2017 AFSAAP Abstracts (last updated August 30th 2017)

Nigeria's 2015 Presidential Elections: Signposts to Democratic Consolidation or a Flash in the Pan? - Olumuyiwa Babatunde Amao, University of Otago

Since its return to civilian rule in 1999, Nigeria has held five national elections (1999, 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2015). Unlike previous elections, where the defeat of the ruling party appeared impossible at the national level, the 2015 presidential elections witnessed the defeat of the erstwhile ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) by the opposition party — All Progressives Congress (APC). Drawing references from the Maximalists and Minimalists perspectives on the nexus between elections and democracy, this paper focuses on the institutional processes, activities of the civil society and actors' behaviour which shaped Nigeria's 2015 Presidential election. It argues that the outcome of the election epitomizes a considerable attempt in Nigeria's march towards democratic consolidation. The paper concludes by offering suggestions on how Nigeria can sustain the democratic gains, given its potential to further the course of democracy in its sub-region and in Africa.

Keywords: All Progressives Congress (APC), Democratic Consolidation, People's Democratic Party (PDP), Maximalists, Minimalists, Nigeria's 2015 presidential election

Re-evaluating Research on African Digital Divide - Chika Anyanwu - Charles Sturt University

A lot of generalisations have been made about Africa and African countries, based on erroneous perception of Africa as a country, notwithstanding the fact that Africa is made up of 54 independent countries, with varied socioeconomic, political, cultural and technological priorities, and levels of advancement. The IMF, World Bank and many international donor agencies have variously used flawed dataset to categorise the continent as a basket case of economic and technological backwardness. The question is whether African researchers have the capacity to challenge such misrepresentations or have fallen victims to such external gaze. The 2016 International Telecommunication Union (ITU) data, reported that 74.9% of Africa is offline. The question is whether every African country falls under this generalisation. This paper will use 2017 Nigeria's information technology usage and penetration as an example to argue that international dataset on Africa are often very flawed and generalised, and that unless African researchers take the task of challenging and correcting such flawed research assumptions, the continent will continue to be subservient to western economic paradigm.

Chieftaincy, the state and legitimacy: A Comparative study between Kom and Bali in North West Cameroon – Emmanuel Lohkoko Awoh, Department of Development Studies, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne, Australia

This paper looks at the notion of the resilience and survival of traditional authorities both in the colonial and post-colonial periods in Cameroon. The question of how traditional authorities derive their authority is central in this paper. In more specific terms, the challenge is to explain how, regardless of their collaborative role during the colonial periods, traditional authorities continue to survive into and play some role in the post-colonial African states. The issue is whether the continued existence of traditional authorities reflects their legitimacy in the eyes of their subjects, or whether it is a result of other factors, including, as is argued in the paper, their role as custodian of tradition including control over land allocation. I argue that the construct and interpretation of legitimacy in Kom and Bali is significantly different and that though both communities draw on tradition for their authority, the kom people turn to lean more on cultural attributes for their legitimacy which they see as incompatible with modern state politics. Kom therefore advocates more of political neutrality for traditional leaders. In Bali on the other hand, traditional leaders are able to use their active political participation with the state to achieve legitimacy even if this is sometimes contested by the people. This paper concludes on the note that although traditional leaders could play an active role in national politics and still retain their local prowess to adjudicate on local conflicts, this is largely possible only if traditional leaders enter the political scene as neutral mediators. Where this is not the case, the legitimacy of traditional authorities become very fluid and pinned to their role as development providers and less on the 'traditional' which they represent.

Factors influencing health-seeking behaviour of mothers and its effects on children in the Dunkwa-On-Offin Community – Ghana - *Kofi Awuviry-Newton, Centre for Generational Health, Gender and Ageing, Faculty of Health and Medicine, The University of Newcastle;* Johnathan Dapaah Mensah, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana; and Judith Amankwa, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana

Background - Researchers have attributed high morbidity and mortality due to childhood illnesses to the lack of health-seeking behaviour among mothers in developing countries. The Ministry of Health has reported that this has resulted in the low utilisation of modern accessible modern health-care facilities in Dunkwa-On-Offin, in Ghana. The aim of the study was to understand the reasons underlying the mothers' low utilisation of accessible health care services and assess the implications of their decision on the well-being of their children.

Methodology - The study used a qualitative case study design and purposive non-probability sampling to recruit 21 mothers with children under five in Dunkwa-On-Offin to take part in semi-structured interviews. It followed a thematic approach to data analysis, using the computer-assisted data analysis package Nvivo 9.0.

Result - The study revealed demographic factors affecting respondent's health-seeking behaviours included level of education, occupation, religious background, and place of residence. The desire to get better health examination and treatment for their children motivated mothers to access health services. Many had used self-medication with negative effects. Reasons for not seeking treatment included financial problems, self-medication and preference for home treatment, the protracted National Health Insurance registration process, and time constraints. The findings suggested the need for a holistic, strategic intervention involving mothers, health workers, and the government to improve the health-seeking behaviour of mothers.

Conclusion - The health-seeking behaviour of mothers has implications for the health of children and the country as a whole. Understanding barriers to healthcare service access is necessary to improve the health-seeking behaviour of mother to ensure the well-being of the children.

Keywords: Health-seeking behaviour, mothers, health services, traditional treatment, child well-being, Ghana.

Crime rates among ethnic minorities: an investigation on the effect of systemic and institutional racial bias on police crime records – Marie Barrere-Collet, **University of Western Australia, Faculty of Arts, Business, Law and Education (ABLE)**

This paper investigates how systemic and institutional racial bias influence the disproportionate representation of dark-skinned ethnic minorities in crime rates. The types of crime mostly responded to (households crimes) tend to be associated with ethnic minorities from low socio-economic backgrounds. In addition, with the Australian media reinforcing prejudices towards these communities, the public react and respond more to a crime suspect from a minority ethnic background. When focusing on the African youth experience in Victoria, especially regarding concerns of "African gangs", it was found that racial bias is contributing to the rates of African young men on police crime records. Expert witnesses during the case Haile-Michael v Konstantinidis – part of a series of 2013 Federal Court cases against Victoria Police by individuals of African and refugee backgrounds - found a disparity in both "field contacts" African-Australian men were subjected to by the Police. African-Australian men were two and a half times more likely to have their interactions with police recorded. Although there is no research done to show the prevalence of racial profiling of African-Australians, the many reports to the Australian Human Rights Commission demonstrate such experiences are significantly common. Moreover, the paper acknowledges that people from ethnic minorities do commit crimes, yet highlights that the anti-social behaviours are also linked to systemic racial bias, resulting from imperialism.

Roads and the Spread of Civil Conflict in South Sudan - Anne Bartlett - School of Humanities & Languages, University of New South Wales; and Sarah Walker School of Economics, UNSW Business School, University of New South Wales

Roads contribute to the spread of economic goods, but what about economic 'bads'? In this paper, we explore the effect of roads on the diffusion of civil conflict in South Sudan after war broke out in 2013. Using a variety of statistical, historical and development data, we show that roads contribute to the spread and intensity of violence against civilians. The effects are strongest within a 5 km distance to roads and in particular for militia attacks against civilians, which are also, unfortunately, the most fatal. Analysis using nighttime lights data show that roads increase economic welfare in South Sudan, but at the same time also act as conduits of violence. This paper reviews the evidence and concludes with some policy suggestions about how to mitigate the spread of violence against civilians along road arteries when conflict ignites.

