



IA St-Louis

Institut d'Etudes avancées de Saint-Louis, Senegal
A Centre of Excellence for Thinking Africa and the World

IEA, SAINT-LOUIS, SENEGAL: AIM AND STRATEGIC AREAS FOR 2018-2020

The Institute for Advanced Studies (IEA) in Saint Louis, Senegal, is a citizen initiative for:

- Promoting culture, science and research in Africa;
- Contributing to strengthen Africa's position in the world by mobilizing its Intelligentsia and promoting fruitful and critical dialogue with other thinkers across the world;
- Bridging the gap between Africa's Intelligentsia and decision makers for more effective integration of research results in Africa's development;
- Creating a forum for African researchers of different generations to share experience for excellence and innovation.

IEA is a scientific and cultural association registered under licence number N°18573/MINT/DGAT/DLP/DLA-PA on 15 December 2017. It offers a research centre for resident researchers with research topics within the premise of the Institute's programmes. IEA is open to researchers, academics, artists, writers and practitioners who are committed to innovation and a novel critique of dogmas and paradigms. It seeks to contribute in the renewal of social, political, economic and cultural thinking in Africa and the world, paying attention to individual convictions and the academic freedom for critique and creativity.

I- IEA Saint-Louis: A pathway to enter West Africa and connect with the world

IEA is located 279 km north of Dakar in the dynamic urban city of Saint-Louis which novelist Ousmane Socé Diop described as "the centre of Senegalese elegance and taste". Saint-Louis is an Island surrounded by two arms of River Senegal on the borders of the Atlantic Ocean. In terms of culture, Saint Louis is a very lively city with a picturesque and calm side that is conducive to writing and research retreats.

IEA Saint Louis is already recruiting research fellows from Senegal and several countries in the region, including Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Gabon. IEA belongs to several academic exchange networks that encompass institutions in Europe, Asia, and North and South America.

The goal is to contribute in renewing social, political, economic and cultural thinking in Africa and the world, with due respect for individual convictions and the academic freedom for critique and creativity.

IEA Saint-Louis symbolizes Senegal and Africa's aspiration to join the chain of "centres of excellence for thinking the world" which are now mushrooming across continents. They represent a mobilized intelligentsia participating actively in debates over major African and global development issues to foster the emergence of a new humanity. The IEA Saint-Louis initiative is part of a network of like-minded institutions engaged, across different parts of the world, in promoting excellence and prospective and innovative thinking, while at the same time challenging the cultural pillars of various societies across the world. The network is made up of Institutes of Advanced Studies in the United States of America (Princeton, Stanford, Harvard and North Carolina), Europe (Berlin, Uppsala, Wassenaar and Nantes) and the Middle East (Jerusalem).

IEA Saint Louis draws on institutions like WIKO in Berlin (Germany) and IEA in Nantes (France) which promote excellence and innovation in research. But IEA Saint Louis differs from the other institutions by its unique position in francophone Africa. The main difference lies in its program for forging a pluralistic New Africa based on the continent's ontological, epistemological and axiological particularities which come from its precolonial and colonial history, internal heterogeneities and entanglements, and interconnections with other regions overseas.

We aim to work systematically on theoretical approaches derived from African realities. In doing so, IEA Saint Louis builds on an idea that Joseph Ki Zerbo expressed metaphorically as "weaving" a new "mat" for African scholarship to sit on, instead of continuing to import mats from Europe and America. We, in Saint Louis, will use materials from around the world to weave this new mat for a pluralistic New Africa that bears a pluralistic outlook on the New World.

II- A three-tier governance system

IEA Saint Louis' administrative bodies comprise a Board of Trustees, a Scientific Committee, and a Strategy Committee. The Board of Trustees includes members of the IEA Saint Louis Association gathered in the organization's regular bodies. The Board of Trustees sets the direction for work in the administrative bodies, which, in turn, set up commissions based on requirements in the activities they conduct.

The Scientific Committee advises IEA's executive branch on research topics, programmes and the researchers to select. The Committee comprises individuals recognised by peers in their respective areas of research, science, arts and literature and any other sector that reinforces IEA's credibility and performance. The Strategy Committee supports IEA's administrative bodies in their institutional development, choice of direction in the medium and long term, resource mobilization and partnership building. The Strategy Committee includes eminent personalities known for their moral integrity and commitment to research, science, sustainable development and influence for Africa. IEA Saint Louis welcomes all those willing to help it achieve its goals and programmes.

