



The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific

Habari kwa ufupi - AFSAAP
Newsletter No. 63 - August 2015

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AFSAAP Newsletter – August 2015

AFSAAP 2015 Annual Conference – Deadline for Abstracts August 14th.

Key note speaker – Prof. Sabelo J Ndlovu-Gatsheni, Head, Archie Mafeje Research Institute. University of South Africa.

Professor Ndlovu-Gatsheni's works, 'Empire, Global Coloniality and African Subjectivity', and 'Coloniality of Power in Postcolonial Africa: Myths of Decolonization', have proved to be significant contributions to African studies and we are pleased to offer you this opportunity to hear him speak. He will be discussing the "Decoloniality Movement" and its field of study which connects well with our theme for this year's conference: 'Twenty-first century tensions and transformations'. There will be a number of opportunities for attendees to hear Professor Ndlovu-Gatsheni speak. See <http://afsaap.org.au/conference/conference-2015/> for further details.



Africa-Australia Research and Policy Forum on 1 September.

To be held the day before the Africa Down Under Conference in Perth.

See <https://www.africadownunderconference.com/2015-africa> for further details.

Call for papers - Fourth CODESRIA Conference on Electronic Publishing

Theme: The Open Access Movement and the Future of Africa's Knowledge Economy.
Dakar, Senegal. March 28-30 2016.

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) promotes social science research and knowledge production, the publication and dissemination of research outcomes and organises forums for discussing and sharing of ideas in order to influence the improvement of the living conditions of African populations. The Council hereby announces the fourth in its electronic publishing conference series. This year's theme focuses on open access publishing models with particular appeal to their possible impacts on the future knowledge economy in Africa.



The Open Access Movement is a timely initiative to transform global relations and means of knowledge production, dissemination and use based on the power of information technologies to enforce the free flow of scholarly content. Using digital media to circulate scholarly information creates a direct linkage between scholars/authors and the public, facilitating a free flow of ideas and information vital to the process of scientific inquiry, and in turn to the ability of individuals and communities and institutions to address economic, environmental and social development issues, both regionally and globally.

Registration

CODESRIA will provide funding support to paper presenters who show evidence that they are unable to cater for their participation. All non-paper presenting participants will pay a registration fee of 150USD to cover admission to the panels, conference packages and workshops only; such participants will cater for their feeding.

CODESRIA - www.codesria.org

Conference website- <http://www.codesria.org/spip.php?article2402M>

Email - open.access@codesria.sn

AFSAAP Member Michael Nest has kindly volunteered to assist with the ARAS back issues project

AFSAAP is pleased to advise that a second edition has been published of The African Union: Addressing the challenges of peace, security, and governance by Routledge. AFSAAP member David Mickler is one of the co-authors. A link to the new edition is here: <http://www.tandf.net/books/details/9781138790407/>

There is also a new book on Africa's development published by Springer that may be of interest to members. Millennium development goals in retrospect includes a chapter by AFSAAP member Cristian Talesco - "Aid Effectiveness and Development Policies in Botswana". A link to the publication is here: <http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319161655>

Submitted by Cristian Talesco AFSAAP member - Hong Kong

Further reading that may be of interest to members is "Tragedy" to "Miracle". Africa in the New Multipolar Context, by Oscar Mateos. This booklet can download for free at www.cristianismeijusticia.net/en/cj-booklets.

Submitted by Margaret O'Callaghan

Report to AFSAAP re European conference on African Studies in Paris 2015

The European Conference on African Studies (ECAS) took place this year between 8 and 10 July at the Sorbonne in Paris. I was fortunate enough to attend and participate in a panel discussion on Somalia, and received a grant from AFSAAP in support of that attendance. ECAS is the largest such event in Europe and takes place biannually, this year drawing an attendance of roughly 1600 delegates and some 235 panel discussions. With such a large gathering of academics, policy-makers, and everyone else interested in African studies (from all continents) it was difficult to visit all the panel discussion I was interested in, given that there were on average some 25 panel discussion taking place concurrently.



ECAS was a vibrant event with loads of presentations on a very wide host of issues ranging from social mobilisation and gay rights, to art, land policies, state formation, and rebel governance. All of Africa's regions were represented in the topics and anyone interested in African issues would have benefitted from at least one panel discussion.

In addition to the panels, there were plenty of side events from roundtable discussions to book launches, and concerts and artistic performances, which were all even accompanied by a very enjoyable and timely museum exhibition on wooden masks and carvings from Cote D'Ivoire.

The Sorbonne was awe inspiring and just visiting the university to see the grand lecture halls and amphitheatres would have been a treat in itself. However, the awe disappeared the moment you had to get down to the practicalities of delivering your presentations, as most of the rooms and lecture halls, dating back to the time when Otto Von Bismarck was busy reuniting Germany, lacked certain facilities such as projectors and connecting cables, and most importantly air-conditioning. All of this conspired to simulate a very 'back in the day' type of presentation, which seemed fitting enough given the antiquarian feel of the Sorbonne.

Attending the conference was in many ways a humbling experience when I was confronted with scholars who actually receive funding to travel and research in Africa, and naturally the level of expertise was quite high. This also made it an encouraging experience to be included in one such panel where fellow panellists, and much of the audience, were experienced researchers of Somali affairs.

Nevertheless, and I say this with great modesty, the overall quality of many panels I visited was in no way greatly superior to what I find when visiting our own AFSAAP annual conference, and I think this is worth pointing out. Given the structural impediments to the study of African issues in Australia, we tend to be quite self-deprecating when it comes to comparing our contributions with those of scholars from Africa, the US, or Europe, but from what I saw at ECAS, perhaps this is slightly over critical. This should certainly be seen as an incentive for us to keep up our good work at AFSAAP conferences.

All in all ECAS is a world class event and thoroughly enjoyable, especially given the breadth of academic issues being explored. While attending I also chanced upon several Australian based colleagues who delivered well received presentations, and this has given me great confidence in suggesting that in two years' time, ECAS will again be visited by Australian scholars, who will no doubt raise the profile of African Studies in Australia even higher. Finally, I express great thanks to AFSAAP for their support in my attendance of the conference, and I did my best to promote our association while there.

Nikola Pijovic

Expression of Interest – AFSAAP Office Bearers for 2016

In accordance with normal procedures, all office bearing positions will be declared open at the AGM at the forthcoming conference, and all AFSAAP members are invited to nominate for one of the positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Postgraduate Representative. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please send a short description of why you believe you would be suited to the position, and what you can bring to AFSAAP to secretary@afsaap.org.au by 1 October 2015. These will be disseminated in advance of the AGM. Please note that if you would like to nominate another person, you must get their written approval.



Changes to AFSAAP constitution

The AFSAAP constitution can be found here: <http://afsaap.org.au/about/constitution/> . According to the constitution, any changes require 21 days written notice to the AFSAAP membership, and they must then be voted on at the AGM. If you would like to suggest any changes to the constitution, please email secretary@afsaap.org.au by 1 September 2015 in order to allow time for dissemination of the suggestions.

**Best regards,
AFSAAP Secretariat**