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CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

Martin Garang Aher

Who killed Majur Manyang? Tragedy and culture shock among Sudanese migrant youth in Australia

Abstract - For young Sudanese migrants, and indeed many other asylum seekers, humanitarian entrants and refugees, arrival in Australia holds out the hope of an end to the atrocities, injustice and arbitrary violence they have experienced almost all their lives. But sudden death continues to strike Sudanese migrant youth in Australia at an alarming rate. A recent incident in Perth, which will be the focus of this presentation, was the death of Majur Manyang in April 2010. The underlying reasons for what are represented as outbursts of irrational and extreme behaviour on the part of young refugees often remain unexplored both in academic and popular accounts of these incidents. In tragic situations that result in innocent deaths, media and legal institutions for the most part move hastily, superficially and sometimes with breathtaking agility. Academic research on this area leaves the solution in the hands of the communities and family members of the victims. But are these communities and migrant families immune from violence that claims the lives of their youth? This paper will discuss the violent deaths of young Sudanese migrants in the context of culture shock and the institutional responses to this.

Keywords - Sudanese migrants, sudden death, Sudanese youth, Majur Manyang, irrational and extreme behaviours, violence, culture shock

Berhan Ahmed

The effect of climate change on termite taxonomy and distribution in Africa

Abstract - Termites constitute an integral component of various ecosystems in Africa. Termites are also amongst the most difficult of the insects to study because of their cryptic behaviour. There are around 2600 species of termites (Isoptera) in 280 genera which have been described worldwide and about 39% of the total termite species are found in Africa. Some termite species are well known pests of agricultural crops, forest trees, wood products and timber-in-service. Thus, they are responsible for considerable damage in building structures in Africa. Termite identification is crucial to understanding termite distribution and to developing an

integrated termite pest management (IPM) system. Published literature on the taxonomy and distribution of termites in Africa with particular reference to climate change is scanty. Little is known about the effect of climate change on the potential distribution of pestiferous termite fauna of Africa, especially the wood-destroying exotic species. This African termite review attempts to collate information on termite taxonomy, distribution and climate change and highlight the gaps in knowledge and challenges in Africa, which is the centre of origin of the Macrotermitinae. Economically important African termite species will receive sufficient attention for identification and distribution compared to other termite species. The use of traditional identification methods coupled with molecular techniques, which promises to resolve some of the challenges in termite taxonomy and distribution with particular reference to climate change in Africa, will be discussed.

Keywords - Isoptera, taxonomy, distribution, climate change, molecular techniques, Africa

John A. Arthur

Incorporating migration in development and nation-building in Africa

Abstract - The purpose of this paper is to position the importance of international migration in Africa's economic and cultural development. International migration has become a major force of social change in Africa south of the Sahara. Through international migration, African immigrants are yearning to integrate their societies into the global systems of economic and cultural production. At the macro-economic level, African immigrants domiciled abroad are using their assets and resources to assist in homeland development. At the micro-level, the beliefs, values, new roles, and norms that immigrants learn in the Western host societies are modified and transmitted back to Africa, positioning these immigrants in the forefront of social change. The results can be found in diverse areas of African social structure in both rural and urban sectors where these transnational immigrants are altering the African landscapes. This paper highlights the varied ways in which African immigrants in the West are altering the dynamics of development in their respective countries. It seeks to investigate the sustainability of these processes and how African central governments can harness the resources, assets, and human capital of their citizens abroad. The paper ends with a sociological assessment of the policies needed to ensure seamless harnessing of immigrant and government resources to implement robust and sustainable development in the region.

Keywords - International migration, social change, integration into global systems, altered dynamics, sociological assessment of policies, robust and sustainable development

Mamadou Diouma Bah

Natural resources and conflict management: The case of Guinea

Abstract - This paper explores the relationship between natural resources and

conflict management in West Africa, with a special focus on the Republic of Guinea. Recent literature on theories of contemporary civil wars identifies several key variables as significant triggers of civil war onset. These studies conclude that, since the early 1990s, the presence of abundant natural resources contributed to the outbreak of civil wars in a number of countries in West Africa. In Guinea, however, the state managed to avoid descending into civil war since independence from France in 1958, despite being endowed with vast natural resources. Why did the presence of abundant natural resources fail to be associated with civil war onset in Guinea? Existing models of the relationship between natural resources and armed conflict fail to explain the cases of countries which managed to avoid descending into civil war despite the availability of abundant natural resources. We still do not understand why some countries do not descend to civil war despite the presence of abundant natural resources while others do. Using qualitative data drawn from Guinea's experience, this paper will address this apparent gap by aiming at identifying ways in which natural resources can be linked with domestic peace and stability instead of large scale violent conflict.

Keywords - Natural resources, peace, conflicts, West Africa, Guinea

Samantha Balaton-Chrimes

The Nubians of Kenya as a political community

Abstract - The Nubians in Kenya, a community who have in the past been considered stateless, have recently begun to emerge from their marginal status in the country. Over the past two years, as individuals Nubians have had improved access to ID cards and as a group they received a code in the 2009 census. However, these political gains are only part of a greater struggle on the part of the community to be fully recognized as a tribe of Kenya. Identity politics and claims for recognition dominate social politics in many African countries. However, the normative underpinnings of these complex and often challenging claims are yet to be fully explored in the African context. Drawing on seven months of qualitative fieldwork, this paper characterizes the Nubian community as a political community, and therefore as a site of citizenship worthy of preservation through recognition. By articulating a positive vision of the moral and political value of ethnic community embedded in citizenship theory, the paper makes a critical contribution to theory of the politics of recognition in the African context.

Keywords - Nubians, Kenya, identity politics, political community, ethnic community

Carmela Baranowska

Representing the pain of others: Western Sahara

Abstract - This paper analyses a recent outburst of Australian documentary interest in Western Sahara. Often referred to as 'Africa's last colony', Western Sahara is both geographically remote and usually ignored in the Australian media landscape. While little known here, Western Sahara shares a crucial historical and documentary bond with the independent nation of Timor-Leste. Through a comparison of select

documentary films I will discuss a link that also highlights a historical shift. The East Timorese and Western Saharawis embraced earlier anti-colonial struggles in Portuguese and French Africa. However, over a thirty-five year period there has been a period of transition. The rhetoric of third world liberation struggles, as outlined by the key figure of Frantz Fanon, has now been replaced by the United Nations-sanctioned discourse on human rights. How have the production, recent distribution and dissemination of these Western Sahara documentaries in Australia contributed to this trend? How has the language of human rights been reproduced in the documentary representation of Western Sahara? Are we now living in a post-colonial time?

Keywords - Documentary, Western Sahara, colonialism, human rights

Karen Berger

"In search of the thing itself" – Africans in the art of two Ukranian / American Jewish artists: Maya Deren (1917 - 1961) and Clarice Lispector (1920 -1977)

Abstract - The influential Martinique philosopher, Frantz Fanon, wrote in 1967 that he 'joined the Jew, [his] brother in misery' because 'an anti-semitic is inevitably an anti-Negro'. Histories of racial oppression link Africans and Jews. French-Algerian philosopher, academic and feminist Hélène Cixous writes (addressing women): 'Because you are Africa, you are black'. When Maya Deren received the first Guggenheim fellowship for motion pictures, she traveled from the US to Haiti where she was welcomed as 'a prodigal native daughter finally returned.' Acclaimed Brazilian author Clarice Lispector was painfully aware of the situation of many people of African origin in her adopted country. My three protagonists have white skin, relative affluence and social position, and so are in a position to bestow on Africans the position of the 'other'. However, their acute awareness of their own lack of belonging – as Jews, women and artists, exiled from the country of their birth – means that they also feel particular affinities to anyone else who can be identified as 'other'. I will explore the way they use the paradoxical push-pull of 'other' and 'same' towards Africans in their work, both to explore their own identities, and to reveal insights about our relationships to each other and the world – 'the thing itself'.

Keywords - Identity, representations of Africans in art, Hélène Cixous, Maya Deren, Clarice Lispector, otherness

Alison Burgin

(In)Visible minorities: Does French aid promoting cultural diversity benefit African cinema in France or on the continent?

Abstract - The days of Josephine Baker's 'négresse sauvage' and the smiling face of the Senegalese 'Tirailleur's 'y'a bon Banania' slogan have finally been put to bed in France, indicating an awareness of the necessity to represent seriously and responsibly African and West Indian communities both within and outside the Hexagon. Although France has been a promoter of African cinema and television

since 1960, when the majority of France's former colonies gained independence, it was during the 1990s that France's self-appointed role as protector and promoter of cultural diversity of the global South, especially via cinema, became truly discernible. Today, African filmmakers are eligible for a diverse range of government and institutional funding in France. This includes the opportunity of co-producing with French companies and additional schemes intended to ease the burden of the costly filmmaking process, all seemingly working towards goal of supporting cultural diversity globally. Yet although films are in fact being made, cinema emerging from Africa is as invisible as ever, viewed neither by the African communities they are seemingly intended for nor the French tax-payers who fund them. African filmmakers complain of living in a ghetto within the industry itself, while their films, if and when production is completed, rarely make commercial distribution, raising questions as to the goal of their original funding. Through a policy analysis of major French funds supporting African cinema, this paper will consider some possible factors that may be contributing to this invisibility and will suggest that despite its intentions, the French example of a transnational humanitarian-aid approach to African film funding is flawed. Drawing on filmic case-studies, the paper will investigate of how cultural diversity rhetoric may be producing the unwitting contradiction of a standardised 'Africanness' vis-à-vis the promotion of a contemporary, Eurocentric discourse about Africa that homogenises the very identities of those whom the cultural diversity policy is attempting to represent.

