



AEGIS
Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies

AEGIS Summer School

Cagliari, 26-29 May 2026

African Prisms

The 2026 AEGIS Summer School, which will convene in Cagliari (Sardinia) in May 2026, is aligned with the theme of the 2027 European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), which will take place in Lisbon in 2027. The purpose of the Summer School is to prepare early-career researchers so that they will be in a strong position to volunteer panels and papers at the conference. The theme of the Summer School and ECAS 2027 is “African Prisms”. It aims to speak to the multiplicity of disciplines, perspectives, methods, histories, and images that shape the contemporary study of Africa. At its essence, a prism refracts light, revealing a spectrum where once appeared unity.

Metaphorically, it can generate multiple clarifying or distorting viewpoints of our understanding of the world. Similarly, African societies, histories, and expressions can also be viewed through a wide array of analytical and disciplinary lenses, each uncovering new dimensions of meaning and possibility. Accordingly, ECAS 2027 will be a multidisciplinary conference welcoming contributions from the array of social sciences and the humanities, and proponents will be encouraged to bring and bridge in diverse tools to reflect on contemporary questions over how Africa itself is studied, represented, and understood. Who constructs the narratives? Through which frames? For whom? How do outcomes vary depending on when and where we observe the African reality? African Prisms invites the questioning of the boundaries between disciplines, and between academia, activism, policy, and artistic expression.

The Summer School seeks contributions from early-career researchers that explore Africa’s multiple dimensions: its vast intellectual traditions, cosmologies, ecological systems, demographic challenges, social movements, ideologies, political institutions, diasporic connections, creative economies, technological innovations, and everyday practices. The theme foregrounds a methodological openness, recognising that complex realities demand intersectional and cross-disciplinary approaches. The Summer School particularly welcomes papers that seek to integrate original findings from fieldwork with conceptual thinking. The Summer Schools seek to build a network amongst participants that will feed into the ECAS conference, but also outlast it.

The 2026 Summer School is organised by the Centro di Studi Africani in Sardegna (CSAS) in collaboration with the AEGIS Centres in Roskilde (Denmark), Edinburgh (UK), Lisbon (Portugal), Oxford (UK), and LAM SciencePo Bordeaux (France). The aim of the Summer School is: a) to bring together advanced PhD students and teaching staff from AEGIS Centres in order to exchange field and research experience; b) to improve the students’ ability to prepare and present their research in an international context and more specifically to serve as a ‘feeder’ for ECAS 11 in Lisbon; c) to promote graduate training within AEGIS and stimulate African-European inter-university cooperation.

The workshop is open to up to 15 PhD students and young researchers coming from AEGIS Centres and their affiliates in Europe and Africa. Applicants are invited to submit proposals (a 500-word abstract as well as a one-page outline of their PhD status and current research – PHD SUPERVISOR(S) MUST BE IN CC WHEN APPLYING – LINK TO THE APPLICATION BELOW) that address the overall theme. Papers that apply and/or refine conceptual and theoretical approaches to the subject matter, while also presenting fresh empirical information, will be especially welcome. Applicants will be selected based on their research outline and their ability to engage with broader issues in African Studies today. Priority will be given to students and researchers with recent field experience and fresh research results. Applications from African students based in African universities are encouraged. Subsidies for the participation of a limited number of successful African applicants will be available on the basis of merit. The deadline for submitting proposals is **07 December 2025**. Participants will be informed of acceptance by **January 2026**.

Each AEGIS member participant will be asked to contribute towards the running costs of the Summer School by paying a fee of no more than €350 to partly cover registration, food and lodging in Cagliari. The cost of travel to and from Cagliari is the responsibility of individual participants. Candidates coming from AEGIS Centres can apply to their Centre for financial assistance. External candidates will be responsible for their own expenses. Participants are expected to register on the afternoon of Monday, **25 May 2026**. Working sessions will be held from **26 May 2026 to 29 May 2026**.

For more details, please write to:

Local Organizing Committee:

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AEGIS Summer School, Cagliari 2026 – Application form

<https://www.africa.org/2026-aegis-summer-school-application-form/>

