

PANEL 7

Sudanese heritage at risk: Safeguarding the past in the current conflict

The armed conflict in Sudan affects many aspects of life. Beyond its massive humanitarian toll, the ongoing conflict also puts Sudan's rich cultural heritage at risk. Reports of destruction and looting have emerged, and in Khartoum, archives and libraries at the National Museum have been destroyed during the fighting.

Of legal frameworks protecting cultural heritage, the most detailed regime is the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention, adopted in 1999. This protocol renders the willful destruction of cultural heritage punishable also "in the event of an armed conflict not of an international character and allows for cultural property to be placed under "enhanced protection". The ongoing destruction of Sudanese heritage is a war crime for which the warring parties bear responsibility.

As archaeologists and historians of Sudan, what do we know about the current state of affairs? This panel focuses on what can be done to mitigate the situation, and how we can prepare in the future to safeguard the heritage of the country.

Panelists:

Henriette Hafsaas, *Volda University College*.

Ghalia Jar al-Nabi, *National Museum of Sudan*, and/or:

Hanaa Abdelgabar Ibrahim Adam, *University of Naples*.

Khalifa Omar, *UofK*.

Alexandros Tsakos, *Bergen University Library*.

TBC: Habab Idriss Ahmed, *Archaeologist, National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums*.

Chair: Anne Bang, *UiB/CMI*.

PANEL 8

Humanitarian aid in Sudan

The war in Sudan quickly developed into a humanitarian catastrophe. Prior to the conflict, Khartoum state hosted around 80% of the country's medical services. The majority of these providers of medical services have been forced to close their operations with injured and sick people now having nowhere to get medical help. Basic services and infrastructure like water supply, electricity, and telecom services have been damaged or extremely curtailed. The upcoming rainy season will not only further impede access for humanitarian aid workers, but also affect civilian's mobility and likely increase the spread of diseases. This adds to the heavy burden for a population that already before the conflict faced record levels of food insecurity, now affecting 40% of the country's population. The conflict has also damaged value chains and disrupted the planting season, causing a situation where all dimensions of food security are at severe risk of collapse.

This panel focuses on the humanitarian situation in Sudan, and its social, political and historical aspects. What lessons can be learnt from previous humanitarian disasters in Sudan, and what can the current crisis tell us about how to deal with similar situations in the future?

Panelists:

Ahmad Abbas Abusham, *Ahfad University*,

member of the Executive Board representing the Sudanese Medical Association.

Sara Abdelgalil, *Shabaka*.

Tamer Abdelkareem, *UofK*.

Trygve Augestad, *Norwegian People's Aid*.

Will Carter, *Norwegian Refugee Council*.

Susanne Jaspers, *SOAS Food Studies Centre*.

Chair: Lovise Aalen, *CMI*.

THE REX SEÁN O'FAHEY LECTURE BY DR. HENGAMEH ZIAI

Rethinking the Archive through Sudan

What is the relationship between the archive and dispossession? Between writing and crisis? This lecture returns to a crucial period in the unfolding of colonial modernity in Sudan, the nineteenth century. It makes two moves. It reads the archive to offer an account of colonial modernity – of the progressive delimitation of bilad al-sudan into the modern administrative unit known as Sudan. It then takes the archive itself as an object of analysis, exploring how bilad al-sudan, in all its plurality and complexity, speaks back to the authority of the archive – and so to the violence, rigidities, inscriptions, and exclusions of the nation-state.

Dr. Hengameh Ziai is a Lecturer in the History of the Middle East and Africa at SOAS, University of London. Her research lies at the intersection of political theory, critical political economy, and Islamic studies, with a focus on formations of the colonial and the emergence of modern political subjectivity in Sudan during the long nineteenth century.

Chair: Knut Vikør, Emeritus, UiB.

FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

In cooperation with Bergen International Film Festival (BIFF) we will show the film *Goodbye Julia*, a 2023 Sudanese drama directed by Mohamed Kordofani. The film will be shown at KP/MB, and the discussion and a light dinner will take place at Kulturhuset.



60 years of Bonds and Beyond: Academic collaboration between Bergen and Khartoum 18–20 October 2023

WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER

09:00–09:30 Arrival, coffee, mingling and registration

09:30–09:45 Welcome

09:45–11:15 *Panel 1: What now? Revolution, feminist activism and the violence of Sudan's war.*
Chair: Mari Norbakk.

11:15–11:45 Break

11:45–13:15 *Panel 2: The Sudan war and its implications for refugees.*
Chair: Synnøve Bendixsen.

13:15–14:15 Lunch

14:15–15:45 *Panel 3: The impact of war on health services in Sudan.*

Chair: Anne Christine Johannessen.

16:00 Welcome reception

THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER

09:00–09:30 Opening speeches

09:30–10:30 Keynote by Professor Abdullahi Ahmed An-Naimi:
Sudan's Tragedy: Repeated Failure or Learning Adaptation Process?
Chair: Leif Manger.

10:30–11:00 Break

11:00–12:30 *Panel 4: 60 years of bonds and beyond: The Bergen-Khartoum links.* Chair: Gunnar Sørbø.

