



# The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific

Habari kwa ufupi - AFSAAP  
Newsletter No. 88 –April 2018

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## AFSAAP Newsletter – April 2018

### AFSAAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018

#### Africa in Transition: Governance, Society and Culture Call for Papers

The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP) calls for proposals for pre-organized panels, roundtables, thematic conversations and individual papers for its 41<sup>st</sup> annual meeting to be held at UNSW, Sydney from November 21<sup>st</sup> to November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018.

Recent years have witnessed significant transitions in the governance of African nations. Long-standing leaders, many of whom were major figureheads in the post-colonial era, have given way to demands for change. Sometimes the transitions have been relatively peaceful such as South Africa and Zimbabwe, yet others such as Libya and Egypt have been tumultuous, leaving the nations concerned reeling from the after effects of change. In other nations, the grip of power has been tightened with attempts to do away with term limits or to interfere in the political process surrounding elections. Still others, such as South Sudan, have plunged into civil and ethnic violence which threatens the future stability of this new nation. Climate change, environmental loss and migration are influencing African societies, complicating patterns of governance.

Such changes reverberate across society with calls to rethink the nature of civil society and political participation, as well as the nature of equity and belonging. The call to rethink the way that society functions exists not only in the political sphere, but also across the whole spectrum of the arts and cultural communities as they come together from diverse backgrounds to envisage a different kind of shared future. While the deep challenges that remain must be acknowledged, it is also the case that such change can provide fertile ground for creative thinking and the exchange of ideas between academics, political actors and civil society organizations.

We therefore invite papers that engage with, but are not limited to, the theme: *Africa in Transition: Governance, Society and Culture*. As always, we bring together scholars working in different disciplines. We invite participants to contribute theoretically innovative and empirically grounded papers, panels and presentations that enhance our understanding of these issues. Though the central focus will be on this broader theme, we also welcome contributions on other topics that consider Africa, or Africa/Australia/Pacific relations and Africans in the region.



**All proposals will be peer reviewed.**

Abstracts of proposed papers, panels and roundtables should be sent by July 1st, 2018 to Dr. Anne Bartlett, International Studies, Morven Brown 230, UNSW, Sydney, NSW, 2052, Australia. Email: [a.bartlett@unsw.edu.au](mailto:a.bartlett@unsw.edu.au) A preliminary program will be announced by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Late proposals for papers will be considered only if space is available. All proposals will be peer reviewed by the program committee. Registration and conference fees must be paid before presenters will be placed in the formal conference program. Please check our [website](#) for more details.

**MEMBERSHIPS DUE 2018**

**RENEW YOUR AFSAAP MEMBERSHIP**

The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP) is in its 41st Year and looks forward to your ongoing membership and subscription. AFSAAP Publishes its journal the Australasian Review of African Studies in June and December each year, and sends out a monthly newsletter with relevant information to those interested in African Studies generally. AFSAAP also publishes its Annual Conference Proceedings, and hosts an annual conference. Please see the latest AFSAAP news at [www.afsaap.org.au](http://www.afsaap.org.au) and you can also follow on [Twitter @AFSAAP](#) and [Facebook](#).

AFSAAP is a Not For Profit Association and depends upon your memberships to achieve this, and the other amazing opportunities for members.

Please RENEW your AFSAAP Membership Today. Go To <http://afsaap.org.au/join-members/join-afsaap/> for further information. Membership fees are very modest. You might like to also review the Opportunities for AFSAAP Members here - <http://afsaap.org.au/opportunities/>

Please pass this message onto other colleagues interested in Africa. Apologies if you have received this message twice, or if you have already renewed your membership recently, or if you attended the fantastic AFSAAP2017 Conference, in which case your membership for 2018 has already been renewed.

Feel free to visit our website at: [www.afsaap.org.au](http://www.afsaap.org.au)

**Democracy Series event in Adelaide**

**Thursday 26 April 2018 5:30pm - 7pm, Hetzel Theatre, Institute Building, Corner North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide, SA 5000, Free**

Public talk: *'The coup and the struggle for democratisation in Zimbabwe: Challenges, Prospects and Lessons'*

Speaker: Dr Edson Ziso, Visiting Research Fellow, in the Dept. of Politics & International Studies, University of Adelaide. This is a Free public engagement forum convened by the Center of Democracy. To attend, please register for free via Eventbrite [here](#).

**AFSAAP ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

Given the effectiveness of social media, AFSAAP has been working on improving its presence there as well. It is thus very active on Twitter and Facebook. AFSAAP urges all its members to follow if they are on social media. In the same vein, are also calling on members to also share any work they have published. Follow us on Twitter on [@AFSAAP](#) and <https://www.facebook.com/afsaap>



### FEEDBACK FROM A JUST ENDED EVENT

#### Engaging African-Australian Youth

David Mickler reports back that on 15 March 2018, the University of Western Australia (UWA) in partnership with the Organisation of African Communities in WA (OAC WA) and the Melbourne-based African Think Tank (ATT) co-convened a public engagement forum on the theme of 'Engaging African-Australian Youth'.

The forum's main objective was to provide a public platform for critical and respectful debate of recent media and political commentary on so-called 'African youth gangs' in Victoria. It aimed to explore wider issues of youth disengagement, social integration, employment, community leadership, policing, racism, political agendas and media coverage, and to compare experiences in Victoria and WA.

