

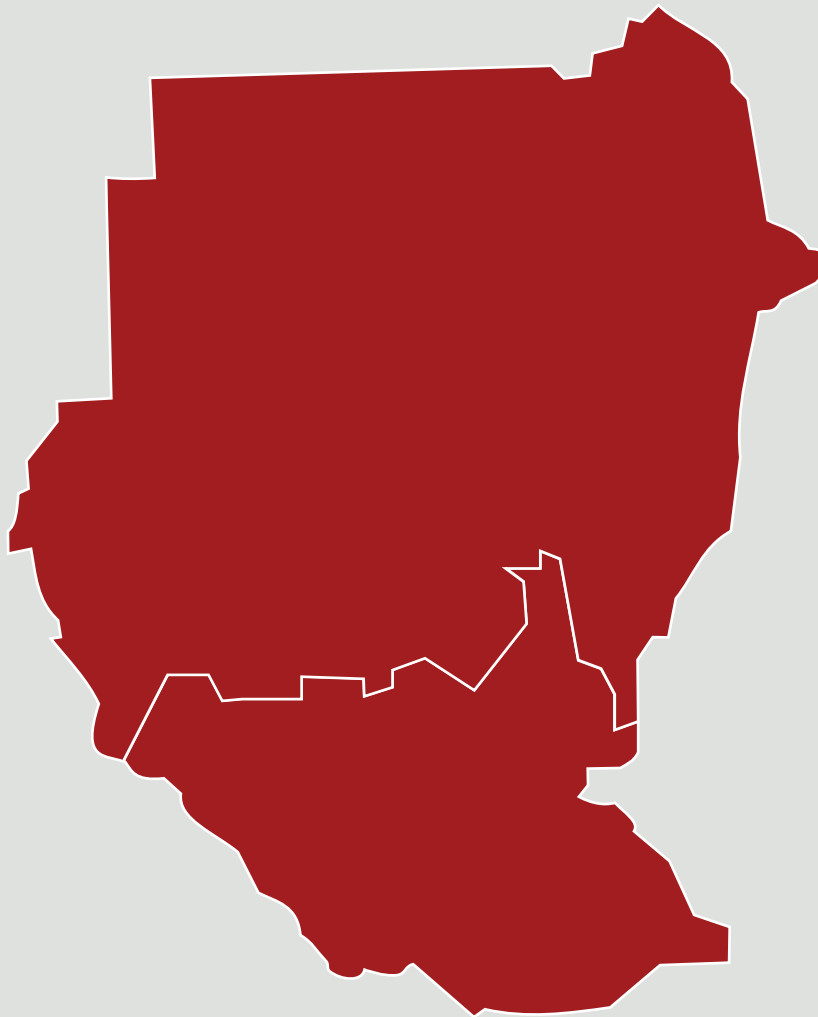


RIFT VALLEY INSTITUTE

SUDAN & SOUTH SUDAN

2025 Field Courses

JUNE
9-11



KENYA

BRITISH INSTITUTE IN
EASTERN AFRICA (BIEA)

RVI field courses - an intensive learning experience

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

COURSE FEE

USD 2,500

For information on the 2025 Rift Valley Institute courses,
scan the **QR code**

Email us at courses@riftvalley.net



THEME: *‘War Makes States and States Make War’*

Failed transitions, war and economic collapse have shaped Sudan and South Sudan in the last year. Our course will tackle immediate questions of the dynamics of regime collapse and violent contestation for control and the political economies of famine, mass displacement and forced migration. It also explores the historical structures of how armies and conflicts work; the renewed political economies of violence; the repeated failures of political settlements; the impacts of changing climate, extractive economies, labour markets and food systems; and generative civic action under extreme conditions of violence and instability.

The course team of academics and activists will discuss new research insights into Sudanese and South Sudanese definitions of democracy; sovereignty as part of emerging grassroots political projects; genealogies of armies and security systems; the politics of humanitarian aid; and the more recent antiwar projects and a possible long-term transition into peace.

