



Call for Abstracts

Traditional Music/ Musical Traditions: Past(ness) in African Music Today – Substance and Significance

Eldoret, Kenya, 8th and 9th of August 2024

The Moi University African Cluster Centre of the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence is organizing a two-day workshop that will bring together music practitioners and researchers with the objective of exploring why, how and to what ends music and musical ideas from the past are kept alive in the African present. The workshop will adopt a loose definition of the past to reference anything that is from a decade ago and beyond. There are no restrictions to the origins of the music and musical ideas from the past. Thus, for example, the 1970s–1980s Jamaican reggae that continues to be popular in Kenya can be music – or the source of a musical idea – of interest. Whereas most of the papers will be expected to be on popular music, the workshop will devote a significant amount of time to traditional music. Reflective papers on traditional music that undertake and then go beyond analyses of particular traditional songs, descriptions of specific traditional music genres, explanations of the contexts of the performance of such songs and genres, and explications of their social roles, to interrogate the concept(s) of traditional music are most welcome.

In addition, we invite:

- Investigations into continuities and transformations in musical traditions in Africa that add to the knowledge of living heritage in Africa;
- Scrutinies of the politics, practices and impacts of on-going repatriation and restitution of submerged but now digitally accessible musical material;
- Critical examinations of any or several of the multiple music-archiving practices and technologies found on the continent.

How to submit abstracts

Send a concise abstract of no more than 300 words as a Word document attachment to africanstudiesconference@mu.ac.ke. The abstract must clearly set out a thesis argument and specify the theoretical frame and method deployed. It must be relevant to the workshop theme. **The submission deadline is Monday, 6 May 2024.**

It is required that the abstract includes the presenter's institutional affiliation and indicates whether they are a music practitioner or a researcher.

The authors of a limited number of the accepted abstracts will be funded to attend the workshop.

