



PRESS RELEASE

The Africa Institute and Duke University Press to publish new journal titled *Monsoon* focusing on the Indian Ocean Rim



Sharjah, UAE, October 19, 2022 - The Africa Institute, in collaboration with Duke University Press, is pleased to announce the launch of a new interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed, biannual journal titled *Monsoon*, co-edited by Jeremy Prestholdt, Professor of History, University of California, San Diego, and Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf, Professor of Anthropology, Georgetown University in Qatar, which seeks to spark new ways of thinking about the Indian Ocean region and to promote innovative scholarly research and analysis.

The Indian Ocean has been a critical nexus of global linkages for millennia. The region is a cultural continuum facilitated by mobility, belief, taste, exchange, and other practices. Its geopolitical, strategic, economic, sociocultural, and historical significance can hardly be overstated.

“Half of the world’s population lives within fifty miles of the Indian Ocean’s shores and half of the world’s container ship traffic crosses its waters, most of the world’s petroleum traverses the basin, and global powers compete for regional influence. As a result, scholarly and popular interest in the Indian Ocean region has increased dramatically in recent years. At the same time, the region has yet to receive the scholarly attention it merits,” said co-editor Professor Jeremy Prestholdt.

Monsoon encompasses a series of special issues bringing together the perspectives of scholars, critics, and artists across the disciplines of humanities and social sciences that offers a new forum to present research, debate critical themes, and highlight emerging trends in Indian Ocean studies — with an emphasis on Africa and the Western Indian Ocean.



Co-editor Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf further contextualized the idea behind the title of the periodical. "The name of the journal, *'Monsoon'*, is inspired by seasonal weather patterns, notably the winds that facilitated interregional sojourns and thus the integration of the Indian Ocean rim over thousands of years. The journal proposes to interrogate the multitudinous forces that have defined and continue to shape regional societies, examining overlapping forms of cosmopolitanism, circulation, inequality, and exploitation."

Through the pages of *Monsoon*, the Indian Ocean will be more legible to readers across disciplines and fields of specialization, and thus the journal will help to propel Indian Ocean studies further. The journal will publish original, cutting-edge research essays as well as special thematic issues that provide analysis of cultural, historical, and political circumstances that have shaped, and currently affect, the littoral societies of the Indian Ocean. In this way, *Monsoon* aims to be a leading contributor to the field of Indian Ocean studies.

"Being an interdisciplinary academic research institute, The Africa Institute is proud of this collaboration with Duke University Press, as it facilitates our dedication to the study, research, and documentation of Africa globally, and exploration of new frontiers of lesser explored African diasporas across the Indian Ocean rim," said Salah M. Hassan, Director of The Africa Institute, Sharjah, and Cornell University Professor.

This is further affirmed by Hoor Al-Qasimi, the President of The Africa Institute who said, "the Institute has already begun to consolidate its place in global African studies through its rich programs of research, fellowships, publications, and public outreach."

Rob Dilworth, Journals Director, Duke University Press said, "We are excited to collaborate with The Africa Institute to publish *Monsoon*. The journal will raise the profile of Indian Ocean studies, ensure that Africa and the Western Indian Ocean are represented and highlighted in the field, and help Duke University Press fulfill its ongoing goal to publish periodicals in new areas. The journal will be an excellent addition to our list of books and journals and add to its deep interdisciplinarity. The Press will provide strong publishing services and partnership management as well as a history of growing and sustaining new journals. Our partnership with The Africa Institute will benefit both the Institute and the Press—two mission-driven organizations."

The Africa Institute and Duke University Press are keen to expand knowledge on the connections forged across diverse environments and cultures because of the monsoon. *Monsoon* will follow a double-blind review process to determine originality, creativity, theoretical sophistication, clarity of writing, and contribution to the field. Special emphasis will be placed on the quality of writing as this will enhance our efforts to reach the widest possible audience.



