



## The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific

Habari kwa ufupi - AFSAAP newsletter

**No. 47**  
**February-March**  
**2014**

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newsletter, please  
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### **AFSAAP 2014 Annual Conference**

**Announcement – ‘Africa: diversity and development’**

**The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual AFSAAP Conference will be held in  
Dunedin, New Zealand Tuesday 25 – Wednesday 26  
November 2014, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand**

A Call for Papers and other conference details will be emailed  
to all AFSAAP members soon and posted on the website,

### **Conference proceedings now available at afsaap.org.au**

Conference papers from AFSAAP’s 2013 conference at Murdoch University in Perth –  
“African Renaissance and Australia” - are now available online at the AFSAAP website.  
The papers can be found at (<http://afsaap.org.au/conference/conference-2013/conference-proceedings/>)

All previous conference proceedings have now been given an ISBN number. Please  
check the conference websites and proceedings for further information.

### **Update your profile on afsaap.org.au**

A reminder that all current AFSAAP members are entitled to a personal profile in the  
members section of [www.afsaap.org.au](http://www.afsaap.org.au). The profile is used by various members of the  
public (particularly the media) to locate African experts, and includes institutional  
affiliation, links to personal homepages, countries of specialisation and a paragraph  
summarising academic interests in African studies.

Members who have not yet done so should contact web editor Sam Wilkins at  
[samdouglaswilkins@gmail.com](mailto:samdouglaswilkins@gmail.com) for a membership form.

Experts on Eritrea and Somalia are currently needed and should identify themselves to  
AFSAAP Executive.

### **IPCS Seminars in Melbourne**

The successful African Studies Seminar Series at the Institute of Postcolonial Studies (78-80 Curzon St, North Melbourne) is continuing with two seminars in the first semester of 2014.

**Richard Vokes: Towards an Anthropology of Mobile Phones in South-Western Uganda.** Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm

This talk is part of a broader project tracing the social biography of one house in Bugamba Sub-county, in rural South-western Uganda: the house of Bwire. The house is an ideal site in which to explore the shifting intersections between private and public spheres in Uganda, given that it is a domestic dwelling in which some of the most tumultuous episodes in the nation's recent past have played out. The current talk looks at how social relations both within and beyond the house have been fundamentally reworked over the last decade or so by the arrival of mobile phones (the first of which was brought into the house in March 2000). Locating its arguments within recent academic debates about mobile phones and social change in Africa, the paper looks at how this particular household's young people have become involved in new youth movements through the exchange of mobile phones; at how its new wives have been able to maintain real or imagined links to their former bourgeois lives through the display of mobile phones; and at how the household head – who is also a significant political figure in the locality – has been able to mobilize new political networks (which extend from neighbouring households to central government agencies, in Kampala) through the deployment of these devices. **Richard Vokes** is a Senior Lecturer in Anthropology and Development Studies at the University of Adelaide.

**Santino Atem Deng: The South Sudan Crisis: In Juba and Melbourne.** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm

The recent political crisis in South Sudan has received a lot of attention in the international media. Fighting between troops loyal to President Kiir's government and rebel troops aligned with former Vice President Machar has killed over 1,000 people, and arrested the political development of the world's youngest nation. The aim of this seminar is twofold. First, it seeks to update and analyse the events in South Sudan through the eyes and words of the South Sudanese community rather than the international media. It then goes on to discuss the migrant experience of this community more generally. Like all migrant communities, South Sudanese Australians maintain complicated cultural, political and family linkages with their countries of origin that are difficult for outsiders to understand. Discussing how the political situation in South Sudan continues to affect the community here in Melbourne is thus an opportunity to better express and understand the nature of the Australian refugee experience. **Santino Atem Deng** is a PhD candidate at Victoria University, where his dissertation investigates South Sudanese family dynamics and parenting practices in Australia.

## **Stephen Okello's South Sudan Update**

AFSAAP postgraduate representative Stephen Okello has produced another update of the ongoing political crisis in South Sudan. Stephen's report can be found at [afsaap.org.au](http://afsaap.org.au).

## **New African-Australian free magazine**

SALT, A new African-Australian News magazine, has been launched. The magazine aims to act as a platform for the voice of the new and emerging African Australian communities, providing an African perspective to Australian topics. It seeks to highlight African refugee success stories and encourage community development by exploring the challenges faced by new arrivals.

SALT can be read online for free at <http://www.saltmagazine.org/>

## Half a Yellow Sun

*Half A Yellow Sun*, based on the best-selling novel of the same name by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, stars Chiwetel Ejiofor (from *12 Years a Slave*) and Thandie Newton (*The Pursuit of Happyness*) as an upper class couple whose marriage is put to the test when Nigeria breaks into the crippling 1967 civil war that births the short-lived republic of Biafra.

The film will be released in Australia on March 27th - check your local cinemas closer to the date. More information can be found at [www.leapfrogfilms.com.au](http://www.leapfrogfilms.com.au)

## Insight on Africa: New African Studies Journal

*Insight on Africa: A Journal of Contemporary African Affairs* has been launched online by SAGE - see <http://www.sagepub.com/journals/Journal202262> for more details.

## Zanzibar Film Festival - call for contributions

National Academy of Screen and Sound (NASS) & Zanzibar International Film Festival:  
*Creative Practice, Context and Commentary: a Dialogue on Inspirational Production*  
Stone Town, Zanzibar, Tanzania, June 20-22, 2014 Convenors: Martin Mhando and Josko Petkovic

[http://nass.murdoch.edu.au/nass\\_SPARC\\_ZIFF\\_conf\\_2014.htm](http://nass.murdoch.edu.au/nass_SPARC_ZIFF_conf_2014.htm)

### **Deadline: 31 March 2014**

This conference-festival aspires towards a unity of commentary and creative practices, hence the "conference-festival" title. In this unity we see the seeds of inspirational production, where philosophizing is not seen as a separate activity from production itself. In these circumstances the completed film (or a creative) work can potentially provide and inspiration for another creative work without the verbal or written commentary.

Some elements of this trend may well be evident in the transformation that is presently taking within the Humanities programs world-wide, namely the transformation from discipline-based programs (history, geography, anthropology, etc) to practice-based programs such as screen production, games design, sound, theatre and drama, radio, journalism, web communication as such similar practice-based programs.

As a way of celebrating the "conference-festival" concept, and in the spirit of carnivalesque inversion of codes, this conference-festival invites producer-scholars to

explore this wider non-practice based commentating on films, or any creative production.