



Rift Valley Institute

Sudan and South Sudan Field Course 2017

Reversals and reinventions have marked Sudan and South Sudan over the past year. South Sudan has experienced multiple crises from continuing conflict, generating the largest regional refugee crisis in decades, to the declaration of famine. By contrast, Sudan is enjoying an unexpected revival of its fortunes, as a credible partner in the war on terror, deterring irregular migration, and as an ally not spoiler in South Sudan, even while conflicts continue in its peripheries including Darfur and closure of political space. This year's Sudan course will unpack the complicated and cross-cutting dynamics driving these dramatic shifts in fortunes, with leading national and international experts, to help better inform internal and external actors in policy response and interventions.

FEES, LOCATION AND HOW TO APPLY

- ◆ The course will be held in Entebbe, on the shores of Lake Victoria in Uganda from **4-9 June**.
- ◆ The cost of each course is US 4,250. This covers tuition fees, six nights' full board and accommodation, special excursions, local transport and advance course literature. Flights and visas are not included.
- ◆ Please apply online at www.riftvalley.net/key-projects/courses. For more information contact courses@riftvalley.net.

SYLLABUS

Day 1 Introduction to Sudan and South Sudan: Modern history and social worlds

- ◆ Who do we think we are? Ethnicity and race in the Sudans
- ◆ Sudan's many Islams and Christian faiths in the Sudans

Day 2 State formation and resistance

- ◆ The Islamist Movement and the state
- ◆ Sudan's chiefs and traditional authority

Day 3 The extractive state and local livelihoods

- ◆ The borderland economies of the Sudans
- ◆ Land rights, uses and expropriation
- ◆ State wealth and economic power: And its limits

Day 4 Contemporary conflicts and political change

- ◆ Genealogies of insurgency and the state of armies
- ◆ Political factionalism and regime change: how does it happen?
- ◆ The neighbours: regional geopolitics, arms flows and peace interventions

Day 5 International interventions, a history of agreements and future perspectives

- ◆ A history of interventions
- ◆ Peace mediations and why they fail
- ◆ Missions without end: humanitarianism in the Sudans



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What have been the most significant developments this year?

South Sudan's continued civil war, including ethnically-driven violent atrocities, devastating famine, and regional refugee crisis, have dominated this year. The government is increasingly isolated, dependent on piecemeal political deals with a shifting array of internal allies, as well as opportunistic positioning with regional interests. The economy remains in a chronic state, with revenues dependent on seemingly speculative oil prospects and leveraging income from the international political and humanitarian response. The armed opposition is more and more fragmented while anti-government military activity has spread.

Sudan meanwhile, despite its previous reputation, and thanks also to the shifting sands of regional politics, has managed to reposition itself into a credible international ally in the war against Islamist extremism and the front-line against irregular migration to Europe. Sudan's military also increased its regional relevance by joining the Saudi Arabian-led Gulf-state campaign against the rebel Houthi-led government Yemen. The outgoing US administration even—partially and conditionally—lifted trade sanctions, despite ongoing internal conflicts. The regime has wrong-footed the armed and unarmed political opposition alike, despite the struggling rural and urban economy.

What are the main policy challenges?

A solution for South Sudan's crisis is still out of reach, with signed peace agreements increasingly irrelevant in the face of continuing economic and military crises. The net result is international fatigue and paralysis, and above all, bad faith. There is little common understanding of the critical problems, nor agreement on the ways forward, apart from encouraging a notional stability, the better to deliver humanitarian assistance. The South Sudan crisis is also rooted in Sudan's continued and chronic crisis, and the policy response requires engagement across a range of issues, including food security, the future social contract, the management of soft borders and regional economies, and the rights of refugees and internally displaced people.

What are the potential implications of these events beyond the region?

European state's priority to stem irregular migration to its southern shores must be weighed against the implications of working with Sudan's still largely military order, and the fundamental drivers of migration. South Sudan's deepening crisis also challenges the aims and results of liberal interventionism including humanitarian assistance, managed state-building, and promotion of human rights and democracy.

What will be the highlights of the course?

The course will examine the political economy behind patterns of violence, macro- and micro-economic logics informing rulers and ruled, and their respective means of survival. It will question preconceptions of the role of political ethnicity in peace and war, the idea of aid dependency, and the recent history of state- and peace-building. The current situation will be contextualised with less formal sessions and entertainment including films and music, in which Sudanese and South Sudanese artists and activists reflect on these questions themselves.

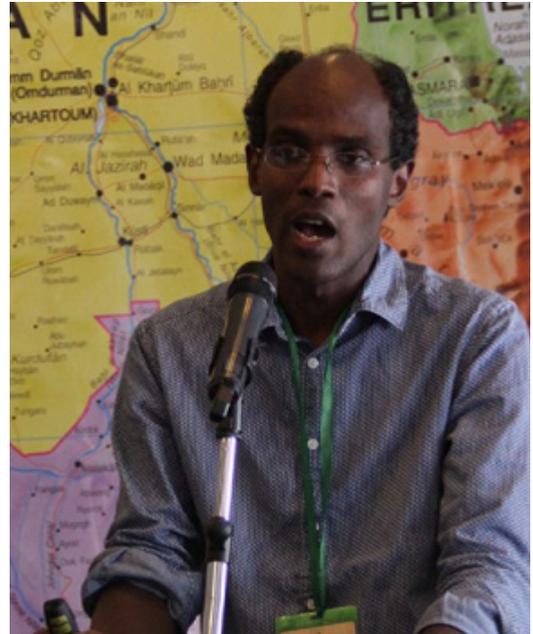


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CORE TEACHING STAFF

Magdi el-Gizouli MD PhD, Writer, StillsUDAN
Nicki Kindersley PhD, Political and Historical Researcher
David Deng, South Sudan Law Society
Ghazi Atabani PhD, Sudanese politician and physician
Douglas Johnson PhD, Historian, author of *The Root Causes of Sudan's Civil Wars*
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Fr Mathew Pagan PhD, Vice Chancellor, Catholic University of Juba
Reem Shawkat, Journalist
Benedetta de Alessi PhD, Researcher, UNOCHA Nairobi
Willow Berridge PhD, Lecturer, Newcastle University



Co-Director of Studies, Magdi el-Gizouli

WHAT ALUMNI SAY

- ◆ *'The course is quite intense and rich, the breakout groups and social activity worked well as part of the exchange and learning. The teachers were excellent, combination of hard facts, research and personal stories was brilliant.'* **Wafaa Saeed**, UNOCHA, Sudan and South Sudan Course 2016.
- ◆ *'I take valuable insights and lessons from this week which will influence the way I look at the Sudans and act as a donor. All in all, a fantastic learning experience on both a professional and personal level.'* **Stefanie Küng**, Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland, Sudan & South Sudan Course 2015.

