



# The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific

Habari kwa ufupi - AFSAAP  
Newsletter No. 66 - November 2015

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## AFSAAP Newsletter – November 2015

### #AFSAAP2015

The 38th AFSAAP Conference was a great success with over 100 participants meeting at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia. Thank you to Dr. Samantha Balaton-Chrimes and Dr. Max Kelly for organising the event. Conference proceedings will be published in early 2016. See [www.afsaap.org.au](http://www.afsaap.org.au) and don't forget to follow us on Twitter.

### AFSAAP Research Clusters

AFSAAP members interested in forming specialist research clusters in African Studies should Contact Sam Balaton-Chrimes [sam.b@deakin.edu.au](mailto:sam.b@deakin.edu.au). Clusters around Decoloniality, Gender, International Relations and other disciplines or areas are encouraged.

### Women Researching in Africa

Expressions of interest are being requested for an edited book that will contribute to research methods as well as African studies. Focus is on being a woman researcher in Africa, the opportunities and challenges, a gendered study on researching Africa. Contact Max Kelly for further information- [max.kelly@deakin.edu.au](mailto:max.kelly@deakin.edu.au)

### The Commonwealth and Africa - Prize for AFSAAP's Books Review Editor

AFSAAP's Books Review Editor and ANU PHD student, Nikola Pijovic, has been awarded the Peter Lyon Memorial Prize for his 2014 article "The Commonwealth: Australia's Traditional 'Window' into Africa", published in The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs, 103:4, 383-397, DOI: 10.1080/00358533.2014.941195. Details of the prize can be found at <http://www.moot.org.uk/journal/lyon-prize.asp>. Congratulations Nikola!



## **SYDNEY EVENT - Public Seminar: "Energy transitions in Africa"**

Simon Willans will present a public lecture on "Energy Transitions in Africa" at UNSW on Monday 16 November from 6:00-7:00pm at Central Lecture Block 6. In 2009 Simon Willans set up Energy For Opportunity (EFO) in Sierra Leone, with no funding, a battery drill, a set of screw drivers, one room in a guest house, and a stubborn vision of how a development charity should operate. Since then, along with a small team of staff in Sierra Leone, he has managed to transform EFO into the premier renewable organisation in the region. A flier is attached- see page 4, and an 'event' page is on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/1531690743787936/>.

## **ASAUK Biennial Conference 2016 - Final Call for Panels**

The African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUK) biennial conference will be held at the University of Cambridge (Robinson College) and will run from 14.00 on Wednesday 7 September 2016 to 15.30 on Friday 9 September 2016. It will coincide with the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Cambridge Centre for African Studies. Contact [conference2016.cambridge@gmail.com](mailto:conference2016.cambridge@gmail.com).

## **African-Australian person of the year awards**

The community vote for the African-Australian person of the year will be open from 26 October 2015 and will close on 21 November 2015. The vote acknowledges excellence demonstrated by African-Australians and their supporters in areas of leadership, business, personal talents, charitable deeds, media and community development. For further information and to enter your vote visit <http://www.africamediaaustralia.com/person-of-the-year-2014/>.

## **Rites of Friendship – by Mozambican artist Malangatana Valente Ngwenya**

The painting Rites of Friendship (Ritual de Amizade) was created at the 1999 AFSAAP Conference held in Perth, at the University of Western Australia. The late-artist wanted AFSAAP to sell this painting to support his family and enable an exchange between indigenous Australian and Mozambican artists. In 2016, the AFSAAP Conference will be held in Perth again and we would like to display this painting in public, and fulfil the wishes of the artist. Interested art buyers should contact [president@afsaap.org.au](mailto:president@afsaap.org.au). See <http://afsaap.org.au/resources/afsaap-archives/malangatana-valente-ngwenya/>

## **"Western Sahara: The Role of Resources in its Continuing Occupation": new publication.**

The proceedings of the recent important 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](http://awsa.org.au/2015) Submitted by AFSAAP Member - Lorraine Towers