About The Africa Institute

Established in 2018, The Africa Institute in Sharjah, UAE, is an interdisciplinary academic research institute dedicated to the study, research, and documentation of Africa and the African diaspora. As the only institution of its kind located in the Gulf—the historical nexus of African-Arab cultural exchange—The Africa Institute is uniquely positioned to expand its understanding of African and African diaspora studies as a global enterprise. The Institute is conceived as a research-based think-tank, and a postgraduate studies institution, which aims to train a new generation of critical thinkers in African and African diaspora studies. Offering both master's and Ph.D. programs in the humanities and social sciences, The Africa Institute aims to be a model center of excellence that engages with, as well as shapes, new paradigms of thought in ways that will ensure Africa's place at the forefront of the academy for years to come. This is further pursued through its named senior and postdoctoral fellowships, its programs of international symposia and conferences, visual art exhibitions and artist commissions, film and performance series, and community classes and outreach events. The Institute has commissioned Adjaye Associate to design a new campus that is scheduled to complete in 2023, which will allow for significantly expanded programming. For further information visit <theafricainstitute.org>.

About Hoor Al-Qasimi

Hoor Al Qasimi has been spearheading the establishment of The Africa Institute into a major international institution, building upon the rich legacy of Afro-Arab cultural and scholarly interchange in Sharjah, including the landmark 1976 "Symposium on African and Arab Relations" that envisioned a future nexus for learning and collaboration between the two regions. Working in partnership with Africa Institute Director Dr. Salah M. Hassan, she continues to shape its programming and future endeavors.

A practicing artist and curator, Al Qasimi is also President and founding Director of Sharjah Art Foundation (SAF), which was established in 2009 as a catalyst and advocate for the role of art in Sharjah, the UAE, regionally, and internationally. With a passion for supporting experimentation and innovation in the arts, Al Qasimi has continuously expanded the scope of the Foundation over its 10-year history to include major exhibitions that have toured internationally; artist and curator residencies in visual art, film, and music; commissions and production grants for emerging artists; and a wide range of educational programming for children and adults in Sharjah. In 2003, Al Qasimi co-curated Sharjah Biennial 6, and has since continued as Biennial Director. Under Al Qasimi's leadership, the Sharjah Biennial has continued to grow as an internationally recognized platform for contemporary artists, curators, and cultural producers. Her leadership in the field led to her election as president of the International Biennial Association (IBA) in 2017.



About Dr. Salah M. Hassan

Salah M. Hassan is the Director of The Africa Institute, Sharjah, UAE, and Distinguished Professor of Arts and Sciences at Cornell University. Salah M. Hassan is an art historian, art critic and curator, and editor and co-founder of *Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art* (Duke University Press). He currently serves as a member of the editorial advisory board of *Atlantica, Journal of Curatorial Studies* and *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*. He authored, edited and co-edited several books including *Ahmed Morsi: A Dialogic Imagination* (2021); *Ibrahim El Salahi: A Visionary Modernist* (2012); *Darfur and the Crisis of Governance: A Critical Reader* (2009), and *Diaspora, Memory, Place* (2008); *Unpacking Europe* (2001); *Authentic/Ex-Centric* (2001); and *Art and Islamic Literacy among the Hausa of Northern Nigeria* (1992). He also edited and introduced, *Ibrahim El-Salahi: Prison Notebook* (New York and Sharjah, MoMA and SAF Publications, 2018, and guest-edited a special issue of *SAQ: South Atlantic Quarterly*, titled African Modernism (2010). Hassan has contributed essays to journals, anthologies and exhibition catalogues of contemporary art. He has curated several international exhibitions such as *Ibrahim El Salahi: A Visionary Modernist*, exhibited at The Tate Modern in London (July-October, 2013) after premiering at the Sharjah Art Museum (in March 2012) in Sharjah, UAE; *Authentic/Ex-Centric* (49th Venice Biennale, 2001), *Unpacking Europe* (Rotterdam, 2001-02), and *3x3: Three Artists/Three: David Hammons, Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons, Pamela Z* (Dak'Art, 2004). He also curated several exhibitions for the Sharjah Art Foundation including *The Khartoum School: The Making of the Modern Art Movement in Sudan, 1945-2016* (2016-2017), and *When Art Becomes Liberty: The Egyptian Surrealists (1938-1965)* (2016) in collaboration with Hoor Al Qasimi. He is the recipient of several grants and fellowships, such as the J. Paul Getty Postdoctoral Fellowship, Sharjah Art Foundation, Ford, Rockefeller, Andy Warhol and Prince Claus Fund foundations. Hassan has been honored as the 2021 Distinguished Professor by the College Art Association (CAA).

