



The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific

Habari kwa ufupi - AFSAAP
Newsletter No. 70 - April 2016

To contribute to the newsletter, please contact newsletter@afsaap.org.au



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Website](#)

AFSAAP Newsletter – April 2016

Africa: Moving the Boundaries

The 39th AFSAAP Annual Conference

5-7 December 2016, University of Western Australia

Abstracts are invited for both individual papers and themed panels of three presenters. The deadline for submission of abstracts is May 30.

[AFSAAP 2016 Conference- Call for Papers](#)

[The University of Western Australia](#)

[St. Catherine's College](#)

Opportunities

AFSAAP aims to support research in African Studies by promoting postgraduate research in Australia and New Zealand. We offer the following opportunities

- Annual Postgraduate Prize for the best paper presented at the annual conference
- Postgraduate travel grants to attend the annual conference
- Grants for all members to attend another African Studies Conference around the world
- Small grants to establish an African Studies reading group in your State or University

The AFSAAP Executive are willing to consider other suggestions on how best we can promote African Studies and research in this region. See <http://afsaap.org.au/opportunities/>

Interrogating International Justice in Central Africa: Local Perspectives on Addressing Atrocities

The University of South Australia is hosting the launch of Nicola Palmer's new book, *Courts in Conflict: Interpreting the Layers of Justice in Post-Genocide Rwanda* (Oxford University Press), and this is combined with a Research Seminar with both Nicola Palmer and Phil Clark, on Wednesday April 20th, 3pm-4.30pm, at the Magill Campus, South Australia – see attached PDF on page 5 for more details.



Moru interpreter required

A Moru interpreter is required. For further information please contact:

Lauren Harvey at Lauren.Harvey@workcover.wa.gov.au

Africa Day is approaching! May 25th 2016

AFSAAP Members are invited to organise or host an event to celebrate Africa Day. If you are already hosting an event let us know about it (email president@afsaap.org.au) and we can advise our members. Some events are already planned for Melbourne and Sydney. See <http://www.africadayaaustralia.org/>.

Publishing in scholarly Social Science journals: Dressing for success with The Journal of Psychology in Africa

The Journal of Psychology in Africa (JPA) is a major international journal which publishes the bulk of psychological research out of Africa and the African Diaspora. Currently published by Taylor and Francis UK, <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rpia20#.U8fZyfmSx8E>, it is a journal of the Africa Scholarship Development Enterprise LLC [ASDE]- <http://www.africascholarshipdevelopmententerprize.com/>- a USA based research development and dissemination support organization. The journal is accredited by all the major accrediting and abstracting agencies, and a much sort after research publication outlet by African, and Africanist social science researchers. Submissions from the AFSAAP membership are most welcome.

Frequency of Publication and Editorial Oversight

The JPA publishes 6 Issues per year and in excess of 90 manuscripts per year. It has an international board of associate and consulting editors. There is an associate editor for each of these regions: Australasia, Southern and East Africa, West Africa, Europe and UK, The Caribbean and North America. Associate Editors seek to encourage submissions from scholars from across these regions. Over 80% of published manuscripts are from and by researchers out of Africa, with the rest contributed by African or Africanist scholars in the diaspora. The submissions rate is strong, and likely to sustain well into the future.

Types of Articles Published

The Journal regularly features special sections (5-7 articles) on themes of interest by researchers. It also publishes special issues (10-15 articles) proposed by guest editors. In addition the JPA published brief reports, and professional issues focused articles as well as book reviews. Researchers wishing to publish special issues should contact the Editor for a preliminary discussion of their concept.

As journal editor, I find many manuscripts submitted from the continent of Africa and some regions in the diaspora to be very strong and innovative in the psychological concepts investigated. But, the vast majority of the manuscripts are not well written as to pass the preliminary Editorial checklist. I encourage you to strongly become very familiar with all of the content at the journal website related to manuscript submission. It is sadly the case that many strong submissions need to be deflected, all require multiple revision steps, because their authors have not complied with the style, organization, referencing, and other documentary requirements for publishing in the Journal. Prospective authors are encouraged to read the Instructions for Authors from the journal weblink.



Manuscript Review Process

To help the situation, the JPA Editorial Office applies a two-tier manuscript review process: standard peer review and developmental review for manuscripts that pass the preliminary checklist on submission. The two processes are independent of each other and for publication acceptance a manuscript must have positive peer reviews. The developmental review is author writing by the JPA and optimizes the review process to result in quality publications. A manuscript processing levy applies for articles accepted for publication for the developmental review support. There is no fee for the peer review.

Many otherwise able young researcher professionals from the African continent and the diaspora region of the Caribbean are unlikely to establish successful research careers because they have not been mentored in the rules needed to publish successfully in respected peer reviewed journals. As a result, they are less likely to receive external funding for their research and to be invited by established researchers regionally and internationally to engage in cooperative research and publication activities, thus further restricting their scholarly development.

