

Call for Papers

Conference on African Business, Organisations & Society

Cluster for African Business, Organisations & Society

School of Business & Management

Queen Mary, University of London

Monday 02 July, 2018

Guest Speakers

Prem Sikka

Topic of presentation

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Agreements and Human Rights. The presentation will refer to some of the clauses included in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) agreements which protect the investor interests but have dire consequences for human rights. FDI agreements frequently create a state-within-state and can destabilise governments. The issues will be illustrated through an analysis of FDI agreements between leading petroleum corporations and the governments of Chad and Cameroon.

Biography

Prem Sikka is Professor of Accounting and Finance at the University of Sheffield and Emeritus Professor of Accounting at the University of Essex in UK. His research on accountancy, auditing, tax avoidance, tax havens, corruption, corporate governance, money laundering, insolvency and business affairs has been published in international scholarly journals, books, newspapers and magazines. He has appeared on domestic and international radio and television programmes to comment on business matters. He has advised and given evidence to a number of UK and EU parliamentary committees. Most recently (2016-2017), he advised the UK House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee for its investigation into the collapse of BHS. Currently, he is an adviser to the same committee for its investigation of the collapse of Carillion.

Prem holds the Working for Justice Award from Tax Justice Network, Accounting Exemplar Award from the American Accounting Association (AAA), Lifetime Achievement Awards from the British Accounting and Finance Association (BAFA) and PQ Magazine, Personality of the Year Award from Accountancy Age and the inaugural Abraham Briloff Award from The Accountant and International Accounting Bulletin for promoting transparency and public accountability of businesses

Alex Cobham

Topic of presentation

The scale and impacts of tax abuse across Africa; and the opportunities for leadership.

Biography

Alex Cobham is chief executive of the Tax Justice Network, and a visiting fellow at King's College, London. His research focuses on the scale of illicit financial flows including tax avoidance by multinational companies, and on inequalities.

Barnaby Pace

Topic of presentation

Multinational oil companies and Africa: An exploration of a case of Shell petroleum in Nigeria

Biography

Barnaby Pace holds a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Warwick. He is a campaigner and investigator for Global Witness' Oil, Gas and Mining team. He has written for African Muckraking, How To Pay a Bribe: Thinking Like a Criminal to Thwart Bribery Schemes, and Shadow World: Inside the Global Arms Trade.

Introduction

As the African continent experiences profound socio-political and economic changes, there has been considerable increased interest in the African economy in professional and academic circles in the last few decades. The surge in economic and social growth across the African continent presents a stimulating prospect. However, whether this growth has a positive impact on the people of Africa presents a research agenda. In the areas of Business, Organisations & Society (Accounting, Economics, Finance and management), different literature on Africa is emerging. The extant literature has especially enriched our understanding of the impact of neoliberalism such as privatisation (Rahaman *et al.*, 2007), wealth redistribution (Bakre *et al.*, 2017), corporate governance practices (Bakre, 2011), accounting and accountability (Lassou and Hopper, 2016), professional development (Sian,

2006), Corporate Social Responsibility (Amaeshi *et al.*, 2016; Lauwo and Otusanya, 2014), multinational corporations (Adusei, 2009) and foreign direct investment (UNECA, 2012).

However, as a recent exhaustive literature survey on an African-focused business, organisations & society suggests, the potential of Africa-based research has still not been fulfilled. More attention needs to be paid to research in order to understand the extent to which a resources-endowed Africa can contribute to the broader Business, Organisations & Society literature, considering the peculiarity of the African socio-political, economic and cultural context/circumstances.

Despite the position of the African economy in the global economic system, only very few Universities in the United Kingdom have deliberately recognised African economic development. Therefore this has driven the incentive of introducing a vibrant cluster for African Business, Organisations & Society to solely conduct investigations into the tapping of these potentials and the contribution of Africa to the World economy.

This is the rationale behind the establishment of the cluster for African Business, Organisations & Society as one of the research centres at the School of Business and Management, Queen Mary University of London.

In order to inaugurate the cluster, there will be a conference on **Monday 2 July, 2018** in which we welcome interested academics, professionals, business, civil society organisations, media practitioners and PhD students within and outside Queen Mary University of London to present papers, work in progress or part of their research output/dissertations on any African country or countries.

Themes and Topics

All areas of African economic development such as Accounting, Finance, Economics, Organisations and Management.

Submission Guidelines and Deadlines

Abstract of between 600-800 words or full papers can be sent to Dr Owolabi Bakre as follows: o.bakre@qmul.ac.uk

Submission deadline for the abstract or full papers is 30 May, 2018.

References

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