



## 7th IESE International Conference

# Mozambique, 50 Years of Independence: Policies, Crises and Social Transformation

Maputo, September 23 - 24, 2025

## Call for Papers

The Institute for Social and Economic Studies (IESE) will hold its 7th International Conference in **Maputo on September 23 - 24, 2025**, under the theme “Mozambique, 50 Years of Independence: Policies, Crises and Social Transformation.”

Like many countries in sub-Saharan Africa that gained independence in the late 1950s, Mozambique continues to face significant challenges in fulfilling the promises of its independence, proclaimed 50 years ago. While the new State’s official discourse distanced itself from the colonial State on its foundations and operating logic, the different policies and reforms did not improve the living conditions for most citizens. Over time, the consequences of these policies, associated with endemic corruption and worsening social inequalities, have undermined the very notion of the State, leading, in many cases, to an increase in the lack of trust in institutions. Furthermore, the history of independent Mozambique has been marked by cycles of violence, mainly crystallized in the prolonged civil war, in the systematic and recurring post-electoral conflicts, and, more recently, in the armed violence carried out in the northern region by a jihadist-inspired group.

Although the economy experienced remarkable growth in the years following the end of the civil war, this growth was not reflected in the well-being of Mozambicans. Furthermore, the country has been increasingly affected by extreme weather events, significantly impacting the economic and social fabric. In recent years, different assessments of poverty have shown that not only has growth not translated into development, but the gap between rich and poor has also increased significantly, making exclusion and marginalization one of the most visible features of Mozambican society.

Is there any relationship between the policies adopted and the cyclical crises in sub-Saharan Africa in general and in Mozambique in particular? What can sub-Saharan Africa and Mozambique learn from their independence trajectories and democracy-building processes? What do the multiple expressions of citizens' discontent teach us about policymaking? How can these lessons be used to imagine and build societies founded on freedom and social justice that contribute to social transformation? What epistemological and methodological implications do these dynamics have for knowledge production and social transformation?

The 7th IESE International Conference aims to contribute to the debate on post-colonial contexts in sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on Mozambique, at two interconnected levels: The first level concerns public policies: How to design and implement public policies in contexts marked by a multiplicity of crises? What have been the implications of sectorial policies for local development projects? What structural questions do public policies seek to answer in post-colonial contexts in sub-Saharan Africa and Mozambique? The second level refers to the epistemological-methodological aspects: How do we think about and investigate social, economic, and political phenomena in post-colonial contexts in sub-Saharan Africa? How do we decolonize knowledge and analytical frameworks about African realities?

To analyze the questions posed above and others related to them, IESE invites researchers, scholars, and students to submit their communication proposals by May 15, 2025, to the following address: [iese-conferencia-2025@iese.ac.mz](mailto:iese-conferencia-2025@iese.ac.mz). Proposals can be submitted in Portuguese or English. Each proposal must include the following:

- Title;
- Abstract (maximum 300 words);
- Identification of the proponent(s): Name(s), contacts (email), institutional affiliation.

The conference's scientific committee will send acceptance/rejection emails to the proponents by May 30, 2025. The Conference will be held in person.