



The African Studies Association
of Australasia and the Pacific

Promoting African Studies in the Australasia-Pacific region since 1978

39th Annual Conference

— 2nd call for papers and panels with
extended deadline 31 August 2016 —

AFRICA: MOVING THE BOUNDARIES

St. Catherine's College,
University of Western Australia, Perth
5-7 December 2016



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**




**PERTH
CONVENTION
BUREAU**

Africa: Moving the Boundaries



The UWA Africa Research Cluster and local organising committee are calling for the submission of paper and panel abstracts for the 39th Annual conference of the African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP). Located in Perth, Australia's "Gateway to Africa", and set amidst the stunning surroundings of UWA's Crawley campus on the Swan River, the conference will be an opportune moment to share critical ideas, engage and network with colleagues and research students, and further advance African Studies in our region. The 2016 conference theme, 'Africa: Moving the Boundaries', is designed to inspire participants to explore how physical, social, creative and conceptual boundaries are being stretched, transcended, re-constructed, re-defined, critiqued and challenged by a range of historical and contemporary dynamics, forces, and ideas of relevance to Africa, Africans and African Studies. These might include migration and the evolution of transnational communities; theories, representations and narratives of African agency; new social and scientific technologies; evolving forms of social and political activism; grand projects of regional integration; and responses to critical development and environmental challenges. The conference keynote speaker will be confirmed in due course. To assist with organization, the committee would appreciate if abstracts could be self-identified as speaking to up to three of the following ten thematic streams: Politics, Law & International Relations • History & Heritage • Literature, Culture & the Arts • Science and Technology • Human & Sustainable Development • Gender & Sexuality • Societies, Identities & African Diasporas • Education & Research • Geography, Environment & Resources.

Registration fees

Full registration: \$350
Student registration: \$150

Registration includes:

- 12-month AFSAAP membership, including subscription to the *Australasian Review of African Studies*

- Daily catering (tea, coffee, morning and afternoon tea and lunch)

Abstracts

Abstracts are invited for both individual papers and themed panels of three presenters. Please see the conference website for abstract submission forms and process. Please note that postgraduate students will be integrated into main conference in lieu of postgraduate day, while a dedicated postgraduate professional development seminar is being organised.

Full papers submitted for the conference will be refereed as an E1 Conference Proceeding.

EXTENDED submission deadline: 31 August 2016

Accommodation

Available at St. Catherine's on Park, UWA (the conference venue), please see the conference website for special rates, booking form, and information on alternative accommodation.

Contact details and further information

Email AFSAAP 2016 Conference Convenor, Dr David Mickler: david.mickler@uwa.edu.au

Website, AFSAAP 2016 Conference: <http://afsaap.org.au/conference/perth-2016/>

Website, UWA Africa Research Cluster: http://www.arts.uwa.edu.au/research/clusters/Africa_Research

Confirmed Keynote Speakers



DR WAFULA OKUMU is the founding Director of The Borders Institute (TBI), a leading research and training institute on border issues in Africa, and an Advisor to the Kenyan Government on boundaries. He previously served as the Capacity Building Expert in the African Union Border Programme (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) and a Senior Research Fellow (focusing on border security) and Head of African Security Analysis Programme (ASAP) at the Institute for Security Studies (Pretoria, South Africa). Before joining the ISS in 2006, Dr. Okumu taught at McMaster University's Centre for Peace Studies (Canada), Prescott College, Mississippi University for Women, and Chapman University (USA). He has also served as a Conflict Analyst for the African Union, and as an Academic Programme Associate at the United Nations University, Tokyo, where he coordinated international courses on peacekeeping and on the UN. He did his undergraduate studies in Government and Sociology at the University of Nairobi and graduate studies in Political Science at Atlanta University. He also holds an International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance from the City University of New York, and certificates in project management and senior mission leadership. His research and publications have been on a variety of topics ranging from African borders to human rights, democracy, terrorism, African international organizations, peace and humanitarian assistance. His books include *Democratic Transitions in East Africa* (co-editor with Paul Kaiser), *Understanding Terrorism in Africa* (series co-editor with Anneli Botha), *The African Union: Challenges of Globalization, Security and Governance* (co-author with Samuel Makinda), *The African Union: Addressing the Challenges of Peace, Security and Governance* (co-author with Samuel Makinda and David Mickler), and *Militias, Rebels Groups and Islamist Militants in Africa* (co-editor with Augustine Ikelegbe). His forthcoming book is on *African boundaries*. Dr. Okumu has also published book chapters and articles in journals in *Peace Review*, *African Security Review*, *Journal of Eastern African Affairs*, *Pambazuka*, *International Peacekeeping*, and *Journal of International Affairs*.



