

## RESEARCH CLINIC

### General information

Supervisor:	Dr. Densua Mumford
Title of clinic:	African Discourses of Regionalism
Number of students:	2-3
Major ( <i>if applicable and approved by the Major Convener</i> ):	World Politics
(Pre)requisites ( <i>if applicable</i> ):	Students must have taken at least one of the following courses: Introduction to Globalisation and Transnational Politics; International & Regional Organisations; Comparative Legal and Economic Integration (IJ); a research design or methods course that includes interpretivist methods.

### Research context

Regionalism in different parts of the world – from the African Union to ASEAN to the EU – may in fact operate very differently because the actors involved have different understandings of what the word “regionalism” means. To explore this notion, the research project will answer the research question “How do African actors discursively construct regionalism?” The project will investigate texts such as speeches, annual reports, newspaper articles, communiqués, classical African scholarship, and the like to investigate how African actors talk about and practice regionalism. What do they mean by the word “regionalism”? How does this shape the seemingly puzzling practices of regionalism that have been observed on the continent? And how has this meaning changed over time? The research clinic will run for blocks 3 and 4 of the academic year 2020-2021. Students should apply by detailing their interest in the topic and their eligibility given the course requirements stated above.

### Students’ tasks and activities

*Please specify the tasks and activities, timeline, the learning aims and how they are assessed, i.e. what the deliverables will be.*

Students will mainly organise and possibly code documents, write literature reviews, and help Dr. Mumford brainstorm methodological issues for the research project. Meetings will be held once a week on Teams, or possibly in real-life depending on university guidelines and the health and consent of all team members. During meetings we will discuss shared readings, exchange feedback on assigned tasks, provide updates on progress, and determine further tasks and objectives. In return, students will spend the entire semester writing a research paper on any topic of their choice and write regular reflections on their research experience. Broadly speaking, the semester will proceed as follows:

#### Block 3

- Identify, organise, and possibly code research materials
- Write literature reviews
- Provide rounds of feedback on methodological questions
- Continuously write reflections
- Determine topic, question, and approaches for your research paper

#### Block 4

- Draft your research paper
- Continuously write reflections
- Compose literature reviews, find materials, or provide rounds of feedback for the project as necessary