



UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (CoSS)

VOICE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (VSS2024) **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**



REIMAGINING TODAY AND TOMORROW:
GEN Z AND POPULAR STRUGGLES IN AFRICA

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



Dates:

5th – 6th November, 2026



Host:

University of Dar es Salaam,
Mwalimu J.K. Nyerere Campus

Time	Paper / Activity	Author(s)
DAY ONE — THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2026		
OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY — VSS2026 Venue: Nkrumah Hall		
08:00-09:00	Arrival and Registration	All
09:00-09:15	Welcoming Note	Dr. Richard Sambaiga
09:15-09:30	Opening Remarks	Prof. Nelson Boniface - DVC-Research -
09:30-09:35	Introducing Keynote Speaker	Prof. Christine Noe
09:35-10:20	Keynote Speech: Global Gen Z? Youth, Social Media and Transnational Solidarity	Prof. Mette Fog Olwig, Associate Professor, Department of Social Sciences and Business, Roskilde University - Denmark
10:20-10:25	Vote of Thanks	Dr. Rasul Minja
10:25-10:35	Group Photo	Master of Ceremony
10:35-11:05	HEALTH BREAK - CoSS Quadrangle	All

Time	Paper / Activity	Author(s)
PARALLEL SESSIONS D1: 11:10-13:00		
PANEL D1-A1: GLOBAL GENERATION Z? POSSIBILITIES AND CHALLENGES OF SHAPING COLLECTIVE FUTURES VENUE: OLD COUNCIL CHAMBER CHAIR: DR. KENNETH O. NYANGENA		
11:10-11:20	Digital Natives or an Urban Myth: An Analysis of Spatial Exclusion and Agency of Rural Gen Z in Tanzania.	Leornard MISANA, University of Dar es Salaam
11:20-11:30	Locally Grounded, Globally Connected: Youth Climate Action in Tanzania and Denmark.	Christine Fast LISBY, Roskilde University
11:30-11:40	Digital Pathways: Tanzanian Gen Z, Transnational Networks, and the Reconfiguration of Youth-led Diplomacy.	Rehema G. Kilonzo and Justine Kajerero, University of Dodoma
11:40-11:50	Hope or Rupture: Gen Z's Activism and the Socio-political Transformation of Tanzania.	Conrad John Masabo, Roskilde University and University of Dodoma
11:50-13:00	Panel Discussion	
PANEL D1-A2 Gender, Sexuality and Contested Identities Venue: CoSS Boardroom Chair: Richard Sambaiga		
11:10-11:20	An Examination of Gregory of Nyssa's Views on Gender Identity and Human Nature	Ikechukwu Onah, University of Nigeria
11:20-11:30	Intersection of LGBTQ Rights, Labor Laws, and Socio-economic Dynamics in Uganda	Aiseta Aisha, Islamic University of Uganda

Time	Paper / Activity	Author(s)
11:30-11:40	From Regulation to Resistance: Youth, Gender, and the Transformation of Sexual Politics in Uganda	Geoffrey Masinde Wanyonyi, Lira University
11:40-11:50	“How do you teargas a baddie?” – Gen Z and Gendered Digital Activism in Kenya’s 2024 Protests	Johanna Bächle & Tim Zajontz, University of Freiburg
11:50-12:05	Panel Discussion	
PANEL D1-A3: Youth, Governance and Democratic Accountability in Africa Venue: Geography Room 305 Chair: Consolatha Sulley		
11:10-11:20	Inclusive Leadership, Youth Involvement in Governance	Tajudeen Adebawale Oduwale, National Open University of Nigeria
11:20-11:30	Vote, Voice, Transform: Generation Z and Democratic Backsliding in Africa	Gibson Botomani, CCAP Harare Synod
11:30-11:40	Assessing the Impact of the African Peer Review Mechanism on Electoral Democracy in Kenya (2003–Present)	Alfred Makotsi, Masinde Muliro University of Science & Technology
11:40-11:50	Interrogating the Role of Youth in Reshaping Democratic Governance and Leadership in Africa: A Study of Nigeria	Isaac Homunga Mamkaa, College of Education Katsina-Ala
11:50-12:00	Integrating Gen Z in Governance: Democracy and Backsliding in Africa	Aniefiok Emeka-Okereke, National Open University of Nigeria
12:00-13:00	Panel Discussion	
13:00-14:00 LUNCH BREAK — Social Sciences Quadrangle		
PARALLEL SESSIONS D1: 14:00-15:30		