Keywords - Cultural diversity, cinema, representation, humanitarian aid, racial discrimination, France, Africa

McLytton Clever

Sleep quality, beliefs and attitudes about sleep: A comparison of Caucasian Australian, Zimbabwean and Ghanaian immigrants resident in Australia

Abstract - This paper reports on a study that examined ethnic differences in sleep quality as well as beliefs and attitudes about sleep in a community sample of Caucasian Australians (CAA), black immigrants from Zimbabwe (BZW) and those from Ghana (BGH), all currently resident in Australia. The sample consisted of 176 participants. Groups were matched on age and gender, with a strong predominance of professional occupations in all groups. To be included in the study, BZW and BGH participants had to be resident in Australia for less than 15 years. All participants completed the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI), Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS), Dysfunctional Beliefs and Attitudes about Sleep (DBAS), and the SF-36 Health Survey. No statistically significant group differences were found on sleep quality, daytime sleepiness, and physical health. However, significant ethnic group differences on beliefs and attitudes about sleep (DBAS) were found, as well as some other differences involving gender and mental health factors. This ethnic difference may have implications for the health education of black African immigrants, with more emphasis needed on the link between sleep and psychological problems. While previous international studies have reported differences in sleep quality among ethnic groups, particularly those of low socioeconomic status (SES), the current results found no ethnic differences in sleep quality. This inconsistency

may arise from differences in the SES levels of the participants across the studies, with no (or less) ethnic differences in sleep quality being evident in higher SES groups.

Keywords - Sleep, ethnicity, beliefs about sleep, daytime functioning, sleep quality

Rachel Gavarotto

“Everyone disappears”: Housing insecurity and social exclusion of Sudanese women in outer western Sydney

Abstract - This paper investigates how Sudanese women in outer western Sydney experience housing insecurity as one aspect of social exclusion once they have been re-settled in Australia. The paper also explores whether their encounters with social exclusion are linked to their local community, policy development and the context of Australian society more broadly. In addition, the paper is concerned with a range of avenues of social exclusion faced by Sudanese women, as defined by the Australian Social Inclusion Board (2008). A comparison is then made between community members' experiences, government expectations and community workers' professional insights into the aforementioned areas. The paper builds on existing literature and previous research, while various local and international interpretations of social exclusion and inclusion will be explored to better understand Australian social policy frameworks and suggest recommendations for future service delivery with regard to secure long-term housing provision. The research is undertaken from the perspective of social change and feminist and ethnographic research. It draws on experiences shared by the target population, encapsulating women's voices, experiences and opinions in relation to identified avenues of social exclusion. The main method of data collection used was in-depth qualitative interviews with Sudanese women and community workers in the Sudanese communities in outer western Sydney. This paper is most interested in how the women's own knowledge and ideas reveal the 'truth' about their lives and formulate culturally appropriate solutions to social exclusion.

Keywords - Refugees, Sudanese, women, social exclusion, housing insecurity, barriers, neo-colonial

Haileluel Gebre-Selassie

Harnessing the African diaspora to enhance the re-engagement with African countries

Abstract - In the wake of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, countries around the world are seeking new ways to bolster ties with the African continent. The UK and USA have implemented various programs to help re-engage members of the African Diaspora with their respective countries.

In April 2010, Australia's Minister for Education, Skills and Workforce Participation, The Hon Bronwyn Pike, launched a pilot five-month African Leadership Development Program which aims to build the capacity of African community

associations. One of the potential long-term benefits is to help Australia's African community become a means of engagement between Australia and Africa through business and trade, social development support, cultural activities, peace and conflict resolution, advocacy and representation, human rights activities. Thirty-three African community leaders from 12 of Australia's African communities – Liberian, Serra Leonean, Congolese, Somali, Ethiopian, Eritrean, Sudanese, Kenyan, Zimbabwean, Nigerian and Malawian – took part in the Leadership Development Program.

As well as examining the existing international models and programs that seek to maximise the skills and knowledge of the African Diaspora, this paper will also demonstrate the interconnectedness of the local Leadership Development Program with the future potential for engagement with participants' respective African countries of origin.

Keywords - African Diaspora, re-engagement, African Leadership Development Program

Roslyn Gleadow, Julie Cliff, Anna Burns, Anabela Zacarias, Rebecca Miller, Howard Bradbury & Tim Cavagnaro
Predicting climate change impacts on yield and cyanogen levels of cassava, an important African staple

Abstract - Cassava (manioc, *Manihot esculenta*) is the third most important food source in the tropics (after rice and maize), consumed by approximately one billion people, with the greatest per capita daily consumption in African countries. Despite this, little is known about the impacts of elevated CO₂ concentrations and associated climatic changes on the yield and nutritional value of this important crop. Cassava is a hardy plant and can be grown in a wide range of climatic conditions. The tubers are high in starch but relatively low in protein, minerals and vitamins and a monotonous diet can result in nutritional deficiencies. All parts of the cassava plant contain anti-nutritional compounds called cyanogenic glucosides (cyanogens), which can break down to release toxic cyanide. Bitter varieties contain more cyanogens than sweet varieties, but are reputed to be higher yielding.

The degree to which cyanogens can be tolerated depends on the concentration, the rate of consumption and the overall diet. The consumption of highly cyanogenic varieties of cassava have been associated with epidemics of the permanent paralysing disease konzo, which particularly affects children and women of child-bearing-age; and incidences of tropical ataxic neuropathy and goitre. All varieties become more bitter when there is a drought. Outbreaks of konzo are also more common where there is social unrest, probably due to inadequate processing of cassava tubers.

Any lowering of the nutritional quality of cassava has implications for human health and the need to further improve post harvest processing of the cyanogenic tubers. Building on an existing cassava research and breeding program in Mozambique, we

are studying the interactive effects of drought, temperature and soil nutrient availability on the cyanogenic potential and yield of cassava. By creating a framework to facilitate predictions for the future nutritional value and productivity of cassava as a staple crop which we detail in this paper, we will be able to make future projections of the impacts of these aspects of climate change on the nutritional value and productivity of cassava. Adaptation strategies to avoid cyanide poisoning from cassava in the future could include development and implementation of low-cyanide, high-yielding and pest-resistant varieties of cassava; improved processing of cassava products; and diversification of the diet of cassava-dependent communities.

Keywords - Cassava, climate change, cyanogens, nutritional quality, Mozambique

Michele Grossman

"There's just this projection about Africans": Race, safety and policing in Melbourne's Western suburbs

Abstract - A spate of reports around issues of racism and the police in Victoria, largely in relation to new African-background migrants, has dominated media reporting and research agendas in recent times. Despite the 'moral panics' around African-background youth 'gangs' that continue to fuel community and public policy debates, the realities of the problems faced by police and African-background youth at street level in relation to community safety and to each other are both more banal and more complex than such sensationalising discourses suggest. What do young people themselves from the large Sudanese-Australian community in Melbourne's inner west have to say on these issues?

Drawing on a recently concluded two-year research project on young people, community safety and policing (Grossman and Sharples, 2010) that focused in part on the experience of young Sudanese aged 15-19 in Melbourne's Brimbank region, this paper looks at what might be gained from better understanding how recently arrived young Sudanese negotiate the issues of 'race and place' in their everyday lives and locales, particularly in relation to their experiences of dealing with the police.

Our findings suggest that the ways in which young Sudanese manage their community relationships, particularly with the police, are more complex than previously thought. New paradigms are needed for thinking about how to promote positive engagement between young Sudanese and the police and how to re-negotiate police understandings of race and racism in relation to African-background arrivals to Australia. This paper brings together the concept of community resilience with some of the insights of critical race theory as one theoretical frame for exploring the prospect of strengthening relationships between African-background youth and police in Melbourne.

Keywords - Sudanese, youth, police, racism, engagement, culture, community, resilience, critical race theory

Anne Le Guinio

Challenges and solutions in implementing national languages in educational institutions: The case of Cameroon

Abstract - Our paper proposes an overview of the linguistic situation in educational institutions in Cameroon, Central Africa. The official languages of Cameroon are English and French. Arabic may also be one of the teaching languages. However, there are around 250 national languages. Some 50 years after independence, it is only now that the first trial for the teaching of selected national languages in government schools is taking place.

