



HEKIMA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
A CONSTITUENT COLLEGE OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA

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CENTRE FOR RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND PUBLICATIONS (CRTP)

11th July, 2025

CALL FOR PAPERS

Fourth Annual Research Week

Date: 22-24 October, 2025

Location: Hekima University College

Deadline for Abstract Submission: 15th August, 2025

Abstract Submission Email: programs.hipsir@hekima.ac.ke

Conference Theme: Reimagining Resilience, Governance, and Social Transformation in a Changing World

Introduction

In today's rapidly changing world, marked by climate crises, political instability, economic fragility, mass displacement, and cultural fragmentation, the concept of **resilience** has gained renewed relevance. At Hekima University College, we interpret resilience not simply as the ability to withstand adversity but as a visionary framework for reawakening societies, building hope, and shaping transformative pathways toward justice and peace. This year's Research Week theme calls for theological, philosophical, and social science reflections that explore how communities, institutions, and individuals respond to interconnected global and local crises. We ask: How can faith, critical thinking, and civic imagination shape new governance models, redefine youth engagement, advance ecological justice, and support vulnerable populations such as migrants, the poor, and the marginalized?

In doing so, we aim to reimagine theology, peace studies and social theories by developing innovative, context-sensitive frameworks grounded in African experiences. We draw inspiration

from decolonial peace studies and theology, liberation ethics, post-conflict governance models, and youth-led civic movements. At its core, this gathering will serve as a platform for collective reflection, re-envisioning resilience as a transformative process that promotes ethical leadership, inclusive institutions, and sustainable peace.

Thematic Tracks and Suggested Paper Topics

1. Governance, Ethics, and Accountability

- *Faith-Based Institutions and the Crisis of Public Trust*
- *Ethical Leadership and Transformational Governance in Africa*
- *Civic Participation and Anti-Corruption Strategies in Transitional States*

2. Climate Change, Environment, and Ecological Justice

- *Theology of Ecological Justice and Stewardship*
- *Community Resilience and Indigenous Environmental Ethics*
- *Natural Resource Governance and Environmental Conflict in Africa*

3. Youth Resilience, Activism, and Social Change

- *Gen-Z Digital Dissent and Civic Transformation*
- *Youth Peacebuilding in Post-Conflict Societies*
- *Intergenerational Dialogue and the Ethics of Future Leadership*

4. Theology, Faith, and Reconciliation – Building Hope and Healing

- *Liberation Theology and Strategic Peacebuilding*
- *Faith, Forgiveness, and Social Healing in Divided Societies*
- *Decolonial Theologies and the Ethics of Resistance*

5. Resilience in Migration, Displacement, and Human Dignity

- *Theology of Hospitality and Refugee Protection*
- *Climate Displacement and Justice for the Stateless*
- *Faith-Based Responses to Borders, Identity, and Integration*

Submission Guidelines

- **Abstracts** should be 250–300 words, clearly outlining the research question, methodology (if applicable), and key arguments or findings.
- **Submission Deadline:** 15th August 2025
- **Notification of Acceptance:** 5 September 2025

We welcome proposals from scholars, postgraduate students, researchers, practitioners, clergy, and civil society actors working on interdisciplinary themes. **Please submit your abstracts to HUC Centre for Research, Training and Publications (CRTP) Email: programs.hipsir@hekima.ac.ke**

Hekima University College is a Jesuit institution committed to academic excellence, critical inquiry, and the promotion of justice through intellectual engagement. The annual Research Week serves as a platform for rigorous, socially relevant scholarship grounded in African realities and global solidarity.