**Happening this week at the University of Torino, Italy**

Workshop on the theme **“African on the Move: An introduction to contemporary Africa from the Social Sciences perspective”**

The four-day workshop starting today, 3rd june 2019 will offer an introduction of contemporary Africa from the perspective of  social Studies, mainly focusing on the Sub-Saharan regions. It is organised by the Department of Culture, Politics and Society at the University of Torino in collaboration with the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University. The workshop is supported by the Erasmus Partner Countries Programme run by the two universities.

Most of the ideas of Africa circulating in the West originated from the complex and ambiguous history of the relations between Europe and the African continent. Exploitation-carried out for centuries through Slave Trade and then through colonization- was on a pejorative vision of Africans, in order to justify the Civilization Mission of the West. Still today it is very difficult to observe, describe and analyse the social and anthropological history of the continent with an informed, objective glance able to grasp and problematize its complexity. The Western representation of the so called "Dark Continent" is filled with images of primitiveness, stagnation and abscence of historicity: among the large public it is not unusual to notice substantial ignorance of the pre- colonial history of black civilizations, a superficial awareness of the colonial and post-colonial situation and, finally, of the vibrant, dynamic present.

 While multidisciplinary researches in the different phases of African history are fast growing, their results are not easily communicated outside the Academy, so that steteotypes and misunderstandings continue to affect relations between Africa and the Western World.

In the last decades, Africa is experiencing a renaissance in many different domains: economy, communication, culture, urbanization, ICT, demographic dynamics and mobility of people are characteristic features of this new deal. This innovative trend is relocating the continent at a global level (as China has very well understood). The workshop will focus on different aspects of the present situation of sub-Saharan societies, looking at them from various disciplinary perspectives: history, anthropology, geography, political science, development studies, strategic and diplomatic approaches.

**Topics to be presented**

1. The Present Future History, Africa and the rest of us by Alice Bellagamba

2. Sub-Saharan Africa in International Organizations: A Diplomatic Vision by Giuseppe Mistretta

3. "Africa for the Africans"? Processes and Institutions of African Regionalism by Giovanni Finizio

4. African Christianity: The Case of Uganda Pentecostalism by Alessandro Gusman

5. Islam in Africa: The Case of Muridism in Senegal by Guido Nicolas Zingari

6. East African Borders from the colonial partition to the present disputes by DrEriaOlowo Onyango

7. Democracy in sub-Saharan Africa: Past failures, Future challenges by Dr George Okiror

8. Crisis and Conflicts in postcolonial Africa by Stefano Dragani

9. The Digital Revolution: Mobile Phones in Cameroon and Uganda by Giovanna Santanera and Nicholas Mugabi

10. Development: An ambiguous concept by Dr Godfrey Asiimwe

11. Political Ecology in Kenya: Environmental Histories and Countermapping by Paola Minoia

11.Round table - Africa challenges towards a globalised world - Godfrey Asiimwe, Elisa Bignante, Francesca de Filippi, Cecilia Pennacini, IbrahimaPoudiougou