We will outline the pioneering efforts and farsightedness, although more often than not informed by vested interests, of various organisations and individuals that worked on preserving some of those languages. We will look at the ideological and methodological difficulties which may have prevented the teaching of national languages from starting earlier. Some of the issues considered will be the problem of defining the boundary of a language and thereby enabling its standardization; the difficulties in training and finding formal teachers, and the positive role played by national languages in promoting literacy and tolerance.

Keywords - Cameroon, national language implementation, language preservation, standardisation, literacy and tolerance

Anne Harris

"Culture is our future": African-Australian representation in film and video, 1985-2010

Abstract - 'Culture is our Future', a short web-based film by Senegalese-Australian artist Lamine Sonko (AHRC 2010), is one example of an increasing body of films and videos by and about African-Australians emerging over the past two decades. Australian media representations of African-Australians has been persistently negative, and film represents a counter-representation to this negative stereotyping while assisting in the co-construction of cultural and sub-cultural identities.

In this sense, African-Australians remain 'constitutively visible' (Derrida, 1996) despite mainstream media attempts to render them invisible. With increasing funding and audience support for culturally diverse artworks, the number of multimedia projects is steadily increasing. This paper will contextualise these films in a consideration of larger 'filmic diasporas' which represent the diversity and richness of African communities emerging in multiple diasporic locations, (particularly Australia) and yet interrogates how these types of identity performativity (Butler 1990) may also be used as 'mechanisms of exclusion' (Lumby, 2008). The 'human multiplicities' (Deleuze; Derrida) apparent in these films expose the 'fictive unity' (Souter, in Hall 2000) of a singular 'African/Australian' identity, and assert the value of co-constructing these multiple-identity narratives (Hall, 2000; Delgado 2000) with and against outside 'others', both in countries of resettlement and back home.

Keywords - African, film, Australia, representation, identity

Geoffrey Hawker

The new "scramble": Australian mining companies in Africa

Abstract - The scramble for the natural resources of Africa by the companies of the West never ended, but now a new phase of activity has begun.

Emerging economies are planning or operating mines throughout the continent and many Western companies feel potentially 'crowded out' by the activities of these new players, especially by the state-owned companies of China. Allegations that Chinese companies engage in restrictive or unfair practices abound, but the benefits said to flow from mining can be questioned across the whole front of mining activity. Emerging international rules, as in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), address some issues of social impact and financial benefit, and nineteen African governments have signed as candidate members, with another currently suspended.

But questions about the capacity of African governments and international rules to address the long-term consequences of mining activity for the peoples of Africa remain unanswered, and the impact of the global financial crisis and resource depletion in other parts of the world seems likely only to intensify the prospects of further exploitation in Africa. This paper addresses the issues in the context of a number of case studies of company activity, covering especially Chinese companies and Australian companies, which also have emerged recently as significant actors in Africa.

Keywords - Effective mining, Chinese and Australian companies, extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

Chantelle Higgs

White boy jeans and African stylez: Young Sudanese and Somali's negotiating visible difference in Melbourne's Inner West

Abstract - Young people operate within multiple fields of power and it is within these realms that they (re)produce and negotiate social difference. This paper examines the narratives of young people of African background in Melbourne's inner west to consider how visible difference, gender and class intersect and inform feelings of belonging. Here, young people's discourse will be analysed to discuss the continued role of visible difference in the construction of identity(s). It will be argued that young people of African background discuss and understand their inclusion and exclusion as being spatially and socially informed.

Furthermore, this paper will argue that the performance of differences is indicative of how young people to situate themselves and others in relation to Australia's national identity. This supports the paper's overarching contention that young

people's subjectivities are multiple, fluid and relational.

Keywords - Visible difference, youth cultures, belonging

Carmel Hobbs

Talking about teeth – Working together to improve the oral health of the African community in Melbourne's inner west

Abstract - 'Talking about Teeth' is a project designed to increase connections between the African community and oral health services in Melbourne's inner west, ultimately leading to the improved oral health status of the African community in the area.

The Flemington public housing estate in Melbourne has a large African community with over 40% of residents speaking an African language as their main language at home, compared with 23% who speak English. To uncover the existing challenges in accessing oral health services, we ran four focus groups with the community and nine individual interviews with current employees of the local community health dental clinic. The study revealed a number of areas in which future collaborative partnerships such as peer education programs, staff training, and public forums can improve both the oral health of the community, and the ways in which the dental clinic delivers its services to this community group.

Throughout the project, community participation has been a high priority. Community members have been involved with project planning, data collection and analysis. This presentation will discuss the benefits and challenges of community engagement and identify strategies for enhancing engagement between the health service and the African community.

Keywords - Oral health, engagement, community participation, community health

Shiyavanthi Johnpillai

Men who have sex with men in Sub-Saharan Africa: Decriminalisation of consensual sexual behaviours and the consequences for HIV vulnerability

Abstract - Throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, many countries have laws criminalising same-sex sexual relationships. On a global scale, men who have sex with men (MSM) are considered a high-risk group that is particularly vulnerable to contracting HIV. Yet, in Sub-Saharan Africa, a region that carries the brunt of the global burden of HIV/AIDS, MSM have been neglected from national prevention policies. MSM groups have been stigmatized and discriminated against, subjected to violence and detention, and are isolated from social and health resources (Smith et al, 2009, 418). As such, the criminalisation of same-sex behaviour has shifted from raising merely legal and moral issues to human rights and public health concerns as well.

This paper is an examination of MSM behaviour in Sub-Saharan Africa and its connection with HIV/AIDS. It will look at barriers that prevent social acceptance

towards same-sex relations in Sub-Saharan Africa, the consequences of criminalising MSM behaviour and how this has affected people's vulnerability to HIV. It will also reflect on what could change with the decriminalisation of MSM behaviour, using South Africa (a nation which decriminalised same-sex behaviour in 1994) as a case study to illustrate this.

Keywords - HIV/AIDS, Sub-Saharan Africa, homosexuality, sexual health, criminalisation

Temesgen Kifle

Socio-economic issues facing African Australians: Analysis and policy options

Abstract - According to the 2006 Census, a total of 248,699 people born in Africa were living in Australia. This number represents 5.6% of Australia's overseas-born population (or 1% of the country's total population). Since the 2006 Census, an additional 50,000 African-born migrants have arrived in Australia. Theoretically, for most African migrants, Australia is not only a safe place to live in but also a prosperous country where they improve their livelihood and help family members and relatives left behind. At the same time, African-Australians have much to contribute to the Australian society. Yet in practice, African migrants suffer from discrimination in every aspect of life including employment, education, health and housing, which in turn affects their well-being. The purpose of this paper is first to identify aspects of life satisfaction for which African-born people in Australia have scored much less relative to the other groups, and then to explore the determinants of such low well-being scores using statistical analysis.

Data for this study were obtained from the first eight waves (2001-2008) of the Household, Income, Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey. The HILDA Survey, which collects information about economic and subjective well-being, labour market dynamics and family dynamics, is Australia's only large-scale nationally representative longitudinal household survey that interviews the same households and individuals each year. Based on this information, a separate ordered logistic regression is run to estimate the determinants of different aspects of life satisfaction for African-Australians.

Keywords - African-Australians, life satisfaction, well-being

Kwamena Kwansah-Aidoo

Market research in Africa: Challenges and prospects

Abstract - More and more international market research is being conducted as companies seek to expand their markets. Across the globe, emerging economies are widely regarded as offering substantial future potential as companies seek to expand their markets and increase profits. Accordingly, just as in developed markets, more and more market research is being conducted in these economies to serve as a basis for making forays into emerging markets. However, emerging market research projects are typically much more complex than similar studies in developed

countries. Whilst there have been several studies examining the problems associated with international marketing research few focus specifically on Africa.

This study focuses on Africa and is based upon secondary research, as well as qualitative interviews with professionals working in Africa's Market Research industry. The findings reveal an array of complex challenges that researchers face when working in Africa. These encompass the availability of reliable secondary data, the availability of research resources and suppliers, appropriateness of data collection methodologies and research costs variations. There are also a host of related macro and environmental differences such as political and legislative issues, basic infrastructure, cultural differences, social and market structure differences, communication and technology difficulties, accessibility and many others. It is important for researchers to be aware of and appreciate these potential difficulties so that projects can be designed to overcome them.

Keywords - Market research in Africa, complex challenges, macro and environmental differences

Louise Kyle & Lynne Carolan
Teaching African students in Legal Studies at VU

Abstract - This paper will draw on a range of theoretical perspectives to describe and analyse the on-going teaching and curriculum development practice of a group of Victoria University (VU) teachers and lecturers who have collaboratively taught and developed Certificate IV and Advanced Diploma level courses to facilitate African student participation and success in Legal Studies/Law courses at VU.

Many of the students share the challenges of disrupted education, trauma caused by war, time spent in temporary accommodation (including refugee camps), post-traumatic stress and cultural adaptation to Australia. We are aware that each community brings different and unique perspectives to their study, different languages and cultural backgrounds and understandings of what constitutes a community and how it is organised.

