

**Update: The *Africa Knows!* conference will be corona-proof!**

**After consultations between Leiden University, Haagse Hogeschool (The Hague University of Applied Sciences) and NUFFIC, and based on an agreement with all other co-organisers, we have decided to adjust the *Africa Knows!* conference to the new COVID-19 circumstances.<sup>1</sup> In this update we will summarise the most important changes.**

1. Instead of a three-day 50-panel conference in The Hague on 2-4 December 2020, we will have a smaller mixed starting event on 2-3 December, and a sequence of decentralised, mixed virtual and physical panel meetings between 2 December 2020 and 28 February 2021.
2. The decentralised three-month conference will be a hybrid one: combining physical and virtual activities, in different combinations per panel. There will be about 50 panels, see [www.africaknows.eu](http://www.africaknows.eu).
3. The starting event will include a two-day 'physical' activity in The Hague University of Applied Sciences on 2-3 December, that will also be accessible virtually.
4. Each panel will get a time slot during the three month period (either a morning or an afternoon, or two sessions per afternoon).
  - a. It can be a completely virtual panel session, making use of the virtual tools available to the panel convenors (and acceptable for their institutions). Or:
  - b. It can be a mixed activity, with a core group of people physically coming together in a venue decided by the convenors, and others attending virtually. Convenors can indicate when they would like to have their meeting and what will be the main (central) venue (we suppose: where the main convenor is located).
  - c. This means there will be ca 50 'mini-conferences', partly organised from Africa, partly from the Netherlands and partly from elsewhere in Europe. The time slots will be known before 1 November at the latest.
  - d. There will be a video (livestream) screening of the actual panel meeting (also for later use); beforehand, participants will have to agree, due to privacy rules.
5. Each panel session will have an audience of the panel convenors plus accepted paper presenters plus all delegates who have indicated that they want to participate.

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<sup>1</sup> *There is a chance that in the second half of 2020, there might be another COVID-19 outbreak and consequent lockdown in the Netherlands/Europe/places where delegates will come from. There is also a chance that African participants will not get their visa, or will have to spend time in quarantine, both in the Netherlands and after coming back home. Flight tickets might become much more expensive, and many delegates may want to avoid flying. And finally, we would not want the conference to become a hub for a new outbreak.*

6. The aim is that, after the actual paper session (and perhaps after a last round of consultations) the papers will all be published on the *Africa Knows!* website.
7. We can turn a disadvantage into an advantage by supporting a process of supported writing of papers: it is the intention that each panel does that, to be coordinated by the panel convenors.
8. The conference fee will be € 50. By paying this fee, accepted delegates will be able to participate in the supported paper writing process in their panel, watch the keynote speeches, participate in selected panel sessions (their own and additional ones, which they want to attend) and have access to conference papers. For the starting event in The Hague there will be an extra fee and perhaps also for the panel meetings, to be decided by the convenors. This will be announced later.
9. Keynote speakers will be asked to prepare a kind of TED talk. A keynote can be virtual or mixed (in case of a mixed event with people attending, the livestream also covers the debate). All keynotes will be visible on the *Africa Knows!* website. There will be keynotes on 2-3 December 2020 and possibly at the start of each of the themes (see [www.africaknows.eu](http://www.africaknows.eu)).
10. On the conference website a list of dates and deadlines will soon be published.

