

Call for contributions : Issue 14

AFRICA – ASIA - LATIN AMERICA: HISTORICAL LINKS, PRESENT-DAY AGENCY, IMAGINED FUTURES

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The experience of being colonised in Africa, Latin America and Asia has been modulated by different histories and spatio-temporalities. Since the XV^os, millions of peoples have been affected by new forms and reaches of commerce, forced migrations, different types of compulsory labour, and ‘alterisation’ processes or constructions of the Other, debasing local ways and beliefs, and imposing new subaltern, homogenised identities. These processes also transformed landscapes, altered ecosystems, and reshaped human interactions with the natural world, as colonial extraction, land appropriation, and introduced species disrupted long-standing ecological balances. Paradoxically, having to participate, forcibly or otherwise, in the global techno-economy has also defined the cross-cultural and profoundly creative nature of modernity as seen and lived from below in the whole of what we today call the Global South. A diffuse, yet conscious project linking the political and the cultural in order to reclaim history, not just national history, but a shared history, one that traverses oceans and continents. It is in this sense that this volume is both an honouring of our past before and during Western dominance as well as reaffirming our right and ability to imagine and co-create our collective futures.

The struggles for political independence in Latin America and the Caribbean in the early nineteenth century and Asia and Africa in the middle of the twentieth century opened up an important space for rethinking identities that did not necessarily fit the ‘national’ scope that prevailed. They had diverse sociological and political significance, depending on the elites that took power at that time. Many of these ever-shifting identities (both subnational and transnational) are to some extent involved in the growing perception that liberation is an unfinished business in a broader context of encroachment of global power imbalances that push for more and less globalisation at the same time: unhindered global access claimed by new technological and information industries based in the Global North against a backdrop of rising xenophobia, erecting symbolic and physical barriers, and actual delinking from transnational initiatives, international organisations, and collaboration projects; the expansion of neoliberalism takes advantage of colonial legacies in terms of land laws, social categories, economic interests of the political elite, etc.

In higher education, for instance, a single, standardised model dominates around the world. At the same time, collaborative ways of producing humanistically grounded knowledge are being steadily pushed aside—ignored by society, politics, the economy, and even environmental agendas. At the same time, we see the emergence of interdisciplinary fields of study following the expansion of trans-national and trans-regional academic networks in the past two decades or more. Specifically, initiatives that seek to shift from the North-North and North-South modes of collaboration to South-South collaborations, which, even though framed mainly in the context and perspective of the North, have set the stage for self-conscious, inclusive configurations.¹

This issue explores interdisciplinary, humanist themes that resonate with a Global Africa approach in interaction with Asia and Latin America. There is still an urgent need to build bridges of dialogue between these regions to foster a truly multipolar dynamic for academic exchange. The idea is to re-articulate anti-colonial, postcolonial compacts in the Global South, not as a moral critique of the normative standards upheld by Western concepts, nor to present parallel, adjacent, or counter narratives from nationalist or supra-nationalist polarities. Instead, the epistemological and practical challenge of this issue of Global Africa is to reconnect using a trans-regional, socially, culturally, and environmentally sensitive lens—to shed light on decades of new and old mobilities, exchanges, and shared concerns since Bandung that have the potential to be at the heart of new transcontinental solidarities and ontologies, those that are disparate, but related, and speak to a renewed set of norms for a globally connected, yet locally rooted, world of today.

The editors welcome contributions related to the following general themes:

1. Interconnected histories, philosophies, religions, cultures, languages, and literatures, whose lineage dates back to the call for a space for inter-cultural exchange and reclaiming modernity, at the Asian-African conference held at Bandung in 1955 and possibly before, in trans-Indian or trans-Atlantic ocean-scapes.
2. Youth experiences in Africa, Asia and Latin America in relation to education, labour and leisure, and sustainable futures considering the globalisation of work and the active conscription of youth from the three continents within the global hierarchy of labour, education and migration as a tool for social mobility, as well as transcontinental circulations of trends in cultural production and consumption including music, dance, dress, style, love, friendship, and leisure at large.
3. The role of community-based, ecologically grounded education and pedagogies—something that was at the heart of anti-colonial politics in Africa, Asia and Latin America—in the light of the current disavowal of the teaching profession and divisive mindsets entering classrooms, conditioned by racial, caste, religious, gender and communal polarisations.
4. The art and craft hierarchy in global networks and institutions of value creation in biennales, galleries, auctions, exhibitions, museums, conferences and festivals. The rise of the persona of the artist/designer/curator and the slow demise of resistance collectives. Are there any counter movements? What do they look like, and how do they militate against the onslaught of Western-defined and dominated global art, design, and fashion capital? An example could be focusing on small community museums in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

¹ Brought together for this special issue of Global Africa, following the third edition of the Africa-Asia: A New Axis of Knowledge, ConFest held at Dakar, Senegal in June 2025, the editors affirm this new trend and trajectory for teaching and research, namely towards a South-South-North (SSN) axis of collaborative knowledge-making.

5. Conflicted and complicated meanings of foreign-ness and native-ness, in both historical and contemporary perspectives, considering the longstanding prevailing patterns of (sometimes forced) migration within or beyond the country or the continent in the Global South. Disputes around social identities and the dynamics of inclusion and exclusion of groups within the national community (American indigenous peoples, maroon societies, refugee camps, religious minorities, trans-national ethnic groups, professional specialisations, etc.), as well as trans-national circulation and precarious legality (undocumented migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees, piracy, smuggling, trafficking) could be examples of contributions to this topic.

Along with this special issue proposals not directly related to the topics above and book reviews on other subjects are welcome for the varia and book reviews sections and will be evaluated following the standard process of the Journal.

Selected references

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- Halim, H. (2012). Lotus, the Afro-Asian nexus, and Global South comparatism. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, 32(3), 563–583.
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- Rassool, C. (2000). The rise of heritage and the reconstitution of history in South Africa. *Kronos: Journal of Cape History*, 26(1), 1–21.
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Schedule

- **Call goes out** – November 11, 2025
- **Receipt of submissions:** until December 18, 2025; 12.00 am (UTC) at redaction@globalafricasciences.org
- **Responses to applicants:** December 28, 2025
- **Publication of issue:** June 20, 2026