



## CFP: Accountability in African Public Policy and Administration

A Special Conference to be held concurrently with the hybrid 14<sup>th</sup> Annual African, African American, and Diaspora Studies (AAAD) Conference at James Madison University, USA, 7-10 February 2024

Co-sponsored by JMU's Department of Political Science and the Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation (GovInn) at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. Supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York's Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship.

Various local and international actors stepped up campaigns and the 'fight against corruption' in development discourse and practice following the failure of structural adjustment programs in low-income countries. Efforts to link Corruption and development and work that suggested the existence of a corruption-development nexus ensued. The view that Corruption threatens national development and good governance subsequently became common in most African countries. This should be juxtaposed with the fact that African countries tend to be the worst performers in surveys and indexes of Corruption around the world.

Research *does* consistently show that systemic Corruption, particularly illicit financial flows, and money laundering, undermines development. The African Union (AU) acknowledges the harmful effects of Corruption and that it undermines development, transparency, and accountability in public administration. The continental body recognizes the need to address the root causes of Corruption in Africa. Hence, in 2003 it adopted the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption. Forty-eight AU member states have ratified the convention, which came into force in 2006. The AU also created the Anti-Corruption Advisory Board to handle Corruption and related matters in Africa. In 2018, the AU inaugurated the anti-corruption year in the continued bid to stop corruption in Africa. This is in addition to the AU designating 11 July the annual Anti-Corruption Day for Africa, AU member states and the communities in member states to reflect on progress in the anti-Corruption fight. Notwithstanding the instruments, measures, and initiatives, Corruption in Africa seems rife, unabated, and increasing exponentially.

Against this backdrop, the Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation (GovInn), Department of Political Sciences, at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and the Department of Political Science, James Madison University, USA, will host a series of panels on African anti-corruption measures, entitled "Accountability in African Public Policy and Administration." This series of



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panels continues the work of the International Conference on “(Anti-)Corruption and Public Debt” held at the University of Pretoria in September 2023. We aim to contribute to public debates and work that promotes development by focusing on Corruption and how to address it. The conference will explore ways to curb Corruption and address issues of public debt associated with Corruption, as well as the challenging conditions in which a plethora of anti-corruption agencies operate.

We invite paper proposals from interested scholars from across disciplines, policymakers, practitioners, anti-corruption agencies, civil society organizations, activists, the media, and the private sector that broadly interrogate Corruption and its impacts on the public purse and, specifically, examine the illicit flow of financial resources and initiatives to curb money laundering.

Paper proposals can fit within the following topic areas, but not be limited to:

- Challenges of theft, misuse, fraud, wastage, maladministration, and mishandling of public resources;
- The urgent need for transparency, accountability, integrity, ethics, and responsibility in administering public resources;
- Measures to combat Corruption, including laws, the work of anti-corruption agencies in enforcing anti-corruption laws, as well as corruption prevention initiatives and education;
- Attitudes, behavior as well as rules, regulations, and social and cultural norms and values connected to the use of public resources and the provision of public services;
- The challenging conditions in which anti-corruption initiatives are being implemented in Africa;
- The nexus between anti-Corruption initiatives and national development;
- Issues surrounding the trustworthiness/credibility of corruption index tools and global instruments designed to combat corruption.

## **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words to the conference organizers at [aaadstudies@jmu.edu](mailto:aaadstudies@jmu.edu) by **15 October 2023**. The abstract should clearly state the research question, methodology, and main arguments of the proposed paper. In addition, please include a short biographical note (no more than 150 words) with your submission. Please specify in your proposal that you would like to be considered for this special stream.

The AAAD Conference is hybrid; please specify whether your proposal is for an **in-person** or **virtual** presentation.

**International respondents traveling to the United States** in need of Visa documentation are encouraged to submit their abstracts as early as possible, ideally **before October 1**, to allow additional time for the Visa process. International respondents will be notified on an ongoing basis. Respondents already residing in the US will be notified within a month after the conference-wide deadline listed above.

Those interested in presenting on other topics at the AAAD Conference are encouraged to consult the conference-wide CFP, which may be found here: [sites.lib.jmu.edu/aaadjmu](https://sites.lib.jmu.edu/aaadjmu).

#### **KEY DATES**

- Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15 October 2023
- Notification of acceptance: Ongoing
- Conference dates: 7-10 February 2024