



AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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**TITLE: AFRICAN AGENCY AND COLONIAL EDUCATION.
EDUCATION AS A DRIVER FOR SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL MOBILITY**

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ABSTRACT: Africa has long and lively traditions of education, of both formal and informal kinds, the models and contents designed to fit African realities. With the expansion of European presence on the continent, new educational models were introduced. In many respects, Western education, with its values and knowledge mainly developed in a Western context, has had more profound impacts on African societies than any other colonial legacy. Conventionally, colonial education has been represented through a victim perspective, with the Africans as passive subject to its impacts and ramifications. The aim of this panel is to explore and understand the complex range of African responses and actions to the changing scenes of education.

In this perspective the role of African agency in the field of education is crucial to understand processes of social and territorial mobility in the colonial and post-colonial Africa.

CONVENORS ACADEMIC PROFILE:

Christine Smith-Simonsen is currently the Director of the Centre for Peace Studies at the University of Tromsø. She holds a PhD in African history. She is familiar with Eritrea through studies both at MA and doctoral level. Her doctoral thesis was on Norwegian relations to Eritrea, while her MA thesis dealt with the case in point; education in colonial Eritrea.

Uoldelul Chelati Dirar teaches African History in the Department of Political Sciences, Communication and International Relations at the University of Macerata. Historian by training, he has dealt mainly with the history of the Horn of Africa, particularly Eritrea, during colonial times. His research interests focus on the processes of elite formation and on the development of nationalisms in the Horn of Africa