



BINGHAM UNIVERSITY

Department of Political Science
New Karu, Nasarawa State Nigeria



FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 'POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND CRISIS OF DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (1st PICDA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE)'

THEME:

CULTURAL PLURALISM, CONFLICT, CRISIS OF INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA FROM 5th - 8th MARCH 2025

Background The assertion on the 'End of History' by Fukuyama and the trend towards globalization influenced with the surge in the transition from authoritarian rule to democratic governance in Africa; assuming the triumph of liberal democracy over authoritarianism which predominated the Cold War period. As a result the principle of periodic elections became the yardsticks for measuring the growth of democracy and democratic governance in Africa. Unfortunately, the more elections were conducted the more the rising tempo of violence, conflicts and insecurity. Thus, in spite of several of these 'democratic elections,' as witnessed in Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Niger, Zimbabwe Sudan, and South Sudan among others, there have been increasing lack of social cohesion and threat of disintegration. A continuous build-up to dysfunctional cultural pluralism on the continent reinforcing the basis for insecurity and conflicts, leading to the spread of small arms, light weapons and emergence of private military contractors and conflict, terrorism, insurgency, transnational crime and the emerging new security threats across the continent. The international conference interrogates whether with 'The End of History' the trajectory of dysfunctional cultural pluralism, conflict, crisis of integration and development in Africa offer any hope for Africa amidst the emerging security threats and globalization.

KEY THEMATIC ISSUES

The thematic issues for this conference include the following:

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- The Nature and Character of the State in Africa
- The National Question and Politics of Integration
- Human Rights and Reproductive Health
- The Question of Liberal and Social Democracy in Africa
- Conflict, Insecurity and Governance in Africa
- Global Economic Crisis and Political Instability in Africa
- Private Security and Military Presence in Africa
- Politics of Citizenship in Africa
- The Question of Liberal and Social Democracy in Africa
- Religion, ethnicity and crisis of integration in Africa
- Multiculturalism and Nationalism
- Colonialism, State Formation and Cultural Pluralism in Africa
- Politics and Governance in Africa
- Leadership and Governance in Africa
- Election and Electoral Violence in Africa
- Constitutionalism and Crisis of Governance
- Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa
- Politics of Social and Economic Inclusion in Africa
- Federalism and Politics of Restructuring
- Pandemics and the Future of Africa

- xiii. politics of social and economic inclusion in Africa
- xiv. Citizenship, indigenization and settlers in Africa
- xv. Federalism and politics of political restructuring
- xvi. The question of liberal and social democracy in Africa
- xvii. Legislative crisis and the failure of democracy in Africa
- xviii. Judiciary and the crisis of democracy in Africa
- xix. Political economy of ethnicity and crisis of national integration
- xx. Global influence on politics and conflict in Africa: US, Europe (France, Britain and other colonial powers), China and Russia, and the Arab world
- xxi. Religion, ethnicity and crisis of integration in Africa
- xxii. Any other relevant subtopics by participants

PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE

Participants (academic and non-academic) are invited from all over the world to submit abstracts of at most 500 words, chronicling their intent and purpose on a topical issue related to the theme of the conference.

IMPORTANT AND SPECIAL EVENTS AS PART OF THE CONFERENCE

The following side events will take place during the course of conference

The Commissioning of *Ambassador Bulus Lolo Centre for Diplomacy, Conflict and plural studies (ABL/CDCPS)*.

The purpose of the centre is not just to join other institutions for establishing a centre for conflict management, that has become a vogue in various universities in Nigeria. Bingham's effort is unique, in the sense that Africa has deep and rich cultural heritage that though maybe pluralistic there are not always dysfunctional. As we interrogate the dysfunctional aspect of the cultural pluralism, we engage in conversation of how to address them.

