

Theme: Age, Identity and Political Power

Date: Wednesday 26th September 2018, 6-8pm

Venue: Goethe Institut Auditorium

Moderator: Jessica Musila, Executive Director -Mzalendo Trust.

September Theme: Age, Identity & Political Power - Aging populations involves general changes in age structure due to many factors. The main reason countries in Europe and Central Asia are aging is that fertility levels have declined. People are having fewer children and living longer due to improved health care. The share of young people has decreased and that of older increased. These changes have an effect on social, economic and political choices. Elderly people are likely to be more conservative in their outlook. They are also likely to be more concerned about pension and security and less about education.

In contrast, Africa has a largely youthful population but is saddled with political leaders who should be enjoying their retirement in peace and tranquility; away from the hustle and bustle of political power. They command much reverence and loyalty and have a sense of solidarity. They have a grip on political power and are suspicious of social media. In Kenya, over 60% of the population is under thirty years of age. One would expect that they would use their numerical strength to shift political power. But this has not happened. The youth do not seem to have been able to form a strong identity through which they can influence leadership patterns and therefore get access to political and economic power.

This Civil Society Dialogue Forum will explore the connections between aging, identity and political power. We will discuss why the elderly appear to command much political and economic muscle in Africa, generally, and the prospects for youth to drive the political agenda.

We will discuss the European perspective on youth, identity and political power, exploring if the youth have formed a common identity and whether they have access to economic and political power so as to influence national policy. Other key questions to discuss include political party formation occur in Europe? How does the volunteer driven system work? Can youth benefit from formation of new parties?

Panelists Profile:

Katrin Hahn-Laudenberg

Since Spring 2018 Katrin Hahn-Laudenberg has substitute a professorship of civic education and the social science education at the University of Wuppertal. Between 2016 and 2018 she was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Duisburg-Essen. She is responsible for the coordination of the German national reporting of the International Civic and Citizenship

Education Study 2016, a IEA comparative research program that investigates the ways in which young people are prepared to undertake their roles as citizens in a democracy.

In 2007 she completed the Master of Arts programme Political Science, Sociology and Public Law / International Law at the University of Bonn. In her thesis she analyzed the pupils' opportunities to participate in school. After graduating she was a research fellow at the Institute of Political Science at the University of Education Karlsruhe until 2009. In 2016 she accomplished her doctoral thesis about "Pupils' knowledge about democracy. Changes in political knowledge and misconceptions and how to diagnose it using Concept Maps." Since 2002 she is furthermore working as a trainer in in extra-curricular, non-partisan civic education focused on supporting pupils' participation in and outside school

Caren Wakoli

Caren Wakoli is a Certified leadership coach, transformational leadership trainer, certified 7-Habits of Highly Effective People trainer, democracy & good governance champion, and social entrepreneur who delights in mentoring young women and men to be able to achieve their greatest potential in life. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Emerging Leaders Foundation (ELF); an organization that focuses on raising young people as positive agents of change in society, through effective participation in governance and decision-making processes. She has over 17 years' experience of doing youth empowerment work in Kenya and Africa at large. She has taken part in various policy formulation and implementation processes in Kenya and internationally. She serves in various boards, governmental and non-governmental.

Caren has received several recognitions for her commitment to youth and women empowerment, democracy and good governance. She was a finalist in the CEO Global Most Influential Women in Business and Government (Civil Society and welfare category) 2017. She has been profiled as one of the most influential women in East Africa, by the East African Standard Newspaper in 2017. She is one of few African leaders to join the Obama Foundation African Leaders Program 2018.

Anthony Kibagendi –The Presidency (Youth Affairs)

Hashtag: #AgingandPower