

SPACE IN AFRICAN STUDIES

If space is both a site (physical and psychological) and a concept (theoretical and political), how is it addressed in African Studies in Canada and abroad? This two-day multidisciplinary symposium aims at discussing the states and possibilities of spatial research and reflecting upon the role that built, destroyed, and immaterial environments play in shaping African societies, cultures, and territories. Doing so, we also aim to reflect on and leverage the type of intellectual space that African studies offer to apprehend key questions of our time. How does a focus on space and spatial practices challenge understandings of historical processes on the continent? What does it reveal about key and emerging forms of socio-spatial imagination in the 21st Century?

Symposium organised by
**African Studies
Program,**
McGill University

**All events to be held in
room 301,
Bronfman Building,
Desautels McGill**
(except the film screening)

Convened by

Samia Henni
Peter Guo-hua Fu
School of Architecture

Khalid Medani
Chair of African Studies Program
Department of Political Science
The Institute of Islamic Studies

Pedro Monaville
Department of History
and Classical Studies

Ayodeji Ogunnaike
School of Religious Studies



**26-27
MARCH
2026**

**IN AFRICAN
STUDIES**

THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2026

9–10am
Breakfast

10am–12pm
**"Pan-African Spatial
Research and
Practices"**

**Chaired by
Samia Henni**
Peter Guo-hua Fu
School of Architecture,
McGill University

**Response by
Menna Agha**
Architecture Action Lab,
Carleton University

Omar Degan
Kendall College
of Art and Design,
Ferris State University

Albert Ferré
Canadian Center
of Architecture

Qianye Yu
Department of Architecture,
Cornell University

12–1pm
Lunch

1pm–3pm
**"The City Contested:
Urban Planning
and Popular
Resourcefulness"**

**Chaired by
Pedro Monaville**
Department of History
and Classical Studies,
McGill University

Heritier Mesa
School of Sociological and
Anthropological Studies,
University of Ottawa

Aurélie Maketa Mawete
Département d'histoire,
Université de Montréal

Eric Ross
School of Humanities
and Social Sciences,
Al-Akhawayn University, Ifrane

3–3:30pm
Break

3:30–5pm
Keynote Lecture

Moridja Kitenge Banza
Visual artist, Montreal

FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2026

8:30–9:30am
Breakfast

9:30–11am
**"(Im)materialities and
Diasporic Spaces:
Architectural
and Philosophical
Perspectives"**

**Chaired by
Ayodeji Ogunnaike**
School of
Religious Studies,
McGill University

Adedoyin Teriba
Department of
Art History,
Dartmouth College

Nadia Yala Kisukidi
Department of French
Literature, Thought,
and Culture,
New York University

11–11:30am
Break

11:30am–1pm
**"Urban Dynamics of
Heritage in Khartoum"**

**Chaired by
Khalid Medani**
Chair of African
Studies Program
Department of
Political Science
The Institute of
Islamic Studies,
McGill University

Mai Abusalih (remotely)
Architectural Designer
and Researcher SLCE Architects

Zainab Gaafar
Director, Studio Urban, K
hartoum/Sudan

1– 2:30pm
Lunch

2:30–5pm
**Film Screening
and Q&A
Khartoum (2025)**

**directed by
Anas Saeed
Rawia Alhag
Ibrahim Snoopy Ahmad
Timeea Mohamed Ahmed**

With an introduction
and conversation with
Timeea Mohamed
co-director of Khartoum, Sudan
Solidarity Collective

Room 215, Peter Guo-hua
Fu School of Architecture,
Macdonald-Harrington Building

SLCE IN AFRICAN STUDIES