African development: 'Hopeless Africa', 'Africa Rising', or Somewhere in-between? **- Tony Binns and Etienne Nel - Department of Geography, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand**

Readers of *The Economist* may be critical of the generalisations made about Africa in the last twenty years. At the start of the new millennium in 2000, an *Economist* article titled "Hopeless Africa", started with a depressing statement about Sierra Leone's capital city, Freetown, in the midst of the decade long civil war, with the writer concluding that "Sierra Leone manifests all the continent's worst characteristics". In 2011, a

second *Economist* article was much more upbeat about the continent. Titled "Africa Rising", the article reported on bustling local markets, a commodities boom, improvements in health care, peaceful and democratic governance and China's involvement in upgrading infrastructure and stimulating the manufacturing sector. This paper reflects on key dimensions of Africa's development and associated challenges in recent years. Consideration is first given to the global context, before questioning whether there is 'growth without development' and the role that resource exploitation plays within this context. After examining what achievements towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals can tell us about the continent, the chapter concludes with a call to pay closer attention to the grassroots needs and aspirations of Africa's people.

Doctoral rites and liminal spaces: Academics without PhDs in South Africa and Australia - Mignonne Breier, University of Cape Town; Chaya Herman, University of Pretoria and Lorraine Towers, Sydney University
When South African and Australian researchers at a workshop of the Australia-Africa Universities Network decided that an important issue for joint research was 'Academics without PhDs', they seemed to have focused on an issue that was far more important to South Africa than Australia. In South Africa only 43% of permanent academics have doctorates, in Australia 75%. There are important contextual differences too. The highly unequal South African tertiary sector is pursuing a radical 'transformation' agenda to reverse the effects of *apartheid*. A globally competitive Australian sector is undergoing fundamental changes driven by neoliberal exigencies. There are, however, many similarities as well as differences. Australia is engaging with the pressing need to increase the number of academics/PhDs from Indigenous and other non-dominant groups, at the same time as demands for the decolonisation of tertiary education gain momentum. South African universities are increasingly subject to the impact of global neoliberal agendas as they compete for participation in the world 'knowledge economy'. How do the concurrent imperatives of transformation and neo-liberalism affect individuals who are employed as academics but have not yet completed the traditional initiation into academia – the PhD? This paper pursues this question through the key themes emerging from our exploratory research: the changing nature and importance of the PhD, new rules and roles in the academic 'game', conflicts of identity and the liminal worlds of academics who are simultaneously supervisors and students.

The Department of Education and Child Development, SA response to South Sudanese students - Jill Brodie-Tyrrell, Psychologist, English as an Additional Language or Dialect Program, DECD
Intensive English Language and New Arrival Centres are specialized educational environments in which issues of settlement, trauma, and learning a new language are dealt with in culturally sensitive ways. This presentation describes these centres and how they became therapeutic interventions for children and young people from South Sudan. The arrival of this group of students prompted the creation of a new Community Liaison Officer position and Targeted Refugee Funding was provided to these centres to help with their exceptional issues of displacement and trauma. This presentation will also describe the processes within DECD to support the transition of these students into mainstream schools. These include the development of transition plans for students considered to be "at risk", Community Liaison Officer involvement, and teacher training. The presentation will illustrate the types of support provided by DECD through some anecdotal stories about working with particular students and families, and the ways in which they have successfully settled within the Australian community.

Cream Donnance and #thisporkpie: the diverse meanings and uses of food on Zimbabwe's social media sphere - Sara Brouwer (PhD student and Leverhulme Doctoral Scholar at Institute of Geography, The University of Edinburgh); and Bruce Mutsvairo (Associate Professor in Journalism Innovation at School of Communication, University of Technology Sydney)
How do Zimbabweans use food on social media? This paper pursues online ethnography following the footsteps of Miller (2014) with the view of understanding digital narratives emerging from Zimbabwe's social media sphere. Focusing mostly on online food related deliberations, pictures and humorous memes, data was collected between June and December 2016 by closely monitoring events and developments on five Instagram accounts run by Zimbabwean trendsetters and four Facebook pages dedicated to socio-political developments in Zimbabwe. Our analysis shows that food is used as a symbol for everyday concerns, such as conjugal relationships, divides between rich and poor, tradition and modernity, education levels and different generations. Reading food semantics on social media also shows that food is used in online activism, addressing for example concerns about the declining capacity of the country's food manufacturing industry. Several scholars (Chiumbu & Musemba; Willems; Musanga; Hammett) have addressed how Zimbabweans

have used (online) humour to process and cope with daily life during the economic crisis as well as in everyday forms of (online) resistance. Our study makes a contribution to this scholarship by highlighting the importance of food as a carrier of political and moral messages on social media.

Arabic Borrowings in Standard Swahili: Implications for African Diaspora and language services - **Jean Burke, Social Work Lecturer at Australian Catholic University, and Freelance Swahili Interpreter and Translator**

Trade, religious and colonial interactions have brought the Swahili language of East Africa into contact with other languages. A substantial portion of vocabulary in Standard Swahili has been borrowed from Arabic. This presentation explores the ways in which Arabic has influenced Swahili, particularly in the domains of education, religion and law. It aims to describe features of Arabic borrowings into Swahili by analysing examples such as basic Islamic and Christian concepts, legal and education concepts and the numbering system. This analysis draws on literature about language contact, alphabet usage and borrowings from Arabic to Swahili, as well as language dictionaries and my own observations, research and practical interest in the translation of Swahili. While Arabic loan words have tended to be simplified and Bantu-ized, they have also been appropriated to create new words and meanings. A description of the features of Arabic borrowings will enable such words to be more readily identified within Swahili. A deeper understanding of this borrowing process and outcomes may be useful to interpreting and translation services in Australia, to service providers and to diaspora communities, in order to partly explain and clarify the differences between varieties of Swahili.

Developing Academic Nuance Writing for Peer Reviewed Journals: Victorian Rural Newspapers and South Sudanese Representation - Edgar Burns and Naduni Wickramaarachchi, *Department of Social Inquiry, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University*

This paper describes the review and revision process of a submitted journal article now accepted and forthcoming in the *Rural Society* journal. That article described the collection and analysis of newspaper reports and photographs about South Sudanese people working in the country town of Castlemaine, Victoria, Australia. Data for the study came from two local newspapers between 2007-2014. The present conference paper sketches the content of that article to then reflect on the authors' responses and changes through the review process. First, the refereeing can be seen functioning as it should. Second, two further iterations of revision from the initial submission to manuscript acceptance show the authors rethinking their understanding of the data. This leads, third, to reflection on the process of developing appropriate academic and conceptual levels of engagement with the facts of this, or any, situation in analysing, explaining and interpreting. This links the empirical data with theoretical and perspectival contributions the academy contributes to understanding some of the complexities of African migrant experience in the light of current Australian political and media narratives.

Somali Myths: Is the democratic experiment incompatible with Somalia? - Stephanie Carver, Monash University

Most discussions of the beleaguered East African state revolve around this feature and underscore the failed attempts to transplant a democratic state into the country, or worse how the conflict demonstrates that Somalia is a place devoid of democratic ambition. This paper explores the different types of governance mechanisms in place and questions if some of these practices are democratic if not a model of universal suffrage. Considering the various models of governance that have existed and still exist within Somalia today, it is evident that popular participation is far from an alien concept to the Somali culture. Indeed, often demonized as an obstacle to democracy, the clan-system instead actually provides some strong mechanism for consensus building within the clan structure. This feature is contrasted with some examples of democratic models grafted into the Somali system to question whether this model is any more compatible with fostering democracy. The paper concludes that rather than dismissing what is absent in Somalia's governance system we need to take Hagmann's advice and recognize what is present, and that any further attempts to strengthen democracy in the Horn nation will need to do so within this framework.

