

**SSSUK**  
**Symposium and**  
**Annual General Meeting**



**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

*in association with School of Oriental and African Studies*

Venue: Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, London WC1H 0XG

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| <b>9:15 – 10.05</b>  | <b>Registration</b>   |
| <b>10.15 – 10.30</b> | <b>Welcome</b> by Gill Lusk, SSSUK Chairperson  |
| <b>10.30 – 11.40</b> | <b>Sudan briefing</b> (held under the <a href="#">Chatham House Rule</a> )<br>'Community kitchens', a short film by Nas Shagala<br>Chaired by<br>Aida Abbashar<br>Nick Lacey, Norwegian Refugee Council<br>Clare Staunton, Head, Sudan and South Sudan Unit, FCDO, and UK<br>Special Representative to South Sudan  |
| <b>11.40 – 12.40</b> | <b>Centenary of the 1924 Revolution</b><br>'What useful lessons can be drawn from the experience of the 1924<br>Revolution to help in the present?', Ali Abdel Latif, Teacher and<br>Researcher<br>'Highlights from the 1924 Revolution', Elena Vezzadini, French National<br>Centre for Scientific Research; affiliate, Institut des Mondes Africains  |
| <b>12.40 – 1.30</b>  | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| <b>1.30 – 2.10</b>   | <b>SSSUK Annual General Meeting</b> - non-members are welcome to attend<br>but may not vote   |
| <b>2.10 – 3.10</b>   | <b>Cultural Resistance and Renewal</b><br>Chaired by<br>Rashid<br>Sidahmed<br>Elsheikh<br>'The crisis of Sudanese film production during crises', Dr Wagdi Kamil<br>'Intersections of cultural heritage and cultural dialogue: South<br>Sudanese women protecting and contesting song heritage in refugee<br>settings', Rebecca Lorins, Assistant Professor, University of Juba and co-<br>founder, Likikiri Collective |
| <b>3.10 – 3.40</b>   | <b>Tea and Coffee Break</b>   |
| <b>3.40 – 4.40</b>   | <b>Education</b><br>Chaired by<br>Henry Wani<br>Rondyang<br>'Education under fire', Wafa Abdelazim and Mahmoud Dagash, ATAR<br>magazine<br>'Power to the powerless through education', Simon Boyd, WEP trustee<br>'The type of education to shape and establish a viable model for a<br>multicultural state in South Sudan', Justin Nyieer Gordon-Muortat,<br>Coordinator, South Sudan People's Charter                 |
| <b>4.40-5.00</b>     | <b>Poetry readings</b><br>'The Bereavement Memory', Abu-Zayd DeGale<br>'Double Impact', Poetry by Tony  |
| <b>5.00 – 5.10</b>   | <b>Closing remarks</b>  |

Please take your places early for each session.

Go to our website [SSSUK.org](https://SSSUK.org) to find out how you can join us! [Buy a ticket on Eventbrite](#)

## Speakers and Contributors

**Nas Shagala** is an impact campaign documenting citizens' engagement in the public sphere through films that shine a light on collective experiences. The group aims to inspire and encourage people to positively engage in shaping the change they desire in their future lives. Their films follow groups of civic workers with an artistic approach to their personal struggles to achieve a better future for Sudan.

**Clare Staunton** is the Head of the Sudan and South Sudan Unit at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and has been the Special Representative to South Sudan since October 2023.

**Nick Lacey** is the Head of Operations for the Norwegian Refugee Council in Sudan, running implementation across Darfur, Kordofan, and the East of the country. With a background in Protection, International Humanitarian Law, and Emergency Response, he has 14 years' experience in multiple conflict and post-conflict environments running large humanitarian operations and has worked across Sudan and South Sudan for more than five years.

**Ali Abdel Latif** is the Research, Training and Planning officer of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Democratic Revolutionary Current (SPLM-DC). He worked for many years in education, including teaching in universities and colleges in West Yorkshire.

**Elena Vezzadini** is an historian and research fellow of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and is affiliated to the Institut des Mondes Africains. She obtained her PhD at the University of Bergen, with a specialisation in the contemporary social history of Sudan. She works particularly on nationalism, labour, education, slavery, racial relations, archival studies, post-colonial theory.

**Dr Wagdi Kamil** is a cultural critic, filmmaker, poet, and former media professor at the University of Khartoum. He studied film directing and earned a PhD from the Russian Institute of Cinema. He has directed more than thirty films. His film *The Scorpion* won the Gold Award for African Films in 2003, while his film *Swing and Oil* won the Gold Award for Arab Films in Cairo in 2006. He has published several works on cinema and film culture. He worked for years at Al Jazeera in Doha, where his films were showcased on both the Arabic and English channels.

**Rebecca Lorins** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Juba and co-founded the Likikiri Collective. She conducted her PhD research with Kwoto, a South Sudanese popular theatre troupe operating in Khartoum from approximately 1993 to 2006, and earned her PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Texas at Austin. She has been living and working in South Sudan since 2014.

**Wafa Abdelazim** and **Mahmoud Dagash** are journalists writing for *ATAR* magazine.

**Simon Boyd** is a trustee of the Women's Education Partnership.

**Justin Nyieer Gordon-Muortat** is a Trustee of the Friends of Ibba Girls' School and a Coordinator of the South Sudan People's Charter.

**Abu-Zayd DeGale** is a Sudanese playwright, actor and filmmaker. In Sudan, he worked as a stand-up comedian and storyteller and now works with community groups and particularly with people with asylum seeker backgrounds to promote social change, integration, and acceptance.

**Poetry by Tony** is a British-based South Sudanese poet with over a decade of experience, self-publishing books and poetry albums. After a breakthrough performance at the 50th anniversary of the African Union in 2013, Poetry by Tony has continued to share powerful, thought-provoking work across various platforms.

Have **YOU** considered joining SSSUK? It's welcoming, and it publishes a fascinating twice-yearly journal, *Sudan Studies*, all about South Sudan and Sudan!