



The ACCESS programme at the University of Leipzig In cooperation with the Heller School at Brandeis University

CALL FOR PAPERS

(Un)employment in Africa in times of a Global Political Economy Crisis: Lessons in Theory, Policy, and Practice

Within the African continent, recent successive global health, economic and environmental shocks as well as political and economic transitions, currency deflation, economic deflation, and the war on Ukraine among others have combined to create a resonating negative impact on the youth with disruption of local economies and a deeply inequitable global response.

Across sub-Saharan Africa, recent successive shocks of lockdowns and travel bans have resulted in key economic sectors grinding to a halt, food prices have exploded, foreign currency from tourism disappeared, and millions of informal workers were left to face grim uncertainty. States with little capacity to administer aid or unemployment in normal times are left struggling with a rising feeling of discontent and misery amongst the poor. In this post-pandemic era, African countries are facing crippling inflation, currency deflation, shortage of foreign currency, shortage of vaccines, sky-high food prices, wild swings in commodity prices, and the specter of rising interest rates. In addition, fiscal austerity in Europe and North America could spell further disaster for the deeply indebted countries on the continent. These dynamics are considered to have hit the private sector, and social service delivery, the working youth and young unemployed poor the hardest.

There is a great need for critical perspectives, theoretical conceptualizations, and systematic analysis of the potential policy implication with regards to graduate and youth employment that is global in its orientation and approach, as solutions that start and stop at national borders will protect no one. It is also important to understand the resilience mechanisms that are being employed by the government, families, and individuals.



Leipzig University and the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University are planning an online conference, seeking contributions that address the following questions:

- What are the responses of African states and governments towards their young working populations?
- What sort of global economic and financial pressures are acting on Africa currently?
- What are the current innovative youth employment initiatives being employed on the continent?
- How are concerns regarding the ongoing unemployment/underemployment of university graduates being managed?
- Are there any new entrepreneurial and social protection initiatives that could bolster employment in Africa?
- How can multilateral and bilateral institutions support and promote local employment initiatives across Africa?

The event will be held online on November 3rd, 2023 via Zoom.

**Please send your proposal of 200 - 300 words to
wyatt.constantine@uni-leipzig.de**

**Abstract Submission Deadline: July 31, 2023.
Participants will be informed by August of 2023.**

ACCESS:

The ACCESS program is a consortium of seven universities in Europe and Africa dedicated to better understanding the growing problem of graduate unemployment across Africa.

More info at <https://access-centre.org/>