

10<sup>th</sup> Asixoxe – Let's Talk! Conference on African Philosophy  
The Genre of Reality: Extraction, Extinction, and Climate Emergency

The hypothesis of an intrinsic complicity between anthropocentric thinking and the exploitation of nature is fuelling more than ever current debates about the future of our planet. Indeed, the advent of electronics and the breakthrough of new technologies in the field of information and communication as well as in the area of medicine and armaments, for instance, have highlighted the ability of instrumental reason to explore and tame nature for human needs. This unprecedented domination of technology, or rather the control of homo faber (Arendt) over nature and human life, is not without drawbacks. The need for raw materials to fuel the production cycle and subsequent consumption is often evoked to justify the unbridled extraction of natural resources.

The experience of Africans is deeply marked by the extractivist framework. In the wake of slavery, colonial and post-colonial institutions defined the purpose of extraction and put in place the needed facilities. These include the exploitation of labour for the construction of various infrastructures within the continent, the extraction of cultural heritage, natural resources, and raw materials useful to modern industry. The extractivist system has its dark sides. The extraction of minerals such as gold, diamonds, uranium, and coltan fuels the endless wars for the control of the territory of exploitation, the massacre and destabilisation of populations, and the destruction of the local economy, but it also leads to the depletion of resources and, especially to large-scale environmental degradation.

As a result of such anthropocentric thinking and exploitative behaviour towards nature and towards other human beings, we live in an age of climate emergency and approaching ecological collapse. Extractivist practices unevenly affect humans in different regions of the world; this reveals the underlying political structures and constellations of privilege and power in the world.

The theme of this year's *Asixoxe – Let's Talk! Conference on African Philosophy* focuses on extractivism as an expression of the anthropocentric thinking, and on its consequences, such as the extinction of species, climate emergency, and the need for solidarity in the way we as humans assume stewardship over the planet Earth as our common habitat.

We invite papers that explore issues raised by extractivism, the risk of depletion, extinction, and the climate emergency. The conference aims to shed new light on these concerns by exploring not only these phenomena, but especially by examining the different philosophical assumptions and narratives related to them. The conference interrogates a range of philosophical, political, literary, and communicational topics, such as:

- The analysis of philosophical, economic, and political assumptions underlying anthropocentrism and extractivism.
- A study of factors that contribute to raising and strengthening awareness of the climate crisis.

- The concept and philosophy of environment in African intellectual traditions.
- The role of Africa in both the proliferation and the management of industrial and nuclear waste.
- The impact on Africa of the greenhouse effect and the hole in the ozone layer.
- The destruction of the world's lungs, including the Amazon rainforest and the African equatorial forest.
- African literary and artistic discourses on extraction and climate change.
- African initiatives (civil society and NGOs) concerning extractivism and the underlying development paradigm.
- The climate and environmental policies of African states.
- The responsibility of mining companies to respect the environment and to prevent the climate crisis.
- The relationship of Africans to nature and the animal world
- The management of the planet Earth as our common habitat.

*Asixoxe – Let's Talk! Conference on African Philosophy* is organized jointly by the Professorship of African and Afrophone Philosophies of the University of Bayreuth and the Department of Political Philosophy and Globalization Research of the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences. The conference will be held in a hybrid form at the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, Czech Republic, and online, on 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Titles and abstracts of 200-250 words, as well as any queries, should be sent by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to Dr Albert Kasanda, [kasanda@flu.cas.cz](mailto:kasanda@flu.cas.cz). Each speaker will be given 20 minutes for the presentation, with subsequent 10 minutes for questions and discussion. We envisage a publication of selected papers from the conference. There is no registration fee for presenters and other participants. English is the working language.