Profiling African Diaspora's Attachment Experiences and Quality of Life Outcomes in New South Wales, Australia - Victor Counted, School of Social Sciences and Psychology. Western Sydney University

Attachment experiences may contribute to quality of life (QoL) outcomes, even in cross-cultural contexts that includes the African diaspora. The present study analyses the attachment profile of African migrants with religious backgrounds in New South Wales, and explores whether indicators of attachment experiences in terms of close relationship experiences, people-place bonds, and believer-God relationships could relate to

QoL and how they vary based on participant's sub-group demographic differences. Results show that (a) avoidant attachment in close relationships was strongly felt among study participants who were educated and among those from Southern Africa, while (b) attachment to God was more likely to be experienced by participants' who are either single, divorced, separated, or widowed. Thirdly, results reveal that (c) indicators of attachment experiences in terms of attachment anxiety, attachment avoidance, place attachment, and attachment to God were related to all domains of QoL, except for (d) the social relationships domain which was not associated with attachment avoidance, and (e) the overall QoL and psychological health domain which showed no correlation with attachment anxiety. These findings position attachment experiences as moderators of QoL outcomes, especially for the African diaspora in Australia, and disruption of these lived attachment experiences may lead to changes in their QoL.

Status of Perceived Social Support and its association with Prisoner's Common Psychological Morbidity among inmate prisoners in Northwest Amhara, Ethiopia

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Although a number of studies in developed country have showed a link between psychological morbidity and social support, the information is limited in the prison population in Ethiopia. Therefore, the current study was conducted to determine the level of social support and to investigate the relationship between perceived social support and common psychological morbidity (anxiety, depression, and psychological distress) among selected prison population in the Northwest Ethiopia.

Methods: Institution based cross-sectional study was conducted among 649 prisoners from January to February 2015. A structured interviewer-administered questionnaire was used to collect the required information. Multidimensional scale of perceived social support (MSPSS) was used to measure the level of prisoner's social support. Receiver operating characteristics (ROC) curve analysis was done by STATA 12 software in order to determine a cutoff point with high sensitivity and specificity. Mixed effect Bivariable and a multivariable logistic regression model were fitted to identify associated factors. Adjusted odds ratio with its 95% Confidence interval was used to declare the statistical significance between perceived social support and associated factors.

Result: Prisoners that had good social support from their family, friends, and significant others was found to be 64.7%, (95%CI: 60.9%, 68.4%). The odd of social support was higher among more educated and rural prisoners. However, it was found to be lower among non-orthodox religion followers, not engaged in a friendship with other inmates in the correctional institution, reported the sign of discrimination, who never felt guilty, and among prisoners who would not back to their previous state after being released from the correctional institution.

Conclusion: Prisoners had lower social support from their relatives and friends being in a correctional institution. Unlike previous studies, in the current study, we did not get any association between common psychological morbidity (anxiety, depression, and psychological distress) and prisoner's perceived social support.

Keywords: Social support, Prisoners, Crosses-sectional study

Engaging Africa's Infrastructure Boom – Jonathan Fox – University of Adelaide

This paper seeks to critically engage Africa's infrastructure boom as not simply an object of critical analysis, but instead involved in shaping the production of its own literature. Focusing on the ostensive political and material conditions that surround infrastructure projects, this paper examines those ostensive textures which are influencing what gets written about Africa's infrastructure boom. This paper seeks a first-pass categorization of these factors, at once at the level of institution, discipline and research. It looks at the way in which infrastructure works favour access to certain types of data at the expense of others, the difficulties in conducting research over long distances and across sovereign borders, and some of the institutional challenges which come from more familiar spaces, such as research institutions, funding bodies and permit offices. The ability of infrastructure projects to transgress multiple boundaries, brings sharply into focus some of the blunter edges of our approaches to projects of new scale and complexity. The aim of this paper is to make explicit some of these factors, and to approach them anew; no longer simply getting in the way of our access

to the real "subject at hand", but instead, intrinsically part of the parcel of contemporary infrastructure works and therefore in need of focused and critical attention.

Investigating Culture Related Settlement Challenges among Dinka communities in Melbourne - Elizabeth Gardiner, University of Victoria.
Interviews recently conducted with members of the South Sudanese Dinka communities in Melbourne reveal that many of them believed that all peoples around the world shared the Dinka way of life. When considering issues and problems in relation to resettlement in Australia, these traditional views often directly clash with Australian Laws, especially in relation to marriage and domestic violence, as well as children's rights, and the disciplining of children. Investigating marriage and cultural norms for the Dinka reveals many examples of specific traditions, which do not fit well with Australian democracy, culture and law. The research presented here discusses the effects on family life, marriages, gender stereotypes and relationships, and of particular concern the feeling of ostracism among fathers, and the negative stereotyping of young Dinka males in the community. Research was carried out in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of a Masters degree in International Community Development at Victoria University. The topic was chosen for the purpose of gaining some understandings around why this particular group is experiencing difficulties in settlement. and to share this information with service providers. It is hoped that the providers will use the information to train their workers who interact with Dinka, to improve the uptake of services by Dinka individuals and families. Currently, Dinka volunteers are manning train stations and shopping malls in Melbourne, in an attempt to meet up with Youths before any incident occurs. While this has reduced the number of violent acts, it is just the first step in what needs to be a suite of programs, assisting parents, separated or divorced fathers, and newly single mothers, creating engagement with troubled Youths. To design a group of programs to support these new Australians requires skilled professionals, whose projects/programs would be funded and run for some time. It would also require all the Dinka clans to learn new ways of behaving and that would be an additional challenge.

Analysing Aspirational Trade-offs in eastern Uganda; the Impact of Gender and Locality - Rik Habraken - School of International Development, University of East Anglia
Young people living in extreme poverty continually need to trade-off their aspirations when trying to better their lives. Due to limited time and resources effecting from poverty, deciding on how to push forward is an ongoing, complex process of substituting aspirations; attainment of one aspiration, and thus the effort and resource required, is believed to have an immediate, restraining impact on the attainment of another. This process of trading-off aspirations is context-specific, and is shaped by social, cultural, and economic circumstances. Therefore, through different societal expectations and livelihood trajectories, gender and locality are assumed to significantly impact the outcomes of this choice process. This paper discusses a set of trade-offs, using a graded pairs comparison method to combine various aspirations considered highly relevant for high school students in Eastern Uganda. High school students are presumed to already be contemplating on future-impacting life decisions, but have not yet accomplished life compelling achievements like marriage, full-time employment, or a graduate's degree. Using a large-scale survey, eliciting the preferences of over 500 students, we investigate the importance assigned to life-determining aspirations when paired with constraining others. Secondly, we run several linear regression models to investigate locality and gender effects, and we conclude that even with increasing local mobility and exposure, aspirations are still formed along gender and locality lines.

Re-imaging the African Diasporas in Australia - Kiros Hiruy - Centre for Social Impact Swinburne Faculty of Business and Law, Swinburne University of Technology
The African Diaspora in Australia is part of the 'new' African Diaspora, which is multi-ethnic, super diverse group that maintains continuous and complex interconnections with Africa. Different from the 'old' African Diaspora that is linked to the historic Trans-Atlantic slave trade, the 'new' African Diaspora maintains active connections with Africa and the essence of 'being an African' with dynamic transnational identities. Contemporary global migration indicates that the new African Diaspora is becoming increasingly influential in the cultural, economic and political life of African countries and is emerging as a potential business, cultural and political broker for Australia. It is becoming a sheer force of social change and mobilisation in Australia and Africa. However, wittingly or unwittingly, media and public discourse in Australia tends to portray the group negatively. Cognisant of the hiatus between the opportunities the African Diaspora offer and its' negative portray in Australia, this paper sheds light on the new African Diaspora drawing from a long-term study and a systematic review. The paper uses robust conceptualisations of diaspora that goes beyond the narrow and

unidirectional interpretations shaped by migration studies and multiculturalism to analyse the contributions of the African Diaspora to both Africa and Australia.

How can we grasp the social character of the coincident TB-HIV epidemic in Africa, the role of politics and belief in choosing conventional medicine or traditional herbal medicine (THM), and the potential of specific THMs? - Tass Holmes - University of Melbourne.