## **Appeal to assist flood relief efforts in Saharawi refugee camps**

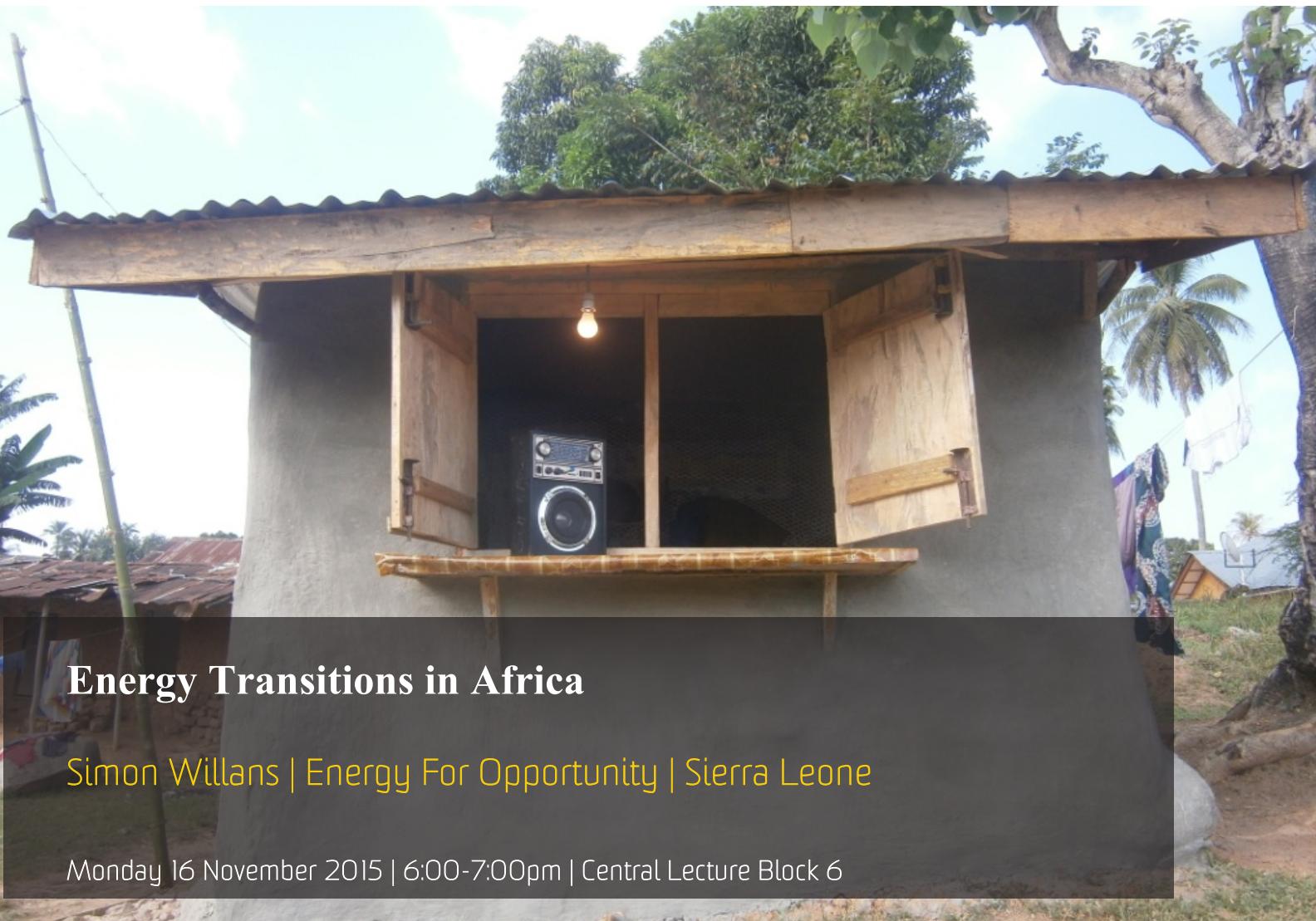
The Australia Western Sahara Association is appealing for funds to assist relief work in the Western Sahara refugee camps where week-long torrential rains have devastated homes, hospitals and schools and destroyed food stores. The flood damage has been huge, with the United Nations High Commission for 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-gG_Hfv61c). AWSA has launched an appeal for funds in conjunction with APHEDA – Union Aid Abroad. Tax deductible donations can be made online at: <http://apheda.org.au/> or call 1800888674. Also see <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

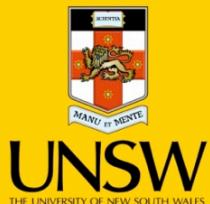
*Submitted by AFSAAP Member - Lorraine Towers*



## Energy Transitions in Africa

Simon Willans | Energy For Opportunity | Sierra Leone

Monday 16 November 2015 | 6:00-7:00pm | Central Lecture Block 6



# Public Seminar

## Environmental Humanities

Never Stand Still

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

School of Humanities and Languages

In 2009 Simon Willans set up Energy For Opportunity (EFO) in Sierra Leone, with no funding, a battery drill, a set of screw drivers, one room in a guest house, and a stubborn vision of how a development charity should operate. Since this time, along with a small team of staff in Sierra Leone, he has managed to transform EFO into the premier renewable organisation in the region, conducting over 200 renewable energy installations (with funding secured for 150 more, to be completed over the next two years). In this seminar, Simon provides an overview of EFO's work, emphasising how the success of EFO was not so much a question of finding the right kinds of renewable energy technology, but rather by paying critical attention to the societal and governance contexts in which the technology was being situated.

Enquiries please contact Paul Munro ([paul.munro@unsw.edu.au](mailto:paul.munro@unsw.edu.au))