

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023



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# Meetings and exchanges

1

Organisation of an international seminar on the theme **"Museum Facing Slavery : Challenges of Reconciling Narratives on a Common Heritage"** from 11 to 16 April 2023 in the Island of La Reunion, Indian Ocean. The meeting organised in close collaboration with the International Coalition of Sites of Memory and the association Kartiyé Lib MPOI brought together around 30 scholars, museum and heritage professionals, managers of sites and places of memory, educators and creators from different regions of the world (Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Americas, the Caribbean, Europe). They analysed existing experiences and practices on the representation and interpretation of slavery and discuss new approaches and methodologies for transforming museums into places of democratic debate, resilience, healing and reconciliation.

[Click here to see the report of the seminar here.](#)



2

Organization of a series of meetings and exchanges with Global African museum and heritage professionals and scholars in five Southeast States (Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, Tennessee,) and two Western States (Arizona and Nevada) from 2 to 29 October 2023, in close collaboration with the organisation Roots and Reconnection. This tour, which is part of AFROSPECTIVES's initiative to develop a Handbook on New Approaches in Interpreting and Representing Slavery and African History in Museum and Public Spaces, allowed to visit some new slavery museums recently created in the USA (International African American Museum in Charleston, Legacy Museum in Montgomery), memorials and sites of memory related to Global Africa experiences. Possibilities of partnership have been discussed with some American museum (see below)

3

Co-organisation of an international symposium on the theme **“Understanding Spiritual Harm and Healing related to Slavery and Colonisation”** in Oxford, UK from 13 to 14 December 2023, in close collaboration with the Global Humanity for Peace Institute at University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Fetzer Institute, and Guerrand-Hermès Foundation. This meeting was followed by another symposium on the same issue that was held in Richmond, Virginia, USA, from 18 to 19 January 2024 to pursue the discussions.



# Representation and Promotion of AFROSPECTIVES

4

Participation in a Twitter Space organised on 20 March 2023 by the Association **ISONOMIA**, an African Youth Collective, to present the concept of Global Africa and AFROSPECTIVES' work on endogenous systems of governance. A second debate is planned in October 2024 to discuss the commonalities and differences between Native American and African systems of governance and justice. [\[LINK\]](#)

5

Participation in the **"2nd Conference on Dialogue Between Chinese and African Civilizations: Chinese Modernization and Africa's Development Path Agenda"** organized from 16 to 17 May 2023 by the China-Africa Institute in Beijing. AFROSPECTIVES's presentation discussed the role of scholars in the development of a new and progressive China-Africa research agenda to be implemented in order to build balanced and sustainable development of this partnership.

6

Lecture at the African Studies Center, Peking University on 18 May 2023 on the issue **"Demographic Projections and Multicultural Challenges Optional or a Necessity ?"** AFROSPECTIVES's presentation discussed the profound demographic changes to come, and the challenges raised by world-wide migrations and their impacts modern societies.

7

Participation in the third UNESCO Web Series on the theme **"Healing through Transforming Narratives in Public Spaces"** organised on 15 June 2023 by Global Humanity for Peace Institute in partnership with UNESCO, AFROSPECTIVES and Armah Institute of Emotional Justice.



8

Participation in an international conference on the theme **“Climate Change, Cultural Adaptation and Global Warming Mitigation. Do Africa and Africans Matter?”** organized by the Chinese Academy of Social Science on 5 July 2023 in Beijing. AFROSPECTIVES’s presentation outlined the high improbability of the implementation for Africa of the decisions taken during the UN Climate Change Conference COP27 in November 2022.

9

Participation in the Caux Forum from 17 to 24 July 2023 in Caux, Switzerland, to present a paper on **“Global Africa’s Perspectives of History, Cultural Heritage and Development”**. The Forum brought together this year around 550 participants from 72 countries. It is a well know gathering organised annually by the Initiatives of Change (IofC), a world-wide community of people of diverse cultures and backgrounds, who are committed to the transformation of society through changes in human motives and behaviour, starting with their own. AFROSPECTIVES’s work has been presented at various sessions and exchanges with representatives of participating organisations from Africa, Asia and Caribbean.

10

Participation in a Web conference on 9 September 2023 on the theme **“Endogenous Knowledge and African Modernity”** organised with HUMANITAS, The Africana Ethical Society, an organization that encourages intellectual and scientific exchanges on Africana community development, human solidarity, education, mental health and spiritual striving. AFROSPECTIVES was asked par HUMANITAS to animate a second Web conference in January 2024 on the theme **“Global Ecological Crisis: Revisiting the Wisdom of Endogenous Cosmogonies and Ontologies”**

11

Lecture at the China-Africa Institute, Beijing on 12 September 2023 to examine the process of accessing the status of UNESCO World Heritage Site and their long term implication, compare the Chinese and Senegalese practices and experience, and outline what kind of collaboration can be implemented in this area.

