



The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific

Habari kwa ufupi - AFSAAP
Newsletter No. 67 - December 2015

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AFSAAP Newsletter – December 2015

AFSAAP Membership

Don't forget to update your annual AFSAAP Subscriptions – [click here](#). We rely on your subscriptions to keep our Not for Profit Association running. It exists on volunteer hours, lots of passion for African studies and your membership. The journal of the association - The Australasian Review of African Studies - remains one of the few Independent African Studies Journals left in the world. Please support it with your subscriptions to AFSAAP. Membership fees are modest.

Season's greetings to all!

From the AFSAAP Executive

Rotary International honours AFSAAP member Lucy Hobgood-Brown as one of six 'Global women of action'

The AFSAAP Executive are pleased to announce the recognition of AFSAAP member Lucy Hobgood-Brown as one of six "Global women of action". Lucy is actively involved in many initiatives and programs which enable capacity building in the DR Congo through the delivery of medical, school and community development supplies. These are illustrated through her work with [Handup Congo](#). This prestigious honour was awarded to Lucy at the United Nations headquarters in New York, and the AFSAAP Executive congratulate Lucy and encourage her towards her goals.

A press release is attached **see pages 5 & 6**.

Australasian Review of African Studies (ARAS) – Vol 36 No 2, December 2015 is now published

AFSAAP members will receive their hard copy in the post before Christmas, and can also access their electronic version of the journal via this link <http://afsaap.org.au/ARAS/volume-36-2015/>. Please click here to see the editorial written by Tanya Lyons, Jay Marlowe and Alec Thornton.



Call for papers: Special issue on 'Decoloniality and Difference' – ARAS December 2016.

At the 2015 AFSAAP conference, Prof Sabelo J Ndlovu-Gatsheni's keynote speech and a subsequent panel on decoloniality and postcolonialism raised a number of distinct but related and intersecting questions about difference -

- Othering of the African subject within Western thought and colonial encounters? How might we rethink African subjectivities in ways that are not marked by deficits?
- Is decoloniality guilty of the same thing Spivak accused the Subaltern Studies group of in 1984, that is, essentialising and homogenising subalternity? Can this school of thought account not only for Africa and Africans, but also for the difference, diversity and plurality within these categories? What is required to achieve this?
- Further to this issue of accounting for plurality, how does decoloniality respond to the need to avoid binary thinking: resistance/ collusion, north/south, colonized/colonizer, oppressed/free, authentic/inauthentic. Bhabha's work on hybridity broke much new ground on these questions within postcolonialism. Can decoloniality do the same thing, or better, and if so, how?
- What are the differences between postcolonialism and decoloniality? Or, are there more productive questions to ask about the relationship between these two schools of thought?
- What is the significance of the 'locus of enunciation' or, more simply, the speaking position, of a researcher, analyst or theorist writing about Africa? How are we to conceive of 'speaking position'? To what extent is a speaking position a matter of geography, as opposed to subjectivity?

The December 2016 edition of the Australasian Review of African Studies will be a special edition that seeks to further these discussions in a broad way. We welcome submissions that take up any of these questions, or other questions regarding difference that can be engaged from a decolonial perspective. Submissions may be empirical or theoretical, and may come from any discipline in the social sciences and humanities, be interdisciplinary, or break disciplinary boundaries in creative ways. They may pertain to research in Africa or the African diaspora. **See page 8 & 9** for further details, and email specialissueARAS@afsaap.org.au for further information.

Vale Prof. Sam Moyo

The AFSAAP Executive regretfully announce the passing of Prof. Sam Moyo, who died on 23 November 2015 at the age of 61 while attending a conference on Labour Questions in the Global South, in New Dehli. The following stories acknowledge Prof. Moyo's contributions to Africa:

<http://www.kubatana.net/2015/11/23/8864/an-ode-in-memory-of-chimusoro-sam-moyo/>

<http://www.herald.co.zw/prof-sam-moyo-dies/>

The Inaugural National Conference on Migration, Media and Integration/Social Cohesion

The conference will provide an opportunity for knowledge exchange on the influence of media on social issues and its impacts on the welfare of migrants and refugees in Australia, especially by looking at how media may encourage, generate, exacerbate or reduce migration-related social inequalities.

17-18 February 2016, Monash University. A flier is attached, **see page 7**.



'Western Sahara: The Role of Resources in its Continuing Occupation': new publication.

