

KEYNOTE LECTURE

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YOUTH POLITICS & SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA

The world has never been so young. The majority of the world's population, especially in the global South is aged below 30, with the vast majority living in Africa. Young Africans constitute today 70 percent of the population. But most young people are living in waithood, a prolonged period of suspension between childhood and adulthood. This situation stems directly from the economic and social pressures they suffer, and from their pervasive political marginalisation. Young people's predicament is particularly galling, but it also inspires them to devise creative solutions. And the young have been moving from dispersed and unstructured social and political actions into more organized social movements. While some youth social movements have been able to overthrow regimes, systemic change takes time and requires more than a mere change in leadership. Young activists are often struggling to translate the political grievances of the protest movement into a broader and sustainable political agenda. Thus, how can youth play an active role in politics and governance, beyond street protests, and how can they create a new kind of 'politics'?

The event is free and open to all via the registration
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