This paper seeks to describe the nature of the contemporary epidemic of coincident tuberculosis-HIV (TB-HIV) infection in Africa. It highlights the present-day approach of medical researchers, including 'detection' – measuring the extent of these diseases and their combined prevalence – and 'repurposing' of common drugs such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and antidiabetic medications, with the hope of overcoming the obstacle posed by drug-resistant TB strains. It then seeks to contextualise this disease occurrence within an anthropological understanding of the socio-cultural and economic backgrounds of this problem. The divergent beliefs, aims and cultural politics of a conventional western medical (CWM) approach and of a traditional herbal medicine (THM) approach to the TB-HIV disease complex are explained. In closing, a number of native and naturalised African herbal medicines, researched for their effect in treating TB and TB-HIV, and their character and prospective applications are presented in detail.

Bodily boundaries: intersections of race, sexuality and beauty ideals among African-Australian romantic couples in Australia. - Henrike Hoogenraad, University of Adelaide

This paper explores the boundaries of, and notions surrounding African/Australian bodies within interracial African-Australian romantic relationships in Australia. Two angles will be discussed: the ways in which Australian women interpret African male bodies, and how African men perceive Australian bodies. I relate such ideas to (perceived) beauty standards both in Australia and the African continent, as well as stereotypes and historic ideas about the racial other. Often, it seems that Australian partners to African men see the African male body as highly sexual, exotic and tough. Some women, who do not fit the Western standards of what a desirable partner should look like, feel they are a better match with African men as these men would be more attracted to their bodies, in contrast to Australian men. African men, on the other hand, may see the white female body as a site of sexual experimentation, or see 'big ladies' as a potential route to live in Australia. While such images are certainly not to be generalised, it seems that they do (re)create general stereotypes about the other that influence the lived experiences of African-Australian couples in general. As a result, African-Australian relationships may be perceived as 'bad' and based on wrong motives, by partners themselves as well as the outside world. Thus, the interpretation of bodies creates/sustains boundaries between racial/ethnic others, also within romantic relationships. The arguments I use are based on fieldwork among African-Australian couples in Adelaide since October 2014 for my PhD research on 'intimate borders'.

Beyond 'weak states': Conceptualising strong statehood in the African context – Zimbabwe - Tinashe Jakwa, University of Western Australia

This paper critiques conventional understandings of the cause(s) of insecurity in Africa. Most international relations (IR) scholars (e.g. Rotberg 2003; Reno 1998, 2011; Jackson 1990; Williams 2011; Jeng 2012) hold the view that state 'weakness' is the principal cause of human insecurity on the continent. This paper begins by critiquing predominant conceptions of state strength. The modern, Western nation-state form is argued to be an inherently/already failed and unstable project by virtue of its exclusionary ethno-racialist foundations. Liberal democratic institutions, particularly electoral processes, are revealed to be mechanisms for entrenching state strength, with the international focus on their perceived procedural and technical shortcomings in the African context masking their normative dimensions and the 'social pathologies that are often the outcomes of the procedures' (Edelman 1988, p. 108), regardless of the presence or absence of electoral manipulation. Using Zimbabwe as a case study, state strength in the African context, understood to mean the effective consolidation of regime security, is revealed to be partly maintained by liberal-electoral democratic political institutions within a unitary state system. Moreover, and underlying this argument and critique of conventional understandings of the causes of insecurity in Africa is a broader examination of the global construction and uses of social and political "problems" *vis-à-vis* 'weak' and 'failed' states. The argument presented in this paper carries significant implications for Australia-Africa relations and Australian foreign policy towards Zimbabwe. It highlights the importance of the development of research, theoretical and foreign policy frameworks from an African perspective here in Australia.

Basotho culture and the prayers for rain: Where climate change converges. - Lineo R. Johnson, School of Educational Studies, College of Education, University of South Africa, Pretoria.

In Basotho culture, men, women, girls and boys have different festivities to pray for rain. The rain festivities are organised and performed during the drought months from November to January each year. This study examines the indigenous knowledge systems embedded in the different festivities performed by males and females and how they are understood and practised by various groupings of the Basotho society. The study discussed the prayer for rain festivities and weather predictions and their relevance to the contemporary climate and weather changing phenomenon and patterns. The study adopted a qualitative approach, and a sample of 40 Basotho men, women, girls and boys including traditional leadership and community elders in the rural villages in Leribe district, Lesotho participated in interviews and focus group meetings conducted orally. The thematic analysis described the narratives and discourse of the festivities and their cultural significance. Basotho believed rain like other environmental issues originates with their ancestors and their cultural beliefs. And thus the rain festivities and prayers serve as indigenous knowledge and largely contribute to the debate on climate change and its effects on the lives of African communities and their culture, particularly those of the Basotho. The study concluded that African communities in general, particularly the Basotho have been engaged in climate change discourse in their own indigenous ways, and their knowledge should contribute onto the global climate change debate.

Key words: Prayers for rain; culture; indigenous knowledge system; orality; climate change; Basotho festivities.

What are the economic, cultural and diplomatic opportunities that Francophone Africa offers to Australia? - Pelé Kabunda, PCA Ltd (Production Créative and Advertising)

Francophone Africa is a territory full of opportunities for business. Countries like Burundi, Congo, Senegal or Mali are full of potential and are a particularly attractive destination for private equity investors on the continent. This part of Africa benefits not only from a favorable geographic location but also its resources. With increased interest and significant investment activity on the part of international players, the increasing population and GDP growth are expected to lead to a surge in consumer demand. Although francophone Africa has experienced several political instabilities, entrepreneurship is key to growing its economy. This paper works on the premise that Australia should raise its efforts in investing in francophone countries which will contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The findings are drawn from my work as a journalist and business owner of a digital company PCA Ltd (production creative and advertising) in Burundi and Rwanda. Through a comparative analysis between Burundi and Rwanda (the fastest economy of Africa), this paper explores how Australian investment could contribute to peace consolidation, good governance and human rights while growing the economy through entrepreneurship. Francophone sub-Saharan Africa appears today, more than ever, to be a final frontier of the global economy. Using my experience and findings of my research as the Managing Director of PCA Ltd (production creative and advertising), a company that uses new technology in the production of digital media, I analyse the socio-economic context, the impact it has on investors and the use of innovative approaches such as entrepreneurship. There is no doubt that investors can play an important role in contributing to francophone Africa's politics and economics. The paper assesses that although there is less engagement that occur between francophone Africa and Australia, there is a necessity to increase efforts that aim to raise Africa's economic investment and entrepreneurships.

Animal welfare, ethics and development in Malawi - Max Kelly, Deakin University

In many developing countries the base of the economy is subsistence agriculture, and economic growth can include a move to increase productivity, to diversify agricultural production, and moves to commercial production. Livestock production systems are an integral part of this focus, given both the potential for livestock to contribute to economic development, and dietary shifts which are putting increasing demand on meat and animal products. Increasing or intensification of animal production has been linked with animal welfare issues in many places. Human animal relationship are both ambiguous and highly complex. The characterisation of animals ranges from the framing of certain animals from sacred, to being the subject of human violence and speciesism. In between animals are variously viewed as food, a subject for experimentation, a form of entertainment via sporting and other activities, and many endless permutations. Antonites and Odendaal (2004) argue that this ambiguity reflects the way humans perceive themselves and their relationship to nature, or the "non-human environment' (p539). Embedded in this ambiguity are some highly contradictory aspects of animal production. For some, the use of animals in any way is abhorrent. Yet the global production and consumption of animals and animal products provides food and a livelihood for billions. Globally animal production also contributes significantly to environmental degradation. Development ethics provides one lens from which to view livestock development. The other is animal welfare.

Development ethics explores the human cost, or the 'calculus of pain' and the 'calculus of meaning' embedded in Berger's Pyramids of Sacrifice (Berger, 1974). Animal welfare is concerned with animal wellbeing. As is obvious, the notion of animal wellbeing is almost entirely linked to human animal relationships and resultant views of what is acceptable. This paper will explore the notion of human animal relationships in the context of livestock development programs in Malawi. The aim of this research is to explore the notion of animal ethics and welfare and how these concepts are understood and or translated in the context of development programing. Who sets the agenda in terms of animal production. Where does animal sit in development that has a primary concern with human wellbeing. Where do animal welfare and development ethics overlap?