III- Strategic areas and activity programme (2018-2020)

For the 2018-2020 cycle, seven strategic areas will inform programme delivery to achieve IEA Saint Louis goals and fulfil its ambition.

1. Facilitating intellectual and cultural life by organizing an IEA Saint Louis Major Lecture Series.

A breakdown of the lecture series is as follows:

- IEA Inaugural Lecture on “Saint-Louis, Senegal, a Centre of Excellence for thinking Africa and the World”, to be delivered in December 2018 by Professor Djibril Samb
- Lecture on “Youth and Culture”, to be delivered on 4th February 2019 by Amadou Tidiane Wone, writer, in tribute to Hamidou Dia, philosopher, writer and poet (1953-2018)
- Lecture on “Do Sahel countries have a future?”, to be delivered in May 2019 by Professor Alioune Sall
- Lecture on “Feminism in Senegal: past and future”, to be delivered in December 2019 by Marie Angélique Savané and Fatoumata Sow
- Lecture on “African Cultures in Latin America”, to be delivered in December 2019 by Professor José Burucua
- Lecture on “Africa and Global Antiquity”, to be delivered in December 2019 by Professor Babacar Diop Buuba
- Lecture on “Youth and the Demographic Dividend in the Sahel”, to be delivered in February 2020 by Mr. Mabingue Ngom
- Lecture on “Water and Migration in the Sahel”, to be delivered in May 2019 by Professor Isaïe Dougnon
- Lecture on “African graduates and decolonization”, to be delivered in December 2020 by Professor Pascale Barthélémy

2. Opening forums for exchange between researchers, practitioners, artists, and men and women of letters in the form of national and international colloquiums, conferences and workshops. To trigger these exchanges, deconstruct dogmas and prejudices, and promote innovation and creativity, IEA Saint-Louis organises seminars, colloquiums and conferences for researchers and practitioners from different geographic regions and disciplines to develop and reinforce knowledge and skills in African societies so that they experience accelerated economic and societal transformations.

The conference, seminar and colloquium series include:

- The International conference on “Globalization, national languages and Development in Africa”, to be organised on 4 - 6 December 2018 in tribute to two pioneers of African linguistics: Arame Fall and Pathé Diagne.
- The Global History Network’s International Conference on “Colonial Cities in Global Perspective”, set for 8 - 10 December 2018
- The International Conference on “Between the local and the global, biography as an approach to microhistory”, set for February 2019

- The Volkswagen Foundation Fellows conference on “Knowledge for Tomorrow”, set for May 2019
 - The International Conference on “Myths of Founding African Cities: Saint-Louis in Senegal, Abidjan in Côte d’Ivoire”, set for December 2019
 - The colloquium on and private view of the works of Anta Germaine Gaye, painter, set for December 2019
 - The International conference on “Youth, mobility and pastoralism in the Sahel”, set for February 2020
 - The International conference on “The challenges of feeding and nutrition in Africa”, set for May 2020
 - The International conference on “Youth employment, Vocational Training and Sustainable Development in West Africa”, set for May 2020
 - The International conference on “Women, Entrepreneurship and Communication for Development in Africa”, set for December 2020
3. Conducting research programmes on a diverse range of strategic themes relating to major development issues and the history of African societies (2018-2020):
- Research on “African colonial employees”. This research project aims at paying more attention to African colonial employees whose contribution in the functioning of the Colonial rule has been largely neglected by the scholars. This Project is a collaborative work which involves the Stanford Center for African Studies, The FASTER/UCAD, the Directorate of the National Archives of Senegal and the IEA Saint-Louis.
 - Research programme on “Youth employment, vocational training and sustainable development in West Africa”
 - Research programme on “Women, entrepreneurship and communication for development in Africa”
 - Research programme on Great African Figures: Ibrahima Sarr, Trade Unionist and Minister of the Civil Service; Macodou Ndiaye, Member of Parliament and Mayor of Saint Louis in Senegal; El Hadji Madior Cisse, Officer of the Court and Religious Leader; Abdoulaye Diaw, Colonial Administrator; Amadou Fall “Damel”, Administrative Clerk.
 - The Rewriting Jolof History Project: In reviewing Senegalese history writing, we deemed it important to re-examine the sources used so far to write the history of this part of Senegal. One could make a caricature of the situation by saying the tyranny of peanut farming conditioned the types of privileged sources used! But a bottom-up approach to various communities in Senegal shows that the Jolof region’s sylvo-pastoral economy, just like the rice-based civilization in the South, experienced the tyranny of peanut farming and were often studied through the lens of the Wolof model. Our project seeks to rethink this model by conducting a regressive exercise that uses biography as a microhistorical approach to this dominant model for rewriting the history of this part of Senegal! Five figures have been selected in the initial phase, namely: Ardo Sassi Sow, native chief; Sidy Ndiaye, teacher; Bocar Boydo, teacher; Tuube (viceroy) Mbaba Nguy Ndiaye, who served in this capacity during the reigns of