The forum featured expert speakers from Victoria and WA, including Haileluel Gebre-selassie (Chair, African Think Tank), Margaret Quirk MLA (Member for Girrawheen, representing the WA Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests), Lawrence Panaia (WA Police Commander), Josephine Zimama (OACWA Youth President), David Mwansa (OACWA Youth Department), Abraham Achol Deng (young South Sudanese-Australian community member), Assoc. Prof. Farida Fozdar (Acting Head, UWA School of Social Sciences), and was moderated by Dr David Mickler (Coordinator, UWA Africa Research Cluster).

The lively, informative and successful forum, with over 100 registered participants, has led to a UWA Community Partnerships Program application between the co-convening organisations to facilitate further engagement and training opportunities for young African-Australians in WA

### NEW PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

#### Publications

Alec Thornton has published a new book, *Space and Food in the City: Cultivating Social Justice and Urban Governance through Urban Agriculture*. The book contains some interesting Africa/global South content. It makes important distinctions between Urban Agriculture in developed and developing countries in order to develop comprehensive case study analysis. You can read more about the book [here](#)

Tony Binns, Chair of AFSAAP Review Board is a co-editor of *Routledge Handbook of African Development*. AFSAAP members such as Alec Thornton, Tanya Lyons and others also contributed with articles in the book. Read more about the book [here](#).

### AFRICAN STUDIES READING GROUPS AROUND AUSTRALIA

Did you know AFSAAP will support you to set up an African Studies Reading Group? For the purchase of books and light refreshments to stimulate discussion. See <http://afsaap.org.au/resources/reading-group/> for further information. Reading group books currently available (in NSW, but arrangements can be made to send them to your group) - In My Fathers' House by Kwame Anthony Appiah; Africa Works: Disorder as Political Instrument by Patrick Chabal; Citizen and Subject by Mahmood Mamdani; Theory from the South by Jean Comaroff. Contact [president@afsaap.org.au](mailto:president@afsaap.org.au) for further information



### Growing Visibility of Australasian Review of African Studies (ARAS)

The Australasian Review of African Studies (ARAS) has been accepted for coverage in selected Elsevier products including SCOPUS. Elsevier products are used by leading research institutions, government organizations, decision-making bodies and corporate organizations around the world. Therefore, coverage of ARAS in Elsevier products provides increased visibility and discoverability of your publication. Please consider publishing your next article with us. Contact [editor@afsaap.org.au](mailto:editor@afsaap.org.au) for further information or visit <http://afsaap.org.au/ARAS/about-submissions/>

ARAS aims to contribute to a better understanding of Africa in Australasia and the Pacific. It is published twice a year in June and December by AFSAAP. ARAS is a multi-disciplinary journal (ERA ID 18727) that seeks to provide critical, authoritative and accessible material on a range of African affairs that is interesting and readable to both academic and non-academic audiences. All articles are double blind peer-reviewed by two independent and qualified experts prior to publication – see <http://afsaap.org.au/ARAS/about-submissions/>, and the journal is supported by the International Editorial Board of members who represent esteemed scholars in African Studies from around the world.

### AFSAAP Travel Grants to other African Studies Conferences

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST are invited from AFSAAP members to apply for small travel grants to promote AFSAAP on a wider scale. We invite expressions of interest (EOI) for one Member to represent AFSAAP at an overseas conference, identified by the Member, which focuses on African studies. This EOI is in accordance with one of AFSAAP's mission statements, to establish contact with African universities and scholars, other overseas scholars and African Studies associations, and to promote interchanges with them. In your EOI, please clearly outline, in 500 words how you will 'deliver' on this mission statement. Specifically, please outline:

- Key details of the conference that you have identified, including a brief background of the hosting association or institution (i.e. academic merit, quality of proceedings etc.)
- How your visit will benefit AFSAAP
- What activities will you undertake to promote AFSAAP and encourage overseas scholars to consider participating in AFSAAP conferences

You will be expected to write a report on your visit for the Habari kwa ufupi newsletter, detailing the bullet points, above. AFSAAP will contribute up to \$1,000 in travel costs.

The successful applicant will make their own travel arrangements and the applicant must provide invoices to the AFSAAP Treasurer. The AFSAAP Executive reserves the right not to award any funding in a calendar year, depending on the budget and quality of the applications.

Please Email all Expressions of Interest to [Secretary@afsaap.org.au](mailto:Secretary@afsaap.org.au)

### AFSAAP MEMBERS EXPERTISE

AFSAAP Members are reminded to submit their professional details and experience, and expertise to [thesecretary@afsaap.org.au](mailto:thesecretary@afsaap.org.au) for inclusion on our website <http://afsaap.org.au/join-members/members/>. It is amazing how many people require experts on African issues at short notice, and use this as a valuable source. AFSAAP's aim is to connect African studies experts with government, media and organisations



### OTHER CONFERENCES

#### ***'Celebrating African Women, Their Voices'***

**26-27 June 2018, Victoria University Convention Centre, 300 Flinders St, Melbourne, Australia**

This event brings together service providers, professionals, NGOs, educators, business leaders, entrepreneurs in the diaspora (Australia, Asia Pacific, Europe, the America's) and mainland Africa to share experiences targeted at women emancipation focusing on the African women and female child. Details of the event can be found [here](#).

#### **Africa Down Under Conference**

**29-31 August 2018, Perth, Western Australia**

The ADU was introduced to raise awareness of Australia's interests in African mining and energy. As an event that generates worldwide media coverage, **ADU** is firmly established as one of the world's leading resources forums. Learn more about the event [here](#).