12:30–13:15 Lunch

13:15–14:45 *Panel 5: Sudan's political trajectory: From conflict to conflict.*
Chair: Munzoul Assal.

14:45–15:15 Break

15:15–16:45 *Panel 6: What now, Adarob?*
Chair: Gidske Andersen.

17:00 Optional: Guided tour of the Salih collection

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER

09:00–10:30 *Panel 7: Sudanese heritage at risk: Safeguarding the past in the current conflict.*
Chair: Anne Bang.

10:30–11:00 Break

11:00–12:30 *Panel 8: Humanitarian aid in Sudan.*
Chair: Lovise Aalen.

12:30–13:30 Lunch

13:30–14:30 The Rex Seán O'Fahey lecture by Dr. Hengameh Ziai:
Rethinking the Archive through Sudan.
Chair: Knut Vikør.

14:30–14:45: Closing remarks

16:30–20:00: Film screening of *Goodbye Julia*
including discussion and dinner

PANEL 1

What now? Revolution, feminist activism and the violence of Sudan's war

The revolutionary project in Sudan is one of the most significant movements for change in the world today. Sudanese women and girls form the backbone of the December revolution. In the midst of the ongoing devastation of war, they have organized for 'feminist peace' and within the mutual aid networks that provide care to communities in the face of violence, repression, and trauma.

In this panel, we discuss women and girls' roles in the popular uprising, the evolution of the revolutionary project in Sudan, and the impact of the expansion of conflict on this project. What does a feminist approach to peace in Sudan entail? What challenges do Sudanese women activists face in effecting change, especially women and girls who face intersecting oppressions? How does the backlash against women, their presence, representation and political articulations at certain moments of the December Revolution reveal about

the oscillating debate between the demand for radical reform and the call for reinstating the status quo?

The panel discussion starts with a showing of the short documentary “Matlooga” by Samah Khallafallah, featuring an unseen Samah and the feminist activist Weam Shaway.

Panelists:

Sara Abbas, *Open Society Foundation*.
Reem Abbas, *Sudanese journalist, activist, and researcher*.
Samah Khallafallah, *University of Bayreuth*.
Raga Makawi, *Sudanese editor, activist, and researcher*.
Liv Tønnessen, *CMI*.
Chair: Mari Norbakk, *CMI*.

PANEL 2

The Sudan war and its implications for refugees

The 1955 war marks the beginning of Sudan as a hotspot for refugees. The 1955 war and subsequent civil wars in the country pushed Sudanese to seek refuge in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya. Wars in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Chad, DRC, and South Sudan brought millions of refugees to Sudan, leaving the entire region a volatile area characterized by massive population displacement. In recent years, refugees from Syria and Yemen have found their way to Sudan. As they were starting to settle, war broke out in April 2023 and they were forced to flee yet again. Many South Sudanese refugees share their experiences. Such multiple displacements have created generalized insecurity in the Horn of Africa and Sahel regions with most countries struggling to document the migration patterns. How are different countries in the region receiving refugees? What are the implications on refugees' adaptation strategies and prospects, as well as on long-term strategies to deal with population displacement? How effective have global, regional and national frameworks been in addressing protracted and recurrent population displacement in the region?

This panel discusses the current situation of Sudanese refugees and more broadly for refugees in this region. It will problematize how refugees are received, their consequent strategies, as well as how this social reality enhances us as researchers to rethink labels and categories and their consequences.

Panelists:

Munzoul Assal, *UoFk/UiB/CMI*.
Felicity Atieno Okoth, *UiB*.
Abdallah Onour, *University of Urbino Carlo Bo*.
Leif Manger, *Emeritus, UiB*.
Sarah Tobin, *CMI*.
Chair: Synnøve Bendixsen, *UiB*.

PANEL 3

The impact of war on health services in Sudan

Sudan's health system is disintegrating due to war with the damage expected to last for decades. Services have ceased in more than 75 per cent of hospitals in areas hit by the destructive and violent fighting. Health institutions and clinics are now in ruins and health services have collapsed due to lack of supplies, personnel and access. International and national aid agencies have been forced to suspend their operations as a result of the fighting, leaving many injured and ill Sudanese to fend for themselves.

This panel discussion will cover some aspects of our long-standing collaboration with Sudan in the discipline of oral health, but the panel will mainly focus on the policies that were implemented to reform the country's health system prior to the war, on the current situation and the devastating effect of war, and finally on the hidden opportunities provided by the effects of the war itself. We will also discuss how to move from crisis management to getting in place the minimum factors that are needed for a health system to be functional during times of war.

Panelists:

Ahmed Elliethi, *Consultant physician in the UK, president of the Sudanese Doctor's Union in the UK*.
Akram Ali Eltoum, *Senior Global Health Advisor, former Federal Minister of Health in Sudan*.
Mohamed Ali Eltoum, *Ahfad University for Women, consultant physician endocrinologist*.
Chair: Anne Christine Johannessen, *Emerita, UiB*.

