

Theoretical and practical aspects of East European development aid to Africa during the Cold War era

University of Warsaw, 20-21 November 2025



Source: New East Archive (<https://www.new-east-archive.org>)

Thursday, November 20

Auditorium Maximum, aula D

ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28

10.00 – 10.15 | Opening remarks

10.15 – 11.30 | Multilateralism, regional cooperation, and Socialist bilateralism

MICHAEL TSHINYALANI KHOROMBI (Stellenbosch University), *Competing Solidarities: Eastern European Aid Rivalries and African Agency under the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (1961–1988)*

BARBORA BUZÁSSYOVÁ (Slovak Academy of Sciences), *Trading Solidarity: Czechoslovakia, UNESCO and Educational Aid to sub-Saharan Africa from the 1960s and beyond*

Moderator: ANNA KONIECZNA (University of Warsaw)

11.30 – 11.50 | Coffee break

11.50 – 13.00 | Organisation of expertise, flow of knowledge, experts

TJAŠA KONOVSĚK (Institute of Contemporary History, Ljubljana), *Tracing solidarity and development: origins, activities and transformation of the Centre for the Study and Cooperation of Yugoslavia with Developing Countries (1966–1973)*

FILIP URBAŃSKI (University of Warsaw) “*Polish experts as the best export goods*” – *locating experts from Poland in Central and Southern Africa in the years 1960–1989.*

Moderator: PRZEMYSŁAW GASZTOLD (War Studies University; Institute of National Remembrance, Warsaw)

13.10-14.30 | Lunch break

14.30 – 16.00 | Ideology, political regimes and development aid

CHRISTOPHER LASH (Łazarski University, Warsaw), *Polish approaches to development in Francophone West Africa from 1960-1989 in theory and in practice*

DOMNICA GOROVEI (University of Bucharest), *Exporting Development, Projecting Socialism: Romania and Upper Volta/Burkina Faso (1960-1980)*

GABRIEL ZVÎNCĂ (Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca), *Helping Others to Benefit Yourself. Romania's Aid Policy in Africa during the Cold War*

Moderator: JĘDRZEJ CZEREP (Polish Institute of International Relations)

16.00 – 16.20 | Coffee break

16.20 – 17.30 | Eastern Europe and Ghana

PRZEMYSŁAW GASZTOLD (War Studies University; Institute of National Remembrance, Warsaw), *Trade, Development and Socialism: Polish-Ghanian Economic Relations, 1957–1966*

JAN KOURA (Charles University, Prague; Czech Academy of Sciences), *Between Modernization and Dependency: Czechoslovak Agricultural Assistance to Nkrumah's Ghana*

Moderator: PIOTR PUCHALSKI (UKEN)

Friday, 21 November

Old Library of the University of Warsaw (Stary BUW), room 308

ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28

10.00 – 11.10 | Socialist models of development in a comparative perspective

BARBORA MENCLOVÁ (Charles University), *Contesting Modernization of the West: Czechoslovakia in Cold War Angola and Mozambique*

SIMON HUXTABLE (University of London), *Schools for Solidarity: The Socialist Developmental Model and the Training of African Journalists, c.1960-1970.*

Moderator: BARBORA BUZÁSSYOVÁ (Slovak Academy of Sciences)

11.10– 11.30 | Coffee break

11.30– 12.40 | Eastern European Development Aid and Local Perspective

SARAH HOWARD (University of Bristol), *Socialist childcare between Ethiopia and Eastern Europe from 1974*

SAIBU ISRAEL ABAYOMI and OLAWALE ESTHER ABIOLA (Anchor University, Lagos), *Socialist Solidarity and Postcolonial Aspirations: Eastern European Aid to Nigeria during the Cold War and Competing Concepts of Development*

Chair: FILIP URBAŃSKI (University of Warsaw)

12.40 – 13.00 | Conclusions

13.00 – 14.00 | Lunch