

Southern Africa is currently undertaking significant transformations whose trajectory is affected by the legacy of colonialism, as well as by contradictory rural development policies aimed at strengthening local agriculture and rural livelihoods. Although with different characteristics, all of the countries in the region are implementing land reform programmes. Land policies draw heavily on a neoliberal framework, which currently informs two opposing and at the same time overlapping dynamics: on the one hand, processes of land grabbing by private and public sector actors, including local and national elites; on the other hand, policies aiming to strengthen smallholder agriculture and the recognition of customary rights to land. Both dynamics add layers of complexity to rural development implementation, including issues of food security in the countryside. Contextually, the contradictory impact of the radical land reform programme in Zimbabwe led to new debates conceptualising food security as food sovereignty. By using this analytical lens, the conference will discuss the impact of rural development policies on patterns of agrarian transformation through a number of themes, such as access to land and resources, food security, democratisation, the emergence of new conflicts and claims to land.

By expecting to stimulate broader attention on the topics of the research project PRIN "State, Plurality, Change in Africa", funded by the Italian Ministry of University, the international conference aims to discuss new research findings through a multidisciplinary perspective. Theoretical contributions, as well as new empirical research will provide critical and innovative views to elucidate long-term patterns of agrarian transformation in Southern Africa.

SEGRETERIA ORGANIZZATIVA

Davide Chinigò, Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche e Sociali, Strada Maggiore 45, Bologna, 0512092551, davide.chinigo@unibo.it



DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE POLITICHE E SOCIALI
CENTRO DIPARTIMENTALE DI STUDI STORICI E POLITICI SU AFRICA
E MEDIO ORIENTE
RIVISTA AFRICHE E ORIENTI

13 March 2015

Aula del Dipartimento di Sociologia e Diritto dell'Economia
Palazzo Hercolani, Strada Maggiore 45
Bologna



International workshop

THE NEW HARVEST

Agrarian Policies and Rural
Transformation in Southern Africa

9:00 Opening addresses

09:45 Morning session

**African peasantries:
between local and global transformations**

Chair: Pierluigi Valsecchi, University of Pavia

Mario Zamponi, University of Bologna
African peasantry and rural transformations in contemporary Southern Africa

Pauline Peters, Harvard University, Cambridge MA
Land policies, land laws and agricultural development in past and present challenges to rural livelihoods in Africa

Davide Chinigò, University of Bologna
Agrarian transformation, democratisation and land reclamation movements in Southern Malawi

João Carrilho, Observatório do Meio Rural, Maputo
Land law, power and rural development in post-independent Mozambique: some early thoughts

14:30 Afternoon session

**The new harvest:
between food security and land grabbing**

Chair: Federica Guazzini, University for Foreigners of Perugia

Carlos Oya, School of Oriental and African Studies, London
Contract farming, large-scale land deals and agrarian change in Africa

George Lwanda, United Nations Development Programme, Lusaka
Extracting development in Zambia: the potential role of the extractives sector in enhancing agricultural investments and food security

Emmanuel Sulle, Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, University of Western Cape
The implications of Tanzania's 'Agriculture First' initiative on food security and land grabbing

Gareth James, University of Edinburgh
The expansion of contract farming in Zimbabwe: causes, consequences, and implications for food security