12

Participation in a conference on **“Enhancing International Understanding in Promotion of Global Peace and Development”** organized by Beijing Foreign Studies University, on 16 September. 2023. AFROSPECTIVES’s paper presented the African Union’s Agenda ‘The Africa We Want’ as a Genuine platform for Africa’s partnership with China and other development partners

13

Participation in the launching of the **Ubuntu Climate Initiative** organised by Emerald Cities Collaborative in Atlanta, USA from 2 to 5 October 2023. AFROSPECTIVE’s presentation discussed the potential of endogenous wisdoms and practices in addressing ecological crisis and climate change.

# Publications

14

Preparation of an edited book on **“Out of Mimicry: Potential of African Endogenous Visions of Governance”** to be published end 2024 by the famous publishing House De Gruyter. It will be the first publication of an AFROSPECTIVES Series on this issue.

15

Preparation of a Handbook on **“New Approaches in Interpreting and Representing Slavery and African History in Museums and Public Spaces”** to be published end 2024, in partnership with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. It will be the second publication of AFROSPECTIVES Series.



# Partnership

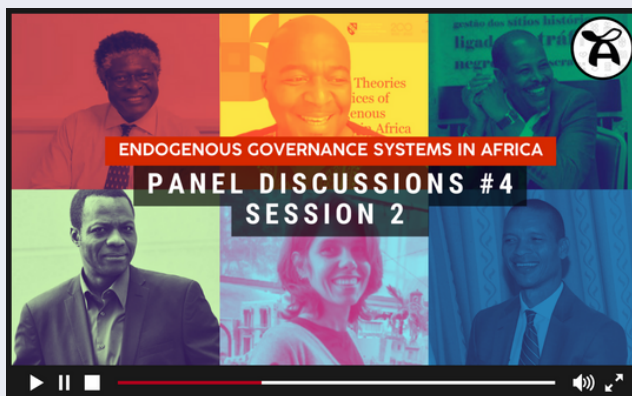
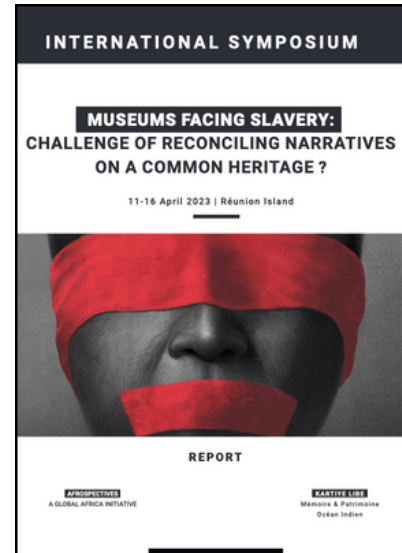
Promising discussions have been engaged with the following institutions which expressed their interest to establish partnership with AFROSPECTIVES:

- **The Peace and Justice Memorial Centre** ( Montgomery, Alabama, USA): on the collaboration in the publication, promotion and distribution of the Handbook on Museum
- **The International African American Museum** ( Charleston, Tennessee, USA): on the collaboration in the promotion and education about African perspectives of African History
- **The State of Virginia and Richmond City Council:** on the organisation of a validation meeting on the Handbook on Museum
- **The Centre of African Studies, Howard university** : on the organisation of a series of exchanges to deepen the reflection on spiritual harm, healing and emancipation in Global Africa
- **International Coalition of Sites of Conscience:** on the development of the Handbook and organisation of a series of training sessions for museum and heritage professionals
- **The China World Peace Foundation:** on the organisation of an international seminar on the Ancient Relations between Africa and China
- **Ubuntu Climate Initiative** on the preparation of an Educational Curriculum integrating African foundational knowledge, perspectives and world-views.



# Communications

- A brochure in English and French was produced and distributed during the various events in which AFROSPECTIVES participated. [\[Link here\]](#)
- AFROSPECTIVES's website is regularly updated and enriched with the reports of meetings, articles from its members, video and audio about various events. Around 200 to 250 persons visits each month the website. [\[Link here\]](#)
- AFROSPECTIVES's Youtube Channel has gotten 69400 views so far and has 575 subscribers. [\[Link here\]](#)





**THANKS**

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