the [panel sessions](#) after December 4 (for a selection of the themes of the panels: see page 2 of this press release). Please also pass this choice on to Marieke van Winden so she can inform the chairs of these panels.

Some of the keynote speakers on December 2, 3 and 4 (also see the [timetable](#))



Dr Chika Esiobu, 2019 Influential person of African Descent under 40 and honorary professor University of Rwanda. Watch her TED Talk '[How Africa can use its traditional knowledge to make progress](#)'



Prof. Etienne Houan Ehile, President of the Association of African Universities, former President of Nangui Abrogoua University, Côte d'Ivoire



Prof. Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni, Chair of Epistemologies of the Global South with Emphasis on Africa, University of Bayreuth, Germany



Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula, Professor of Economics and Chair in Transformative Innovation, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Sustainable Development, University of Johannesburg, South Africa



Dr Mustapha Mekideche, former chair of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) of the African Union, former chair of the National Economic and Social Council (CNES) of Algeria



Freddy Weima, director of NUFFIC, the Dutch organisation for internationalisation of education

Some of the topics discussed in the panels (also see the [full overview](#)):

- Decolonisation of education relations between Africa and the rest of the world (panel [B08](#))
- Asia-Africa: a new knowledge axis (panel [B11](#))
- Innovation and knowledge development in North Africa (panel [D16a](#))
- ‘Digital Humanities’: bridge between knowledge production in Africa and knowledge centres elsewhere in the world (panel [D25](#))
- Knowledge migration, ‘brain drain’ and ‘brain gain’: what role can the diaspora play in decolonising the academy? (panel [B10](#))
- Decolonisation of the historiography of Africa ([D19](#))
- The power of language in knowledge transfer (panels [D27a/b](#), [D28](#))
- Decolonising African heritage inside and outside the continent (panel [B09](#))
- Healthcare and urbanisation: how can the Netherlands and African countries reinforce each other? (panel [D20](#))
- Re-imagining the Sahel: place of endogenous knowledge (panel [E31](#))
- Innovation and creativity in the slums (panel [E32](#))
- Frugal innovation in African communities (panel [F37](#))
- Artificial Intelligence and smart manufacturing in Africa ([F38](#))
- The privatisation of knowledge: knowledge development as a ‘business model’ ([F39](#))
- Vocational education: the agricultural sector as job engine for young people ([H47](#))
- The road to decolonised curricula (e.g. on *Collaborative International Online Learning*) ([H50](#))

Africa Knows! is the closing event of the ‘[Africa 2020](#)’ year, which marked 60 years of independence for 17 countries in Africa. Much of the activities have been postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Knowledge products

[Country profiles](#) on education and knowledge institutions and museums in Africa, per country (work in progress)

[Info sheets](#) on the demographic, socio-economic and political developments of the 17 countries that gained independence 60 years ago

[Web dossier](#) about the leaders of independence in 1960. Also see the interactive [timeline](#).

The *Africa Knows!* conference is supported by many institutions: in the Netherlands, Europe and Africa. Organisation from the Netherlands: LeidenASA (‘Leiden African Studies Assembly’), African Studies Centre Leiden, Leiden University, Haagse Hogeschool, Nuffic, ISS (Erasmus University). Africa Knows is a Thematic Conference of AEGIS (umbrella organisation of African Studies in Europe). Participating universities in Africa (not complete overview): University of Ghana at Legon, University of Cape Town, University of Rwanda, Eduardo Mondlane University, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, University of Ouagadougou, University of Lagos, University of Nairobi.

For more information, please contact the communication staff of the African Studies Centre Leiden:

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