



# YOUNG SCHOLARS INITIATIVE (YSI)

Institute For  
New Economic Thinking

Cooperative Working Group Africa Workshop in Kenya 2019

P R E S E N T S :

# 2-DAY WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY THE COOPERATIVE UNIVERSITY OF KENYA, NAIROBI, KENYA.



ELECTRICITY



INFRASTRUCTURE



AGRICULTURE

THEME

## SUSTAINABLE COOPERATIVE FOR ECONOMIC EXPANSION IN AFRICA: CONVERSATIONS WITH CO-OPERATORS



25TH - 26TH  
MARCH,  
2019

VENUE: COOPERATIVE UNIVERSITY OF KENYA, NAIROBI, KENYA.

### About the workshop

After shaking off the chains of colonialism, African countries in their entirety adopted cooperatives as tools to implement "African socialism". However, soon after the dawn of independence, cooperatives proved to be economically unsustainable in most of the African countries as they promoted a concept of welfarism which required heavy government financial outflows. Towards the mid-1980s, governments became increasingly disenchanted by the bland performance of the "cooperative" movements, which had become a burden to the state and the public. The failure of African socialism together with its cooperative regimes forced governments to adopt liberal based structural adjustment of their economies. This resulted in withdrawal of state support and state control over cooperatives in the 1990s. In light of this, the main challenge faced by today's cooperatives scholars in Africa is to reinvent cooperatives as a relevant and sustainable vehicle for economic expansion.

The YSI Cooperatives WG workshop which will be running concurrently with the Cooperative University of Kenya Annual Conference seeks to assist young scholars who are grappling with complex cooperatives studies in Africa as they search for sustainable models for cooperatives development. The Coops WG (African Convening in August 2018 at Harare, Zimbabwe) saw it necessary to have a workshop which focuses on cooperatives, since issues to do with cooperatives are usually overshadowed in larger conferences. Hence, the WG seeks to discuss specifically new research methodologies necessary in creating sustainable cooperatives models in Africa. As cooperators and cooperatives researchers, we have not sufficiently fronted the cause of cooperatives in Africa let alone push it to the high echelons of

various processes, academic or otherwise. We believe in reinstating cooperatives as tools for enhancing economic advancement and development in the new quasi-liberal African economies. The Kenya workshop will help raise greater awareness about the discipline and research niches in cooperatives that require attention as it aims at remodeling cooperatives research and thinking along changing economic and political trends in Africa and beyond. In many ways the workshop will also build and encourages regional networking and synergies.

### Presenters and Participants

The Coops Africa 2-day workshop will run concurrently with the Cooperative University of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya. (CUK) Annual Conference at the Cooperative University of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya. There will be two invited presenters (seasoned scholars in cooperatives) who will also act the role of mentors. These scholars will give their overviews on Cooperatives in round tables-discussions with young scholars. There will be presentation sessions from some selected young scholars. The workshop is calling on researchers and young scholars to submit abstracts for presentations focusing on the themes listed below:

- Sustainability in cooperatives
- Gender inclusiveness in cooperatives
- Innovation and governance of cooperatives
- Cooperatives organizational structures
- Research methods in cooperatives and collective entrepreneurship

Abstracts should not exceed 300 words including 5 keywords. However, since not every scholar is going to present we also encourage participants without abstracts to submit letters stating why the

Coops, the participant(s) names, affiliation and five-line biography. There will be no registration fees and participants are expected to cater for their own travel and accommodation. However, there is travel and accommodation weaver for students who fail to get funding from their institutions.

All submissions can be made to:  
[africa@youthscholarsinitiative.org](mailto:africa@youthscholarsinitiative.org),  
Subject: Abstract/letter Submission for Kenya workshop.

### Workshop Organizers

- Lead organizer: Muzorewa, Terence PhD, Lecturer, Department of Development Studies, Midlands University, Zimbabwe.
- Akanji, Ajibola Anthony, Assistant Lecturer, Doctoral fellow, Department of Politics and International Relations, Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria.
- Mwambi, Mercy Maiwa, Doctoral Fellow, Business Management & Organisation Group, Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands.

### CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

#### Timeline

- 1.) 1st February 2019: Opening of abstract/applications for travel participation.
- 2.) 21st February 2019: Deadline for submissions of abstract/application for Patti participation.
- 3.) 28th March 2019: Decision regarding the selection of participants and travel scholarships will be announced.
- 4.) 1st March 2019: Registration Opens.
- 5.) 14th March 2019: Registration Closes.

The selection process will be very competitive. The workshop is fully sponsored, participants will only take care of travel/accommodation.