Teachers in these courses at VU have worked together to change subject matter, assessments, and delivery because we saw the need to change our teaching practice rather than problematise the students. Learning is greatly enhanced where course material has more meaning and relevance and students are able to bring their cultures and experiences into the classroom to 'scaffold' their understanding. This learning is two-way as the teachers' subjectivities and awareness of cultural assumptions are challenged and a more reflexive and effective delivery of difficult legal concepts and language is possible.

Keywords - African students, law, teaching across cultures, post-refugee experiences and identities

Kiprono Langat

Young refugees and schooling: A paradigm shift in school leadership and pedagogical practices in an ethnically diverse school in regional New South Wales

Abstract - Australia's rural refugee resettlement policy has led to increasing numbers of refugees being resettled in rural and regional areas. This trend has had major impacts upon regional towns, yet few educational studies have examined its implications for schools.

This qualitative case study aims to document the perspectives of a range of key stakeholders including school leaders, teachers, students, and allied staff in terms of how increasing cultural diversity has impacted upon school leadership and pedagogical practices, attitudes and beliefs. It seeks to analyse first, the leadership and pedagogical discourses and practices which are now shaping an ethnically diverse regional school in Southern New South Wales and second, the leadership policies, discourses and practices at regional executive level which guide and inform leadership and pedagogy in such schools.

Hence, the study is informed by a critical perspective on educational leadership and a poststructural theoretical perspective. The guiding research question is: What are the implications for leadership and pedagogical practices, attitudes and beliefs in a regional school, which has recently experienced a shift from a largely mono-cultural to an increasingly ethnically diverse student body?

Keywords - Paradigm shift, young refugees, rural resettlement, ethnic diversity, leadership and pedagogy, educational leadership

Emanuel Laryea

"Mining" Africa: The imperatives of law, economics and leadership failures

Abstract - Undoubtedly, Africa is a continent of immense natural resource endowments, but it also has the largest proportion of global poverty per capita. The seeming paradox of poverty and debt amidst heavy resource endowments has been the subject of much study and writing. Some have called the situation the "resource curse", suggesting a correlation between the resource endowments and poverty and underdevelopment. Others disagree, as does this presenter.

This paper examines the imperatives of law, economics and actions by African leaderships in the exploitation of the available resources. First, it discusses the development of international investment law and principles relating to resource investments in Africa, and elsewhere. It notes that the law developed mainly in a rational way. Second, the paper examines the economic factors that influence the law and actions of stakeholders (investors and parties in whom resources are vested, mainly the leaderships of host states). Third, it argues that failures of African leaderships are the cause for the often lopsided arrangements for resource investment in favour of investors. It observes that recent developments in the global economic and political dynamics relating to resources may present some opportunities for ameliorating some of the imbalances.

Keywords - Mining Africa, resource curse, resource investments, economic factors, African leadership

(Raymond) Kwun Sun Lau

Responding to mass atrocities in Africa: The responsibility to protect and the responsibility to punish

Abstract - What has been distinctive about the post-Cold War era and, in particular, the aftermath of the 1994 Rwandan genocide is a change in expectations about international responses to mass atrocities. The establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 1998 and the adoption of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle in the 2005 World Summit mark the birth of two forms of responsibilities: responsibility to punish and responsibility to protect. The interaction of R2P with the ICC, however, reflects an inherent tension between protection and punishment in the temporal trajectory of international society's response to mass atrocities.

This paper explores the relationship between R2P and the ICC by questioning the tendency to perceive protection of civilians and punishment of perpetrators as priori synthetic. In particular, it brings forward the analysis of time dimension in judging the international community's effectiveness in halting mass atrocities in Africa.

Keywords - Mass atrocities, International Criminal Court, responsibility to protect, international

Ibolya Losoncz

Respect and community inclusion – post-settlement Sudanese experiences

Abstract - Discrimination and social exclusion are widespread experiences among African-Australians, as confirmed recently in a review by the Australian Human Rights Commission. Interviews with African-Australians communities highlighted the issue of community tension, including: low levels of acceptance in public life, rejection by local neighbourhoods, experiences of isolation and disrespect, and perceptions of mainstream communities that they are not integrating. There are also repeated calls from community leaders for more respect and respectful treatment of African refugees by the wider community and social institutions.

However, what is 'respect'? What does this ubiquitous yet under-theorised term amount to in practical terms? Moreover, why should we care about respect? This paper analyses interviews with Sudanese-Australians on their conceptualisation of respect, what behaviours signal respect or disrespect, and why respect is seen as so important in their interactions with the wider community and authorities. The paper also explores the relationship between respect, community connection and inclusion. Specifically, it queries how everyday acts of respect and acceptance can promote inclusion.

Keywords - Social inclusion, community connection, respect

David Lucas

Australian mining companies in Africa 2008-2010

Abstract - In 2008 Donnelly and Ford published 'In Africa: How the resource boom is making the sub-Saharan Africa more important to Australia', which was perhaps the first economic overview of the extent of Australian mining operations in Africa.

However, the resource boom was soon checked by the Global Financial Crisis (GFC), when the prices of most metals fell and investment and exploration were curtailed. This paper focuses on changes and strategies involving the Australian miners, ranging from the juniors to the multi-nationals, which occurred in the three-year period of 2008-2010. Apart from the impact of the GFC, the sovereign risks (both political and fiscal) in African countries will be considered, as well as how companies threatened to move projects to Africa when the Australian Rudd government threatened to introduce a Resource Super Profits Tax in 2010.

Keywords - Resources, mining, sovereign risk

Tanya Lyons

From neglected to engaged? Australia's relations with the countries of Africa 2006-2010

Abstract - 'There are no votes in Africa'. This is how Higgott (1983) concluded his chapter on Australia and Africa covering the period 1976-1980. Apparently, since then there has been a 'period of neglect' (Smith 2010a; 2009b) in all sectors of government, diplomacy, trade, aid and defence.

In terms of any general analysis of Australian-African relations, there have been only rare published accounts since Higgott's that service an understanding of the major issues facing Australian policy discourse (see Ford 2003). It would seem that the only groups not to lose interest in Africa have been the small non-governmental organizations and faith-based charities, which find commitment and reward in supporting various African crises. Private aid to Africa surpasses official development assistance.

Fifteen years ago, Evans and Grant wrote that 'Australia's relations with Africa have tended to develop on a largely ad hoc basis, often as a consequence of policies on other issues, such as human rights, the Commonwealth and, especially, apartheid', and they warned that 'it would be wrong for Australia to ignore Africa, or to allow our relations to drift without substance. African nations are able to exert considerable influence internationally; in the United Nations and its various agencies and in the Commonwealth' (Evans and Grant 1995).

This paper will examine the historical relations between Australia and Africa over the last three decades, before focusing on the policies of the Rudd-Smith/Gillard-Rudd Labor government. It will also examine Australia's bid for the UN Security council in

2013, and the connections with increased funding to African countries.

Keywords - Australian-African relations, Australian government policies, African influence internationally, UN Security Council, increased funding

Virginia Mapedzahama

The paradox of skilled nurse migration in Australia: The case of black African migrant nurses

Abstract - This paper explores the 'paradox of skilled nurse migration' in relation to African migrant nurses working within the Australian healthcare system. The 'paradox' arises out of a contradiction between active recruitment of skilled nurses to solve Australian nursing skills shortage who may find that, once here, they are presented as 'a problem' to the very system which sought them out.

Drawing on interview data from a pilot study conducted with 14 skilled African migrant nurses, the paper explores the nurses' practice world to interrogate not only the challenges of 'being a black migrant nurse' in Australia but also the severe lack of workplace preparation for the nurse migrants that culminates in the paradox. Research into skilled African migrant subjectivities in general, and specifically skilled African migrant nurses, remains neglected in Australia. As a result, little is known about how this cohort experiences their work world. Current research (though also limited) has tended to focus on African refugees. Even then, the focus has been on issues (such as such as English language competency, labour force experience and participation, youth violence, and resettlement) that cast the migrant her- or himself as 'the problem'.

By centring the voices of skilled migrant nurses, the paper not only makes visible the experiences of a hitherto un-researched group, but presents a counter-narrative to the current one of the 'problematised' African migrant.

Keywords - Nursing, African nurses, skilled migration, nurse migration

Kudzai Matereke

Mortgaged citizenship and domesticated agency in postcolonial Zimbabwe: Towards a politics of recognition

Abstract - One key question in postcolonial studies is: How should we understand postcolonial identities? As an intellectual discourse, postcolonial theory seeks, among other things, to question how the transition from colonialism to independence has produced diverse effects on the identities of Indigenous populations. Key to this endeavour is whether the postcolonial dispensation has successfully turned colonial 'subjects' into 'citizens'.

This paper seeks to make a contribution by situating the debate within the context of the Zimbabwean postcolonial crisis and critically reflecting on the complexities that confront postcolonial citizenship. It argues that at the core of the challenges is a

'revolution logic' that is deployed as a founding tale of the nation and continues to mediate and inscribe what it means to be Zimbabwean and African.

