International Conference of RC25 ISA

Organized jointly by:
RC25 « Language and Society » of the International Sociological Association
and
Kenyatta University, Kenya

Nairobi 2022 International Conference at Kenyatta University

Kenyatta University,
Nairobi, Kenya,
June 15-17, 2022

Theme: Looking at Language to Reveal Opportunities and Threats in the Global Village

About RC25
RC25 Language & Society is a research committee of the International Sociological Association. The objective of the Research Committee on Language and Society is to advance sociological knowledge concerning language in interaction and in systems of representation. Members are united by the desire to **look at language** rather than through systems of communication.

https://www.language-and-society.org/about/

About Kenyatta University
KU is one of the leading universities in Kenya, and indeed in the East African region. The university boasts of being the largest in the country in terms of student enrollment. The students are enrolled in both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes hosted by different schools. The university is a hub of innovation and research.

http://www.ku.ac.ke/

Conference Scope and Aim
The promise of globalization and Internet based technologies has always been the shrinking of the world into an interconnected global village. However, the achievement of this promise is dodged by an ever-expanding asymmetrical access to resources between regions, races and genders. Moreover, current political and socio-economic systems are deeply rooted in historical discourses of rejection and discrimination of the 'other' and the hoarding of resources for 'self'. Therefore, the institutionalized inequalities created by hegemonic colonial architecture in previous centuries are still

alive and well in the present. These have evolved into normative neocolonial systems that clearly do not serve the interests of the majority in the touted global village. Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed just how easy it is to spread disease, conspiracy theories and misinformation globally, and, yet, how painfully slow it is to distribute life-saving technologies, cures and vaccines even when they are in surplus supply to some. This suggests that the term 'global village' is a misnomer.

At this crossroad between the promise of globalization and the threat posed to societies by the current model of globalization, this conference aims to foster multidisciplinary scholarly discourse by accepting submissions that **look at language** to reveal historical and modern asymmetries in society. It is hoped that the conference will be an opportunity for linguists, sociologists, historians, political scientists, anthropologists and other social scientists to reflect on the opportunities and threats that globalization, free market, migration and the Internet present to social institutions, and, by extension, to the identities of individuals and societies.

Subthemes
a) Language and knowledge systems – traditional and modern (e.g. religion, medicine etc.)
b) Language and the law
c) Language and the new media
d) Language and power
e) Languages in contact
f) Language and transnationalism
g) Language and identity
h) Language planning and policy
i) Language and health issues (e.g. the COVID-19 pandemic)
j) Language and gender
k) Language and neocolonial realities
l) Language and conflict

English is the official communication language for the conference. However, the conference will welcome presentations in Kiswahili on the above subthemes.

Submission process
We invite paper proposals that are tied to any of the aforementioned broad subthemes.
The proposals should include the title of presentation and a short 250-300 words abstract, accompanied by 4-5 keywords. The submission should be made online at the following page:
https://www.language-and-society.org/conferences/

If you experience trouble with the online submission system, please write to: rc25event@language-and-society.org

The Scientific Committee will review the abstracts and notify participants of acceptance.

Important timelines:

Event	Timelines
Deadline for abstracts submission	**20th January 2022**
Last day for notification of abstract acceptance	**20th March 2022**
Online publication of the conference program	**1st May 2022**

Scientific Committee:

Dr. Stéphanie Cassilde   (RC25 and Ronin Institute for Independent Scholarship, Belgium)
Prof. Keiji Fujiyoshi   (RC25 and Otemon Gakuin University, Japan)
Dr. Gatitu Kiguru   (RC25 and Kenyatta University, Kenya)
Dr. Phyllis Mwangi   (RC25 and Kenyatta University, Kenya)
Prof. Chege Githiora   (Kenyatta University, Kenya)
Dr. Kenneth Ngure   (Kenyatta University, Kenya)
Dr. Purity Nthiga   (Kenyatta University, Kenya)
Dr. Nora Atambo   (Kenyatta University, Kenya)
Dr. Mugo Muhia   (Kenyatta University, Kenya)
Dr. Pamela Ngugi   (Kenyatta University, Kenya)
Dr. Chacha Mwita   (Kenyatta University, Kenya)
Dr. Lynn Kisembe   (RC25 and Moi University, Kenya)
Prof. Benson Ojwang'   (Kaimosi Friends University, Kenya)
Dr. Rika Yamashita   (RC25 and Kanto Gakuin University, Japan)
Dr. Chika Kitano   (RC25 and Ritsumeikan University, Japan)
Pr. Anna Odrowaz-Coates (RC25, Maria Grzegorzewska University, and UNESCO Janusz Korczak Chair, Poland)

Organizing Committee:

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Preconference event (15ᵗʰ June 2022)

A blended **free** workshop on scholarly publication by ISA's Vice-president, Eloisa Martin who is in charge of publications. More details to be provided in due course.

