# How technology is changing Africa

| **Start date** | Friday 6 May 2022 | **End date** | Sunday 8 May 2022 |
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| **Venue** | Madingley Hall<br>Madingley<br>Cambridge<br>CB23 8AQ | | |
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| **Tutor** | **Mrs Jenny Thornton** | **Course code** | 2122NRX087 |
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| **Director of ISP and LL** | | Sarah Ormrod |
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| **For further information** | | intenq@ice.cam.ac.uk |
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## Tutor biography

Jenny has a rich background in international development and international relations in the context of sub-Saharan Africa. She was part of the team to establish the University of Cambridge's 'Cambridge Africa' Research Centre and is a board member and former director of the Cambridge African Film Festival. She has an undergraduate degree from the University of St Andrews in Geography and Social Anthropology, and completed her Masters with Distinction in International Relations at the Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge in 2017. Her Masters thesis interrogated the politics and inequalities of research partnerships between Uganda, Rwanda and the UK, which involved three months of fieldwork. She is also interested in the decolonisation of knowledge. Jenny's professional area of expertise focuses on online safety, internet governance, and the politicised and moralised role of digital technology. Jenny has also taught on the Undergraduate Certificate and Diploma courses in International Relations at ICE.

**Course programme**

**Friday**

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

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| 19:00 | Dinner |
| **20:30 – 22:00** | **Introduction** |
| 22:00 | Terrace Bar open for informal discussion |

**Saturday**

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| 07:30 | Breakfast (for residents only) |
| **09:00 – 10:30** | **Technology as a driver in Africa's colonial past** |
| 10:30 | Coffee |
| **11:00 – 12:30** | **Social media giants and 'techno-colonialism'** |
| 13:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 – 16:00 | Free time |
| 16:00 | Tea |
| **16:30 – 18:00** | **Digital innovation in filmmaking and Afrofuturism** |
| 18:00 – 18:30 | Free time |
| 18:30 | Dinner |
| **20:00 – 21:30** | **Film screening** |
| 21:30 | Terrace Bar open for informal discussion |

**Sunday**

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|---|---|
| 07:30 | Breakfast (for residents only) |
| **09:00 – 10:30** | **Mobile money and financial inclusion** |
| 10:30 | Coffee |
| **11:00 – 12:30** | **What does 'Tech for Good' herald for Africa's future?** |
| 12:45 | Lunch |

**The course will disperse after lunch**

**Course syllabus**

**Aims:**

This course aims to:
- Understand the impact of technological change on the past, present and future of the African continent.
- Introduce participants to different case studies from a number of countries and technological innovations/concepts.

**Content:**

The colonisation of African countries was exacerbated by technological change. Now, in the global digital age, it is important to analyse whether technology still has a negative, exploitative influence for Africans and African nations, or whether it heralds a new, prosperous era. By focusing on technology, we shed the negative stereotypes that have long misrepresented sub-Saharan Africa. We will explore how the continent has been shaped through the technological processes of industrialisation before considering how current innovations and phenomena continue to influence societies, cultures and economies across Africa. We will study the dominance of social media giants and mobile money providers and their impact on the day-to-day lives of many citizens. Turning towards the arts, we will also consider how technology has advanced filmmaking processes as well as being the source of inspiration for a new cinematic genre in African cinema.

**Presentation of the course:**
The course will involve illustrated lectures, group discussion and screening of a film directed and produced by an African filmmaker.

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

- Identify the connections between technology, the history of Africa, and colonialism.
- Evaluate how new technologies are helping African nations to 'decolonise' and break the cycle of dependency on the global north.
- Analyse the role social media giants play in increasing internet connectivity in Africa.

## Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

| Author | Title | Publisher and date |
| --- | --- | --- |
| John Iliffe | *Africans: The history of a continent* | Cambridge University Press 2007 |
| Lizelle Bisschoff and Ann Overbergh | *Digital as the New Popular in African Cinema? Case Studies from the Continent* | Research in African Literatures.2012; 43:4, 112-127. |
| Toussaint Nothias | *Access granted: Facebook's free basics in Africa* | Media, Culture & Society. 2020; 42:3, 329-348. |
| David Arnold | *Europe, technology, and colonialism in the 20th century* | History and Technology. 2006; 21:1, 85-106. |
| George Okello Candiya Bongomin *et al* | *Mobile Money and Financial Inclusion in Sub-Saharan Africa: the Moderating Role of Social Networks* | Journal of African Business. 2018, 19:3, 361-384. |