The paper suggests that this challenge should be viewed as a potential threat to the democratic processes in Africa, especially with the recent regrouping of the revolution movements. It also highlights how the 'revolution logic' stifles the critical agency of the citizens and results in 'mortgaged citizenship'. By employing the political principle of 'recognition', it seeks to demonstrate how the 'revolution logic' can be deconstructed, thus making a vital contribution to how postcolonial identities and citizenship need to be reframed.

Key words - Postcolonial, citizenship, agency, recognition, revolution, Zimbabwe

Noah Mbano

What are the perceptions of post-settlement African refugee students about the usefulness of ESL programs in Western Australia?

Abstract - A recent doctoral study conducted in Western Australia to investigate the perceptions of post-settlement African background students found that their needs are not only extensive but diverse and include educational, emotional, physical, social and familial issues. This concurs with other studies undertaken that have continued to reveal that refugee students, including those of African background, now present new challenges to Australian teachers. This is often due to prior traumatic experiences, their sometimes interrupted education and/or low levels of literacy. Additionally, there are vast differences between African refugee students' native culture and the host culture in Western Australia. Further, these differences present real barriers to their smooth adjustment/acclimatisation into the new culture.

The primary focus of the study was to ascertain whether or not the curriculum was assisting them in their integration into their new cultural context, with the aim of developing a more culturally inclusive curriculum which will assist their adjustment. The research reported on here was undertaken using qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Participants were recruited from Intensive English Language centers with the assistance of staff from district offices of the Western Australian State Education Department. Focus groups, individual interviews and surveys were undertaken to develop a general understanding of the beliefs they hold about the ESL curriculum.

Keywords - Perceptions, African, refugees, adjustment, culture, curriculum, Western Australia

Stephen McLoughlin

Mitigating risk of ethnic violence in Africa: An examination of Rwanda and Botswana

Abstract - In the 1980s, two nations in Africa stood out for their development and stability in a continent beset with famine, war and strife. Both Rwanda and

Botswana earned the moniker 'the Switzerland of Africa' as they successfully pursued economic growth and development. But for Rwanda, things went drastically wrong. In 1994 extremist elements led the most intense genocide of the twentieth century, resulting in the deaths of close to one million Tutsi and moderate Hutu in just a ninety-day period. The country was devastated, and sixteen years later, is still recovering.

By contrast, Botswana has been able to maintain its strong economic growth and reputation as an oasis of stability. It has gone from one of the poorest countries in the world at its independence in 1966 to a solid middle-income nation. The presence of ethnic divisions and inequalities has not derailed Botswana's progress, which has occurred despite the presence of a number of the risk factors typically associated with nations fraught with ethnic strife. While Botswana appears on Genocide Watch's most recent watch-list of nations at risk of mass atrocities, it is ranked relatively low risk and has not experienced any major interethnic violence. The risk factors present in Botswana appear to have been offset by the nation's multiple strengths.

This paper seeks to compare risk and resilience in Rwanda and Botswana. There has been extensive analysis of what 'went wrong' in Rwanda, but there is much less information available about what 'goes right' in countries such as Botswana. The case studies of these two nations suggest that understanding the pathways that lead to genocide and mass atrocities not only requires a consideration of risk, but a more complex analysis of the interaction between risk factors and mitigating factors that can have a protective function.

Keywords - Rwanda, Botswana, Switzerland of Africa, genocide and mass atrocities, stability

Sara Meger

The globalization of sexual violence: Western resource demand and the use of rape in contemporary armed conflict

Abstract - The systematic rape of women has been a regular feature of war and in today's civil conflicts, rape is a systematic and brutal weapon used by armed groups against civilian populations. Though rape has occurred in mass and systematic forms previously, it was not as primary of a weapon as it is in contemporary conflicts. Civil conflict has become the primary form of warfare around the world, employing smaller arms than traditional inter-state wars, and featuring a greater focus on guerrilla-style fighting tactics. It is in this context that rape has become a central feature of contemporary war.

The aim of this paper is to understand firstly the function of rape in contemporary conflict and then explain the wider systemic factors that construct sexual violence as an effective and strategic weapon of war. This paper argues that the extreme forms of sexual violence being used in contemporary conflicts are a result of the nature and context of these conflicts. Using the Democratic Republic of Congo as a case

study, this paper argues that the extreme levels of sexual violence being witnessed in this conflict is a direct outcome of the changed nature of conflict, which is itself a consequence of processes of international political and economic globalisation.

Keywords - War rape, sexual violence, globalisation, new wars, resource wars

Charles Mphande

A way and ways: Engaging Africa and Africans

Abstract - This paper is exploratory; it seeks to ask questions and stimulate discussion which will lead to learning and action. At present Africa as a region is largely unknown to the majority of Australians. The few that do have an interest in Africa, such as scholars and members of AFSAAP, find hardly any support or encouragement, philanthropic or otherwise, to engage with Africa through meaningful scholarship. For scholars, even the Excellence in Research in Australia (ERA) rankings of journals that publish studies on Africa are an obvious discouragement. For the general public, media representations of Africa are not inviting. The identity of an African tends to be shunned in general as a result. This state of affairs does not seem conducive to engaging Africans and Africa. It also stands in contrast to the long-standing engagement of Africa and Africans by other regions such as North Europe (Scandinavia), Western Europe (particularly UK, Germany, France) and now, increasingly, China.

This paper therefore asks how the theme of this conference – engaging Africa and Africans – can be realized in the Australian context. A broad question is: what models of engagement with other regions are available? What role can African-Australians play in the models of engagement? What role can African scholars/universities in the African region (mainland Africa and the surrounding island nations) play in the engagement model? What benefit would such associations as AFSAAP (Australasia), Africa Studies Association (US) and others offer? And how can we draw upon African diasporas scholarship in other regions?

Keywords - Engaging Africa and Africans, media representations, engagement in other regions, models of engagement, African scholars/universities

Samuel Muchoki

Sexuality and post-refugee experience of migrants from the Horn of Africa: A new research agenda

Abstract - In 2004-05, there was a significant shift in the pattern of resettlement in Australia at a time when 70% of the 13,000 resettled refugees were from Africa. In 2007, the quota allocated to refugees from the African region was reduced due to a (perceived) failure of integration.

In this paper I review the challenges faced by African-Australians from refugee backgrounds as they endeavour to integrate, with a specific focus on sexuality. To date, there is a scarcity of studies that address sexuality issues within this

community. On arrival, these Australians find themselves in a 'new' sexual culture which they must explore with little, or no, assistance. This paper sets up the foundation for a new research agenda around sexual health that is helpful not only for this community but also to service providers working at the intersection of integration, gender and sexuality among African-Australians.

Keywords - Sexuality, integration, post-refugee experience, African-Australians

Ndungu wa Mungai & Yangi Moi

The challenges facing single parents of African background in Wagga Wagga, NSW

Abstract - This research explores the problems facing single parents of African background in Wagga Wagga in regional New South Wales (NSW). Most of these single parents have a refugee background and have lost their spouses through conflicts. Research has shown that single parents face problems that include financial constraints, isolation, parenting issues, balancing family needs, unemployment and housing. In addition to experiencing the problems faced by other single parents, African single parents have limited knowledge of available services and the services have limited knowledge of their needs.

Drawing on qualitative research methodology, this primary social work paper discusses the range of problems as well as the resilience of these single parents, and proposes ways of bridging the gap between single parents and service providers in Wagga Wagga. The objective of this research is to make these problems visible and also assist in reducing the isolation.

Keywords - Single parents, service delivery, service providers, African, refugee backgrounds, resilience

Paul Munro

Improving rural education in Sierra Leone: The potential role of small-scale solar power and ICT interventions

Abstract - Sierra Leone and its capital city of Freetown were once dubbed "the Athens of Africa" due to the country's high education standards and being home to the first ever western-style University in West Africa (Fourah Bay College). Yet this moniker has since been dropped as many areas of the education sector have subsequently crumbled during years of authoritarian patrimonial rule in the 1970s and 1980s and the subsequent civil war during the 1990s.

This has particularly been the case with schools located in the country's rural areas, which suffer from acute skilled teacher shortages, lack of schooling materials and physical infrastructure – most notably, mains electricity is scarce in Sierra Leone and is non-existent outside urban areas.

This paper will examine the potential role that solar power installations and information and communication technologies (ICTs) could play in ameliorating these

problems, drawing upon fieldwork experience and research conducted by the organization Energy for Opportunity (EFO). Specifically, it will examine how such interventions can have a positive impact on rural education in Africa, from the very basics of providing reliable light for reading, to the potential role of ICTs in diversifying education opportunities for rural secondary students by connecting them to a global online education community.