Square pegs and round holes: Are South Sudanese-Australian's health-related beliefs and attitudes consistent with those underlying Australian health services? - Thiep Ngor Kuany, College of Medicine and Public Health, Flinders University, Australia; and Julie Robinson, College of Education, Psychology and Social Work, Flinders University, Australia

The cultural beliefs about health held by immigrants, and their attitudes towards help-seeking, often differ from those of the host community. South Sudanese-Australians have a high risk of physical and mental health problems as a result of their refugee background. However, they often do not seek help for these problems. Our study investigates whether a mismatch between the health-related beliefs and attitudes held by South Sudanese-Australians and those that underlie mainstream Australian health services may contribute to this. Snowball sampling was begun by electronic messaging to members of the researcher's social network. This was supplemented by face-to-face recruitment at community events. Adult participants were presented with two custom-designed hypothetical scenarios (physical health, mental health) in a questionnaire that was completed on-line or by telephone interview. For each scenario, participants were asked whether there was a significant health problem, and if so, the original of this problem, what they would do if they had a similar problem, and where they could access help. Distinctive South Sudanese health-related beliefs and attitudes were identified in quantitative and qualitative data. In addition, gender and generational differences were explored. The findings provide insight into South Sudanese-Australian's health-related behaviours.

Africa 'pretty underdone' in DFAT White Paper Submissions - David Lucas (ANU) Helen Ware (UNE)

In 2005 Gai Brodtmann (Canberra's Member in the House of Representatives) represented the opposition at the second Australia-Africa Dialogue. She concluded that 'The dialogue was held in Zambia and it highlighted the fact that, apart from mining, the relationship between Australia and the nations of Africa is pretty underdone.' In 2017 the Department of Foreign Affairs asked for public submissions for a White Paper which would ' provide a roadmap for advancing and protecting Australia's international interests and define how we engage with the world in the years ahead' and would ' define our economic, security and foreign policy interests and examine global trend'. Over 600 submissions were received which were published on the Foreign Policy White Paper website: http://dfat.gov.au/whitepaper/submissions/index.html This conference paper puts these submissions into these broad categories: the few that focus on Africa and the many that focus on the Asia-Pacific, often known as 'our region'. Within the latter, a sub- category will consider organisations with African connections that had good reason for making a submission but didn't, or did not mention Africa in their submission. This analysis, together with the White Paper, if available, is expected to find that the relationship between Australia and Africa is still 'pretty underdone'. The 82% cut in foreign aid to Africa in the most recent Federal Budget will confirm this.

Local Adaptations to liberalized markets and modernity: the cases of 'sakawa' and '419' in Ghana - Matthew Gmalifo Mabefam, School of Social and Political Sciences, the University of Melbourne, Parkville

Liberalization of markets in the global south has injected new dimensions to wealth creation and accumulation. As a result, some actors in the global south have adapted/invented new approaches to capital accumulations which ignore local, social and communal norms using neoliberal market space(s) across the different geographies. Throughout this paper, I highlight the use of the neoliberal market space(s) for wealth creation and accumulation and how locals adapt to suit their economic situations. I will also highlight peoples' shared experiences and observations I made while embarking on ethnographic study in Ghana. I argue that internet fraud and psychic manipulations shrouded in spirituality, are in part some of the local strategic adaptations to neoliberal fall outs, globalization and modernity in Ghana.

Keywords: Local; adaptation; capitalism; modernity; sakawa; 419

The Future of ECOWAS: An Examination of impediments to Peace and Harmony in Africa - Chris Madubuko and Ezendu Ejike, Department of Peace Studies, University of New England, Armidale
The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established by a treaty signed in Lagos by 15 West African regional Heads of State in May 28, 1975. ECOWAS at present has membership of 15 independent West African States with population of over 345 million people. The organization was conceived and created for the narrow purpose of economic integration as the basis for self-reliance in West Africa. Its aims amongst others includes promotion of co-operation and development in all fields of economic activity in Africa especially in industry, transport, telecommunications, agriculture, natural resources, and cultural and socio-political matters with a view to raising the living standards of its peoples, increasing and maintaining economic stability, fostering closer relations among its members and contributing to the progress and development of the African continent in general. Since its formation, ECOWAS has not been able to achieve these lofty objectives. The organization is bedeviled with myriad of intractable problems. For instance, West Africa has since over two and half decades become one of the most conflict-bedeviled regions and hotbed of the worst gruesome terrorism around the world. These armed conflicts and unconventional threats have led to thousands of deaths and stupendous amount of economic losses. This paper assesses the impacts of ECOWAS interventions in violent conflicts in West African States. The paper looks at the causes of these conflicts and elaborates on the existing initiatives by the ECOWAS Heads of States to resolving them. The paper equally elaborates on the challenges impeding efforts in the prevention and management of conflicts in the region. Finally, the paper offers solution for future conflict resolution in Africa. Keywords: ECOWAS Intervention, ECOWAS Peacekeeping, West Africa, Conflict intervention, Africa.

The Teaching of Francophone Africa in Australian Universities: An overview - Christèle Maizonniaux – Flinders University; and Ibrahima Diallo – University of South Australia
This presentation is an overview of the teaching of Francophone Africa in the French Studies programs offered in Australian Universities. Based on a survey conducted in 2016 on limited sample of 20 participants, the study found that Metropolitan French, its variety, culture, literature and cinema remain overwhelming the core French studies curriculum of Australian Universities. Francophone Africa, despite the central place it occupies in the Francophone world in terms of its demography and its linguistic, literary, and artistic contribution to the French language and culture is relegated to the background and is taught only to a few selected students. In this presentation, we argue that to engage with Francophone Africa, French studies in Australian Universities have a pivotal role to play by offering greater space and visibility to Francophone Africa in their French Studies curriculum.

Images of traditional Setswana time concepts in DPS Monyaise's novels - Daniel Sekepe Matjila, University of South Africa
To the Batswana, time was determined by past and current events, the everyday chores and activities of men, women and children, the behaviour of wild and domestic animals, the colour or shape of the landscape and other objects, the sound and music of the birds, the appearance, disappearance and reappearance of celestial objects like the sun, the moon and the stars. These events were given names to indicate time. Naming something is an expression of a relationship, mostly of ownership. By naming these events in Setswana, the Batswana were creating a bank for the memory generated by human interaction with the natural environment. This article will analyse Monyaise's use of time images in his novels. The choice of images in Monyaise's work uncovers the quality and/or the essence of his language practice as well as his vision to nurture and safeguard the Setswana language and culture. In Western society, time is a commodity that can be bought, sold or utilised. For the traditional Batswana, man is not a slave of time; he can make time and therefore regulates time.

African Popular Music, Politics, and Belonging in Australia - Bonnie McConnell, School of Music, The Australian National University
Australian political and media discourse frequently presents African cultural difference as a problem that prevents people of African descent from integrating into Australian society. While research has drawn attention to the problem of negative representations of Africans in Australian society (Nolan et al. 2011), the cultural strategies that African Australian communities use to challenge these representations have not been adequately explored. This research examines two African Australian cultural festivals as important sites of self-representation and political action, challenging the negative representations of African Australians in the media. Drawing on ethnographic research with musicians and festival organisers in Sydney and Melbourne, I

examine the way African Australian performers negotiate and communicate notions of history in order to articulate a sense of place and belonging. I show that popular music in particular provides a powerful site for negotiating multi-layered identities and plural histories, challenging one-dimensional representations of African Australian people. By focusing on popular music, this research seeks to draw attention to "hidden histories" (Hall 1990) of African Australian communities, as well as cultural strategies for maintaining a sense of coherence in the face of displacement and disjuncture.