Conference registration (16ᵗʰ & 17ᵗʰ June 2022)

Registration will be pegged on payment of the conference registration fee. The applicable rates are as follows.

Category	Fee in KES	Fee in USD
Early bird registration (1ˢᵗ March – 30ᵗʰ April 2022)	10,000	100
Normal registration (1ˢᵗ May – 30ᵗʰ May 2022)	12,000	120
Early bird registration - *Student (1ˢᵗ – 30ᵗʰ April 2022)	7,500	75
Normal registration - *Student (1ˢᵗ May – 30ᵗʰ May 2022)	8,000	95

This refers students enrolled in an MA programme. Proof of current studentship at a university will be required.
Participants should meet all bank charges associated with international transfers.

Membership fees

RC25 and ISA membership are not mandatory to participate in this conference. However, we take this opportunity to invite you to join to build up an international research network. As the World Congress of Sociology will be held in 2023, for 2022 we offer interested scholars a partial membership of RC25 only with special membership fee (10 USD for regular member and 7 USD for student member). As a registered RC25 member, you are qualified to participate in roles and positions in relationship with the executive board, and to contribute articles and notices about your research activities to RC25 semiannually published Newsletters. All the RC25 2022 partial membership will be dedicated to support the budget for this conference in Kenya.

If you get interested in research activities with the international scholars, we encourage you to get a full-membership of both ISA and RC25 though, we have to admit, it is expensive especially in these difficult days. This is why we recommend that you first join RC25 for a year and find if it is worth joining. If you find it beneficial for you to be a member of the international research community, then it is time for you to join both ISA and RC25. For more information, please visit the webpages in the next page.

Just remember that the number of slots (rooms) we are able to have at each ISA Congress and Forum depends on how many good standing members both of ISA and RC25 we have. Your membership will secure our research community.

Related webpages:
    About RC25 (in RC25 website)
    https://www.language-and-society.org/about/
    Benefits of ISA members (in ISA website)
    https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/membership/individual-membership/benefits

Membership Guidelines (in ISA website)
https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/membership/individual-membership/guidelines
Table of Economies by Category (in ISA website)
https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/membership/table-of-economies-by-category
According to two pages below, if you are to get a regular membership of both ISA and RC25 <u>from Kenya</u>, you should pay 42 USD (ISA) and 15 USD (RC25) **for four years**.

About RC25 (in ISA website)
https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/research-networks/research-committees/rc25-language-and-society/

You should first create your account on the ISA website when you register your ISA and RC membership. You are NOT able to register your membership of any RCs only. Both ISA and RC(s) memberships are mandatory if you register the membership on the ISA website.

If you would like to register a membership of RC25 only, we will offer the different payment method soon.

Modes of Payment
These will be communicated at the time of giving feedback on abstracts.

Important note
Transport, accommodation, health insurance and personal expenses are not catered for and should be organized by participants themselves.

Practical information
a) Kenyatta University is located in Nairobi, Kenya, along Thika Road. The University is about 40 kilometers from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and 20 kilometers from the Nairobi CBD.
b) Taxi hailing apps such as Uber, Taxify, Bolt and others offer competitive and safe travel options. International participants are discouraged from using private taxis.
c) The Kenyan shilling (KES) can be bought using any of the world major currencies at forex bureaus at the airport and border points. Major hotels accept card payments.
d) Limited affordable accommodation (at own cost) is available at the University. Details on the reservation process will be shared as we get nearer the conference. In addition, there are many hotels within short distances from Kenyatta University. A comprehensive list will be made available after the abstract review process.
e) Citizens from the East African Community, and several other countries, do not need visa to enter Kenya. Please visit https://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html to find out if you need a visa, the type of visa you need and how to make an online application.

f) We are planning for an onsite conference with the hope that COVID-19 restrictions then will allow. Participants from outside of Kenya are, however, encouraged to check from time to time the "Essential passenger information on COVID19" at the Kenya Airports Authority website at: https://www.kaa.go.ke/airports/passenger-guide/