

THURSDAY 17 03 22

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (Full day of case studies and workshops)

AFRICAMUSEUM (Leuvensesteenweg 13, 3080 Tervuren) & online

09:30 – 09:40

Welcome speech by Guido Gryseels (AfricaMuseum)

09:40 – 09:50

Welcome speech by Eva Bialek (EUROPALIA Arts Festival)

09:50 – 10:40

Keynote Lecture: Aymar Nyenyezi Bisoka (Université de Mons, Belgium) - **in FRENCH**

Trains, railways and mobility in Africa: (post)colonial and necropolitical times.

SESSION 1: Demarcating Territories and Crossing Borders

Railway lines are intricately linked to the ‘Scramble for Africa’ and hence the power play of demarcating distinct territories on the continent. As crucial instruments of extractive economies, both in the past and the present, railways, by default, often cross the borders of these delineated territories, thereby triggering transnational mobilities of people, goods and ideas.

10:45 – 11:05

Mathilde Leduc-Grimaldi (AfricaMuseum, Belgium)

‘Without the railway, the State cannot thrive’ (Stanley, June 1885): The Railroad at the Threshold of the Belgian Move in Congo.

11:05 – 11:25

Giulia Scotto (University of Basel, Switzerland)

Zambia, Tanzania, China, and their “Freedom railway”.

11:25 – 11:45

Q&A with audience + respondent **Monika Motylinska** (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space, Erkner, Germany)



INTERVENTION 1

11:45 – 12:15

Intervention by artist in residence **Alexandre Kyungu Mwilambwe** (Kinshasa, DR Congo, in residence at WIELS) in conversation with **Anne Wetsi Mpoma** - in **FRENCH**

12:15 – 13:30

Lunch break by Bistro Tembo

SESSION 2: Linear Dynamics and Local Disruptions

The back and forth movement of trains on tracks in Africa engendered dynamics and disruptions all along the railway lines. Due to linear patterns of maintenance and operation, adjacent lands were incorporated in the machinery of railway logistics. Even today, repair shops, hospitals and even dust clouds can be interpreted to be the direct material debris of this operation. However, these railway lines did not only impact those places directly linked to their operation. All localities touched by the railway were confronted with, for instance, new economic opportunities or the disruption of existing settlement patterns.

13:30 – 13:50

David Drengk (TU Darmstadt, Germany) **ONLINE**

Coping with disruptions: The role of maintenance and repair work in the everyday railway life of Southern Ivory Coast.

13:50 – 14:10

Shehu Tijjani Yusuf (Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria) **ONLINE**

Lived Experience and Responses to Railway Technology in Gimi, Dangora and Madobi Villages in Northern Nigeria, 1908-1967.

14:10 – 14:30

Charline Kopf (University of Oslo, Norway)

Maintaining railway lives and lines: Working bodies and toxic dust in a Senegalese railway depot.

14:30 – 14:50

Q&A with audience + respondent: **Jonathan Cane** (University of Warwick, UK) **ONLINE**

14:50 – 15:15

Coffee break



INTERVENTION 2

15:15 – 15:45

Intervention by artist in residence **Arnaud Makalou** (Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, in residence at the AfricaMuseum) in conversation with **Anne Wetsi Mpoma** - in **FRENCH**

SESSION 3: Lived realities in a productive landscape

While the impact of a railway line can be most vividly sensed in those places where a train can hurtle past at any moment, railway connections also brought new economic contexts about in the territories they cut through. All sorts of colonial companies were established in their wake, including ones cultivating cash crops, ones producing building materials or even electricity. Life in these new productive landscapes, be it in labour camps, preexisting villages or burgeoning cities, often synchronized itself to the rhythm of these new economic activities.

15:45 – 16:20

Conversation between historians Benoît Henriët (Free University Brussels (VUB), Belgium) and **Donatien Dibwe dia Mwembu** (Université de Lubumbashi, DR Congo) - in **FRENCH**

Railway in the Congo: cultures and modern lives in Lubumbashi and Lusanga, past and present.

16:20 – 16:40

Q&A with audience + respondent: **Gillian Mathys** (Ghent University, Belgium)

INTERVENTION 3

16:40 – 17:10

Chao Tayiana Maina (African Digital Heritage, Kenya) in conversation with **Anne Wetsi Mpoma**

FINAL DISCUSSION

17:10 – 17:30

Closing statements by curators and Q&A

17:30 – 18:30

Meet & drink