Keywords - Sierra Leone, teacher shortages, solar power, rural education, school materials and infrastructure, global online education community

Paul Munro & Greg Hiemstra-van der Horst
Conserving exploitation? A political ecology of forestry policy in Sierra Leone

Abstract - For over a decade, Sierra Leonean resource management policy has been firmly embedded in broader political commitments to decentralisation and community 'empowerment'. Nonetheless, in response to a sudden influx of foreign timber interests, the country's Forestry Division recently introduced new legislation centralizing forest control to the federal level. While ostensibly 'conservationist' in nature, this revised Forestry Act nearly illegalizes 'local' use of forest resources while easing access for foreign capital.

As this paper demonstrates, however, this outcome is not essentially neoteric but rather a reflection of the tensions and contradictions produced by the entwining of 'forest conservation' and 'timber production' throughout the history of Sierra Leonean forestry policy. This discursive dynamic has ultimately created a confused mosaic of policies which different powerful actors have, at various times, exploited at the expense of 'local' populations.

The paper begins with a historical analysis of how particular ideas and practices around conservation and logging emerged during the early colonial period and how these were subsequently shaped through various historical processes. Building on this analytical and contextual foundation, the paper then presents an examination of contemporary interactions between foreign timber companies, governmental actors and forest-reliant local communities.

Keywords - Sierra Leone, forestry management, timber extraction, colonialism, conservation

Robert Munro
Processing digital communications in less-resourced African languages

Abstract - Text-messaging (SMS) has quickly become the dominant form of remote communication across much of Africa. Every day, millions of messages are sent in hundreds of languages, with local organisations leading the way in leveraging mobile technologies to support health, banking and education.

This has created a new information bottleneck as these communications often need

to be rerouted, filtered, and/or triaged. This presentation will report on recent work in techniques for managing SMS in the Chichewa language in rural Malawi. Using the FrontlineSMS:Medic software, doctors at a central clinic communicate directly with remote community health workers via SMS. The doctors currently spend about 1 hour per day sorting incoming messages, but with a patient-population of over 200,000 this averages to just 5 seconds per patient per year.

By utilizing natural language processing (NLP), managing this data can be partially automated, saving time locally and allowing monitoring bodies to identify potential outbreaks early on. However, like most languages, Chichewa has rich affixing and spellings may be more or less phonetic. This presents a considerable challenge, as almost all communication management systems rely on 'keyword'-based filtering and data mining: what works for English has double the error in Chichewa. Fortunately, this 'subword' variation is linguistically predictable. In a novel approach, we show that one form of machine learning can automatically learn these variations, allowing another level of machine learning to then accurately classify and reroute messages. This has very broad (and promising) implications for the application of digital technology to many African languages

Keywords - African languages, digital communication, data

Simon Musgrave, Finex Ndhlovu, Julie Bradshaw & Phuong Dzung Pho
Demography and language: African immigration to Australia

Abstract - Immigration to Australia from Africa has grown substantially over the last two decades, including the intake of both refugees and voluntary migrants from various African countries. To some extent, this change has been driven by various crises, both natural and man-made, which have affected different parts of the African continent, and it is not difficult to track these pressures in the available census data. Information about the place of birth of Australian residents allows us to see that different African nations have been the dominant source of migrants at different times.

However, it is by no means so simple to extract information about the linguistic demography of Australia's African migrants from census data. While Borland and Mphande have provided an excellent introduction to the issue for the population in Victoria (Borland and Mphande 2006, 2009), Bradshaw, Deumert and Burridge include some information specific to the question of interpreting services (2008) and Musgrave and Hajek (2010) give some information about the micro-level demography of the Sudanese community in Melbourne, in this paper we discuss the various factors which make the task of linguistic demography difficult for this population.

First, many languages with small numbers of speakers in Australia are simply not individually represented in the census tables. Second, and compounding the first problem, many migrants from Africa are multilingual and may choose to represent themselves as speakers of a language of wider communication rather than as

speakers of their first language for various reasons. A third factor posing difficulty for accurately assessing the linguistic demography of Australia's African community is the lack of geographical specificity of certain languages. This factor can obscure the situation not only within the African community, as in the case of Swahili, but also across populations from different continents, as in the case of Arabic. We conclude that census data provides an inadequate picture of the linguistic diversity of this community, and that further research is urgently needed to give a more complete picture.

Keywords - African languages in Australia, linguistic demography, census data, linguistic diversity

Clovis Mwamba

Mikili: An initiatory and migratory route for Congolese

Abstract - For the Congolese, "Mikili" indicates (countries of) Europe and carries the meaning of El Dorado. However, traditionally it also held meaning as the 'true country', which prior to colonialism meant the 'village' to most Congolese.

The notion of the village as 'true country' began to change under colonial rule. For Congolese, much was absent in the vacuum left by the removal of the policy of "indigénat" (the Belgian system of apartheid in Congo). The city had been designed and organised by whites during the colonial period to suit their own needs. The former notion of education within the village has been replaced by people leaving the villages, attracted by the city. Even within the city, indigenous Congolese have found it more attractive to live as the former colonial bosses were living. The concepts of time, money, wages, competition, social classes, private property, the nuclear family, and so on were unknown before colonial domination and have caused the catastrophic erosion of community egalitarianism, collective ownership and blood ties. In a cultural sense, the colonial 'kingdom of heaven' became the 'true country' (true mikili) while the 'village shared with one's ancestors' becomes the false mikili. More recently, Congolese refugees have discovered that the onslaught of globalisation means that the world has become very small. They have been forced to challenge the notion that El Dorado exists only in the northern hemisphere. Australia has now become Mikili.

This paper addresses the question of how traditional concepts of initiation and education embodied in Mikili have changed over time, and which colonial and post-colonial factors have shaped Mikili for the modern Australian Congolese. The focus will be on the traditional importance of family and community and the paradoxes raised by the 'individualised' explorations of Mikili. Further, traditional cultural concepts of hierarchy through elders and the symbolic and psychological importance of names will be explored.

Keywords - Congo, initiation, education, multiculturalism, colonialism

Finex Ndhlovu

"I can't become an Australian because I am always too something to be Australian": African identities, discourses of exclusion and resurgent racism in Australia

Abstract - There is resurgent racism in Australia reflected in elite, media and public discourses on issues around being and becoming an Australian citizen. While citizenship is largely conceptualized in formal/official terms that define it on the basis of social rights, privileges and responsibilities that all members of a given polity are entitled to, this definition ignores salient non-official elements that determine people's levels of active citizenship participation. Officially becoming a citizen does not always automatically open doors of access to equal socio-economic and political opportunities. This paper reports on the outcomes of a study that was aimed at documenting personal stories of African refugee background Australian citizens regarding their experiences with being and becoming Australian; and how they are dealing with life in Australia. It reflects on and discusses some of the subtle micro-social issues impacting on active citizenship participation by recently conferred Australian citizens of African refugee backgrounds.

The ultimate goal of the paper is to recast conceptions of citizenship in ways attuned to everyday forms of social interaction in public spaces, way out of the gaze of official government policies.

Keywords - African-background Australians, refugees, racism, citizenship, discrimination

Michael Nest

The rise of African consumer power: How activists wanting to change the world need to persuade the consumers who matter

Abstract - Consumer boycotts are established strategies for pressuring firms to change the conditions under which commodities are produced and traded. Recently, activists concerned about war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have advocated boycotts of products made from 'conflict minerals' produced in militia-controlled mines, and demanded that firms guarantee their products do not contain such minerals. Mobile phones are a key target of these campaigns. Yet 75% of mobile phones are in developing countries – Africa has more mobile phones than the US – and handsets are increasingly manufactured in China.

This paper analyses initiatives to restructure the global supply chain for tantalum or 'coltan', a mineral extracted in the Congo that is an essential ingredient in electronic devices. The paper argues that assumptions about the power of western consumers are becoming redundant for certain products, including mobile phones. A geographical shift in markets to African and other developing country markets poses challenges for activists and governments seeking to end war in Congo by targeting armed groups' resource profits. Coltan initiatives also hold lessons for transnational activism generally: namely, the need to engage with newly powerful consumers in societies where transparency in business and government is limited and where activism has historically focused on domestic issues.

Keywords - Transnational activism, consumer boycotts, Congo, natural resources, tantalum/coltan

Stephen O'Brien

Behind the decline in HIV in Zimbabwe

Abstract - For more than ten years Zimbabwe has been known for political and economic instability, including the near collapse in 2008 of its health system. Paradoxically, this period has also seen the development of a major public health success which has only recently gained significant international attention. The prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the population has fallen from an estimated 29% in 1997 to 13.7% in 2009.