The social sciences need and would benefit from additional research from scholars in the emerging countries of Africa and Africanist scholars in the diaspora. The lack of quality articles from professionals in emerging countries restricts this research base. Research by African scholars based on the continent is sparsely represented on the shelves of libraries in Africa and internationally, a situation that is partly explained by the barrier that they have less training in competitive research writing, and dissemination

Writing Workshop Support and Outcomes

The JPA/ASDE provides a series of regional workshops to mentor and model successful writing for publication to early and mid-career researchers to result in their research being published by social science journals of their choice. The primary objective is to provide hands-on manuscript development and preparation writing leading to a competitive submission to the JPA or preferred journal outlet. As part of the workshop, facilitators discuss both informal and formal rules about effective manuscript preparation. The ultimate workshop goal is to enable would be participants to improve their skills to submit quality manuscripts, and to publish in peer referred journals projects from their graduate studies or those by their graduate students.

At the successful completion of the workshop the participants are able to (1) identify and tailor their manuscripts for those who serve as gatekeepers that determine whether a manuscript is reviewed,(2) locate the standards that constitute the rules for a manuscript's acceptance, (3) draft manuscripts in light of rules for its eight components (title, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, references, and tables), (4) review manuscripts before their submission, and (5) respond to rejections. More practically, participants will work on their high potential manuscripts with workshop support to translate them into submitted for review.

Collateral outcomes from these workshops include to a) induct early and mid-career career lecturers into culture of published scholarship (b); establish a cohort of networked researchers who can give each other support in their research development ; (c) enhance in participants competitive research writing and publication track records; 4) position participants to make significant contributions to their institutions' research standing and revenue; 5) develop in participants superior skills in research mentoring which would benefit their student supervisees and their careers, 6) prepare participants for superior national and international research standing, and 7) enhance participant's competitiveness for research grant funding.

Written by Elias Mpofu, PhD, DEd, CRC, MAPS

Editor, Journal of Psychology in Africa- E-mail: elias.mpofu@sydney.edu.au



On That Note!

See the Call for papers for the Australasian Review of African Studies

<http://afsaap.org.au/publications/aras/> the official publication of the African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP).



RESEARCH SEMINAR

with

Nicola Palmer (King's College London) and Phil Clark (University of London)



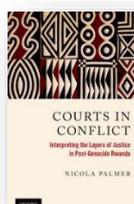
Interrogating International Justice in Central Africa: Local Perspectives on Addressing Atrocities

In the Great Lakes region of Africa, the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) have generated widespread controversies over neocolonialist meddling in African affairs and their solely punitive responses to mass crimes. Alongside these international justice mechanisms, there is an increasing call for holistic or multi-institutional responses that combine international, national and community-based processes. This seminar presentation examines the interactions among these three levels of institutions. Drawing on more than a decade of research and practice in Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, this presentation will show that relations among international, national and local approaches have typically been competitive rather than complementary, which has undermined the work of all three levels and greatly affected their legitimacy in the eyes of local populations. This analysis calls for new theoretical and practical responses to violent conflict in central Africa and beyond. In particular, it challenges the role that international criminal legal practitioners ascribe themselves following mass atrocity.

Nicola Palmer is a lecturer in criminal law at King's College London and author of 'Courts in Conflict: Interpreting the Layers of Justice in Post-genocide Rwanda' (OUP 2015). She recently completed an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) project on the methods used to formulate, implement and assess transitional justice processes. Nicola received her DPhil in law from the University of Oxford in 2011. Prior to this, she worked at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, following her undergraduate in law and economics at Rhodes University, South Africa. Her broad research interests are in international criminal law, transitional justice, central African studies and legal anthropology.

Phil Clark is a Reader in Comparative and International Politics at SOAS, University of London, where he teaches African politics and transitional justice. He was previously a Research Fellow in Courts and Public Policy at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford, and co-founder and convenor of Oxford Transitional Justice Research. His latest book is 'The Gacaca Courts, Post-Genocide Justice and Reconciliation in Rwanda: Justice without Lawyers' (Cambridge University Press) and he is currently completing a book on the politics of the International Criminal Court in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He holds a DPhil in Politics from Balliol College, Oxford, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar, and an Honours degree in International Studies from Flinders University.

This event will also serve as the launch of Nicola Palmer's book, *Courts in Conflict: Interpreting the Layers of Justice in Post-Genocide Rwanda* (Oxford University Press).



Date: Wednesday, 20 April 2016
Time: 3.00 pm - 4.30 pm
Room: C1-60, Magill Campus
RSVP: Email CIL-Research by 18 April 2016