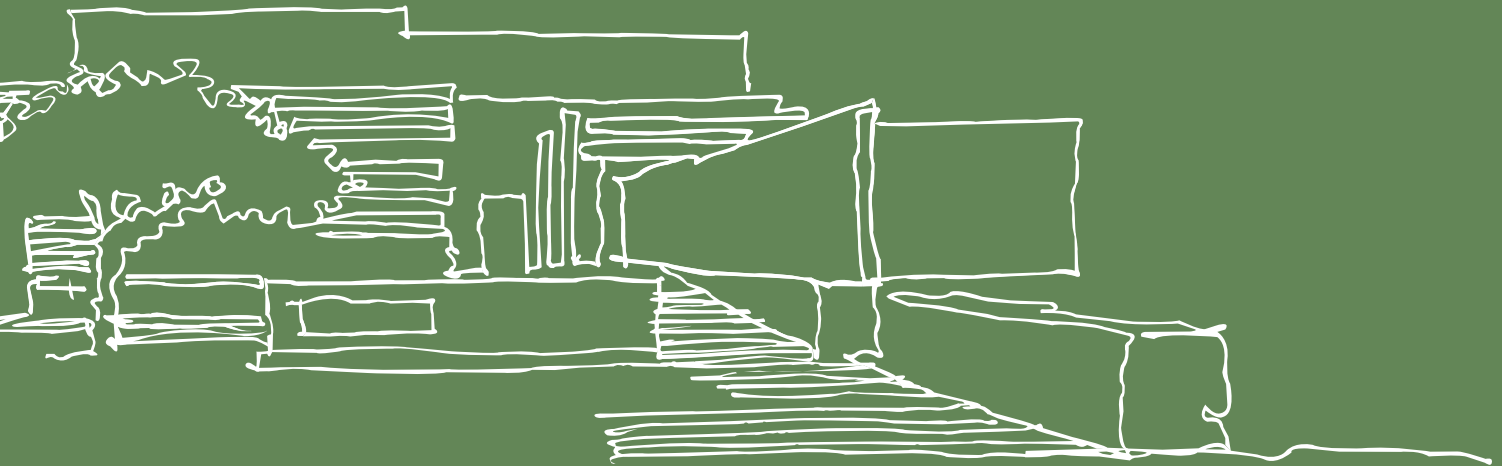


PROGRAMME POINT SUD 2026
**DIGITAL HUMANITIES AND
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN AFRICAN STUDIES:
TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE PRACTICES**
21–24 SEPTEMBER 2026
WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

A CREATIVE SPACE FOR THE MIND



DIGITAL HUMANITIES AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN AFRICAN STUDIES: TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE PRACTICES

21–24 SEPTEMBER 2026

ORGANIZED BY:



HOSTED BY:



PROGRAMME

21–24 SEPTEMBER 2026 · STIAS, STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA

Papers marked [FR] are presented in French; all other sessions are in English [EN].

DAY 1 — MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER		
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival & registration Accueil et inscription	
	Registration desk open, with coffee, tea and refreshments served on arrival.	
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome addresses Mots de bienvenue	
	<i>Short welcome addresses on behalf of STIAS — by Edward K Kirumira, STIAS Director,— and on behalf of the DFG programme Point Sud, by Issa Fofana (Point Sud, Bamako), followed by a brief framing of the workshop: its goals, themes and practical information.</i>	
09:30 – 10:30	Ice-breaker Brise-glace	
	An interactive ice-breaker activity and round of introductions to help participants get to know one another.	
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break Pause-café	
11:00 – 12:30	PANEL 1 · DECOLONIAL METHODS & EPISTEMIC JUSTICE	
	<i>From decolonial computing to the measurement of citation practices and the digital life of Ajami manuscripts, these contributions move decolonisation from critique to method and infrastructure.</i>	
	Before the Algorithm: Decolonial Computing as a Methodological Prerequisite for AI-Assisted Heritage Research in Africa [EN]	Khaoula Stiti, Unaffiliated scholar
	Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs), Citation Practices, and the Empirical Measurement of Knowledge Decolonisation: A Computational Approach [EN]	Iginio Gagliardone, Christine Mataranyika, Max Milella, Karabo Mohapeloa and Joshua Ward, University of the Witwatersrand
	Les manuscrits ajami à l'ère de l'intelligence artificielle : enjeux épistémiques, infrastructures numériques et savoirs africains [FR]	Aminata Kane and Augustin Ndione, Cheikh Anta Diop University
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Déjeuner	
14:00 – 15:30	KEYNOTE · Sustainable and Responsible AI Workflows in History from a Global Perspective	Sarah Oberbichler, University of Luxembourg
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break Pause-café	
16:00 – 17:30	PANEL 2 · CENTRING AFRICAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS	
	<i>These papers ground digital and AI methods in African epistemologies — reading folktales, Yorùbá thought and literary emotion as knowledge systems that reshape the very tools used to study them.</i>	
	Re-coding the Yorùbá Epistemologies in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: A Relational Ethnography of AI-Generated Videos of Itàn Ijápá, its Creator and Viewers on Facebook and TikTok [EN]	Hammed Olalekan Lawal, University of Bayreuth; Alawiye Basheer Adisa, Lagos State University; Elizabeth Olanike Adekoya, Lagos State University of Education; Adebajo Oreoluwa Baderin, University of Bayreuth
	L'émotion par le non-dit : pour une stratégie d'annotation des émotions chez le personnage de Ramatoulaye dans Une si longue lettre de Mariama Bâ [FR]	Falimatou Pemgbou, University of Ebolowa
	Moral Ecology of African Folktales: Grounding Digital Humanities in African Knowledge Systems [EN]	Augustine A. Farinola (online), University of Alberta
19:00	Welcome dinner Dîner d'ouverture — Decameron	

