British International Studies Association

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Narratives, struggles and violence in Africa: perception, ritual, practice and memorialisation

Wednesday, 17 June 2020 10:30 (1h 30m)

Papers on this panel examine questions violence and struggle in Africa with a particular focus on the discourses and narratives which give them meaning. The papers cover a broad range of actors – humanitarian, combatant, religious leaders, security professional - and sites of narrative - the mine, the museum, and memoirs. The papers all focus on the various ways in which narratives are used in relation to violence, including discourses of climate change, counter-narratives of reintegration, colonial nostalgia and testimony. These factors play out in Africa in the context of colonial histories and environmental degradation that shape practices, forms of violence, and the memory of them. Drawing on a range of case studies from across the continent, the papers contribute to discussions about the intersecting nature of narratives of violence, struggle and possibility in Africa.

Track Classification: Africa and International Studies Working Group