

***Call for Conference Papers***  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**  
**AFRICAN STUDIES INSTITUTE (ASI)**

**EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AFRICA AND ITS DIASPORA**  
**(BICAID 2023)**

**A Conference in honor of UGA Professor Emeritus Ibigbolade Aderibigbe**  
**November 15 – 18, 2023**

The African Studies Institute, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia is accepting proposals for its eighth Biennial International conference on Africa and Its Diaspora (BICAID 2023) from November 15 – 18, 2023. This year's conference will be in person, with limited opportunities for virtual presentations on November 18, 2023. The conference is in honor of UGA's Professor Emeritus of Religion and African Studies, Ibigbolade Aderibigbe.

The theme for this year's conference is ***“Religion and Sustainable Socio-Cultural and Economic Development within the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in Africa and Its Diaspora.”***

Religion has played a significant role in shaping the development of Africa and its Diaspora, contributing to both positive and challenging outcomes. With a rich tapestry of diverse religious beliefs and practices, the continent and its dispersed communities have navigated the complex relationship between faith and sustainable development. Throughout history, various religions, including indigenous African religions, Christianity, Islam, and others, have been deeply intertwined with African societies. These religious beliefs and practices have served as sources of identity, spirituality, and social cohesion, providing frameworks for understanding the world and promoting ethical values. They have offered comfort and hope in times of adversity and guided individuals and communities in making moral choices. Religion's influence has however not always been unproblematic. In some instances, religious beliefs and practices have been used to justify violence, discrimination, and the marginalization of certain groups. Intolerance and conflicts arising from religious differences have hindered social cohesion and impeded development efforts. Furthermore, the dominance of external religious influences, such as the historical impact of colonization, has sometimes marginalized indigenous African religions, contributed to cultural erosion and rendered economic development unsustainable.

A notable submission from the last conference, *BICAID 2021*, was that African indigenous epistemological and belief systems played significant roles in the fortification of the continent against the ravaging impact of the recent pandemic. A call to action was issued for Africa and its Diaspora to consider the opportunities for renovation and innovation based on lessons learned from the pandemic, particularly as it relates to indigenous belief systems. BICAID 2023 will provide scholars with the opportunity to respond to this call and to explore the multi-faced roles of religion, beliefs and practices, in the sustainable social, cultural and economic development of Africa and Its Diaspora.

Contributions are invited on both historical and contemporary examination of attempts in Africa and Its Diaspora to harness the positive potential of religion while addressing its censorious challenges to sustainable development. Can African and communities navigate



the intricate relationship between faith and development in this century, fostering development that is sustainable and expedient

We are optimistic that the deliberations about this rather capaciously conceived theme will allow for the contemplation of diverse issues of intellectual importance to Africans and members of the African Diaspora. Within the broad theme of the conference, potential topics for papers include, but are not limited to, religion and sustainable development in the following areas:

- Language, Literature and Film
- Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies
- Art History
- Philosophy (ethics and epistemology)
- Performance and Theatre Arts
- Sustainable Agricultural and Environmental Development
- Diasporic Studies
- Education and Knowledge Transmission
- Anthropology/Sociology
- Gender & Cultural Studies
- Science and Technology
- Legal and Judicial Systems
- Medicine & Healthcare Systems
- Business Administration & Planning
- Family, Household & Community
- Political Systems
- Engineering
- Applied Economics
- History
- Film Studies
- Women Studies
- Nutrition
- Public Health
- Ethnomusicology
- Africana Studies
- Latino Studies
- Caribbean Studies
- Consumer Sciences
- Sports and recreation
- Diasporic Studies

#### **TYPES OF PRESENTATION:**

Abstracts that extend beyond the theme of the conference **WILL NOT** be considered.

##### **- Oral Presentation Session**

*Full Paper-Completed research work*

##### **- Panel / Roundtable Session**

*Position papers/literature reviews that call for large audience participation. Authors give a brief presentation on the topic or a synopsis. This session is normally about 40 minutes to allow audience interaction.*

- Conference presentations will be in person with limited opportunities for virtual presentation (only on Saturday, November 18, 2023)– links, presentation formats and other details will be forthcoming.

#### **ABSTRACTS / PROPOSALS**

Each prospective presenter should submit electronically an abstract of 250 - 300 words, with at least five key words placed immediately below the abstract.

Submissions should be submitted to [asiconfe@uga.edu](mailto:asiconfe@uga.edu) by **Friday, September 1, 2023**.

Abstracts should include the presenter's name, title of paper, institutional affiliation, contact information (mailing address, phone number, and email address), type of presentation (Full paper or Panel/round table), and anticipated format (in person or virtual). The language of





UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**  
African Studies Institute  
*Franklin College of Arts and Sciences*

### **Publication of Selected Papers**

Selected conference papers will be published as a book

(<https://asi.uga.edu/asi-publications>)

### **Welcome message from the Director**

On behalf of the conference planning committee, I want to encourage your participation in the eighth biennial international gathering of scholars on the UGA campus in 2023. We invite all of us to consider the range of prospects for religion and sustainable development in Africa across academic disciplines.

This year's conference is in honor of the BICAID conference convener from 2012 to 2021, UGA Professor Emeritus of Religion and African Studies, Ibigbolade Aderibigbe. Highlights of the conference will include the presentation of a festschrift to honor Prof. Aderibigbe's over four decades in the study of religion, and a panel discussion on his scholarship over a broad spectrum of issues in religious studies including his focus on the philosophy of Religion with special emphasis on ethics, epistemology, and phenomenology.

We welcome you to Athens, Georgia.

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**TENTATIVE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (subject to change)**

**Wednesday (11/15)**

<b>All Day</b>	<b>Arrival of conference participants</b>
<b>5pm</b>	Registration and Reception
<b>7pm</b>	African Film Screening

**Thursday (11/16)**

<b>8am</b>	Opening ceremony and Keynote Address
<b>10am</b>	AM Coffee Break
<b>10:30am</b>	Parallel Session A
<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Lunch (On your own)</b>
<b>2 pm</b>	Parallel Session B
<b>3:45</b>	PM Coffee Break
<b>4:15</b>	Parallel Session C
<b>7pm</b>	African Dinner

**Friday (11/17)**

<b>8:30am</b>	Plenary Session I
<b>10am</b>	AM Coffee Break
<b>10:30am</b>	Parallel Session D
<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Lunch (On your own)</b>
<b>2 pm</b>	Parallel Session E
<b>3:45</b>	PM Coffee Break
<b>4:15pm</b>	Plenary Session II
<b>7:30pm</b>	Conference and ALMA Banquet (2019 – 2023)

**Saturday (11/18)** **Virtual Sessions only.**

<b>8am – 12:30pm</b>	BICAID 2023 Virtual Sessions
<b>12:35pm</b>	Closing