



The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific

Habari kwa ufupi - AFSAAP newsletter

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

37th AFSAAP Conference

Registration is now open for "Africa: Diversity and Development", to be held on 25-26 November at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.

For any enquiries, please contact afsaap2014@afsaap.org.au.

Becoming an African Chief

Professor Tony Binns gave a Public Lecture in Dunedin, based on his 40 years of work in Sierra Leone. The lecture was recorded as a podcast, and is available at [The University of Otago's catalogue of Humanities Lectures](#), or can be streamed directly [here](#).

African Digitisation Project

AFSAAP invites sponsors to assist in the African Digitisation Project.

Background

In the 1990s, Dr David Dorward (founding AFSAAP member and former AFSAAP president) photographed as many collections of African material culture as he could get access to, both in Australia and New Zealand. The following are the institutions he visited:

Abby Museum, Caboolture, Queensland
Anthropology Museum of University of Queensland
Queensland Museum
Material Culture Unit at James Cook University
Australian Museum, Sydney
Macleay Museum, University of Sydney
Museum of Victoria
Queen Victoria Museum and Gallery, Launceston
Tasmania Museum and Art Galley, Hobart

South Australia Museum
West Australia Museum
Otago Museum, Dunedin, New Zealand
Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, New Zealand
National Museum, Wellington, New Zealand

The Museum in Auckland could not be accessed at the time. Similarly, photos of the objects in the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra could not be taken, as they'd already been photographed.

There are about 6,000 35-mm colour transparencies; some objects boast multiple images. Objects were photographed against a uniform background, either matte white or light blue, and a scale accompanies most photos. Dr Barry Craig (SA Museum and AFSAAP Member) is willing to have these photographs and dataset archived at the South Australian Museum, in order to provide the space and equipment for scanning, and has plans to manage the project.

The project can be done in stages:

Stage 1: Digitise the colour transparencies by scanning them at a high resolution, with each image given an ID code for the institution in which it is housed, and its registration number.

Stage 2: Create a dataset using the Institution ID and registration numbers and transfer basic data to the dataset from the registration information. Add a hyperlink from the dataset to the images.

Stage 3: Visit each institution (and those not already visited) to photograph all African objects not previously photographed and gather the relevant documentation.

Stage 4: Add the material from Stage 3 to the dataset.

Stage 5: Develop and code a hierarchy of geographical locations/polygons (villages/ethno-linguistic group/regions/countries) and apply these to the dataset.

Stage 6: Create a website (or an addition to, say, the AFSAAP website) that enables the dataset and the images to be searched by 'kind of object' and by 'geographical location'. For an example of what such a site might look like, go to www.uscngp.com, and click on Dataset.

AFSAAP is providing a \$10,000 grant to start the project, and now invites individual or corporate sponsors to also make a financial contribution to this African Digitisation Project. AFSAAP also invites volunteers based in South Australia with a keen interest in digital archiving, to contact us if you are able to assist.

Please contact president@afsaap.org.au if you would like to become a sponsor or volunteer.

All sponsors will be acknowledged in all of AFSAAP's official communications – monthly newsletters, website, emails, and journal the *Australasian Review of African Studies*.

Africa Blog at the ANU

The ANU now has an Africa blog, which can be found through a Google search of 'ANU africanetwork', or by visiting this [link](#). The contact person for the blog is david.lucas@anu.edu.au.

Its purpose is to raise the profile of Africa and Africans at the Australian National University (ANU) and in the Australian Capital Territory. In addition, the blog will include details of significant national and regional events such as the forthcoming [AFSAAP](#) conference.

The blog includes sections on the ANU African Student Association (ANUASA), diplomatic missions in Canberra, African organisations and businesses in the ACT, as well as research, and reviews and comments on books, films and media interviews. Once the blog is well-established, it is hoped that it will expand to a website with broader coverage.

Boko Haram will not succeed

Former AFSAAP President Dr. David Dorward argues that Boko Haram will not succeed in Nigeria. See his [interview with Africa Media Australia](#), which was posted on the 17th June.

Doing Business in Africa: Opportunities in International Education and Training

The Third International Africa Australia Association Conference.

[REGISTRATION NOW OPEN](#)

To be held at Victoria University Conference Centre, Melbourne, Australia, 16 and 17 October 2014. AFSAAP President Dr. Tanya Lyons and Former Vice-President Dr. Apollo Nsubuga-Kyobe will be speaking at this event, among other great speakers.

African-Asian Encounters (II) - Re-Thinking African-Asian Relationships: Changing Realities – New Concepts

The Centre for Chinese Studies (CCS) and Africa's Asian Options (AFRASO) from Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, are pleased to announce a call for papers for this conference. The conference will take place in Stellenbosch, South Africa, from 24 to 26 March 2015. The themes for the conference are:

1. Localized African-Asian Communities
2. Conceptions of the Other
3. Re-thinking Development
4. Trans-Regional Imaginaries

Submit paper abstracts by *29 September 2014*. Submissions can be sent to: papers-stellenbosch2015@afaso.org. For all general inquiries please send an email to: stellenbosch2015@afaso.org or visit [here](#) for more information.

Australia's strategy toward Africa

Dr. Negin has written about the Australian government's current aid strategy toward Africa. Visit his blog [here](#). He hopes that it contributes to the ongoing advocacy to keep Africa in DFAT's mind. Well done, Dr. Negin!