Time	Paper / Activity	Author(s)
PANEL D1-B1: Gen Z for Democratic Revival: Digital Activism and Youth Agency in Africa Venue: Old Council Chamber Chair: Refiloe Lepere		
14:00-14:10	Urban Dispossession and Social Uprising: An Analysis of the Deeper Roots of Gen Z Protests in Tanzania	Sabatho Nyamsenda, University of Dar es Salaam
14:10-14:20	Youth Uprisings in Kenya: Rupture, Missteps, and Possibilities	Njuki Githethwa, American University, Nairobi
14:20-14:30	Social media and the Challenges of Democracy in Nigeria: A Gen Z Perspective.	Martins Kwazema, Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala
14:30-14:40	Engendering Democracy Revival: An Intersectional Approach to the Dual Impact of Digital Activism in East Africa	Tina Mfanga, UWAWAMA Cooperative Society, Dar es Salaam
14:40-14:50	GenZ, Digital Activism and Radical Democracy	Paula Uimonen, Stockholm University, Department of Social Anthropology
14:50-15:30	Panel Discussion	
PANEL D1-B2: Digital Activism, Alternative Media and State Control Venue: CoSS Boardroom Chair: Dr. Aikande Kwayu		
14:00-14:10	Digital Natives vs State Control: Cross-Border Digital Networks and Gen Z's Democratic Struggle in Tanzania	Cresencia Masawe & Ibrahimu Kisinda, University of Department of History, Political Science and Development Studies; IDar es Salaam University College of Education, Tanzania
14:10-14:20	Digital Repression and Youth Political Activism in Uganda's People Power Movement	Mirembe Sarah, Makerere University, Nkumba University

Time	Paper / Activity	Author(s)
14:20-14:30	Digital Voices of a New Generation: Alternative Media and Civic Engagement among Gen Z in Tanzania	Norbeth Sixbert, Young African Leaders Forum (YALF)
14:30-14:40	“Shalom_aleykum, My Fellow Krislam”: Examining Tanzanian Youth’s Social Media Communication in Response to Perceived Religious Division	Paschal Charles Mdukula, University of Dar es Salaam
14:40-15:30	Panel Discussion	
PANEL D1-B3: Faith, Law, State Power and Generational Justice Venue: Geography Room 305 Chair: Dr. Victoria Lihiru		
14:00-14:10	Religion and Youth Movement: Christianity and Youth Engagement in Community Development in Tanzania	Beatus Saulo, PhD Candidate – University of Dar es Salaam
14:10-14:20	Ecclesiastical Encounters: Law, State Power and Generational Justice in Contemporary Kenya	Kenneth O. Nyangena, Laikipia University
14:20-14:30	When Does Law Become Lawfare? Legalism, Political Contestation, and State Power in Tanzania, 2015–2025	Rasul Minja, University of Dar es Salaam
14:30-14:40	Challenges of Democracy in Postcolonial West Africa	Kamil Adeyemi Hamzah, Emmanuel Alayande University of Education
14:40-15:30	Panel Discussion	
15:30-16:00 HEALTH BREAK		

Time	Paper / Activity	Author(s)
PARALLEL SESSIONS D1: 16:00-17:30		
PANEL D1-C1: Knowledge, Class and Postcolonial Futures Venue: Old Council Chamber Chair: Sabatho Nyamsenda		
16:00-16:10	Epistemic Exclusion and the Contours of Intellectual Freedom in Tanzanian Higher Education: A Bourdieusian and Intersectionality Analysis of Student Support Systems	Alexander Kamwela, PhD Candidate, University of Dar es Salaam
16:10-16:20	Class Alienation and the New Vanguard: Positioning Gen-Z in the 2025 Tanzanian Electoral Turbulence	Richard Mbunda, University of Dar es Salaam
16:20-16:30	The Potential and Challenges for Youthful Populations in Postcolonial Contexts: Inclusion and Work	Anne Leseth, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway
16:30-16:40	Reimagining Conservation from Below: Rural Youths and Environmental Futures in Malawi's Lake Chilwa - Phalombe Plains	George Jawali, University of Malawi
16:40-17:30	Panel Discussion	