An intervention to support positive parenting in the South Sudanese-Australian community - Monica McEvoy, Nurse Practitioner, Multicultural Mental Health Division of Child & Adolescent Mental Health, SA Health

In addition to many factors associated with parenting difficulties in Western countries, research shows that refugee parents experience additional and unique stresses due to their experience of torture and trauma, changes to family roles, separation or death of family members, language difficulties and different cultural expectations of behaviour. In 2007 a collaboration between the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Australian Refugee Association, Families SA Refugee Program and the Sudanese community in South Australia was developed to respond to ongoing requests from parents in African communities to provide parenting programs that teach alternative behaviour management skills and support parents. *The Incredible Years Parenting Program* aims to provide parents with opportunities to access peer support and receive assistance in positive and effective parenting strategies that can enhance the wellbeing of all family members. The group sessions also provide a supportive environment for participants to explore the impact of war and refugee camp experience on their understanding of parenting, as well as opportunities to strengthen and improve interactions with their children. In the last decade the program has also been successfully run with parents from different cultural groups.

Policy design for vocational pathways to protect biodiversity and re-generate the land – South Africa - Janet McIntyre Flinders University and University of South Africa

South Africa faces the challenge of providing employment opportunities to a growing population of young people. The challenges are as follows: Designing places of learning to **match the educational content** to the **contextual needs** of a growing population in need of sustainable employment in livable biodiverse environments. Designing a system of education to prepare people across the life cycle to protect diversity and the land on which we depend. The competition for scarce university places in metropolitan areas is a symptom of the need to develop more places of learning to foster educational pathways to enable this generation and the next to protect the environment. The need to address education to meet the needs of the big issues of the day is vital, these are poverty, climate change and competition for resources in an increasingly unequal world where the gaps between rich and poor grow wider.The challenge for South Africa is to balance both the individual and the collective. In the context of the 'Fees must fall' campaign led by students who stressed their right to an affordable education the paper reflects on some of the aspects of an educational program that responds to the call for an African Rennaissance (Mkebi, 1999, Sesanti, 2016). The paper scopes out the different life chances across age groups and the need to ensure that the life chances of young people from low or no income families are placed uppermost in the policy decisions. The twofold aim of the paper is to make the case that policy design to enhance educational outcomes in South Africa needs to address education the big issues of the day , namely poverty, climate change and competition for resources in an increasingly unequal world where the gaps between rich and poor grow wider. The challenges are as follows: a) Designing places of learning to match the educational content and context to the needs of a growing population in need of sustainable employment in livable biodiverse environments.b) Designing a system of education to prepare people across the life cycle to protect diversity and the land on which we depend.c) The competition for scarce university places in metropolitan areas is a symptom of the need to develop more places of learning to foster educational pathways to enable this generation and the next to protect the environment. Education is currently shaped within increasingly neoliberal institutions that measure the value of education in terms of ranking educational outcomes in terms of journal rankings. These can act as channeling devices to control the quality of education and to limit creativity. It is vital to inspire the capability to voice ideas and to draw on many strands of experience. A case is made for changing the way in which we educate people in the interests of re-generating biodiversity in this generation and the next.

Key words: age groups, systemic challenges, re-design, social and environmental justice

Who is 'from the community' here? Zambia - Tom McNamara, University of Liége in Belgium

This paper focusing on the people, processes and discourses that claim to 'speak for' national and community interests in Africa, particularly in response to resource extraction. In response to scepticism as the representativeness of electoral politics, both mining companies and the international NGOs that oppose or engage them make claims to be acting in the communities' best interests and frequently engage 'community representatives'. Based on ethnographic fieldwork in Zambia's north western province and on its copperbelt this paper explores those whose who claim to speak on behalf of Zambia and its communities. It explores local MPs, international NGOs and their local partners, mine controlled Corporate Social Responsibility projects and urban based taxation and extraction think tanks. The paper argues that all these actors' claims to representation are problematic, but that this does not mean they should be discounted. Rather I propose a topology of representative legitimacy for environments where electoral representation cannot serve as the only legitimate form of 'speaking for'.

Universalistic framework of terrorism helping Africa in the fight against the scourge of terrorism? - Isaac Mensah - University of Western Australia

There is no African concept of terrorism. The prevailing pattern is characterised by a universalistic framework of terrorism which is insensitive to local particularities (history and context) in Africa. Efforts in terrorism research have featured few African scholars and thus, the universalistic agenda is championed by governments and scholars who live outside the continent of Africa. Hence, Africa lacks the agency in countering terrorism on the continent to secure and protect its peoples. Grounded in Critical Terrorism Studies (CTS), this paper advances that the continent of Africa (African Union) must adopt a terrorism framework that is deepened and broadened to consider the African socio-politico-economic and historical context and state violence respectively in order to fight the scourge of terrorism effectively in Africa.

Architectural heritage management in Botswana: The need for a functioning and integrated system - Olivia Molefe, Freelance Researcher, Botswana.

This paper addresses the need to formulate relevant policies that will guide the current architectural heritage management, conserve and preserve architectural heritage in Botswana (Southern Africa); alongside current infrastructural developments within the developing country. The protection and identification of Architectural heritage in the country's urbanising areas is affected by modernised mushrooming infrastructure. Protecting the built heritage and conserving the local traditional and cultural values of communities alongside modern development seems to be a prevailing unnoticed challenge in Botswana. Reference is made to historical buildings within the country's cities, towns and villages as well as the Tswana style architecture houses. This paper aims to discuss the need for a proposal introducing an integrated developmental approach for dealing with heritage conservation policies and projects that concern architectural heritage in Botswana. Benchmarking on policy and advocacy initiatives by the Western Australia Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects the paper puts forward recommendations framed for promoting the interests of heritage managers and the built environment at community and governmental level. Recommendations of the Congress on the European Architectural Heritage (1975) are highlighted as examples necessary for new policy for protection and integrated conservation of architectural heritage to be urgently implemented in the country.

Appraising the UK General Election: An embodiment of Zimbabwean Diasporic Digital Dissidents - Bruce Mutsvairo, University Technology Sydney

The present study uses the UK General Election in 2015 as a point of departure to qualitatively deliberate, disentangle, discuss and determine the digital discourses emerging from online citizen engagements within the Zimbabwean digital community. It examines digital narratives emerging from the online exchanges between anonymous participants signed in on Zimbabwe's main UK-based online publication, NewZimbabwe.com. The election was closely followed by Zimbabwean immigrants in the UK for a myriad of reasons including a potentially shifting immigration policy as well as a possible transformation in UK-Zimbabwe relations, which have been rapidly deteriorating since 2000, when President Robert Mugabe launched his agrarian reforms, plunging himself and his country deeper into international isolation. Twenty articles published in the run-up and with specific reference to the election were randomly selected for monitoring, purposefully profiling participants and coding their contributions to identify who they represented, what issues they discussed and which dominating social and political narratives dominated the supposedly democratizing digital discussions. Ultimately, the goal of this research is to investigate the outcomes of the mediating online environment,

questioning the extent to which the UK General election affected Zimbabweans both at home and abroad. Decisions made in London or policies sponsored by UK at European level have always affected Zimbabwe, a colony of the British Empire until 1980. Most notably, the UK-led European Union sanctions against the southern African country in the early 2000s caused a troubling discord within Mugabe's ruling elite, the majority of whom were banned from visiting Europe.

Market-Oriented Strategy for Niger Delta Development - Chukwuma J. Okonkwo, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Melbourne, Australia.

