



AFRICA DAY

MEMORIAL LECTURE

Peacebuilding in Africa: Challenges, Trends and Futures



WEDNESDAY
16:00

22

MAY
2024

Venue: **E0014, Education building**

Live streaming: <https://livestream.ufs.ac.za>

Speaker: Prof Ismail Rashid

(Marion Musser Lloyd '32 Chair of History and
International Relations, Vassar College)

Abstract

What would it take to build durable and meaningful peace in postcolonial Africa? Since the 1960s African countries have struggled with overcoming the encumbrances of European colonialism, holding together the fissiparous interests and forces within their territories, containing the destabilizing influences and pressures of external actors, and establishing stable and peaceful environments for the majority of their peoples to fulfill their needs and aspirations. This struggle has been made even harder by the intense political conflicts and large-scale social violence that many African countries have experienced especially in the wake of the collapse of the bipolar Cold War world order from the 1990s onwards. The shift from outdated ideas and notions of peacekeeping and peacemaking to those newer ones of peacebuilding and humanitarianism offered new possibilities for conflicted-affected African countries to establish more stable and durable polities. However, the implementation and outcomes of this newer peacebuilding process in Africa have turned out to be of limited efficacy and disappointing. African scholars and activists have been rightly critical of the neoliberal ideological considerations that have shaped the peacebuilding process and practices in many African countries. They have offered instead insightful methodological, interpretative, and policy approaches that are worth engaging by all invested in building stable and durable peace in Africa.

Short Biography

Ismail Rashid is the Marion Musser Lloyd 32' Professor of History and International Relations at Vassar College. He received his PhD in African History from McGill University. He has written extensively on anticolonial resistance, public health, youth and conflict and peacebuilding in Africa. Among his recent publications are *West Africa's Security Challenges* (2004 with Adekeye Adebajo), *The Paradox of History and Memory in Postcolonial Sierra Leone* (2013) (with Sylvia Ojukutu-Macauley) and *Understanding West Africa's Ebola Epidemic: Towards a Political Economy* (2017) (with Ibrahim Abdullah) and *Researching Peacebuilding in Africa* (2020) (with Amy Niang) and co-editing of a special issue of *African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review* (2023) titled "Twenty Years after the Sierra Leone Civil War."

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