DAY 2 — TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER		
09:00 – 10:30 PANEL 3 · DOCUMENTING & SUSTAINING AFRICAN LANGUAGES		
	<i>FAIR data practices, generative AI for multilingual literacy and strategies for long-term sustainability: how African linguistic heritage is documented, taught and kept alive in the digital era.</i>	
	Preserving Linguistic Memory through FAIR Practices: Lessons from SADiLaR and Iballi [EN]	Benito Trollip , South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADiLaR); Sanjin Muftić , University of Cape Town Libraries
	AI for the ‘Alphabet without borders’: Piloting generative AI for adaptive multilingual literacy materials in the LILIEMA programme in Senegal [EN]	Friederike Lüpke , University of Helsinki; Jules Mansaly , University of the Gambia
	Recherche en sciences sociales et pérennisation des langues africaines à l'ère du numérique [FR]	Evelyne Amana , University of Yaoundé I
10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break Pause-café		
11:00 – 12:30 PANEL 4 · MANUSCRIPTS, HISTORIES & COMPUTATIONAL METHODS		
	<i>HTR for Ajami manuscripts, large language models reading historical codebooks and computational ethnography of Sahelian social media show what computation makes legible in African textual and social archives.</i>	
	Building NLP/HTR Infrastructure for Ajami Manuscripts [EN]	Oreen Yousuf , Uppsala University
	Beyond the Readable Archive: Historical Codebooks, Large Language Models, and the Precolonial African Bead Trade, 1500–1900 [EN]	Lauren Coetzee , University of Luxembourg
	Difference in Similarity: Visual Narratives in Fulani WhatsApp Groups in the Sahel [EN]	Luca Bruls , Bruno Allahissem , Matthew Sung , Jelena Prokic and Mirjam de Bruijn , Leiden University
12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Déjeuner		
14:00 – 18:00 Data centre visit Visite d'un centre de données — Teraco Cape Town		
	<i>Guided visit to Teraco's Cape Town campus, a vendor-neutral colocation data centre hosting the NAPAfrica internet exchange point.</i>	
18:00 Return to Stellenbosch & free evening		

DAY 3 — WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER		
09:00 – 10:30	PANEL 5 · DIGITAL ARCHIVES, METADATA & DISCOVERY	
	<i>AI-assisted metadata, entity linking and protocol-based access converge on a shared problem: making African heritage collections findable, connected and usable across institutions.</i>	
	Enriching the Invisible: AI-Assisted Metadata Generation and the Findability of Southern African Heritage Collections [EN]	Sanjin Muftić, University of Cape Town Libraries
	Linking African Studies Metadata to Wikidata: A Training-Free Pipeline and the Gaps It Measures [EN]	Jiayu Yang and Durgesh Nandini, University of Bayreuth
	Les serveurs MCP pour les GLAM africains : une voie d'avenir à l'ère de l'IA ? [FR]	Frédéric Madore, University of Bayreuth
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break Pause-café	
11:00 – 12:30	GROUP DISCUSSION · Networking and Communication Strategies for DH Scholars	Menno van Zaanen, South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADiLaR)
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Déjeuner	
14:00 – 15:30	PANEL 6 · LANGUAGE AI: TRANSLATION & LEARNING	
	<i>Scaling language technologies for African languages — from a framework for inclusive language AI to rule-based machine translation and multimodal computer-assisted learning under infrastructural constraint.</i>	
	From Data to Impact: A 4D Framework for Scaling Language AI Across African Languages [EN]	Tajuddeen Gwadabe and Lydia Kila Taban, Masakhane
	Traduire sans équivalence : enjeux épistémologiques du transfert linguistique dans un système de traduction automatique à base de règles pour la paire français-ewondo [FR]	Eliette Ngo Tjomb Assembe, University of Yaoundé 1
	Designing Multimodal CALL for African Languages: Pedagogical Innovation Under Infrastructural Constraint [EN]	Rachel Maina (online), University of Wisconsin–Madison
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break Pause-café	
16:00 – 18:00	Walking tour of Stellenbosch Visite guidée à pied de Stellenbosch	
	<i>A guided walk through Stellenbosch's layered history, departing from STIAS. The Social Justice Walk covers the Stellenbosch University grounds and the changes the university has made to make them welcoming to all cultures; it is followed by a walk through Die Vlakte, the streets surrounding the campus, from which residents were forcibly removed in 1964. Through significant sites, personal stories and creative installations, the tour traces the racial divides of the past alongside the transformation and visual redress initiatives reshaping the university today.</i>	
18:00	Free evening	

