



The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific

Habari kwa ufupi - AFSAAP
Newsletter No. 60 - May 2015

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May 2015 Habari kwa Ufupi AFSAAP newsletter #60

Call For Papers - 38th AFSAAP Conference 2015 –21st Century Tensions and Transformation in Africa Deakin University, Melbourne CBD, 28-30 October 2015

See Call for papers at <http://afsaap.org.au/conference/conference-2015/>

NEW Deadline for Abstracts – June 5th

All Registrations by October 1st

All details on our website – www.afsaap.org.au

‘Doing Business in Africa’ Conference

The 4th International Conference ‘Doing Business in Africa’ will be held at Victoria University 28- 30 October 2015. This conference is being held at the same time as the AFSAAP Conference, so participants will be able to take advantage of Melbourne’s special focus on Africa over these 3 days.

Australia and Zimbabwe

AFSAAP was advised that on Monday 23 February 2015 the Australia Zimbabwe Business Council (AZBC) was formally launched at Acorn house Wollongong NSW Australia. See <http://azbc.org.au/>. It remains to be seen how this new council relates to the previously established Zimbabwe Australia Business Council, see <http://www.zabc.co.zw/>.

AFSAAP member Michael Nest on the radio

Michael Nest, was recently the guest on Margaret Throsby’s one hour Midday Interview programme (2nd April) on the ABC. He discussed his books on Coltan mining in the DR Congo and his latest work- ‘Still A Pygmy’, co-authored with Isaac Bacirongo.

Submitted by Margaret O’Callaghan

An analysis of the recent Kenyan terror attack in Kenya’s oldest newspaper:

<http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2000157991/how-to-cripple-killer-militia-which-thrives-on-our-weaknesses>

Submitted by Prof. Samuel Makinda



AFSAAP in the International Media

Flinders University student Yuang Thuong and AFSAAP President Dr. Tanya Lyons was interviewed by Nathan Siegel for OZY magazine- "South Sudan's Unlikely Ally: The Aussies". See <http://www.ozy.com/fast-forward/south-sudans-unlikely-ally-the-aussies/40720>

Book launched – Ethnicity, democracy and citizenship in Africa: Political marginalisation of Kenya's Nubians

Former AFSAAP secretary Dr Samantha Balaton-Chrimes launched her book at Deakin University.- <http://www.deakin.edu.au/arts-ed/unesco-cdsj/events/ethnicity-democracy-and-citizenship-in-africa>.

Book Reviewers Needed for Australasian Review of Africa Studies (ARAS)

The following books are available for review, to be published in ARAS. Please contact our 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.

Isaac Bacirongo and Michael Nest, *Still a Pygmy. The unique memoir of one man's fight to save his identity from extinction*, Finch Publishing, 2014.

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.

Brian Galligan, Martina Boese, and Melissa Phillips, *Becoming Australian. Migration, Settlement, Citizenship*, Melbourne University Press, 2014.

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

AFSAAP member Susana Saffu will graduate from Charles Darwin University with a PhD on May 21st 2015

Her research entitled "Learning as transformation and empowerment: The case of African-Australian women in the Northern Territory of Australia", is a valuable contribution to the literature on the African Diaspora in Australia. Read her abstract below-

Over the past decade, the number of African migrant and refugee women in the Northern Territory of Australia has increased exponentially. This influx has generated a range of government and community responses to build these African women's capacity to integrate into their host society through various forms of education. In spite of these adult education and learning programs, there is a dearth of empirical study to understand how education is used to enhance capacity building during settlement.



This study employs feminist qualitative case study to examine how African-Australian women utilise adult education opportunities to build their individual and community capacity during settlement in the Northern Territory. Purposive sampling was used to identify 24 participants whose accounts were collected utilising a semi-structured conversational style interview. The data was analysed using the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of transformative learning, feminist standpoint and women's empowerment.

The study's findings show that for the African-Australian women participants, education was an adaptive strategy for social and economic integration as well as a means of survival, a critical phase in reconstructing their identities and rebuilding their lives. Participation in learning activities empowered them to engage productively in the social, cultural, economic and political activities of their new society. The study demonstrates that education is a potent force which has enabled the 24 African-Australian women to find meaning in the challenges of their existence in the Australian multicultural mosaic.