KEY NOTE BY DR. ABDULLAHI AHMED AN-NAIM

Sudan's Tragedy: Repeated Failure or Learning Adaptation Process?

In this key note, Dr. An-Naim recalls his first visit to Bergen in 1989, to ask whether Sudan is still in the same cycle of failure or going through a process of learning and adaptation to the European model of the nation state. His main thesis is that Sudan may be going through a typical experience of post-colonial adaptation and learning to the European model of the nation state, like most of the former British colonies. Whether this is true or wishful thinking, and which is the outcome can only be judged in retrospect, and the answer will probably remain tentative and contingent, like all human endeavors. He will also discuss what is the immediate obligation of Sudanese intellectuals in view of his framework of analysis, that is: What can we do to make Sudan's experience become and remain successful.

Dr. Abdullahi Ahmed An-Naim is Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law, Associated Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences of Emory University, Emeritus. An-Na'im is the author of: *Decolonizing Human Rights* (2021); *What is an American Muslim* (2014); *Muslims and Global Justice* (2011); *Islam and the*

Secular State (2008); *African Constitutionalism and the Role of Islam* (2006); and *Toward an Islamic Reformation: Civil liberties, human rights and international law* (1990). His edited books include *Human Rights under African Constitutions* (2003); *Islamic Family Law in a Changing World: A Global Resource Book* (2002); and *Human Rights in Cross-Cultural Perspectives: Quest for consensus* (1992).

Chair: Leif Manger, *Emeritus, UiB*.

PANEL 4

60 years of bonds and beyond: The Bergen-Khartoum links

This panel will present and discuss some of the highlights and main features of the collaboration between the University of Bergen and the University of Khartoum since its beginnings during the 1960s. The first part will deal with some main research topics (including in basic and applied research), the involvement of students, interdisciplinarity and how activities have played a role in institutional developments for participating departments. In the second part, more general lessons will be drawn, including how they may have relevance for other, similar programs of collaboration. This session will include reflections on the future of the Bergen-Sudan links.

Panelists:

Tamer Abdelkareem, *UoFk*.
Anders Bjørkelo, *Emeritus, UiB*.
Howaida Faisal Abdel Rahman, *UiB*.
Sharif Harir, *UoFk and UiB alumni*.
Gunnar Håland, *Emeritus, UiB*.
Randi Håland, *Emerita, UiB*.
Knut Krzywinski, *Emeritus, UiB*.
Leif Ole Manger, *Emeritus, UiB*.
Rune Nilsen, *Emeritus, UiB*.
Bjørn Einar Aas, *UiB alumni*.
Chair: Gunnar Sørbo, *Emeritus, CMI*.

PANEL 5

Sudan's political trajectory: From conflict to conflict

Sudan's post-independence history has been characterized by conflicts, with the atrocities in Darfur and the secession of South Sudan as some of the events getting the most international attention. For seven decades, ruling elites have failed to agree on a national project that can galvanize the Sudanese people around a shared path for the country. Omar El-Bashir's rise to power in 1989 further divided Sudanese society by adopting a political Islamist ideology that entrenched a militant grip on the state. The policies adopted by the Islamists turned Sudan into a pariah state that came under economic sanctions and international isolation. Opening up for extremist groups during the 1990s made Sudan a breeding ground for violent extremism. Backed by the Islamists, E-Bashir used violence as an integral part of his domestic and foreign policy. His regime created tribal militias as a counter insurgency strategy. The rapid Support Forces (RSF) that are now fighting the state's national army, the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), came to life as a direct result of this strategy.

This panel discusses Sudan's political trajectory as a backdrop for understanding and debating the current crisis.

Panelists:

Salma Abdalla, *NMBU alumni*.
Sharif Harir, *UoFk and UiB alumni*.
Raga Makawi, *Sudanese editor, activist, and researcher*.
Justin Willis, *Durham University*.
Chair: Munzoul Assal, *UoFk/UiB/ CMI*.

PANEL 6

What now, Adarob?

The Red Sea State and its capital Port Sudan has become a refuge for people fleeing the war. While the Bedja, the indigenous peoples of the Red Sea State, presently are a marginalised group with low scores on life quality indicators such as life expectancy, infant mortality and illiteracy, they used to be a feared group of fighters, controlling their land rich on resources and with a strategic geopolitical location. They have interacted with historical powers like the Ancient Egypt, the Ptolemaic and Roman, Meroe and Axum. All along the multiple Bedja tribes and clans have fought about land and resources internally, but at times of threats from the outside they have united under common leadership. Can a strong Bedja identity rooted in a shared history influence how they navigate the new political landscape?

This panel will outline and discuss the rich history and cultural heritage of the Bedja peoples and how their traditional livelihoods are adapted to what is perceived as a marginal environment. It seems likely that the new political situation will have bearings on their fight for more independence and political influence. How will the Bedja as a group navigate in the new political landscape? Can their strong identity manifested through history play a role?

Panelists:

Mohamed Babiker, *the Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Centre*.
Julien Cooper, *Macquarie University*.
Knut Krzywinski, *Emeritus, UiB*.
Chair: Gidske L. Andersen, *UiB*.