Time	Paper / Activity	Author(s)
PANEL D1-C2: Geopolitics, Transnational Connections and Global Futures Venue: Geography Room 305 Chair: Dr. Lupa Ramadhani		
16:00-16:10	Youth, Popular Struggles, and Economic Transformation in East Africa: Reimagining Gen Z Agency through Water and Maritime Diplomacy, Democracy, and Digital Futures	Getachew Kebede Hailu, Jimma University (PhD Candidate in Financial Economics); Addis Ababa University CDT-Africa / Woldia University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
16:10-16:20	Contested Seas: Understanding Conflicts Over Coastal Space in Zanzibar's Blue Economy Initiatives	Mohamed Khamis Said, Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, the University of Doodma
16:20-16:30	China in the Lyrics: Everyday Geopolitics and the Popular Imaginaries of China in Tanzanian Bongo Flava Music	Muhidin. Shangwe, University of Dar es Salaam
16:30-16:40	Firm's Competitive Priorities under Economic Globalization: Structural Ties with Export Performance of Manufacturing Firms in Ethiopia	Mohammed Ahmed Endris, Abebe Ejigu Alemu & Abiyot Tsegaye Kiberet, Debre Birhan University
16:40-17:30	Panel Discussion	
PANEL D1-C3: Knowledge, Masculinities, Reproduction and Gender Relations Venue: CoSS Boardroom Chair: Demere Kitunga		
16:00-16:10	Displaced Reproduction: Masculinity and Reproductive Technologies in Urban Tanzania	Simon Mutebi, University of Dar es Salaam
16:10-16:20	Switching between Hegemonic and Alternative Masculinities in Urban Tanzania: Men's Perspectives and Experiences	Michael Dalali, PhD Candidate, University of Dar es Salaam

Time	Paper / Activity	Author(s)
16:20-16:30	“Not Man Enough”: How Masculinity Norms Shape Domestic Violence Against Men in Ghana	Agnes Ackon, University of Cape Coast, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
16:30-16:40	Empathy in a Click: A Review of Digital Masculinities and Care Among Urban Migrant Youth in Xenophobic South Africa.	Leo Wamwanduka, Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria, South Africa
16:40-17:30	Panel Discussion	
17:30 END OF DAY ONE		

Time	Paper / Activity	Author(s)
DAY TWO — FRIDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2026		
PARALLEL SESSIONS D2: 09:00-10:30		
PANEL D2-A1: Livelihoods, Economy and Social Transformation Venue: Old Council Chamber Chair: Dr. Benezet Rwelengera		
09:00-09:10	Navigating the Silver Tsunami: Social Gerontology, Mental Health, and Intergenerational Resilience in Nigeria	Yakubu Abubakar
09:10-09:20	The Role of Informal and Formal Microfinance in Women's Livelihood in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya	Tamanji Logodi, MA student at Future Generations University
09:20-09:30	The Role of Remittances in Refugee Settings: The Case of Kakuma Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement, Kenya	Ernest Oburak,
09:30-09:40	Urban Biopolitics: House Crows, Waste, and Disposability in Tanzania	Paul Chacha, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS)
09:40-09:50	Reimagining Youth Entrepreneurship, Environmental Stewardship, and Community Well-being in Africa: The Case of Meru Usafi Group, Tanzania	Athumani Mwachuma, Meru Usafi Group
09:50-10:30	Panel Discussion	

