

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](mailto: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*