This paper will summarise the various reports which have been used to provide the evidence of this achievement in the fight against the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) epidemic. It outlines how factors such as HIV incidence, migration, mortality and behaviour change have contributed to the decline. The paper also addresses issues such as health funding, the availability of antiretroviral therapy and the development and management of Zimbabwe's AIDS response. These factors will be considered in the light of the implications of this public health success for the still considerable number of people living with HIV and the Zimbabwean state

Keywords - Zimbabwe, HIV incidence, HIV prevalence, behaviour change, AIDS

Ben O'Mara

**Using mobile phones to support the health and wellbeing of African communities:
A critical approach to communicating information with Digital Technology**

Abstract - Recent research has found that mobile phones are considered a ubiquitous, relatively affordable and preferred form of digital technology by people from the Sudanese community in Victoria (O'Mara, Babacan and Borland 2010). At the same time, a number of digital technology projects in Africa are using mobile phones as a key platform for communicating finance, health, education, agriculture and weather information. Mobile phones, like other digital media platforms, are increasingly converging with the internet, and perform many tasks once limited to computers. They demonstrate considerable potential to communicate information effectively with African communities.

The experiences of African communities with mobile phones are complex, however. There are differences in the quality and frequency of access to mobile phones due to factors such as age, language, socioeconomic background, educational level, the diversity of makes and models, and familiarity with technical functions (Castells 2006; O'Mara et al. 2010). Additionally, communication preferences and social context shape the ways in which digital technology is used.

This paper reviews current literature and ICT projects involving African communities

and mobile phones. It also examines data collected from interviews and focus groups conducted with members of the Sudanese community in Melbourne's west and the regional community of Warrnambool conducted as part of a VicHealth-funded digital technology study. It seeks to develop a critical perspective on the ways in which mobile phones are used with African communities to support their health and wellbeing, and argues for more inclusive and nuanced communication strategies created in partnership with communities to help address their needs and agendas.

Keywords - Mobile phones, key communications platform, Sudanese community, digital technology

Rachel Outhred

Black first and a student second? Exploring embodied experiences of African-born students in Australia's higher education system

Abstract - In 1985, Michelle LaVaughn Robinson submitted a thesis to the Department of Sociology at Princeton University entitled Princeton Educated Blacks and the Black Community. In her introduction, the now First Lady of the United States of America stated, 'I sometimes feel like a visitor on campus; as if I really don't belong. Regardless of the circumstances under which I interact with whites at Princeton, it often seems as if, to them, I will always be black first and a student second' (Robinson 1985).

This paper focuses on voice, exploring the extent to which African-born students, receiving a place in Australia's tertiary education system, are also given space to voice their differences as well as their similarities. It contributes to a broader agenda of re-imagining student equity in Australian higher education in terms of aspiration, mobility and voice (Gale and Sellar 2009). The paper draws on the phenomenological notion of corporalité (Merleau-Ponty 1962), to explore embodied experiences as narrated by African-born students participating in higher education within Australia. It acknowledges the relationship between different bodies in educational settings as sites for socially just education (Lingard 2007) and explores the extent to which African-born students feel personally and ideologically comfortable within Australia's university environment.

Keywords - Voice, knowledge, student experience, student equity, higher education

Melissa Phillips

Dropped from the moon: (Mis)representations of "African" refugees in Australia

Abstract - This paper will explore the types of labels applied to migrants and refugees of African-backgrounds in Australia. Currently the term 'African-Australian' is used to describe people originating from a diverse range of countries comprising many cultural backgrounds. Yet it is hard to imagine a similar scenario where the European-Australian label could be employed without protest.

This paper will ask why 'African-Australian' has come to be used unquestioningly.

How are so-called 'African-Australians' represented in the public domain by specialist and mainstream services? What are these representations based on and what impact do they have? This paper will also argue that for refugees in particular, this label is largely based on a deficit model that focuses disproportionately on trauma, loss and victim status. Indeed, the dominant image of Africans in Australia is as refugees, so that all 'African-Australians' are stereotyped as 'problems' in need of solutions. This will be linked to both the wide body of literature that considers when refugee-status ceases and scholarship on how the 'Other' is positioned by the majority. Drawing on research data investigating the resettlement experiences of Australians from Southern Sudanese backgrounds, I will argue that convenient labelling for some has negative consequence for many new Australians from African backgrounds.

Keywords - African, refugees, identity, labels

Peter Run

Shapes and colours: Race and beauty among the new Africans in the diaspora

Abstract - That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ar'n't I a woman? Sojourner Truth, 1851

In 1960, the pan-African identity campaign advocating 'black is beautiful' attempted to discourage black people from straightening their hair, lightening their skins or mimicking Caucasian appearance. This movement achieved many things but failed to dissuade many black women, especially in the US and Europe, from straightening their hair. To date, an industry dedicated to "ethnic cosmetics" thrives. Despite this tendency to move towards Caucasian-shaped aesthetics, the editorial team of Elle Magazine decided in 1997 to put Alek Wek, a former Sudanese refugee and the darkest-skinned young model in the industry, with closely cropped natural ringlets of African hair on the cover of its November issue. Their justification was her shape, not her colour.

This paper examines the range of questions that arose from Wek's success and what the debate says about race and beauty, especially to Africans in the Diaspora. A review of existing feminist and poststructuralist literature reveals that mainstream fashion media is increasingly constructing beauty around the image of a tall, thin and 'nicely' shaped woman. This allows beauty to be applied to all races and encourages African women in the Diaspora to aspire to 'universal beauty' such as Wek's, their own cultural ideas of beauty notwithstanding. In analysing this discourse I rely on a comparison of a young African woman recently featured in Australia's Next Top Model reality television show with another young Africa model in the United States. Drawing on poststructuralist analysis, I examine their statements, performances and public reaction to these. My analysis suggests that the mainstream construction of beauty emphasises shape. Whether this emphasis is to the exclusion of race may be the subject of future research.

Key words: Pan-African identity, beauty, Diaspora, Dinka people, race

Ben Silverstein

"Do you see what we see?"/"Africa wants you to leave us alone": Images of Africans in the West

Abstract - This paper is a reflection on the contemporary role of images in conditioning forms of 'Western' engagement with 'Africa' as a concept and African people. I will compare two recent distinct images of Africans designed to be viewed through Western eyes. The first is a postcard distributed as part of a World Vision campaign in July 2008, encouraging Australians to sponsor needy children overseas. This campaign featured advertisements asking 'us' whether, when we looked at the image of a young African boy, we saw what they saw. What did they see and, by extension, what were we supposed to see? And what were we not supposed to see? The second image is a mural painted in Basel, Switzerland earlier this year by South African artist Breeze Yoko, dominated by images of African liberation activists and statesmen designed to signify African strength and self-reliance. The question posed by World Vision here seems apposite again: what do we see in these images of Africans staring out at the viewer?

Both images not only call upon the viewer to respond in different ways, but interpellate the viewer as a subject in relation to a hyperreal Africa. I will draw on Althusser's work on interpellation, as well as Butler's refinement of the concept, to try to unpick the mechanisms by which these 'Africas' call certain subjects into being. I will also draw on the work of Mudimbe and others on Africa as a sign in order to work through the ways such images of Africa are linked with the constitution of ambivalently external subjects. The two images, with their differently signified Africas, work through a dialectic of image and text, viewed and viewer, encouraging different ways for 'outsiders' to relate to Africa.

Keywords - Images of Africa/ns, interpellation, Africa as sign, subject relations, outsiders

Abdullah Teia

The importance of arts and African cultural heritage for Australian-African identity and social inclusion

Abstract - Our paper begins by introducing state and local policies and structures relating to multiculturalism in South Australia. It will also provide background and context for the recent history of African migration to South Australia, including some of the challenges faced by new arrivals and particularly young people from African backgrounds.

We then turn to a discussion of the importance of arts programs as a means to revitalise communities and to maintain traditional crafts, using the Jamba Africa project as an example. Specific African-based community arts projects such as the Magic Waterhole, a core project program based on a traditional Sudanese story that

has been used successfully to introduce African culture to the wider community, can be seen to promote meaningful multicultural engagement and provide a vital tool to strengthen Australian-African relationships at many different levels. Most importantly, they demonstrate the ways in which art, an integral part of human life, can be used to show that African cultural heritage has more to offer to Australia in terms of social inclusion than has been previously recognised.

Keywords - Arts, African cultural heritage, identity, social inclusion, multiculturalism, strengthening African-Australian community relationships, maintenance of traditional crafts

Vera Tetteh

"You know African women want to work": Language, identity and social inclusion of African women in Australia

Abstract - This paper reports on an aspect of my broader sociolinguistic ethnographic PhD project. It draws on settlement narratives of black African women to examine how ideologies of language and identity intersect to impact their settlement experiences in regional/rural New South Wales. In this context, black African women as second language learners and users of English are also 'cultural gatekeepers' and 'cultural brokers' (Kourtzin, 2000; Piller, 2001) in the negotiation and (re)positioning of selves for social inclusion. However, the gendered migration, second language use and settlement experiences of this marginalized group is poorly understood.

As Hooks (1994) and, more recently, Creese and Kambere (2003) argue, black women's experiences are seldom the focus of Western scholarly research. Therefore, this paper aims first, to illuminate the complex dynamics of language ideologies and socialization processes of black African women, and second, to include the voices of this marginalised group in Australia's settlement discourses.