The objectives of the Centre therefore are to:

- Study the nature and character of ethnic cooperation and discord
- Examine how ethnicity and cultural pluralism lead to

conflict and crisis of integration in Africa

- Identify aspect of cultural harmony, peace and understanding
- Provide intellectual forum for conversation and intervention in addressing cultural pluralism and managing peace
- Organise a yearly PICDA Conference, as well as frequent seminars and workshops, among others
- Engage in joint projects, programmes and activities with other tertiary institutions across Africa and beyond
- Source for funds for its projects and programmes
- Provide consultancy to governments, organisation and institutions
- Publish the proceedings and in journals

Expected Outcomes

- Research and Analysis: the center would provide a platform for research on analysis on security and pluralism, in order to identify the complexities involved.
- Collaboration and Networking: the center would bring together experts, practitioners, policy makers from different backgrounds to promote collaborations and knowledge sharing.
- Capacity Building and Training: the center would provide training workshops and seminars to build capacity towards managing the challenges of pluralism and security.
- Community Engagement and Outreach: the center would engage with local communities to promote dialogue and cooperation on pluralism and security matters.
- Establishment of a Global Network: The center aims to becoming a global hub for the networking of experts and policy makers on security and pluralism.
- Promoting Global Security and Stability: the center hopes to contribute to global security and stability.



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The fall of the Berlin Walls in the late 1990s ended the Cold War and brought about what Fukuyama asserted as the 'End of History'. An assertion that resonated with the surging transition from authoritarian rule to democratic governance in Africa and around the world; representing the triumph of western liberalism over repression and authoritarianism that had predominated the world during the Cold War period. Purportedly the assumption was that liberal democracy would end exploitation, and do away with, or reduce significantly inequality, poverty, alleviate economic crisis, ensure political stability; and indeed, create a euphoria for national integration in various countries hitherto

faced with insecurity, conflict and disintegration in the world, particularly in most of the developing world, including Africa. As for Africa, elections and principles of electoral governance became the yardsticks for measuring the growth of democracy and democratic governance. Increasingly the marketisation of national and international electoral observation and monitoring system across the continent became a recurring festival in Africa; even if such elections were fraudulently conducted with no democratic content and context. Thus, the more elections were conducted the more Africa continued to experience the rising tempo of insecurity and conflicts. Thus, in spite of several of these 'democratic elections,' as witnessed in Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Niger, Zimbabwe Sudan, and South Sudan there have been deepening gulfs of social cohesion in Africa. A build-up to dysfunctional cultural pluralism on the continent which by all means is reinforcing insecurity and conflicts, leading to the spread of small arms and light weapons and emergence of private military contractors.

The annual international PICDA conference attempts to interrogate, whether 'The End of History'? As it is, no side seems to have won the cold war, or the cold war didn't end any major global conflict as envisaged. Rather, for us in Africa the post-cold war has exacerbated the resurgence of conflict, reinvented them in such a way that the continent began to experience new security threats and violent extremism such as terrorism, 'banditism', farmers-herders clashes, communal conflicts and ethno-religious conflicts accentuated by climate change and the resource conflict. Unfortunately, the western liberal political and economic policies that drive the global system is benefiting from these crises.

In the light of the above, the Department of Political Science, Bingham University and indeed the entire university community would be organising an annual International PICDA Conference. Each year will have a theme, focusing on one peculiar issue on the continent. The overall objectives of International PICDA Conference are obvious:

OBJECTIVES

Objectives of PICDA therefore, are basically; to

- Interrogate the theoretical and methodological nature of political instability and crisis of development in Africa
- Examine the course and causes of the deepening dysfunctional nature of African political system that is

germane to crisis of development on the continent

- Determine the extent of insecurity and conflict resulting from the nature of political instability and crisis of development
- Discuss the impacts challenges and implications for political instability and development
- Ascertaining the role of multinational corporations, spirit of globalisation in exacerbating political instability and crisis of development in Africa.

THE FIRST PICDA CONFERENCE ON THE THEME: CULTURAL PLURALISM CRISIS OF INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Therefore, drawing from the broad objectives of the annual International PICDA Conference the first in the series of the conference will kick off with the focus on the subtheme: "*Cultural Pluralism crisis of Integration and Development in Africa*". The choice of this theme is a result of widespread conflict across the continent which has been deepened by Dysfunctionalism in African plural societies.

The continent has continued to be sustained by technology of force and violence. Democratic election is more of war than competition, a mounting measure of conflict and war than an imperative of building national cohesion and integration. Therefore, ethnic nationalities tend to see elections as channels for interrogating concerns for ethnic survival or cultural mainstreaming or struggle for inclusivity than for national integration, and a conversation for national cohesion and development.

The challenge of national and regional crises of integration have remain endemic in conflict and post conflict societies like Nigeria, Mali, Guinea, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Equatorial Guinea, the DRC, Libya, and Ethiopia among others. African countries are faced with democratic recession or decline in spite of some form of democratic appearances; and consequently, the resurgence of coups and non-democratic rule on the continent.