The proceedings of the recent conference 'Natural Resources: The Key to Western Sahara's Future', held in Melbourne in March, have now been published in a Special issue of Global Change, Peace and Security (vol: 26; no: 3, October 2015), edited by Professor Damien Kingsbury (Deakin University) as 'Western Sahara: The Role of Resources in its Continuing Occupation'.

The extraction of minerals from occupied Western Sahara for the production of agricultural fertilizers that underlies all commercial Australian food production is one of the concerns of this volume that really brings the issues right home.

To purchase: please send \$35 to :

AWSA Australian Western Sahara Support Group Victoria

BSB : 814 282 Account No. 10754108 Online (all conference papers \$100): awsa.org.au/2015

Appeal to assist flood relief efforts in Saharawi refugee camps

The Australia Western Sahara Association is appealing for funds to assist relief work in the Western Sahara refugee camps where week-long torrential rains have devastated homes, hospitals and schools and destroyed food stores.

"Never before have the Saharawi refugee camps been hit by a natural disaster of this magnitude," said Kamal Fadel, representative of Western Sahara in Australia. "Help is urgently needed to prevent a humanitarian disaster. We hope that Australian individuals, organisations and unions will give generously in a gesture of good will to assist my people who have lost everything."

The flood damage has been huge, with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees estimating that at least 25,000 Saharawi refugees are affected. Mud brick homes and tents have been destroyed, and more than seventy-five per cent of infrastructure and essential services are gone. See: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-gG_Hfv61c

The Saharawi refugees have been living for 40 years in a harsh desert environment with dust storms and extreme temperatures and now unprecedented flooding is adding to their desperation. The loss of food stores is particularly serious as the refugees rely on foreign aid.

AWSA has launched an appeal for funds in conjunction with APHEDA – Union Aid Abroad.

"The Saharawi people have suffered dispossession and dislocation for 40 years," said Ged Kearney, ACTU President. "The floods this month heap hardship on pain. Please support the APHEDA appeal."

Tax deductible donations can be made online at: <http://apheda.org.au/> or call 1800888674.

Relief agencies have made an initial assessment of the devastation and identified an urgent need for tents, plastic sheeting and blankets, food and medicine. Flood water must also be removed and infrastructure rebuilt to avoid disease, contamination of water sources and buildings collapsing. <http://www.unhcr.org/562a19706.html>

Contacts

Kamal Fadel, representative of Western Sahara in Australia: **0416335197**

Ron Guy, Australian Unions for Western Sahara (Vic): **0428173970**



Books to review

The following books are available for review, to be published in The Australasian Review of African Studies. Please contact AFSAAP's Book Reviews Editor, Nikola Pijovic, aras.bookreviews@gmail.com, for further information.

J.C. Myers, *Indirect Rule in South Africa. Tradition, Modernity, and the Costuming of Political Power*, University of Rochester Press, 2008.

Bawa Kuyini, *Re-Thinking Values in Africa: For Collective Well-being*, 2013.

Knut G Nustad, *Creating Africas. Struggles over Nature, Conservation and Land*, Hurst & Company, 2015.

Marcelle C. Dawson, and Luke Sinwell (eds.), *Contesting Transformation. Popular Resistance in Twenty-First-Century South Africa*, Pluto Press, 2012.

Patrick Bond, *Elite Transformation. From Apartheid to Neoliberalism in South Africa*, revised and expanded edition, Pluto Press, 2014.

John S. Saul, *A Flawed Freedom. Rethinking Southern African Liberation*, Pluto Press, 2014.

Tijo Salverda, *The Franco-Mauritian Elite. Power and Anxiety in the Face of Change*, Berghahn Books, 2015

Grant Hamilton ed., *Reading Marechera*, James Currey, 2013.

Marcelle C. Dawson and Luke Sinwell eds., *Contesting Transformation. Popular Resistance in 21st South Africa*, Pluto Press, 2012.

David Booth and Diana Cammack, *Governance for Development in Africa. Solving Collective Problems*, Zed Books, 2013.

Cherry Leonardi, *Dealing with Government in South Sudan. Histories of Chiefship, Community and State*, James Currey, 2013.

James De Lorenzi, *Guardians of the Tradition. Historians and Historical Writing in Ethiopia and Eritrea*, University of Rochester Press, 2015.

Mohammed Hassen, *The Oromo and the Christian Kingdom of Ethiopia 1300-1700*, James Currey, 2015.

Kjetil Tronvoll and Daniel R Mekonnen, *The African Garrison State. Human Rights & Political Development in Eritrea*, James Currey, 2014.

Chris Vaughan, *Darfur. Colonial Violence, Sultanic Legacies & Local Politics, 1916-1956*, James Currey, 2015.

