

California State University, Sacramento

Center for African Peace & Conflict Resolution (CAPCR) in Collaboration with the Pan African Studies Program Cooper Woodson College Enhancement Program presents:

Peace & Conflict Resolution in Africa/Diaspora, 25 Years Later: Lessons, Best Practices, and Opportunities

April 21 – 23, 2016

At our inaugural Pan-African conference at CSU-Sacramento held in 1992 on the theme of “Africa in the New World Order,” Africa’s conflict situation at the turbulent, violent period was center stage. Academics from various disciplinary backgrounds, diplomats, policy makers, community leaders and advocates of peace and democracy from various parts of the world, especially (Pan) Africanists, engaged in robust exchanges and debates about the way forward, in a serious search for solutions. One clear message from the conference discourses is that the subject of peace and conflict resolution must be strategically, consciously and conspicuously mainstreamed into emerging democracy and development initiatives and goals, never to be assumed or taken for granted. Since the 1990s many institutions and programs on peace and conflict resolution have been created, developed and implemented in/on Africa (including the founding of the CAPCR in 1996: www.csus.edu/org/capcr), to promote peaceful resolution of conflicts in communities and networks, increase access to justice in society, compliment or ‘modernize’ the familiar, informal traditional justice systems, facilitate democratic processes and governance, create a culture of peace, and/or to enhance the environment for business developments. Emerging in the peace discourse is the vision of a peace education for leadership development that is anchored on tenets of social justice, from interpersonal transactional relations to social and attitudinal shifts.

The momentous 25th convening in Sacramento aims to contribute to the knowledge of the status of both general and specific peace and conflict resolution practices, processes, systems, institutions, and programs since the ideas, conceptualization, and development from and following the inaugural meeting, with particular emphasis on assessment and reflection of the impact, identification of the key lessons, best practices, and the opportunities for growth and imagination in understanding and responding to both old or recurring and new or emergent conflicts.

The conference will attempt to identify any gaps and how to address critical issues of capacity building, ethical practice, enabling legislations, theory and practice, training and curriculum standards, system development, institutionalization, and promulgation of rules and policies at various governmental/public, private, commercial, community, nongovernmental/civil society levels.

Evidently, Africa is rising in the 21st Century, with declining conflicts, increase in stable democracies and economies, a far cry from the periods of devastating wars and violent conflicts. However, challenges remain, especially in light of current cases of violent extremism, manifestations of ethnic/religious hatred, large numbers of youth, perhaps disaffected population, and widening wealth gaps that threaten Africa's emerging promise. In sum, the conference seeks to address and raise certain critical questions or recurring issues about Africa peace and development, including the African diaspora.

We invite papers that address these issues from different disciplinary perspectives across the continent and its diaspora, theoretically or empirically, and through sound research methodology, rigorous data analysis and with thoughtful recommendations. We strongly encourage submission of proposals that are based on empirical *case studies* and *best practice* models pertinent to the conference theme, with both strong problem analysis and recommendations for program or policy solutions, including formal and informal disputing/justice processes or institutions, or community based approaches of 'law-in-action,' which may reveal promising models of a culture of peace. We will be especially interested in papers/proposals that address one or more of the following subthemes:

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR); Peace Education/Peace Studies in Schools and Universities; Restorative Justice; Peace-building, Peace-making, and Peace-keeping; Access to Justice and Rule of Law; Traditional/Community Justice; Electoral Conflict Resolution; Women and Peace; the Youth and Peace; Social Media/Technology in Conflict Resolution; Managing/Resolving Violence and Terrorism; Peace Leadership Development; Managing Community/Family Violence/Conflicts; Religion/Interfaith Organizations in Conflict Resolution; Respect for Human Rights and Multiculturalism and Diversity, Conflict Mapping & Early Warning, Business & Dispute Resolution, Governance Reform/Democratization and Conflict, Ethnic Identity and Peace, Inequality and Questions of Social Justice, etc.

Abstract Submission: 150 words maximum in MS Word attachment or email text for paper proposal, with the paper title, your name, current position and institution/organization, your mailing address, email, phone and fax number. You will be notified of the acceptance of your proposal by email, including registration, hotel, transportation and other related information and instructions. Selected abstracts will be published in the final conference program, and must be in publishable quality. We prefer proposals and presentations in English; but may accommodate French speakers. No more than 2 presenters/authors for a paper presentation will be accepted.

You can also submit a proposal for a panel with no more than 4 panelists or presenters. Full papers of 15-20 pages of the approved proposals will be considered for a special book publication, and the relevant instructions will be provided upon acceptance of your proposal. Participants are responsible for paying the conference registration fee. Participants will be responsible for their travel costs (flight and lodging) and related conference costs. Registration fee is payable upon acceptance of a proposal. Email your proposal to: Prof. Ernest Uwazie, Director, Center for African Peace & Conflict Resolution at Uwazieeee@csus.edu (916) 278-6282. For more information visit us at: www.csus.edu/org/capcr Deadline for submission of proposals: **December 1, 2015**.

Ethical Considerations:

- **Authorship:** Authors must give credit through references or notes to the original author of any idea or concept presented in the paper and proposal. This includes direct quotations and paraphrases.
- **Publication or Presentation History:** If material in your presentation has been published, presented, or accepted for publication or presentation, this must be disclosed in your paper and proposal. Please note that depending on the decision of the reviewers, this may render your material ineligible.
- **Presentation in Person:** Submission of your proposal requires your presence to attend and present your paper in person at the conference as scheduled, except under unforeseen circumstances and with proper alternative arrangements.

Tentative Agenda (subject to change):

April 18-20 2016: Arrival of Participants/Guests

April 20: 10:00 am-5:00 pm: Pre-Conference Training Workshop on Managing Violent Extremism

Conference

April 21, 2016: Day One

10:00am – 11:30 am: Opening Panels

12:00pm – 1:30 pm: Conference Opening/Keynote

1:30pm – 5:00 pm: Panel Presentations

5:00pm – 7:00 pm: Networking/Reception; Bridging the Gaps (Student panel)

April 22 2016: Day Two

09:00 am – 11:00am: Panel Presentations

11:00 pm – 12:30pm: Panel Presentations

12:30 pm – 2:00pm: Luncheon Roundtable: Promoting CSUS Global Education Engagements in/with Africa

2:00 pm – 3:30pm: Panel Presentations

3:30 pm – 5:00pm: Panel Presentations

5:30 pm – 8:00pm: Sacramento Sightseeing and Dining (optional)

April 23, 2016: Day Three

8:00 am – 2:00pm: Teacher's Workshop: Teaching Contemporary Africa via a Peace Framework

10:00 am – 12:00pm: Summit of ADR/Conflict Resolution/Peace Studies Elders, Leaders/Directors: Exchanges on Lessons, Prospects and Challenges

12:00 pm – 1:00pm: Lunch

1:00 pm – 2:00pm: Closing/Conference Summary

6:30 pm – 12:00 (midnight) Closing Peace Awards Dinner/Dance Banquet.

For: the conference registration fee, the Teacher's Workshop: Teaching Contemporary Africa via a Peace Framework invitational fee, and the fee for the closing Peace Awards Dinner/Dance Banquet, contact Prof. Ernest Uwazie, Director, Center for African Peace & Conflict Resolution at Uwazieee@csus.edu, 916-278-6282 or Ms. Sanyu Mulira at sanyumulira@gmail.com.