This paper provides policy options for a market-oriented strategy for the development of Niger Delta in Nigeria. I frame the key issues on two fronts, within public policy context. The first issue is the paradox in the development of Niger Delta. Development results in Niger Delta have been disappointing, despite the abundance of natural resources in the region and huge amount of financial resources invested in the region. Another issue is the continued difficult development challenges in Niger Delta, for example, deteriorating socio-economic infrastructures and increasing poverty and inequality, despite government interventions. I argue that the existing strategies for Niger Delta development do not work for the vast majority of people in the region because of a broad range of issues, including mismanagement of allocated funds, lack of coordination amongst government agencies and lack of community engagement in policy design and implementation. To support the arguments, I review relevant literature on conflicts in Niger Delta and adopt relevant theoretical frameworks that underpin the challenges that exist as a result of the conflicts. I draw on public policy frameworks to frame the strategy being proposed and analyse the need for strong community engagement. In the analysis of issues and strategies I draw extensively on my professional experience on Niger Delta conflict management and disarmament of militants, having engaged with various government agencies and stakeholders involved in Niger Delta development, as a Research Economist working under the Office of the Finance Minister, Federal Republic of Nigeria, between 2013 and 2015. I recommend that the existing strategies for Niger Delta development be reconsidered. I conclude that Niger Delta currently remains a time bomb in the sense that the stabilized security situation could be undermined by any act of provocation, which would trigger the chronic memory of injustice, marginalization and deprivation held by the Niger Delta people and instigate another round of violent conflicts. Keywords: Conflicts, Development, Market, Niger-Delta, Strategy.

Navigating the Current of Change: A Collaborative Curriculum Design for Socio-Economic Development of South Africa - Kofi Poku Quan-Baffour, College of Education, Department of Adult Education, University of South Africa

The absence of a curriculum responsive to the socio-economic realities (needs) of the country makes it difficult for thousands of school leavers to be employed or self-employed. Schools do not teach skills for employment and coupled with the perception that government is only there to provide employment hinders the socio-economic development of the country. It is assumed that to reduce youth unemployment and achieve social cohesion the perception of people need to change through curriculum transformation. Politicians and educators need to make the public aware that government does not only employ but creates a conducive environment for job creation since it cannot employ every economically active citizen. To change the public perception and also agree on a curriculum responsive to the needs of the country there must be a paradigm's shift to curriculum design and implementation. Decisions regarding what should be taught and learnt should be taken by major stakeholders. The paper emanated from a study which explored the views of the unemployed, educationists, parents, learners and community members from three provinces. It found the urgent need to use the collaborative curriculum design approach for the realization of social cohesion and socio-economic growth of South Africa.
Key words: unemployment, socio-economic, perception, job creation, curriculum, stakeholders.

International Organisations and the Myth of Civilization in Southern Africa: Synthesis Framework - Shadrack Baleseng Ramokgadi, *Stellenbosch University, South Africa*

The post-cold war era ushered new debates on relations between durable peace and sustainable development. Although much has been researched on the impact of the Western military organisations in projecting the second wave of industrial revolution in Africa, little or nothing has been researched on relations between military organisations, durable peace and sustainable development. The study traces the European policy formulations on civilization and material well-ness to the outcomes of 1876 Brussels Conference and 1884/5 Berlin Conference. In doing so, the study is limited to the role of European powers and international organisations in the formulations of regional policies on the suppression of structural violence and the

promotion of civilization or material well-beings. In doing so, the researcher focuses on the material and virtual discourses on the historical evolution of development in southern Africa since the 19th century. In an attempt to synthesise the existing or found data, the study use grounded theory methodological analysis and framing approach analysis. The study content that imperial formulations on structural violence are bound to frame the domestic ideology in respect of the foreign imaginary representations, while emergent constructs may impact positively or negatively on the prospects for durable peace and sustainability development.
Key words: Military role, international organisations, regional governance, durable peace, sustainable development.

By the numbers: People of South Sudanese heritage in the 2016 Australian Census of Population and Housing - Julie Robinson, College of Education, Psychology and Social Work, Flinders University.
For many Australians, South Sudanese are the face of African migration. This research provides an updated picture of residents of Australia who have a South Sudanese heritage based on data collected during the 2016 Census of Population and Housing. Most public policies for immigrant communities are informed by census data concerning country of birth. However, many people of South Sudanese heritage were born in countries of asylum or in Australia. This research shows that data based on country of birth systematically under-estimate the number of Australian residents with a South Sudanese heritage (and especially underestimate the number of children). The research estimates the true size of this population, describes its demographic characteristics, and considers how these characteristics present particular challenges and opportunities for individual and community resilience.

On understanding Dialogue and Negotiations between Externals and Locals: Cooperation and Resistance between local actors and the UN and other Donors in Burundi - Aimé Saba - University of Sydney
The transformation of 'post-war' countries can be studied under the prism of changing relationships and aspects of encounters between external and local actors involved in peacebuilding and state re-building (governance and institutional reforms). This paper explores Burundi's present day contexts of peacebuilding, governance, and rule of law reforms and needs for technical assistance present perfect sites of observation on dynamics of negotiations between international organizations and local state and non-state actors. The paper looks at the dynamics of interactions and everyday patterns of hidden resistance in contractual, customary and contextual terms to external peacebuilding, statebuilding and other post-conflict reconstruction efforts in Burundi. The paper explores themes related to the epistemology of peacebuilding, statebuilding and development in post-conflict societies; dynamics of hybridity in peacebuilding and statebuilding norms; post-liberal forms of peace; local forms of resistance; and the gap between the local and international legitimacy of peacebuilding and statebuilding and the divergence between the architecture of international peacebuilding and statebuilding on the one hand, and localized political struggles for building a good enough culture of democratic governance.

Necro-Politics in Francophone Africa and Attempts for Withdrawal from the ICC: The Case of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo - Aimé Saba - University of Sydney
This paper is concerned with the challenges of prevention of political violent conflicts and mass atrocities in Francophone Africa, with a particular focus on the Great Lakes Region of Africa (Burundi and Congo DRC), through the lenses of bio-power, necro-politics, and in the context of post-war democracy building efforts. Recent election-related violent events in both countries have demonstrated the complex nature of demands and supplies of accountability by external and local actors working in the space of conflict prevention through the implementation of mechanisms and norms of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The author particularly analyses the behaviours and discourses of the Burundian State leading to its decision executive and legislative decisions to withdraw from the Rome Statute, founding treaty of the International Criminal Court. The main argument is around the implications of such decisions for unstable neighboring states such as the DRC and the difficulties by international actors in navigating the twin spaces of legal accountability and regional sustainable peacebuilding in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. Indeed, both Burundi and the DRC continue to be sites of gross human rights violations, with a reticence of States to try their own nationals for international crimes. The talk will cover a broad spectrum of mass atrocities, from Gatumba massacres (because these occurred when UN Peacekeepers were on the ground) to recent and ongoing revelations of probable mass graves found both in Burundi and the DRC and will apply Achille Mbembe's concepts of Necro-politics and crisis of postcoloniality in explaining the failure of both states

and international organisations in enforcing global norms of accountability and for a comprehensive liability regime in pursuing crimes against humanity in Africa's Great Lakes Region.

Key words: Bio-Power, Necropolitics, Crisis of Post-coloniality, R2P, Cycle of Impunity, Africa's Great Lakes Region

Nearer to the People: Service Delivery and Local-Level Governance in Uganda - Chris van Hooft, Development Studies, University of Cambridge

Many countries worldwide have implemented decentralised governance structures, with the goal of improving public services and increasing community participation in governance. The decentralisation system in Uganda assigns district governments responsibility for providing public services such as schools and health posts, and for implementing the development priorities of local communities. My research uses qualitative and quantitative methods to analyse the impact of decentralisation on public service delivery in Uganda. Research participants report that the decentralisation process has not lived up to its promise of improved service delivery and communication between government and the community. Rather than bringing services 'nearer to the people', decentralisation has instead resulted in the fracturing of local governments and the politicisation of the resource-allocation process. Districts have become highly dependent on the centre for resources, and the services they implement are in practice the priorities of the central government rather than of local communities. In addition, the number of districts has increased rapidly, resulting in a large number of poorly-resourced districts. Paradoxically, this situation is driven by demand for more districts from elected officials, civil servants and community members alike, as actors in the political economy leverage the decentralisation system to achieve their ambitions and livelihood strategies.