Jolof Kings including Alhuri Ndiaye, Samba Laobe Fall and Buuna Alhuri Ndiaye; and Farba (Chief of the Armed Forces) Mayeebe Fall.

4. Offering capacity building programmes for PhD students, executives and officers in development organisations and programmes:

- Organising summer institutes for PhD students in 2018, 2019 and 2020
- Customized training for officials in the public sector, private sector and NGOs to improve their performance in managing the programmes of these institutions: November 2018; April 2019 and April 2020.

5. Hosting resident researchers, academics, artists, writers and practitioners with innovative projects. To encourage researcher mobility and young talents from Africa, IEA Saint-Louis is setting up a research centre for residents with research topics in synergy with the Institute's programmes. It hosts researchers, academics, artists, writers and practitioners committed to innovation and the critique of dogmas and paradigms.

- Hosting batches of 5 resident researchers per year from 2019
- Hosting research associates upon request as from September 2018

The residency period for researchers or research "fellows" will be from one to six months, depending on the availability of resources. For each resident researcher the Centre hosts, a residency agreement will be drawn up to set out the contractual conditions and obligations of both parties: IEA Saint-Louis and the "Fellow".

6. Establishing platforms for dialogue between researchers, innovators, decision makers, public policy officials and local communities.

To promote the mainstreaming of research results and innovation, IEA Saint-Louis is opening forums for dialogue between researchers, writers, poets, thinkers, decision makers, public policy officials, and local communities to contribute in improving development programmes and policies. A series of meetings between researchers and decision makers will be organised once a year as from 2019.

7. Initiating a dynamic publishing programme that uses a range of different mediums: books, brochures, newsletters, websites (www.iea-saintlouis.sn) and social media. An agreement is going to be signed with Senegal's Harmattan Publishing Company in October 2018 to disseminate the proceedings of conferences, colloquiums and major conferences.

8. Building partnerships

The Institute of Advanced Studies (IEA) in Saint Louis, Senegal will forge partnerships with institutions that share a common mission or can support IEA in its institutional development. The first institutions identified are:

- Université Gaston Berger in Saint-Louis, Senegal, particularly Senegal's research and documentation centre, research and training laboratories, and the central library;

- The school inspectorate in Saint-Louis;
- The Institut Supérieur de Management and the Forum de Saint-louis
- The Gandon Commune in the Saint-Louis Region
- Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal
- National Directorate of Archives in Senegal;
- The Institut d'Etudes Avancées in Nantes, France;
- The Fondation des Maisons des Sciences de l'Homme in Paris, France;
- The Centre for African Studies at the University of Bayreuth, Germany;
- The Center for African Studies, Stanford University, California, USA;
- The Centre for International Education, Nazareth College, Rochester, New York, USA

IV – Ways of funding IEA Saint-Louis and its activities from 2018 to 2020

There are several sources of funding for the Association and its activities:

1. Programmes proposed and accepted by IEA
2. Subscriptions from IEA members
3. Receipts from the services offered by IEA
4. Income earned from selling IEA publications
1. Contributions from well-meaning people who are willing to make contributions or donations to IEA
5. Grants or donations from public and/or private institutions that wish to support IEA in discharging its missions and activities

These ways of funding can be presented on various terms:

- Funding for the Association can come from IEA public or private partner institutions:
 1. Institutions that award a grant to IEA
 2. Institutions that fund IEA research programmes
 3. Institutions that offer IEA funding to host resident researchers
 4. Institutions that solicit IEA support to host a research programme
 5. Institutions that entrust IEA with duties within its competencies
 6. Researchers and PhD students seeking IEA membership and residency
- Funding for the Association is based in part on the network of IEA friends:

These are guest families that offer accommodation in their homes to enable IEA to provide housing to resident researchers and participants in the institution's activities.



The IEA Building located in the Southern of the dynamic urban city of Saint-Louis, Senegal