



UNIVERSITY OF
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Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
African Studies Institute

Call for Conference Papers
THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
AFRICAN STUDIES INSTITUTE

Ninth International Conference on Africa and Its Diaspora
(BICAID 2025)
November 5 – 7, 2025

The African Studies Institute (ASI), University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia is accepting proposals for its three-day international conference on Africa and Its Diaspora from November 5 – 7, 2025. This year's conference is proposed in a *hybrid* format with participants opting to make their presentation either in person or virtually. This year's theme is *“Africa at the Crossroads of Global Politics: Indigenous Knowledge, Youth Agency, and Diaspora Partnerships.”*

In an era marked by dynamic global power shifts, the African continent stands at a historic junction where it must navigate urgent political, economic, cultural, and environmental conjunctions. The **2025 Biennial International Conference on Africa and Its Diaspora (BICAID 2025)** will explore Africa's ascending role in global politics, the transformational power of its youth population, the resilient knowledge embedded in its indigenous traditions, and the strategic interventions of its diaspora communities. **BICAID 2025** invites scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and students to join us in a robust interdisciplinary dialogue on Africa's local, continental, and global agency. The conference theme encourages critical reflection on contemporary African and Diaspora responses to pressing global challenges, with emphases on language revitalization, sustainable development, cultural resilience, youth leadership, and transnational alliances.

This year's theme builds upon two major exploratory elements. The first is a reflection on the deliberations and published findings surrounding the leitmotifs of the past eight BICAID conferences. The second involves recent scholarly engagements by members and affiliates of the University of Georgia African Studies Institute (UGA-ASI) concerning five key Afrocentric topics:

- The significance of Africa's ascending youth demographic (over 60% under age 25)



- The impactful remittances and return migrations from Africa's Diaspora populations
- The role of African Indigenous Knowledge Systems (AIKS) in policy, education, sustainability, and wellness on the African continent and its Diaspora.
- Africa's entanglement in global crises—war, migration, climate change—and its potential leadership role
- Africa's position in relation to shifting Western foreign policy and global governance norms.

Given the current crisis laden international relations, the confounding state of democratic systems around the world, and Africa's sputtering socio-economic development, conference organizers are optimistic that the deliberations about this rather capaciously conceived theme will allow for the contemplation of different critical issues of intellectual importance to Africans and members of the African Diaspora. Within the broad theme of the conference, proposals are welcome from across disciplines and geographic focus. Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- African Indigenous Knowledge Systems (AIKS)
- Indigenous African Languages & Epistemologies
- Africa's Youth and Political Leadership
- Diaspora Return Migrations and Remittances
- Language Empowerment and Multilingualism
- Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience
- Religion, Spirituality, and Development
- Art, Film, and Cultural Expression
- Migration, Displacement, and Border Politics
- Technology, Innovation, and Infrastructural Futures
- Gender, Power, and Equity in Africa and Its Diaspora
- Human Rights, Peace, and Transitional Justice
- Education, Knowledge Transmission, and Curriculum Decolonization
- Health Systems and Community-Based Wellness Approaches



- Africa in Global Diplomacy and South-South Collaboration
- Neocolonialism, Debt, and Economic Dependency

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 can be either in person or virtually – links, presentation formats and other details will be forthcoming.

Submission Guidelines

We invite the following types of submissions:

- **Individual Papers:** Original, completed research or well-developed theoretical reflections
- **Panel Proposals:** 2–3 presenters around a unifying theme, ideally interdisciplinary
- **Roundtables/Workshops:** Interactive formats emphasizing audience participation or collaborative inquiry

Abstracts must not be more than 300 words, followed by five (5) keywords. Please include:

- Title of paper or session
- Presenter's full name and institutional affiliation
- Email address and phone number
- Presentation format (Paper, Panel, or Roundtable)
- Anticipated mode of presentation (In-person or Virtual)



Brief bio (100 words max) for each presenter must accompany the abstract.

Conference Deadlines:

August 8, 2025	Deadline for Abstract Submission
August 22, 2025	Notification of Acceptance
September 19, 2025	Deadline for early registration and payment
October 17, 2025	Deadline for submission of Final Paper/Presentation

(Presenters that do not submit their presentations (PowerPoint and/or word document) by this date will not be scheduled to present nor be included in the conference program).

Submit all proposals electronically to: asiConfe@uga.edu

Direct questions to Conference Conveners:

- **Dr. Akinloye Ojo** (akinloye@uga.edu)
- **Dr. David Olali** (olali@uga.edu)

Conference Registration Fees

Category	Early (Before Sept. 19)	Late Registration (After Sept. 19)
Professionals	\$100	\$120
Students	\$50	\$70
Banquet (Optional)	\$35	Banquet registration closes Oct. 20

Students will be required to include their name, school they are attending and student ID information at registration.

Conference registration fee can be paid by any major credit card (via [UGA Marketplace: link to be provided](#)) Or via bank check (drawn in US dollars) payable to *African Studies Institute*, University of Georgia.



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Conference Banquet only:

\$35

Only participants registered for the banquet by October 20, 2025 will be admitted to the event.

Unfortunately, conference organizers **cannot** provide **any** sponsorship for conference participants.

Publication Opportunity

Selected conference papers will be published in a peer-reviewed edited volume

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

Only papers presented at the conference will be eligible.

Welcome message from the Director

On behalf of the conference planning committee, I want to encourage your participation in the 9th biennial international gathering of scholars on the University of Georgia campus both in person and/or virtually in November 2025. **BICAID 2025** promises to be a space where urgent questions, scholarly innovation, and community wisdom meet to envision Africa's pathways toward global leadership, equity, and renewal.

We invite all of us to seriously consider the range of prospects for African Indigenous Knowledge Systems across academic disciplines, especially given the political, social, environmental, and economic uncertainties across the globe.

We welcome you to Athens, Georgia, November 5 – 7, 2025.

Akinloye Ojo Ph.D.

Director, UGA African Studies Institute
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Athens, USA 30602.



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Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

- Arrival
- Registration, Welcome Reception, Film Screening

Thursday, November 6, 2025

- Opening Ceremony & Keynote
- Parallel Panel Sessions
- Evening Cultural Event or African Dinner

Friday, November 7, 2025

- Plenary Panels & Roundtables
- Parallel Panel Sessions
- Closing Keynote and Research Collaborations
- Conference Banquet & Awards Night

Join us in Athens, Georgia, November 5–7, 2025.