Roads to the Future: Development, Infrastructure and Citizenship in Uganda - Richard Vokes, University of Adelaide

In recent years, the Government of Uganda (GoU) – like many other governments throughout Sub-Saharan Africa – has embarked on a major programme of structural transformation, aimed at turning the country into an advanced industrial economy of middle income status within a decade. One of these projects, the Chinese-funded Kampala-Entebbe expressway, has actually become the most expensive road in the world, at a whopping US $9.2 million per km. Yet for the GoU, the basic assumption – which it has outlined in numerous policy documents including in the current 'Vision 2040' plan – is that all of this investment is justified on the basis that once these new roads are completed, all of the rest 'will simply follow'. Yet is this assumption justified? Drawing on a multi-year ethnographic study of one of Uganda's new road building projects, the Mbarara-Kabale highway, which is part of East Africa's main trunk route that connects the littoral to Rwanda and the DRC, this paper argues that the relationship between road-building and wider development outcomes is much more complicated than the GoU and their partners might sometimes suggest. On the one hand, such projects certainly do generate all kinds of new economic flows, albeit not always ones of the roadbuilders' designs. Yet on the other, they also produce a wider range of other social and political effects, some of which are detrimental to development goals. For example, these new roads also allow for criminal gangs to operate across a wider geographical range; they provide passage to armies, and; they act as corridors for communicable diseases. The Mbarara-Kabale highway was, after all, the very road along which HIV/AIDS first travelled to the rest of East Africa, in the 1970s and 80s. In addition, the road building projects themselves generate new entanglements: between the GoU and new kinds of donor-partners; and between the state and its citizens, whose built environment is inevitably disrupted by the construction of such highways. Roads also have an unavoidable environmental cost. Thus, rather than representing a panacea, road-building projects highlight the gap that still exists between development aspirations and realities, and the difficulties that African governments face in their current attempts to radically transform their societies.

Belonging, Strangerhood and Mobility: South Sudanese in a Rural Town, Victoria - Naduni Wickramaarachchi and Edgar Burns, *Department of Social Inquiry, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University*

Australian regional areas are now receiving significant numbers of migrants from the African continent. Predominantly Anglo-Saxon communities perceive these 'newcomers' as physically and culturally different. Asking, however, how African migrants themselves construct relationships with local communities and build a sense of belonging in regional and rural areas is a very different question. This paper explores South Sudanese migrants' experiences conceptualising their sense of belonging in a small county town: Castlemaine, Victoria. Focus group discussions show that even with the welcoming atmosphere and support from the local community, South Sudanese migrants are still attracted to metropolitan environments that have greater

diversity, feeling more at home in such settings. Using the theoretical background of stranger, this paper argues the cities allow strangers be un-noticed letting them feel at 'home'. Findings from the study show settings with greater diversity encourages negotiating difference openly and easing power imbalances among different groups. Finally, the locality of Castlemaine, within easy commuting distance to metropolitan Melbourne and suburbs, is considered in relation to hyper-mobility reducing the capacity to construct 'bridging capital' within such local communities.

The relevance, ramifications and legacies of Eugen Fischer's ideas of miscegenation amongst the Rehoboth community in German South-West Africa (Namibia). - Christine Winter - Flinders University
Race and Ethnicity in the Global South, the research (laureate) project I have been connected with at the University of Sydney argues that Australia is part of a Global South where scientific racism differed from that of the North: hierarchies are less stringently thought, boundaries transgressed, miscegenation theorized with a positive undertone. This is a somewhat puzzling preposition given the history of race relations and race theories of the white dominions Australia, New Zealand and South Africa – that also all administered ex-German protectorates as C Mandates of the League of Nations from 1921 (Trust Territories of the United Nations after WWII). In this presentation I will use the case study of Eugen Fischer's scientific race theories to examine the value of a connecting approach that links race and ethnicity in the Global South. The German medical race scientist Eugen Fischer's influential theories on miscegenation and race mixing that re-introduced Mendel's theories back into the modern race science, were first explicated in his research on the so-called 'Rehoboth bastards' in the then German colony South-West Africa. I will explore through Fischer's colonial race science and his reworking of it during the 1930s interwar ramifications of Fischer's work beyond their African context: I am focusing on models of exclusion and inclusion, and implicit arguments about gender that created real consequences for people of mixed heritage beyond Africa, in particular for African diasporas and people of African heritage in Germany and the USA.

Environment as justice: Akwamu reflections on river justice In Ghana - Kirsty Wissing, Australian National University
In considering environmental justice, this paper will consider environment *as* justice. Drawing on twelve months of ethnographic research in southern Ghana, I will explore local Akwamu perspectives that counter ideas of nature as vulnerable victim and instead view the environment as alive with deities of agency that oversee human disputes and mete out justice. Specifically, I will look to the phenomenon and explanations of drowning in the Volta River, Ghana, to explore how the environment is seen to reflect the true quality of humans and to judge and punish accordingly. I will also consider undercurrents of power in human interpretations of drowning as the environment delivering justice. This paper seeks to look to an Akwamu Indigenous perspective that repositions the environment as an active rather than passive entity in notions of environmental and human justice, albeit it as interpreted by humans. Exploring water as a shorthand for the environment more broadly, I suggest Indigenous perspectives on justice and nature, as embedded with religious meaning, might refract rather than reflect global understandings of the environment as subservient to humans and in need of human guardianship to achieve environmental justice.

Epistemic Violence and the Right to 'Irrelevant' Education - Yirga Gelaw Woldeyes, Curtin University
The right to education in Africa was guaranteed at a time when Africans had no opportunity to determine the content, method and purpose of education. While the 'hardware' of education (the building of schools, the hiring of teachers and the provision of material resources) is largely provided by the African poor often through taxes and debts, the 'software' of education (the subject matter of knowledge, its method and purpose) has been determined by politicians who operate under significant pressure from international financial institutions and powerful governments. Consequently, the education system has become a structure that supports the global networks of power rather than addressing the daily challenges of local people. It also contributes to the reproduction of 'docile bodies' through a 'conversion' process that alienates African students from their own societies' traditions. This paper presents the notion of *epistemic violence* to exemplify the systematic ways in which *irrelevant* education is packaged and presented to Africans as a right. It also suggests fresh insights into the meaning of relevant education in light of the ongoing crisis of education and the challenges Africa is facing in the 21st century.
Key words: epistemic violence, relevant education, alienation, Africa

Internationalisation of Chinese capital and the transformation of state-society relations in Ethiopia - Edson Ziso, The University of Adelaide.

This paper contributes to the growing literature on China's growing economic relationship with Africa. Employing Ethiopia as a case study, the internationalisation of Chinese capital is interrogated with a view to determining how it is interacting with and reshaping the state and social forces within the Ethiopian state. This is achieved by using a theoretical framework that understands the state as a complex social relation. The social forces making up the Ethiopian state, especially those affected by and affecting Chinese capital, are examined through a comprehensive discussion of Ethiopia's political and economic organisation and enduring state-society relations. Through carefully selected case studies in the Ethiopian economy such as Special Economic Zones (SEZs), leather, agricultural and infrastructural development sectors, the thesis argues that the internationalisation of Chinese capital is having two major effects on Ethiopian state-society relations, namely, the intensification of party-oriented capitalism and the informalisation of politics. Scholarship on China-Africa relations had until now analysed this relationship through mainly state-state lenses. A key contribution of this paper is that it offers a new way of understanding the relationship between China and Africa through an 'inside out' perspective that explores the changing nature of internal politics as a result of Chinese investment and commercial links. I disaggregate the Ethiopian state and the defining roles being played by its constituent social forces. I conclude that a combination of internal and external forces involved such as the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) ruling party and Chinese State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), respectively, gives a basis for a better understanding of the direction, form and nature of state transformation in Ethiopia.