



Rift Valley Institute

GREAT LAKES
2024 Field Course

JUNE
19 - 21



Kilifi
KENYA

RVI field courses - an intensive learning experience

An innovative, residential programme of seminars, group discussions & special events examines key environmental, political and cultural features contextualizing contemporary challenges and opportunities.

For more information on the 2024 Rift Valley Institute courses, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/2024RVICourses. You can also email us at courses@riftvalley.net.



COURSE

Theme & Outline

Crises new and old? Conflict, climate and governance in the Great Lakes

The Great Lakes region faces its most severe political crisis in over twenty years. While the UN peacekeeping mission withdraws from the DRC, protracted and newer violent conflicts in its East have drawn in armies from Burundi, Uganda and Rwanda, as well as mercenaries and a sway of armed groups mobilized under the banner of a militant patriotism. As Rwanda commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Genocide Against the Tutsi, it has rarely been more urgent to learn from the past. The 2024 Great Lakes Course will centre the region's transnational histories and adopt a decidedly regional perspective to try and make sense of current events. The course will explore the role of memory politics, discuss the more immediate triggers of the ongoing crisis, study governance conundrums of the region, assess resistance to state power, and delve into the risks and opportunities of nature conservation, climate change and the agenda for the decolonization of development.

DAY 1 *War, Memory and Violent Conflict* Wednesday, 19 June 2024

- Who knows? Local and expert knowledge
- War, conflict and memory politics in the Great Lakes
- Land, displacement and violence in the Great Lakes
- Regional crisis: Triggers, risks and responses

DAY 2 *Security, Gender and Governance* Thursday, 20 June 2024

- Security governance in the DRC and Burundi
- Governing local security in Uganda and Rwanda
- Gender and power in the Great Lakes
- Contesting state power in the Great Lakes

DAY 3 *Nature, Climate Change and Development* Friday, 21 June 2024

- The conservation-development-security nexus
- Conflict, climate change and green transitions
- Development, decolonization and localization: Challenges and opportunities
- Paths to peace

SIGN UP

Apply for the 2024 Great Lakes course [here](#). The fee for the course is USD 3,500. This covers tuition, fees, three nights' full board and accommodation, local transport and advance course literature. Flights and visas are not included.

DEADLINE: 21 MAY 2024

COURSE

Teachers & Testimonials

KEY TEACHING TEAM

Anne Abaho, PhD | Dean of Social Sciences at Nkumba University, Uganda

Anne Abaho specializes in governance, gender security, and forced migration. With a PhD in Security Studies and a Master's in Pan-African Studies from Syracuse University, her academic focus extends to security reform, international politics, migration, refugee studies, and human rights. Anne's expertise is grounded in her roles that bridge both academic research and practical implementations in governance.

Aymar Nyenyezi Bisoka, PhD | Associate Professor in Sociology and Anthropology at Mons University, Belgium

Aymar Nyenyezi Bisoka is a seasoned researcher in socio-anthropology with a focus on power, resistance, and violent conflicts in Africa. He holds a PhD in Political and Social Sciences and challenges traditional perspectives with his Afro-critical approach to social science studies. Aymar's work critically addresses the construction of subjective approaches to studies on natural resources and the reformulation of the peasant question in violent conflicts.

Esther Marijnen, PhD | Assistant Professor in the Sociology of Development at Wageningen University, Netherlands

Esther Marijnen investigates the intricate relationships between environmental governance, conservation, and conflicts over natural resources, with a strong focus on climate change impacts. As an Assistant Professor, her research spans across human-nature interactions in conflict-prone areas, aiming to advance sustainable and equitable development practices. Esther's contributions are particularly valuable in understanding conservation conflicts and the politics of environmental protection.

Judith Verweijen, PhD | Assistant Professor in International Relations at the University of Groningen, Netherlands

Judith Verweijen specializes in the dynamics of violence and the militarization of resource conflicts, with a specific focus on eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Her research, based on extensive fieldwork, analyzes civil-military interactions and rebel governance in areas with prolonged conflicts. Judith's academic work is pivotal in understanding the complex socio-political landscapes of the Great Lakes region and the ongoing struggles for power and resources.

Michel Thill, PhD | Independent researcher and consultant based in the UK

Michel Thill focuses on the nexus between policing and state formation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, exploring how everyday police work impacts broader governance and state-building efforts. His forthcoming book delves into these themes, offering a nuanced view of the challenges faced by the Congolese police in maintaining order and justice amidst conflict. Michel's work as an independent researcher and consultant sheds light on the critical issues of security and urban governance in conflict settings.

WHAT ALUMNI SAY

An excellent course, in particular I appreciated the historical context and perspectives from the political economy and land rights issues. Teachers were excellent: clear, good powerpoints and good presentations.' **Maaïke van Vliet, Embassy of the Netherlands, Bujumbura, Great Lakes Field Course**

"Very informative and enlightening: both the lectures and offline conversations with the lecturers and fellow participants. I go away with a better understanding and picture of the issues and a larger network on which to draw to work on the issues." **John Kelley, US Embassy Kinshasa**

"The course exceeded my expectations in several ways, not least the extensive in-depth knowledge of the panelists... What I learned from the course will be an enormous help in my continuing work as Editor of International Affairs at Chatham House and with furthering links and the exchange of information with outside organizations." **Caroline Soper, Chatham House**