Elizabeth A. Elderidge, *Kingdoms and Chiefdoms of Southeastern Africa. Oral Traditions and History, 1400-1830*, University of Rochester Press, 2015.

E-Book access to: Sjoerd Rijpma, *David Livingstone and the Myth of African Poverty and Disease. A Close Examination of his Writing on the Pre-colonial Era*, Brill, 2015.

NEWS RELEASE

Australian Rotary member among six 'Global Women of Action' recognized at the United Nations

EVANSTON, Ill. (USA), October 19, 2015 -- Rotary will honor six women – all members of Rotary clubs across the globe – at its "Rotary Day at the United Nations" event on November 7. Rotary's 'Global Women of Action' will be recognized for donating their time, talents and expertise towards helping thousands of people in need throughout the world.

Since the volunteer service organization's founding more than 100 years ago, Rotary has harnessed the strength of professional and community leaders to tackle humanitarian challenges at home and abroad. Today, Rotary provides a platform for successful men and women of all ethnicities, faiths and cultures to make the world a better place through volunteer service.

"Every day at Rotary I see first-hand how our members work to change lives and make significant impact around the world," said Rotary International President K.R. Ravindran. "Through hard work, dedication and selflessness, Rotary's 'Global Women of Action' embody Rotary's motto, 'Service Above Self', and I extend my warmest congratulations to them for their outstanding service to humanity."

Rotary's 'Global Women of Action' are:

Lucy Hobgood-Brown, Hunters Hill, NSW, Australia: A member of the e-Club of Greater Sydney, Hobgood-Brown is a community development specialist and educator with more than 30 years of experience living and working in nine countries. She is the co-founder of HandUp Congo, a non-profit organization that strategically links existing and potential collaborators with grassroots community initiatives in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where she grew up. Working with Rotary clubs, she helped raise funds to support public health infrastructure for Ebola containment in the Congo in 2014. She especially enjoys working with Rotary District 9150 in sub Saharan Africa on a variety of capacity building projects.

Kerstin Jeska-Thorwart, Nuremberg, Germany: A member of the Rotary Club of Nurnberg-Siggen, Jeska-Thorwart is the creator of the "Baby Hospital Galle" project, which she launched after surviving the devastation of the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka. With a budget of USD 1.8 million and the support of 200 Rotary clubs and 6,000 members, the project rebuilt and equipped the Mahamodara Teaching Hospital in Galle, Sri Lanka. In the 11 years since its

inception, the project has helped more than 150,000 children and provided healthcare services to more than 2.2 million women.

Dr. Hashrat A. Begum, Dhaka, Bangladesh: A member of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West, Begum has been at the forefront of the women's health in Bangladesh, implementing several large scale projects to deliver health care to underserved communities. She works to organize free weekend clinics for slum dwellers, providing vocational training to girls who have dropped out of school, empowering women to earn livelihoods as seamstresses, and working to raise awareness of social and health issues among young people. Begum also works to fund a clinic for the people of Washpur, a densely populated slum township outside of Dhaka with virtually no access to clean water or health facilities.

Dr. Deborah K. W. Walters, Troy, Maine, United States: A member of the Rotary Club of Unity, Walters, a neuroscientist, has served as the director and supporter of Safe Passage (Camino Seguro), a non-profit organization that helps to provide educational and social services to children and families who live in the Guatemala City garbage dump. Walters also led an initiative to improve water systems and build latrines for people living in and around the dump.

Razia Jan, Wellesley, Mass., United States: A member of the Rotary Club of Duxbury, Jan, an Afghan native living in the United States, has worked for decades to build connections between Afghans and Americans while improving the lives of young women and girls in Afghanistan. She is the Founder and Director of the Zabuli Education Center, a school that serves more than 430 girls in Deh'Subs, Afghanistan. The school teaches the girls mathematics, English, science, and technology, as well as providing practical skills, preparing them to succeed and achieve economic freedom within a challenging social environment. She was recognized as a CNN Hero in 2012.

Stella S. Dongo, Harare, Zimbabwe: A member of the Rotary Club of Highlands, Stella Dongo leads the Community Empowerment Project in Zimbabwe. The project provides basic business skills and computer training to more than 6,000 women and youth infected or affected by HIV in urban Harare. She is working to expand the project to serve an additional 600 participants in the region. She has served on the boards of World Vision Zimbabwe and Women's University Africa.

RI President K.R. Ravindran announced the finalists on Oct. 19 at 1:30 p.m. CT at RotaryChat on Twitter.