Unlike heterogeneously developed countries of the capitalist west, Africa's culturally plural societies are conflict-inherent, with overlapping institutional structures that are deliberately created to

exacerbate insecurity, political instability, and violence. Institutional structures such as political parties and national symbols that should create heterogenous template for the affiliations of ethnic or religious groups are rather, culturally identified with certain ethnic identities. In Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Sudan, and South Sudan, South Africa, Zimbabwe among others, political parties and state institutions are defined by their ethnic, religious, or ideological identities.

As Kuper noted, the social basis of the society "is a medley of a people living side by side, but separately within the same political unit...they mix but do not combine. Each group holds its own religion, its own culture language, its own ideas, and ways. As individuals they meet but only in the marketplaces, in buying and selling". Thus, national interaction between groups is overlapped with exclusive loyalties to ethnic groups and interests. Similarly, community demands and supplies are separated even as social and economic goals are not aggregated and defined on common grounds of national interests. As a result, citizens tend to abandon the civil state in preference for their primordial states where they feel more secure in paying their allegiance.

The question we need to interrogate is, for how long will Africa continue with this trajectory of dysfunctional cultural pluralism and embrace heterogeneous symbols for national integration?

KEY THEMATIC ISSUES

Participants are at liberty to couch their papers around thematic issues which should include any of the following:

- The nature and character of the state in Africa
- Colonialism, state formation and cultural pluralism in Africa
- The National Question and politics of integration
- Politics and governance in Africa
- leadership and governance in Africa
- Ethnic politics and politics of integration in Africa
- Election and electoral violence in Africa
- Conflict, insecurity and governance in Africa
- Constitutionalism and crisis of governance
- Global economic crisis and political instability in Africa
- Terrorism and violence extremism in Africa
- private security and military presence in Africa

PARTICIPATION AND GUIDELINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

Participants are invited to submit abstracts of not more than 350 words with details of the author to the Committee on or before **31st January, 2025**

through pic.da@bingham.edu.ng, picda1@binghamuni.edu.ng, agbo.michael@binghamuni.edu.ng

Accepted abstracts will be followed by the submission of the final draft of the paper containing 7000 to 8000 words ONLY. The MLA/APA 7th edition for citation and documentation is required. Once a paper is accepted non-ECOWAS member states should contact the Secretariat for official letter of invitation for the processing of their visas. Papers will be published in the Conference Proceedings and respected international journals, including Bingham Journal of Political Science, (BHJPS).

CRITICAL DEADLINES FOR THE CONFERENCE

i. Submission of Abstracts	Monday	28th February, 2025.	Chief Host: Prof. Haruna Ayuba Vice-Chancellor, Bingham University
ii. Acceptance of Abstract	Monday	28th February, 2025.	
iii. Submission of full paper		28th February, 2025.	
iv. Date of arrival			Host: Prof. Michael S. Akpan Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Bingham University.
v. Registration/opening session/ plenary	Wednesday	5th March 2025.	
vi. Plenary /Roundtable/ Business sessions	Thursday	6th March 2025.	Convener: Dr. Robert Sabo Head of Department of Political Science Bingham University
vii. Departure	Friday	7th March 2025.	
	Saturday	8th March 2025.	

ACCOMMODATION

The University is about 26 Km away from Abuja, the Nigerian Federal Capital City. For details of accommodation please contact the secretariat.

CONFERENCE FEES

Participation/Paper presenters:	N20,000.00	• Account Payment: Naira Account
Postgraduate Students:	N10,000.00	• International Participation: \$50.00
Online Participants:	N20,000.00	• Account Name: Bingham University
		• Zenith Bank: 0103802203

Key Note Speaker:

Professor Samuel Ato Duncan,
President General The Centre of
Awareness Global Peace Mission.
P.O. Box DL 1203, Cape Coast, Ghana.
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Lead paper presenter:

Professor Adebayo Olukoshi,
Institute of Governance, University
of Witwatersrand,
Johannesburg, South Africa

Research Methodology Workshop

Professor Kwesi Aning,
KAIPTC, Accra Ghana
Prof Pam Sha, University of
Jos

VENUE OF CONFERENCE:

 Faculty of Architecture Auditorium, Bingham University

INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

International participants wishing to get details of the conference can as well contact the following partners

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