The study makes a number of significant contributions including the provision of empirical data of African migrant and refugee women's settlement and educational experiences in the Northern Territory. It also contributes to the debate and discourse on immigration, feminism and most importantly adult education and learning in cross-cultural contexts. The participants' stories attest to transformation, empowerment and hope through adult education which can inform opportunities and educational pathways offered to other migrant and refugee groups' in Australia and elsewhere.

Congratulations Susana! From all the team at AFSAAP!!!

CALL FOR PAPERS, Edited Book Volume - Gender, Human Rights and the Limits of Legal Frameworks:

Challenging the Place of Women's Rights in Post-Transition Countries-

Editors John Idriss Lahai (Flinders University) and Khanyisela Moyo (University of Ulster)

The end of armed conflicts, the granting of political independence, the demise of authoritarian regimes and the conclusion or termination of the work of criminal tribunals and truth commissions does not necessarily stabilise gender relationships. It does not also signal an end to structural gender based discrimination and violence against women. Women continue to face enormous socio-legal challenges in the aftermath due, in part, to their identities as women. In addition, this is a result of the manner in which the vestiges of the recent societal armed conflict/authoritarian past may have helped in shaping post-transition justice reform processes. For instance, heteronormative societal understandings of, for example, incidences of gender based violence or the identity of female murders and criminals have had a major impact on how courts as platforms of power (over others) interpret and apply the law. The ways in which scenarios of violence against women are imagined and experienced; witnesses are led and cross examined; and evidences understood have contributed to, at best, the trivialisation of some of the core concerns for women (including women who are in conflict with the law) for much of these post-transition countries. The legal imaginary around the identity of women have also opened up contested spaces for the transformation of legalistic language into an instrument for the patriarchal interpretation of content and context. It also influences the (re)framing and selection of facts, the grafting and linking of substantive and procedural issues in ways that either ends up in the alienation of women or in compromising due process. The existence of patriarchal resistance to women's rights and equal political representation (viewed as a strategy for the promotion of gender-aware human rights practices)



exposes the gender-insensitive nature of the legal modes employed by post-transition states and their courts systems (statutory and customary) on gender-specific issues. Thus, despite the existence of a plethora of global and local initiatives that continue to promote political liberalism, rule of law, gender equality and women's rights as frameworks for post-war and post-authoritarian justice-sector governance reforms, the persistency of structural barriers have made it difficult for women and other vulnerable groups to use their personal and collective experiences as agentic possibilities for legal reforms in the aftermath. What, then, are the implications of transitional justice initiatives: criminal tribunals, truth and reconciliation commissions, and the vetting of state institutions on the processes of gender justice reform in post-transition countries? As arenas for the contestation of power and identity, how gender sensitive (or insensitive, thereof) are the legalistic models employed by justice institutions, such as courts and individual justices in these post-transition countries; and how have they impacted on the lives of women who are in conflict with the law? What are the strategies employed by right-based women's groups to channel their expressive forms of agency, and alternative paths for the resolution of disputes and grievances, and the ultimate transformation of these strategies into frameworks for legal reform in post-transition countries? In what ways have the underlying legal and political ideas of justice and human rights, and the engendered identity-induced expressions of vulnerability, of 'otherness,' and of 'place'; and of agency and personhood, impact the theoretical and discursive representation of the place of women's rights in post-transition societies? How can gender-sensitive law reform be formulated and regulated in politically volatile post-transition societies? To explore these questions, we invite interdisciplinary contributions from scholars and practitioners working on women's rights issues, broadly defined, in post-transition countries in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and South-East Asia and the Pacific regions. In the case of Africa we are particularly interested in abstracts that focus on countries that experienced the 'Arab Spring Uprising' in North Africa; and South Sudan, which although is still experiencing an intractable civil war, fits our definition of 'post-transition' having transitioned into an independent country from Sudan. With respect to the Pacific regions we are particularly interested in case studies from Sri Lanka and Timor Leste. Papers must engage with the strengths and limitations of gender and feminist studies, transitional justice theories — i.e. tort theory, retributive justice and restorative justice theories; legal studies (constitutionalism, human rights and international law), political science, sociology, and social and cultural anthropology.

Kindly submit your abstracts (of no more than 250 words, which should include a statement on methodology and conceptual framework) to the editors: Dr. John Idriss Lahai (john.lahai@flinders.edu.au) and Dr. Khanyisela Moyo (k.moyo@ulster.ac.uk).

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 30 June 2015. Invitations to contribute chapters will be sent out by late July, with draft chapters due preferably by 30 November 2015.