

## MILESTONES

### AFRASO International Conferences

#### Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (March 2014)

“Asian-African interactions in a multipolar world.  
New cooperations – new dependencies ?”

#### Stellenbosch, South Africa (March 2015)

“New approaches to development?  
New transregional spaces?”

#### Frankfurt am Main, Germany (October 2016)

“Deterritorialisation and transregionalism:  
new perspectives on African-Asian interactions”

### AFRASO Lecture Series

Each year **AFRASO** welcomes leading, established scholars and policymakers to address timely issues of importance to Asian-African interactions and to engage the wider public.

### AFRASO Workshops

Topic-focused workshops will be organised around the four main work themes by **AFRASO** and its partners. All members of the **AFRASO** community are invited to submit workshop proposals for review.

### AFRASO Network of Partners

**AFRASO** is developing a broad network of partner institutions worldwide. All projects are open to new partners and wish to engage in a truly transregional exchange of ideas and knowledge.

Each year **AFRASO** invites fellows from a variety of disciplines to take part in the intellectual life of Goethe University.

If you are interested in entering into collaboration with **AFRASO** and its partners, we welcome your inquiry!

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# AFRASO

## AFRICA'S ASIAN OPTIONS





**AFRASO** is a collaborative research programme based at Goethe University Frankfurt focusing on the “new” interactions between African and Asian countries from an interdisciplinary, transregional and comparative perspective. This programme is jointly organised by the Centre for Interdisciplinary African Studies (ZIAF) and the Interdisciplinary Centre for East Asian Studies (IZO) and is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The research agenda sets out a list of topics for four years (2013-2017) and brings together more than 40 academics from six faculties and ten disciplines:

- African Linguistics
- Chinese Studies
- Economics
- English Studies
- Human Geography
- Korean Studies
- Physical Geography
- Political Science
- Social Anthropology
- Southeast Asian Studies

**AFRASO** will produce new knowledge on the modes and implications of interactions between a wide range of public, private and non-governmental actors on both continents.

**AFRASO** is considering the economic, political, social, and cultural dimensions of these interactions and provides a fresh look at challenges and opportunities arising for both Asian and African nations.

**AFRASO** addresses the debate over “area studies” and will strive to contribute to an innovative re-conceptualization of area studies in this era of transregionalisation.

## STRUCTURE OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

**AFRASO** is structured around four major research themes:

### PLATFORM A New Cooperation, New Dependencies

#### “Markets on the Move”

- Parastatal companies and capitalist development: The interaction of South African and Chinese enterprises in the services sector
- “Landed markets”: Commodification, mobilization and deterritorialization of land in the context of Asian investment in African land markets
- African, Asian, and international actors in the African mining sector
- Translating micro-finances from Bangladesh to Kenya: Subjectivation and agency in the (re)formulation of a Bangladeshi idea in Africa

#### “Transnational Social Formations”

- Trade networks and migration between Africa and Asia
- African-Asian migration and development
- New approaches to transnational gender politics: Chinese-African collaboration
- Migration of African students to Malaysia
- Social networks of Indian university lecturers in Ethiopia
- Chinese medicine in Africa

### PLATFORM B New Development Concepts, New Transregional Spaces?

#### “Culture as a Mode of Development Policies”

- Chinese cultural policies and Confucius institutes in Africa
- China’s influence on the perception of good governance, development, and international cooperation in Africa
- Cultural approaches in negotiating development: Korean-African interactions
- Japanese management techniques and firm level effects on productivity: Evidence from Africa
- Asian development assistance in Senegambia
- African ownership: More than cheap talk? Japan’s foreign aid approach in Zambia

#### “The Transregional (Re-)Construction of Space”

- Indian Ocean imaginaries in East African literature and oral culture
- The Indian Ocean as memory space
- African-Asian interactions in cyberspace
- Post-terrestrial area studies? The Indian Ocean, translocal histories and maritime constructions of space