

# **Failed Futures? Revisiting Tanzania's Colonial and Post-colonial Planning and Future-making Trajectories**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**

**Venue: University of Dar es Salaam,**

**Organizers: Frank Edward, Veronica Kimani, Ulrike Lindner, Musa Sadock**

## **1. Abstract**

Future-making and future planning as social practices are strongly related to the surrounding society's political structures and power relations. In this workshop we would like to focus on Tanzania, having been colonised first by Germany, being then under a British mandate and attempting after independence to further the African socialist dream of *Ujamaa* and self-reliance. Thus, it seems to be a highly compelling case for the analysis of future-making, of the grand expectations as well as the failed futures of that colonial and postcolonial history.

In the German era, Tanzania was to be developed into the most important and economically relevant colony of the German Empire, but the policy of *mise-en-valeur* with a constant rising of taxes and the forced cultivation of cash crops brought the devastating Maji-Maji war with around 300.000 African victims. Under the British mandate in the 1920s "colonial development" became the new catchword. However, with insubstantial resources hardly any new policies were implemented. Still, many plans and aspects of the late British colonial development policy, often judged as necessary modernisation, were taken over by the postcolonial government led by President Julius Nyerere and the TANU party, despite their new focus on African self-reliance. In combination with strong imperial legacies, the future-making process was not necessarily without hurdles which oftentimes necessitated detours, delays, disconnections and failures.

In this workshop, we would like to connect the notion of "failed futures" with Ann Laura Stoler's idea of "imperial debris" - the "protracted imperial processes" and "the uneven durabilities of colonialism" as she specifies it. She asks us to pay attention, especially to the arrested and failed futures of a (post)colonial world, be it segregated cityscapes, the long and problematic social afterlife of colonial and imperial institutions or the literal ruins of development projects. Also, diverging concepts of time, imaginations of deferral and backwardness play an important role in (post)colonial future-making.

Therefore, this workshop aims to reflect on how futures were imagined, designed, and how imperial and colonial structures shaped future-making leading to the production of such arrested and failed futures. Thus, the workshop generally aims at revisiting the future-making process in Tanzania in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It will look at different groups of actors and how they used their claims of power to plan futures and assess how the process was negotiated and appropriated in the following broad themes:

1. Social policy, including health policies and education
2. Infrastructure, mobility,
3. Ujamaa, self-reliance, villagization – party politics in Tanzania
4. Institutions, transnationalism, external influence
5. Responses from local people towards government projects, agriculture, irrigation, mining etc
6. The role of culture in nation-building

## 2. Presenters (in alphabetical order)

Andrea Azizi Kifyasi  
David Anderson  
Emma Minja  
Frank Edward  
Jono Jackson  
Luoneko Kaduma  
Max Chuhila  
Musa Sadock  
Ulrike Lindner  
Veronica Kimani

## 3. Programme

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March /Venue: University of Dar-es-Salaam at the Chancellors Chamber

9:00–9:15	Arrival
9:15-9:30	Introduction (Ulrike Lindner)
Session 1	<b>The concept of Ujamaa and rural infrastructure developments in Tanzania: Plans and responses of people</b> <b>(Chair: Veronica Kimani )</b>
9:30–9:40	Max Chuhila (University of Dar es Salaam) <i>Ujamaa</i> unimagined: Experiences from development villages in Iringa and Kilombero districts ca.1960s – 1980s.
9:40–9:50	Jono Jackson (University of Cologne) Sold Down the River: Colonialism, Canoes, and the Waterways of the Kilombero Valley;
9:50-10:00	Comments by Veronica on Max’s and Jono’s paper
10:00-10:30	Discussion
10:30-11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
Session 2	<b>Transnationalism, Grand-scale Infrastructure Planning and Failures</b> <b>Chair: Ulrike Lindner</b>
11:00-11:10	Emma Minja (University of Bonn) Transnationalism and Hydropower Imagination in Tanzania: The Case of Stiegler’s Gorge Project, 1960s-1980s
11:10-11:20	David Anderson (University of Warwick) Imagined Futures in Tanzania’s Rural Development: The Rise (and Fall?) of SAGCOT.

11:20-11:30	Comments by Ulrike on David's and Emma's paper
11:30-12:00	Discussion
12.00-13.00	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Social Policy Planning - Health and Healing Systems (Chair: Musa Sadock)</b>
13:00-13:10	Frank Edward and Ulrike Lindner (UDSM and UoC) Health Infrastructure Futures in Tanzania, 1964-1995.
13:10-13:20	Andrew Kifyasi (UDSM) Tanzania's Self-reliance Paradoxes: The Case of State-Owned Pharmaceutical Industries, 1960s-1990s
13:20-13:30	Comments by Musa on Frank/Ulrike's and Andrew's paper
13:30-14:00	Discussion
14:00-14:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Rural Developments in Tanzania's Health System from the colonial to the postcolonial period (Chair: Frank Edward)</b>
14:30-14:40	Luoneko Kaduma (University of Cologne) Failed Futures: Protestant Missionaries Healthcare Interventions in Colonial South-west
14:40-14:50	Veronica Kimani (University of Cologne) Traditional Midwifery in Tanzania: Navigating Legacies and Shaping Futures.
14:50-15:00	Musa Sadock (University of Dar es Salaam) Prevention is better than cure: smallpox vaccination and Ujamaa in Tanzania, 1967-1980
15:00-15:15	Comments by Frank on Luoneko's, Veronica's and Musa's paper

15:15-16:00	Discussion
16:00-16:15	<b>Break</b>
16:15-17:00	Discussion of publication technicalities, agreement of schedule for publication
17:00 End of Workshop	