

Call for Abstracts British Institute in Eastern Africa 2025 Annual Conference

Theme: A Changing World

The Department of History, Archaeology and Heritage Studies, Makerere University, in conjunction with the British Institute in Eastern Africa ([BIEA](#)) calls for submission of abstracts for the Hybrid Annual Conference taking place at [Makerere University](#) on the 9th of December 2025. The conference is multidisciplinary, bringing together scholars, researchers and practitioners in humanities and social sciences in Africa. This year's conference theme is **A Changing World**. Contributions should be based on the following **thematic research areas**.

- **Retelling the Past**

There is a growing tendency to discount knowledge about the past, with archaeology and historicized ways of thinking seen as an unaffordable luxury irrelevant to an African future. At the same time, historical narratives and knowledge play an ever more potent role in discussions about national cohesion, and in debates and litigation over land rights, citizenship and the politics of culture and heritage. However, how can past knowledge be used to inform future decisions or interventions to some of the challenges facing humanity?

- **Urbanizing Worlds**

Urbanization and technological innovations all impact the environments in which people live. In recent times, these two phenomena have had profound effects on demographic, socio-economic, cultural, and political processes. In this era of digitalisation, what are the challenges facing urban citizens and how are they negotiating change to survive or thrive?

- **Climate Change and Environmental Issues**

Climate change has been identified as the foremost environmental problem globally and has been a subject of considerable debate. Africa as a continent is listed as one of the most vulnerable regions. This has led to the global clarion call that has resulted in global initiatives seeking to solve some of the urgent and pressing issues on climate change. How can the past inform the present and the future?

- **Mega Infrastructure**

Mega infrastructure projects are promoted as one of the ways in which Africa will achieve its development goals. For instance, Agenda 2063 of the African Union, highlights the 'need for Africa to develop world class infrastructure . . . which will improve connectivity . . . and develop regional and continental power pools, as well as ICT'. What role do these mega-infrastructure-developments play in the socio-economic transformation of Africa within the context of rapid urbanisation, climate change and social identity debates?

The conference will be **hybrid**.

You are invited to submit 500 words abstract by **10th October 2025** to the Email hahconference@mak.ac.ug