YVONNE ADHIAMBO OWUOR earned her B.A from Kenyatta University, an M.A. from the University of Reading, and, later, an MPhil (Creative Writing) from the University of Queensland. She was the director of the Zanzibar International Film Festival (2003-5) under the remit of which a literary forum was established. From 2007-11, Yvonne worked as Programme Specialist overseeing the development of a fine arts curriculum for a new East African university initiative. In 2003, the literary journal, *Kwani?* published her first short story, 'Weight of Whispers', which went on to win the 2003 Caine Prize for African Writing. The work introduced readers to Yvonne's poetic, fast-paced and emotionally charged style, which continued with her highly

acclaimed debut novel, *Dust* (2014), which explores notions of displacement-at-home, silences, memory, and amnesia. Her second novel, an Indian Ocean coming-of-age story, *The Dragonfly Sea*, was developed as part of her studies in Brisbane. It will be launched in 2017. Yvonne's works, including her non-fiction, has appeared in several global publications. In 2010, she was one of twelve writers involved in the "Pilgrimages" travel-writing project initiated by Bard College, USA. Her experiences of Kinshasa reinforced her passion for stories in and of the African interstices. Yvonne has twice made TedX presentations. In addition to her literary life she is involved with conservation matters and also champions the growth of the creative and cultural industries of Eastern Africa.

Special Panels and Sessions

- **“African Literature and Writing”** convened by Professor Russell McDougall, this special panel will feature a presentation by and engagement with keynote speaker Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor, and include Professor Gareth Griffiths as well as other African-Australian writers and literature academics.
- **“Re/constructing Sexualities Across Genders, Cultures and Generations within Africa and the African Diaspora”**: convened by Dr Tinashe Dune, this will be an exciting and evocative panel discussion with speakers with a variety of perspectives on Africa and the African diaspora from various ethnic, sexuality and gender backgrounds. Using a PeArLS (Personally Arranged Learning Session) format, it will first feature brief presentations on relevant research from the panelists. The chair will then pose a series of thought-provoking questions for attendees to discuss in small groups, who will then present a summary of their ideas for full discussion.
- **“Dialogues on Race, Racism, and Difference in the ‘new’ African diaspora in Australia”**: convened by A/Prof Kwamena Kwansah-Aidoo, this special panel aims to disrupt the silence around discussions of racism in Australia, particularly as it pertains to the ‘new’ African Diasporas and to ‘break the ice’ by providing a forum for critical analyses of the experiences of race, racism, discrimination and exclusion relevant to the African diaspora.
- **“Africa’s Mineral Fortune: The Science and Politics of Sustainable Mining”**: convened by Dr. Kathryn Sturman, this panel will feature presentations from and discussion of an edited book project on this theme with a number of Australian and international contributing authors.
- **Postgraduate Professional Development Session**: will provide students with the opportunity to discuss various challenges they face in their studies with peers, including mental health, financial difficulties, research-specific limitations encountered, and other issues that affect ability to carry out studies. The format will be an open forum where students share their experiences, including suggestions about what higher education institutions can do to improve support available to postgraduate students. The seminar is also an opportunity for postgraduates to reflect on AFSAAP’s work in supporting student research. These can be shared with relevant university bodies and AFSAAP members towards improving the experiences of postgraduate students.
- **Film Screening**: we are working to hold a free African film screening at UWA’s outdoor Somerville Auditorium at around 7pm on the evening of Sunday 4 December for conference delegates who arrive in Perth this day. This will be confirmed as soon as possible. See: <http://www.theatres.uwa.edu.au/venues/somerville>
- **Conference Dinner**: will be at *Mamma Africa* restaurant on the evening of Tuesday 6 December. A bus will be hired to transport conference participants from the conference venue to the restaurant and back. The dinner and transport are not included in the conference registration fee and will cost an additional \$60. See: <http://mammaafricarestaurant.com/>