DIRECTORS OF STUDIES

Raga Makawi | Independent researcher and consultant based in the UK

Raga Makawi is a Sudanese British researcher on Sudan’s civic politics and social movements for the Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform (PeaceRep), at the London School of Economics. She is an Editor at African Arguments curating topical themes on the Sudans, the wider Horn of Africa and the general political and social affairs of the continent at large. She is co-author of the book *Sudan’s Unfinished Democracy: The Promise and Betrayal of a People’s Revolution* and is currently working on a number of publications in edited volumes, including; ‘The Sudanese Revolution and Authoritarianism’, ‘The Sudanese Social Movement Contribution to Security Sector Reform and New Civic Formations’ and ‘The Future of Peace Politics and Political Settlements in Sudan’.

Dr Nicki Kindersley | Senior Lecturer in African History, Cardiff University, UK

Nicki Kindersley is a contemporary historian of labour and migration in the Nile Valley. She has worked on studies of military employment, rebel governance, customary justice and cross-border livelihoods systems since 2012, focused primarily on South Sudan. Her book *New Sudans: Wartime Intellectual Histories in Khartoum* comes out this summer.

KEY TEACHING TEAM

Dr Sharath Srinivasan | Co-director, Centre of Governance and Human Rights, University of Cambridge

Sharath Srinivasan is the David and Elaine Potter Professor of International Politics at the University of Cambridge’s Department of Politics and International Studies, a Fellow of King’s College Cambridge and Co-Director of the University’s Centre of Governance & Human Rights (CGHR). Sharath lived and worked in Sudan in the early 2000s and has been researching in and on the region ever since. His book, *When Peace Kills Politics: International Intervention and Unending Wars in the Sudans*, was published in 2021. He is also co-editor of *Making and Breaking Peace in Sudan and South Sudan: The Comprehensive Peace Agreement and Beyond*. Alongside longstanding work on Sudan, he researches communication technology and politics in Africa, and co-founded the non-profit digital social research spinout, Africa’s Voices (www.africasvoices.org). Sharath was elected as a Fellow of the Rift Valley Institute in 2015 and became a Trustee in 2023. He is also a Trustee of the British Institute in Eastern Africa.

Abubakr Omer | Resilience and Sustainability Strategist, Agrifood Systems Researcher, and Policy Advisor, Rwanda

Abubakr Omer leads transformative initiatives to cultivate self-reliant communities in conflict and climate-impacted regions. His focus is on designing solidarity-based models within agrifood systems to drive comprehensive economic development. With extensive experience across public and private sectors, civil society and academia, he forges strategic partnerships and transborder collaborations to meet localized needs and drive systemic change.

Dr Harriet Kuyang Logo | International Law, International Human Rights Law, Women and Child Law at the University of Juba, South Sudan

Harriet Kuyang Logo is an expert in Democratic Governance, Access to Justice and the Rule of Law, with extensive experience evaluating UN interventions. She has taught International Law, Human Rights Law and Women and Child Law at the University of Juba and has published extensively on transitional justice, International Humanitarian Law, customary law and gender issues. Currently, Dr Kuyang is a fellow at the Rift Valley Institute and serves as the Gender Lead for the Peacebuilding Opportunities Fund.

Amar Jamal | Managing Editor, Atar Magazine, Uganda

Amar Jamal is the Managing Editor of Atar Magazine in Uganda, working in both English and Arabic. With more than ten years of experience in media across Sudan and South Sudan, Amar has published research with the Rift Valley Institute and the Small Arms Survey. He holds a master's degree in Social Anthropology from the Institute of Graduate African Studies at Cairo University and is a former fellow at *Africa is a Country*.

COURSE *Outline*

DAY 1 *Failures of regime change and maintenance* Monday, 9 June 2025

- State formation, collapse and the violent political economy of state building
- Political Islam, regime change dynamics and core-periphery tensions
- Economic livelihoods: Land, labour, livestock, displacement, diaspora, cross borders and taxation

DAY 2 *Everyday realities, practical transitions* Tuesday, 10 June 2025

- Military formations, militias and state violence
- Civic alternatives: Mutual aid, food sovereignty and grassroots activism
- Media, civic action, youth and the politics of reconstruction

DAY 3 *Beyond current impasses: Imagining new pathways* Wednesday, 11 June 2025

- Challenges of security sector reform and demobilization
- External interventions, local adaptations and democratic imaginaries
- Humanitarian approaches, new actors and future scenarios

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**

'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**