About Duke University Press

Duke University Press is a nonprofit scholarly publisher with a focus on the humanities, the social sciences, and mathematics. The Press publishes approximately 140 books annually and around 60 journals, as well as offering several electronic collections and open-access publishing initiatives. *Website: <https://dukeupress.edu/>*

About the Editors

Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf is a Sudanese ethnographer and is Professor of Anthropology at Georgetown University in Qatar. She was a recipient of Postdoctoral and Senior fellowships at Durham University in the U.K., Brown and Harvard. Her work was supported by Guggenheim Foundation, the Royal Anthropological Institute, the Sir William Luce Memorial



Fellowship, Andrew Mellon and MIT Center for International Studies and Rockefeller Bellagio Study Center. She writes on culture and politics, anthropology of gender, human rights, migration and diaspora issues in Sudan, the Gulf, Oman and Zanzibar and the Indian Ocean. She is the author of *Darfur Allegory, Transforming Displaced Women in Sudan: Politics and the Body in a Squatter Settlement* and *Wanderings*. She is the editor of 2010 special issue of *South Atlantic Quarterly*, Duke University Press and *Female Circumcision: Multicultural Perspectives* (Ed.), University of Pennsylvania Press 2006. She is the co-editor with Dale Eickelman of *Africa and the Gulf: Blurred Boundaries Shifting Ties and Higher Education in the Gulf* both from Gerlach Press in 2014 and 2015 respectively. In addition to numerous book chapters and essays, some of her articles appeared in the *Sciences*, *South Atlantic Quarterly*, *Differences*, *Anthropology and Humanism*, *History and Anthropology*, *Oriental Anthropology*, *International Migration*, *Radical Philosophy Review* and *Anthropology News*, *Transition: International Review*, *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* and *Black Renaissance*.

Jeremy Prestholdt is a Professor of History at the University of California, San Diego. He specializes in African, Indian Ocean, and global history with an emphasis on consumer culture and politics in East Africa. His work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Rockefeller Foundation, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, Social Science Research Council, and the Fulbright Foundation, among other agencies. He has been a visiting fellow at Ritsumeikan University, the University of Warwick, the University of Basel, and the University of Bergen. His articles have appeared in journals such as the *American Historical Review*, the *Journal of African History*, *Public Culture*, the *Journal of Global History*, the *Journal of World History*, and the *Journal of Eastern African Studies* as well as many edited volumes. His first book, *Domesticating the World: African Consumerism and the Genealogies of Globalization* (2008), focused on the intersections of culture and economy in nineteenth-century Zanzibar and the wider East African region. The book narrated African consumers' changing demands for material goods and how these shaped the Indian Ocean and global exchanges in an era of sweeping socioeconomic change. His second book, *Icons of Dissent: The Global Resonance of Che, Marley, Tupac, and Bin Laden* (2019), surveyed the symbolic appeal of four very different figures since the 1960s. The book offered new insights into the development of shared global idioms, the mutability of common references, and the commodification of political sentiment. Prestholdt is also a co-editor of the Brill monograph series African Social Studies.

For press information please contact

Megna Kalvani, Communications & Outreach Manager:

T: 971 6 5112415 | M +971 50 241 0577 | megna.kalvani@theafricainstitute.org

Aisha Al Hammadi, Communications & Outreach Coordinator:

T +971 6 511 2415 | M +971 56 3739520 |

aisha.alhammadi@theafricainstitute.org



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