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The Inaugural National Conference on Migration, Media and Integration/Social Cohesion 2016

17-18 February 2016 at Monash University (Caulfield)

The overall theme of the conference is

**“Media representations of migrant communities and their impacts
on social cohesion and social mobility”**

This conference provides an opportunity for knowledge exchange on the influence of media on social issues and its impacts on the welfare of migrants and refugees in Australia, especially by looking at how media may encourage, generate, exacerbate or reduce migration-related social inequalities.

The conference will bring together prominent speakers from key state and national organisations and it will focus on promoting a better understanding of the extent and depth of media discourses on the lives of migrants and refugees, with a special focus on new and emerging communities.

The conference provides a great platform to showcase your work, draw inspiration from others and explore new ideas and network with leading experts in migration, social cohesion and media/communications fields.

Abstracts submission and Registrations OPEN NOW!!

Register before 15 December 2015 and get early bird registration and student concessions. Visit <http://migration-media-integration-conference.net.au/> to register and view more information about the conference.





The African Studies Association
of Australasia and the Pacific

Australasian Review of African Studies

Promoting African Studies in the Australasia-Pacific region since 1978

Special Issue: Decoloniality and Difference in Africa

Guest editors: Dr. Sam Balaton-Chrimes and Dr. Max Kelly – Deakin University

At the 2015 AFSAAP conference, Prof Sabelo J Ndlovu-Gatsheni's keynote speech and a subsequent panel on decoloniality and postcolonialism raised a number of distinct but related and intersecting questions about difference:

- How does difference manifest in subjectivities? What are the consequences of the Othering of the African subject within Western thought and colonial encounters? How might we rethink African subjectivities in ways that are not marked by deficits?
- Is decoloniality guilty of the same thing Spivak accused the Subaltern Studies group of in 1984, that is, **essentialising and homogenising** subalternity? Can this school of thought account not only for Africa and Africans, but also for the difference, diversity and plurality *within* these categories? What is required to achieve this?
- Further to this issue of accounting for plurality, how does decoloniality respond to the need to **avoid binary thinking**: resistance/ collusion, north/south, colonized/colonizer, oppressed/free, authentic/inauthentic. Bhabha's work on hybridity broke much new ground on these questions within postcolonialism. Can decoloniality do the same thing, or better, and if so, how?
- What are the differences between postcolonialism and decoloniality? Or, are there more productive questions to ask about the relationship between these two schools of thought?
- What is the significance of the 'locus of enunciation' or, more simply, the speaking position, of a researcher, analyst or theorist writing about Africa? How are we to conceive of 'speaking position'? To what extent is a speaking position a matter of geography, as opposed to subjectivity?
- This special edition seeks to take up these questions in a broad way. We welcome submissions that take up any of these questions, or other questions regarding difference that can be engaged from a decolonial perspective. Submissions may be empirical or theoretical, and may come from any discipline in the social sciences and humanities, be interdisciplinary, or break disciplinary boundaries in creative ways. They may pertain to research in Africa or the African diaspora.

Deadlines

15 December 2015	Abstracts due
28 February	Full papers due
December 2016	Journal Published

GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS (*updated February 2015*)
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The Australasian Review of African Studies aims to contribute to a better understanding of Africa in Australasia and the Pacific. ARAS is a multi-disciplinary journal (ERA ID 18727) that seeks to provide critical, authoritative and accessible material on a range of African affairs that is interesting and readable **to as broad an audience as possible, both academic and non-academic.** All articles are blind peer reviewed by two independent and qualified experts in their entirety prior to publication.

ARAS is published by the African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP) twice a year in June and December.

As the only journal in Australia devoted to African affairs, ARAS aims to maintain an accepted and respected focus for the academic study of Africa in Australia and the region.

ARAS is available to all members of the African Studies Association of Australia and the Pacific as part of their membership, and subscribers can access hard copies and/or online versions. Non-subscribers can access the journal via Informit databases and back issues are available for free from the AFSAAP website www.afsaap.org.au. Membership is open to anyone interested in African affairs, and the annual subscription is modest.

For this special issue on **Decoloniality and Difference in Africa** authors should submit **articles of approximately 6000 words in length.** All contributions will need to use the APA 6th Edition in text citation method. Full details and guidelines for authors available from <http://afsaap.org.au/ARAS/submissions/>

Please submit Word documents only with limited formatting - one copy with all of your details, and one copy 'blinded' (ie. Please remove your name and any identifying features from the article that would suggest the author's identity).

All correspondence for this special issue on Decoloniality and Difference in Africa should be sent to: specialissueARAS@afsaap.org.au