Time	Paper / Activity	Author(s)
PANEL D2-A2: Popular Culture, Social Norms and Performing Social Change Venue: CoSS Boardroom Chair: Diana Kamara		
09:00-09:10	Amapiano, Disavowal, and the Post-apartheid Polycrisis	Palesa Nqambaza, University of the Witwatersrand
09:10-09:20	Ubuntu Dramaturgy and the Performance of Democracy	Refiloe Lepere, University of the Witwatersrand
09:20-09:30	Why Do Gen Z Violate Social Norms? Factors behind the Disruptive Antisocial Behaviours of Adolescent Students in Government Secondary Schools in Tanzania	Jonas Jackson Kinanda, Bernadetha Rushahu & Lwimiko Salum Sanga, University of Dar es Saaam
09:30-09:40	Between the Real and the Fake: Liminal Spaces, Everyday Health, and the Making of Drug Stores and Beauty Salons in Tanzania	Rhoda Mkazi Bandora and Keketso Peete, Phd Candidates, Department of Anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand
09:40-10:30	Panel Discussion	
Panel D2-A3.1: Documenting Traditional Medicine Practices and Its Sustainability in Northern Tanzania: Perspectives from Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga Region — Part I Chair: Prof. Opportuna Kweka		
09:00-09:10	A Review of Tanzania's Policy and Legal Frameworks Governing the Traditional Medicine and Potential for Integration	Naishiye Stanley, CODESRIA Afriak fellow
09:10-09:20	Type of traditional healers in Tanzania, Diseases and their Roles in the Community Cure	Marium Msambya, CODESRIA Afriak fellow
09:20-09:30	Preparation and storage of traditional medicine in Tanzania	Rose Mtenga, CODESRIA Afriak Fellow

Time	Paper / Activity	Author(s)
09:30-09:40	Dosage determination in the traditional herbal medicine: Bridging indigenous knowledge, safety, quality and contemporary healthcare	Theresia Gastor Mapunda, CODESRIA Afriak fellow
Panel D2-A3.2: Documenting Traditional Medicine Practices and Its Sustainability in Northern Tanzania: Perspectives from Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga Region — Part II Chair: Prof. Opportuna Kweka		
09:50-10:00	Perception of users and non-users of Traditional medicines and the Myths in Tanzania	Marium Laizer, CODESRIA Afriak Fellow
10:00-10:10	Climate change and Impact on Traditional medicine Availability	Glory Kimenya, CODESRIA Afriak Fellow
10:10-10:20	Promotion and Up-scaling of traditional medicine	Anneth Palangyo, CODESRIA Afriak fellow
10:10-11:00	Extended Panel Discussion	
11:00-11:30 HEALTH BREAK		

Time	Paper / Activity	Author(s)
POSTER EXHIBITION AND NETWORKING SESSION: 11:30-13:00		
	Soil Health Degradation in sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic review of Farmers' Knowledge and Practices for Managing and Restoring Soil Health in Times of Agricultural Transition	Gerison Saddick Stephen
	Flows of Power and Poison: Agrochemicals and Risks in the Kilombero Valley, Tanzania	Irene A. Koko and Christine Noe, University of Dar es Salaam
	From Digital Voices to Regional Influence: Gen Z, Alternative Media, and Peacebuilding in the Great Lakes Region	Jeremie Mukombe Nsiku & Brian Chaggu, Great Lakes Crisis
	Women and Youth Inclusion in Climate Smart Livestock Policies Implementation in Tanzania: a Case of Kongwa District	Lovelet Lwakatare, Hadija Mwendah, Rodrick Henry – University of Dar es Salaam
	Prevalence and Associated Factors of Problematic Social Media Use Among Undergraduate Students at the University of Dar es Salaam	Barnabas Nkinga, Tasiana Njau, Frank Masao, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam
	Role of Mental Health Education in Mental health Literacy Among Adolescents in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	Cecilia Dadi, Lisa Wambura, Wilcah
	Living with Uncertainty: Imagining the Future: How young Tanzanians navigate economic precarity, emotional and relational life, and gendered violence in Dar es Salaam	Lyndsay McLean, Richard Sambaiga, Kisiya Saruni, Magolanga Shagembe, Yassin Haroun

Time	Paper / Activity	Author(s)
13:00-14:00 LUNCH BREAK — Social Sciences Quadrangle		
14:00-15:30 PLENARY SESSION: YOUTH ROUNDTABLE Old Council Chamber Moderator: Dr. Baruani Mshale		
14:00-15:30	Young People Are the Future, But Who Owns the Present?	Mika Chavala (One Africa Movement) Doreen Michael (IT, gender and digital specialist) Wanjira Wanjiru (Mathare Social Justice Centre) Gracious Kadondi (Makerere Student Guild President)
15:30-16:00	Recap and Way Forward	Conference Organisers / All
15:30-16:00 RECAP AND WAY FORWARD — Old Council Chamber		
DAY THREE — SATURDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2026		
TRIP TO BAGAMOYO		
TBA	Trip to Bagamoyo	Conference Organisers / All
16:00 END OF VSS2026		

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