DAY 4 — THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER		
09:30 – 10:30	KEYNOTE · Que sait une machine ? Épistémologie, gestion des données et enjeux de l'IA pour les langues africaines [FR]	Emmanuel Ngue Um, University of Yaoundé 1
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break Pause-café	
11:00 – 12:30	PANEL 7 · SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURES & FRUGAL INNOVATION	
	<i>Frugal infrastructures, South–South ecologies, community co-production and the limits of generic AI in African settings: what it takes to build research capacity that lasts.</i>	
	Frugal Infrastructures and South-South Ecologies for Sustainable Digital Research in African Humanities [EN]	Leonard Kibet Kirui, Moi University
	Digital Humanities and the “Town Question” in Nigerian History: Accessibility, Co-Production, and Sustainable Infrastructures from a Nigerian Perspective [EN]	John Oluwafemi Daniel, University of Ibadan
	L'IA générique face aux réalités africaines : défis structurels et voies alternatives pour la recherche en cybersécurité au Burkina Faso [FR]	Mohamadou Konaté, Joseph Ki-Zerbo University
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Déjeuner	
14:00 – 15:30	GROUP DISCUSSION · Teaching Digital History as a Historian of Africa	Vincent Hiribarren (online), King's College London
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break Pause-café	
16:00 – 17:00	Concluding remarks & synthesis	
	<i>Closing discussion: shared takeaways, open questions, and next steps — including plans for the joint publication arising from the workshop.</i>	
19:00	Farewell dinner Dîner de clôture — Oude Werf	

PARTICIPANTS

Name	Institution
Elizabeth Olanike Adekoya (online)	Lagos State University of Education
Alawiye Basheer Adisa (online)	Lagos State University
Bruno Allahissem (online)	Leiden University
Evelyne Amana	University of Yaounde 1
Adebanjo Oreoluwa Baderin (online)	University of Bayreuth
Taryn Bernard	Stellenbosch University
Mirjam de Bruijn (online)	Leiden University
Luca Bruls	Leiden University
Lauren Coetzee	University of Luxembourg
John Oluwafemi Daniel	University of Ibadan
Augustine A. Farinola (online)	University of Alberta
Issa Fofana	Point Sud Bamako
Iginio Gagliardone	University of the Witwatersrand
Tajuddeen Gwadabe	Masakhane
Vincent Hiribarren (online)	King's College London
Aminata Kane	University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar
Leonard Kibet Kirui	Moi University
Mohamadou Konaté	University Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Ouagadougou
Hammed Olalekan Lawal	University of Bayreuth
Friederike Lüpke (online)	University of Helsinki
Frédérick Madore	University of Bayreuth
Rachel Maina (online)	University of Wisconsin—Madison
Jules Mansaly	University of the Gambia
Christine Mataranyika	University of the Witwatersrand
Max Milella	University of the Witwatersrand
Karabo Mohapeloa	University of the Witwatersrand
Sanjin Muftić	University of Cape Town Libraries
Durgesh Nandini	University of Bayreuth
Augustin Ndione (online)	University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar
Sarah Oberbichler	University of Luxembourg
Falimatou Pemgbou	University of Ebolowa
Jelena Prokic (online)	Leiden University
Johannes Sibeko	Nelson Mandela University
Matthew Sung (online)	Leiden University
Khaoula Stiti	Unaffiliated scholar
Lydia Kila Taban (online)	Masakhane
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Oreen Yousuf	Uppsala University
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