Report from the 13th International Conference of Africanists, in Moscow, By Sue Dobson

Almost a year after I read the call for abstracts in AFSAAP's newsletter, Habari Kwa Ufupi, I left Adelaide on the 25th May to attend the 13th International Conference of Africanists, in Moscow. This was made possible by generous funding from the AFSAAP committee. Having navigated my way through the Moscow Metro at peak hour, I arrived at the conference a little nervous, but excited to be part of such a diverse international conference. The theme "Society and Politics in Africa: Traditional, Transitional and New" covered a broad range of topics which were convened by the Institute for African Studies, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Scientific Council for the Problems of Economic, Social, Political and Cultural Development of African Countries.

The conference brought together over 350 participants from over 50 countries and for four days, from 27th -30th May, topics as diverse and as rich as the African continent itself were discussed. The opening plenary meeting included key note speaker Dr. Irina Abramova, who spoke on The New Role of Africa on the Global Economy in the 21st Century. We also heard from the South Sudanese Foreign Minister who spoke on overcoming the trials of the emerging South Sudanese state. Over 50 panels presented around 190 papers. Walking through the exquisite 19th century mansion (which in soviet times became the Institute's home) you could hear discussions on African politics, food security and environmental problems alongside history, health, economics, anthropology and media. The working languages of the conference were Russian and English and the range of topics reflected the diversity of presenters. The stimulating mix of social and academic banter often continued in the surrounding coffee shops and bars well into the evenings. My paper on post-conflict constitution-building was well received and I received some great feedback, which will help develop an article which I am writing.

I made many new contacts in Moscow, from every continent, many of whom are considering attending AFSAAP's conference in New Zealand in November. I had a lengthy discussion with Dr. Dmitri Bondarenko, the director of the Institute on the possibility of creating more tangible ties between the Institute for African Studies and AFSAAP. Global perspective is an important part of our African research, and such forums provide such a great way to maintain this perspective and foster collaborative opportunities.

I want to thank AFSAAP for their very generous support in providing me with the travel grant and encourage anyone considering applying for a grant to attend a conference outside Australasia as a representative of AFSAAP to do so - it is a fantastic opportunity to network and bring the work of AFSAAP to a wider audience.

Click [here](#) to read the Grant Criteria and Application Process.

Assessing Performance in REDD + Trials: Case studies from Tanzania

Former Australia Award from Africa recipient and AFSAAP member [Emanueli Mathayo Ndossi](#) has published his research in a book – “Assessing Performance in REDD + Trials: Case studies from Tanzania”. Emanueli completed his Masters of Environmental Management at University of Queensland between 2012-2013, and is now back in Tanzania working on his PHD.

You can purchase his book from [Boomerang Books](#) or [Amazon](#).

ARAS book reviews – reviewers needed

ARAS book reviews editor Nikola Pijovic has supplied an updated list of the titles that need to be reviewed for upcoming editions of the Australasian Review of African Studies. For details of what ARAS is looking for in its reviews, see <http://afsaap.org.au/ARAS/about-submissions/>.

The following titles currently need reviewers:

Cheru, Fantu and RenuModi. *Agricultural development and food security in Africa: the impact of Chinese, Indian, and Brazilian investments*. Zed Books, 2013.

Vokes, Richard (ed). *Photography in Africa: Ethnographic perspectives*. James Currey, 2012.

Harris, David. *Sierra Leone: A political history*. Hurst & Company, 2013.

Vokes, Richard. *Ghosts of Kanungu*. James Currey, 2013.

MacGongale, Elizabet. *Crafting identity in Zimbabwe and Mozambique*. University of Rochester Press, 2013.

Hamilton, Greg (ed). *Reading Marechera*. James Currey, 2013.

Honwana, Alcinda. *Youth and revolt in Tunisia*. Zed Books, 2013.

McCracken, James. *A history of Malawi 1859-1966*. James Currey, 2012.

Wilson, Amrit. *The Threat of Liberation: Imperialism and revolution in Zanzibar*. Pluto Press, 2013.

Myers, J.C. *Indirect rule in South Africa: Tradition, modernity, and the costuming of political power*. University of Rochester Press, 2008.

Deibert, Michael. *The Democratic Republic of Congo: Between hope and despair*. Zed Books, 2013.

Obeng-Odoom, Franklin, *Oiling the Urban Economy: Land, labour, capital, and the state in Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana*. Routledge, 2014.

If you are interested in reviewing one of these books, please contact Nikola Pijovic at bookreviews@afsaap.org.au.

Volunteers/Interns needed for Western Sahara resources conference.

The first international Conference on natural resources in Western Sahara will be held in Melbourne on 19-20 March 2015 at the Deakin Edge in Federation Square. Deakin University's Centre for Citizenship, Development and Human Rights in conjunction with the Australia Western Sahara Association are hosting the conference.

Volunteers/interns will work under the direction of the conference organising committee, assisting with the preparations for this first international conference.

Interested candidates should contact Ms. Cate Lewis at lewis.cate@gmail.com. Deadline for applications is 15 July 2014. [See here](#) for more information.

AFSAAP Member Services

AFSAAP invites ALL members to submit their areas of expertise and research to our [interactive members forum](#), which is designed to assist members with networking and knowledge building, and is used by other researchers, the media, and government departments to find the most appropriate expert. Journal editors often use it to find expert reviewers. Please email secretary@afsaap.org.au with your details.