

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Dr. Densua Mumford
Title of clinic:	African Conceptions of the International
Number of students:	Up to three.
Major (<i>if applicable and approved by the Major Convener</i>):	
(Pre)requisites (<i>if applicable</i>):	Highly recommended: Introduction to Globalisation and Transnational Politics & at least one research methods course that covers qualitative methods.

Research context

What do Africans believe about the international system? How do Africans conceive of the 'international'? Which actors, processes, and historical events have been most influential in shaping the particular understandings Africans have of the international? Is there such a thing as an 'African' conception of the international or are there necessarily multiple understandings that conflict and merge?

These are the questions that will be driving this research project, which is in its initial phases. In order to facilitate the development and elaboration of the project, students will assist Dr Densua Mumford to achieve two aims: 1) to develop a research proposal for funding applications, and 2) to compose a paper conceptualising Pan-Africanism as a driver of African regionalism.

Students' tasks and activities

The research clinic will run for blocks 3 and 4 of the academic year 2019/2020. Students will mainly be engaged in research and proof-reading tasks. The team will meet regularly (most likely bi-weekly) in order to catch up on developments, brainstorm ideas, and assign further tasks. Students with fluent French or Arabic skills are especially encouraged to apply. In the initial phase of the research project, the following preliminary tasks will need to be conducted.

- Task 1: desk research on available grant applications for workshops and research funding
- Task 2: literature review of relevant methods, especially discourse analysis
- Task 3: literature review of existing scholarship on Global South IR

The main learning objectives are to gain direct experience of social scientific research design and research development, the academic knowledge production process, and a deeper understanding of international relations of the Global South, especially Africa. Students will be assessed based on their performance of the tasks and a report critically reflecting on their experiences researching African International Relations and working with others.