Keywords - African women, language, identity, social inclusion, regional/rural

Alan Thorold

The cup and the horn: Globalization, neo-traditionalism and the African World Cup

Abstract: The first FIFA World Cup to be held in Africa is over and despite the absence of an African team in the final it was generally viewed as a success for the continent. One of the notable aspects of the event was the sound of the vuvuzelas, the plastic horns that created as much noise as controversy at stadiums and around television sets across the world. The vuvuzelas will be remembered as a unique and defining feature of the tournament. The origin of the vuvuzela and the etymology of the word is subject to much debate. Some have claimed that the horns are a modern version of the kudu horns that were used to call villagers in various parts of southern Africa to gather. Others suggest a more recent and mundane origin as an adaptation of a metal vehicle horn. This paper explores the use and representation of the vuvuzela in the context of the African World Cup and in relation to globalization and neo-traditionalism.

Keywords - Identity, globalization, neo-traditionalism, football

Peter Mbago Wakholi

Festival as an educational experience: The African Cultural Memory Youth Arts Festival (ACMYAF)

Abstract - Australia has become home to a significant number of African migrants from Africa and many of them experience acculturation challenges which influence identity construction and social being. For young people of African migrant descent, acculturation entails appropriation of cultural influences from both the dominant culture and the cultural heritage of their parents. This occurs in conditions which are sometimes contradictory, whereby African parents teach their children African culture and values while at the same time Australian schools, media and other socialising institutions insist on Eurocentric values. Australian media mostly portray Africa and Africans negatively, sustaining stereotypes of Africa as a region of poverty, war, and teeming with wild beasts without acknowledging positive aspects of the continent. This in turn influences the way the wider community perceives African-Australians and how the latter construct their own identities. Xenophobic attitudes and alienating curriculum in schools can add to the complexities of trying to construct an African-Australian identity.

Yet evidence from social psychology and immigration studies suggest that a strong and secure ethnic identity makes a positive contribution to psychological well-being. This paper explores the concept of a bicultural socialisation educational program (BSEP) developed as an outcome of a community-based festival research project conducted among young people of African migrant descent in Western Australia. The paper will demonstrate how the festival, as a (BSEP) event, was organised on the basis that integration that involves simultaneous ethnic retention and adaptation to the new society as the most adaptive mode of acculturation conducive to African-Australians' well-being.

Keywords - African migrants, cultural identity, cultural memory, bicultural socialisation and education, acculturation, festival, performance, embodied knowledge, bicultural competence

Helen Ware

Mining, governance and war in Africa

Abstract - Both poverty and mineral wealth appear to constitute curses in the African context. Blood diamonds have become notorious and have served to emphasize the role of the end-users of Africa's mineral resources.

This paper explores the tangled interrelationships between mining and war in Africa. With a special emphasis upon West Africa, it examines the links between the type of mining and the development and cross-regional spread of conflict. It also contrasts and compares the governments of Sierra Leone and Botswana and how they have

handled mining issues and revenues.

Keywords - Africa, war, mining, poverty, blood diamonds

Tim Watson

Resettlement in an Australian regional town: Refugees as citizens, employees and customers

Abstract - Citizens from all backgrounds spend large amounts of time and money as part of interacting with the private sector. In the case of newly arrived groups from refugee backgrounds, very little attention is given to community members' interactions as customers of telecommunications companies, banks, insurance companies, real estate agencies and car sales businesses. These companies provide products and financial services, which, if not well understood, can leave newly arrived groups vulnerable to indebtedness, potentially exacerbating the effects of trauma and stress. In addition, private sector organisations are given no government support, nor is there adequate advocacy by government, to ensure such services can be accessed equitably. For example, funding for the provision of free interpreter services, which is available to government contracted services, is not made available to the private sector.

This paper will draw on extensive documentation undertaken as part of the Castlemaine African Community Project (CACP). The CACP is a 2.5 year Victorian state government funded project supporting a community of Sudanese Australian people based in the town of Castlemaine (pop. 9,000), 120 km from Melbourne, Australia. The paper will use a number of case studies to draw out themes which typify the challenges faced in small regional locations by people from refugee backgrounds, and services responding to them.

It will highlight how some challenges have been overcome, and where barriers continue to exist due to systemic policy gaps at a local, state and national level, focusing especially on three key areas largely neglected in policy planning for refugee settlement support:

- Developing mainstream service responses to citizens with settlement needs
- Working with employers to strengthen their capacity to better support employees from refugee backgrounds
- Working with private sector organisations to increase accessibility of information provision to customers from refugee backgrounds

Keywords - Refugees, Sudanese resettlement, regional Australia, systemic policy gaps, settlement, employment and information needs

Lisa Webber

Regional places and social networks: A case study of Sudanese refugees in Colac, Victoria

Abstract - A social network immediately conjures up ideas of people and

relationships. However, there are many other factors at play that act to create and influence how these networks are performed. One such influencing factor is place. Be they locally performed or at a distance, the place in which social networks are performed and negotiated plays a crucial role in the negotiation of these relationships.

This paper is part of a larger research project in which I aim to produce a nuanced picture of the social networks of Sudanese refugees in a regional town, Colac, Victoria. This paper looks at the important role that Colac plays in the creation and negotiation of social networks on various levels and scales for the Sudanese people who call the town home. This paper will look at the space of Colac as both a place in which social networks are performed by the Sudanese research participants (with a focus on the unique layers of social networks that the regional place encourages) and the role that Colac itself plays as an actor in these social networks.

Keywords - Regional places, social networks, negotiation of relationships, Sudanese refugees in Colac

Janeck Wille

Integration and the Australian society: Notions of belonging and social cohesion

Abstract - African refugees in Australia have received much attention in recent years. Public commentary and academic debate reached its crescendo with former Minister Andrews' controversial statements in 2007 on the difficulties African refugees face integrating into Australian society. The current policy focus on social cohesion, social inclusion and belonging therefore leads to sociological questions concerning how newly-arrived communities adapt, develop, adjust and feel included in a society under circumstances where specific groups feel maligned both by media and by some politicians.

My research considers the highly contested concept of integration through examining related concepts such as home/belonging, recognition and contribution. It discusses the claim that successful integration based on inclusion and belonging strengthens the long-term policy goal of social cohesion and analyses the value of a sense of contribution and recognition among refugees resettling in Australia.

Based on interviews with over 20 Sudanese men and women living in Canberra as well as analysis of related research on the Sudanese community in Australia, I explore in this paper whether different experiences of integration have implications for a more cohesive society. The paper distinguishes between, on the one hand, 'functional' aspects of integration such as employment, language and education and, on the other hand, a sense of belonging, knowledge of a secure future, and being accepted as part of the general society – the 'social' aspect of integration (Zetter et al. 2002; Atfield et al. 2007). I argue that these social and functional aspects of integration are equally important through representing both the significance of being recognized and valued as active agents in society and a knowledge of one's own contribution to society.

Keywords - Sudanese refugees, integration, recognition, belonging, and social cohesion

Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes

Beyond Afropessimism: Engaging Africa through cultural renaissance

Abstract - I argue for the significance of cultural renaissance to challenge Afropessimism. Afropessimism is a perspective that views Africa as a continent fated for destruction, helplessness and chaos. I will summarily trace the development of this view in the historical relationship between Africa and the West and in the practice of state and media institutions that have externalised the active roles and viewpoints of African peoples in defining and acting upon their destinies. Africa, beginning from its 'invention', is still encapsulated in the exotic and void representations of 'otherness' or 'nothingness'.

The resistance against the image of nothingness is possible only through a cultural renaissance that celebrates the strength and values of the African peoples for themselves. Such strengths and values could be drawn from what has enabled African peoples to endure, resist and survive the very long and brutal sufferings perpetuated against them by self-serving and patrimonial systems. Africa still lives and will always live because there is something that works among its people. I will draw examples from cultural resistance movements, belief systems, and thoughts to support my assertion that engaging Africa requires a cultural frame that pays attention to what is working and valued among its peoples.

Keywords - Afropessimism, Africa and the West, state and media institutions, cultural renaissance

Mary Young, Robyn Alders & Celia Grenning

Village poultry: Helping to meet the Millennium Development Goals

Abstract - Village poultry make a significant contribution to poverty alleviation and household food security in many developing countries. In traditional village poultry systems, chickens provide scarce animal protein and are available for sale or barter where cash is not abundant. They are generally owned and managed by women and children and fulfil a range of other functions to which it is difficult to assign a monetary value. However, for many smallholders, disease has been a major constraint to poultry production.

For over 25 years, the Australian Centre for Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) have supported village poultry research and development, particularly control of Newcastle disease. The International Rural Poultry Centre (IRPC) of the KYEEMA Foundation works with the support of ACIAR, AusAID, the European Community and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to improve the livelihoods and standard of living of rural families by promoting cost-efficient, sustainable improvements to village

poultry production. By increasing household incomes, improving family nutrition and empowering women, village poultry improvement programs have the potential to contribute to each of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Keywords - Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), poultry, Newcastle disease, food security