

BRICS

RESEARCH INSTITUTE

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE SPIRIT OF BANDUNG AT 71: AFRICAN LIBERATION AND ANTI-COLONIAL SOLIDARITIES IN
CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVE

Format: Hybrid (in-person and online) | Location: University of Venda

Commemorative Reference: 18 April – Bandung Conference (1955)



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE DATE

21 APRIL 2026

1. Background and Academic Context

The Asian–African Conference, convened in Bandung, Indonesia, in April 1955 represents a defining moment in the global anticolonial struggle and the quest for multilateralism in favor of the Global South – Global majority countries. At a time when large parts of Africa and Asia were emerging from colonial rule, the Bandung conference brought together 29 newly independent states to articulate a shared political and moral stance grounded in anti-colonialism, national sovereignty, non-alignment, racial equality, and peaceful coexistence. These principles did not remain rhetorical; they informed subsequent diplomatic practices and provided the intellectual foundations for the Non-Aligned Movement in Belgrade in 1961 and wider frameworks of South–South cooperation.

Within the African political history, Bandung holds a position of considerable importance, yet its African dimensions remain unevenly examined in scholarly literature. African countries such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Libya, Sudan, and South African liberation representatives participated in the conference with distinct political agendas shaped by diverse colonial experiences and liberation struggles. For many African leaders, Bandung was not simply a diplomatic gathering but a continuation of broader efforts to challenge imperial domination, racism, and exclusion from global decision-making processes.

Recent scholarships have increasingly emphasized that political independence did not translate into complete liberation. Post-colonial African states continue to operate within structural conditions shaped by colonial political economies, external economic dependency, and persistent marginalization in global knowledge production.

Against this backdrop, the principles articulated at Bandung retain strong analytical relevance, offering a normative framework through which to interrogate enduring questions of sovereignty, development, and global justice in the twenty-first century.

2. Aim and Scope of the Conference

The conference seeks to critically revisit the legacy and continuing significance of the Bandung Conference from African perspectives, with a particular focus on African political thought, diplomatic practice, and liberation experiences within the wider history of decolonization. Special attention is given to African countries represented at the 1955 conference, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Libya, Sudan, and South Africa, whose contributions and historical trajectories offer important insights into the Bandung moment and its aftermath.

Adopting an interdisciplinary orientation, the conference brings together scholarship from political history, international relations, African studies, political economy, and decolonial thought. Rather than treating Bandung solely as a historical episode, the conference approaches it as an enduring political and normative reference, through which contemporary African engagements with sovereignty, development, and global governance can be critically understood.

3. CONFERENCE THEMES

Scholars are invited to submit papers addressing, but not limited to the following themes, all of which are conceptually grounded in the Bandung spirit and its legacies:

THEME 1: AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE BANDUNG CONFERENCE (1955)

- AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSITIONS AND NEGOTIATION STRATEGIES AT BANDUNG
- POLITICAL THOUGHT AND LEADERSHIP FROM AFRICA IN BANDUNG
- COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF AFRICAN STATE INTERESTS AT BANDUNG

THEME 2: BANDUNG AND AFRICAN LIBERATION STRUGGLES

- BANDUNG PRINCIPLES AND ANTI-COLONIAL MOBILIZATION IN AFRICA
- TRANSNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND LIBERATION NETWORKS
- BANDUNG'S INFLUENCE ON POST-INDEPENDENCE POLITICAL MOVEMENTS

THEME 3: BANDUNG, PAN-AFRICANISM, AND NON-ALIGNMENT

- BANDUNG AND THE EVOLUTION OF PAN-AFRICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
- NON-ALIGNMENT AS AN AFRICAN FOREIGN POLICY STRATEGY
- CONTINUITIES AND TENSIONS BETWEEN BANDUNG AND PAN-AFRICANISM
- HOW NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND BRICS ARE EXTENSIONS OF BANDUNG

THEME 4: POST-COLONIAL STATEHOOD AND NEO-COLONIAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

- STRUCTURAL DEPENDENCY AND POST-INDEPENDENCE DEVELOPMENT TRAJECTORIES
- HOW "EUROPE" UNDER DEVELOPS AFRICA
- DEBT, AID, AND GLOBAL FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE AS NEOCOLONIAL
- NEO-COLONIALISM AND THE LIMITS OF POLITICAL SOVEREIGNTY

THEME 5: SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AND MULTIPOLAR GLOBAL ORDERS

- BANDUNG'S LEGACY IN CONTEMPORARY SOUTH-SOUTH RELATIONS
- FROM BANDUNG TO BRICS: EVOLVING GLOBAL SOUTH ALLIANCES
- AFRICA'S POSITIONING IN EMERGING MULTIPOLAR SYSTEMS

THEME 6: KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION, ARCHIVES, AND DECOLONIAL APPROACHES

- DECOLONIAL HISTORIOGRAPHY AND AFRICAN EPISTEMOLOGIES
- ARCHIVAL SILENCES AND ALTERNATIVE SOURCES ON BANDUNG
- INTELLECTUAL LEGACIES OF BANDUNG IN AFRICAN SCHOLARSHIP

THEME 7: AFRICA AND CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL CHALLENGES

- CONFLICT, SECURITY, AND POST-COLONIAL SOVEREIGNTY
- CLIMATE CHANGE, RESOURCE GOVERNANCE, AND DEVELOPMENT
- MIGRATION, BORDERS, AND GLOBAL INEQUALITY
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THEME 8: THE AFTERLIVES OF BANDUNG

- CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL LEGACIES OF BANDUNG
- DIPLOMATIC COMMEMORATIONS AND POLITICAL MEMORY
- BANDUNG AS A REFERENCE IN CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN AND GLOBAL SOUTH POLITICS

Important Dates

- ***Abstract submission – 6 March 2026***
- ***Notification of acceptance – 10 March 2026***
- ***Full paper submission – 31 March 2026***
- ***Conference – 21 April 2026***

[UPLOAD ABSTRACT HERE!!](#)

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

RECEIVED PAPERS WILL BE SUBJECTED TO DOUBLE BLIND PEER REVIEW. ACCEPTED PAPERS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION IN A PEER-REVIEWED ACADEMIC BOOK AND IN A SPECIAL ISSUE OF A SCOPUS-INDEXED JOURNAL AND ACCREDITED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING (DHET).

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