

**Workshop**  
**Revisiting Dams in Africa**  
**June 17–19, 2018**  
**Centro de Estudos Africanos, University Eduardo Mondlane,**  
**Maputo, Mozambique**

**Organizers:**

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**Abstract**

While construction of high dams in Africa has tremendously increased since the turn of the new millennium, the controversial legacy of dams has not yet been satisfactorily revisited in a way that connects issues of state, society, environment, developmental paradigms and their related knowledge production. African dams were and are still governed by imported visions of modernization, neo-liberal, developmental state models and World Bank guidelines that do not take into account the specificity of the region and the wider socio-political conditions within which these projects are pursued and implemented. That is the problematic knowledge and policy gap the workshop aims to fill by bringing together different disciplines and actors who are closely, yet separately, involved in those debates. Furthermore, dam-related knowledge has been produced and implemented by experts, comprising narrow epistemic communities informed and/or dominated by few disciplines and actors such as engineers, economist, international dam building companies and national governments. During the last decades, a diversified set of actors such as environmentalists, civil society, and affected communities are gradually trying to take part and shape the way in which the projects are being planned and implemented. The workshop's innovative approach is to understand and address what we call the state-society-environment nexus. This means we go beyond the de-contextualized, de-historicized and de-politicized legacy we observe in the dam-related literature and the developmental paradigms. By doing so, we will produce more Afro-sensitized knowledge and enhance the engagements with the current dam boom in Africa. The dam-related complex assemblages of heterogeneous knowledge and actors at different levels will be thoroughly discussed by multidisciplinary participants. The workshop aims to open multiple dialogues between different disciplines, young and senior researchers, activists and scholars, Africans and non-Africans to enrich the debate.