



## The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific

Habari kwa ufupi - AFSAAP newsletter

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To contribute to the  
newsletter, please  
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### **African Renaissance - AFSAAP Conference 2013 – November 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> Murdoch University**

The draft program for this year's AFSAAP Conference is will be published soon on the AFSAAP website. Organisers have some very special events planned. Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup> is the Postgraduate Workshop (don't forget to enter your final papers into the AFSAAP / Monash PG Prize Competition – see [www.afsaap.org.au](http://www.afsaap.org.au) for details), followed by a welcome reception and a book launch of the edited collection *South Sudanese Diaspora in Australia and New Zealand: Reconciling the past with the present* (edited by Marlowe, Harris and Lyons, 2013). There will be something exciting offered after this too on the Wednesday night. Watch this space for further information. On Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup> The AFSAAP Conference Dinner will be held after a day of conference presentations. On Friday November 29<sup>th</sup> the AFSAAP AGM will be held at 9am, Murdoch University, followed by the final day of the conference. All conference papers will be published in the AFSAAP 2013 Conference Proceedings Online. We look forward to meeting you there.

### **Tony Binns seminar in Adelaide**

Prof. Tony Binns, University of Otago, presented the 2013 South Australian AFSAAP Seminar "Africa Rising?" at Flinders University 22 October 2013. The audience of over 30 students and academics was impressed with his positive anecdotes and analysis of African development, in particular in post-conflict societies. Binns also gave a 2<sup>nd</sup> AFSAAP seminar to the University of Adelaide on his 40 years of research on Sierra Leone. This has been a great opportunity for students in South Australia to meet one the world's more experienced Africanists, and highly published academics in the field of African Studies, Development and Geography.



## **AFSAAP-IPCS seminars conclude in Melbourne**

The final two seminars of the highly successful AFSAAP-IPCS seminar series on African Studies in Melbourne were conducted in October, focussing on Gender violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the situation in Somalia respectively.

On Thursday 10th of October, two papers contextualised the complicated phenomenon of gender violence in eastern DRC and critically appraised the global response. Sara Meger, a researcher on gender and international relations at the University of Melbourne, presented the first of these papers under the title "The Fetishisation of Sexual Violence in International Security Studies". Meger's argument was that International relations scholarship has erred in treating sexual violence in war as an isolated, if not aberrant, phenomenon, and that a more effective response will come when we see this violence as connected to the material inequalities of mainstream gender relations. To compliment this argument, the second paper presented by Melbourne University PhD candidate Charlotte Mertens titled "Rape Claims in the Survival Economy of the Kivus, Democratic Republic of Congo", situated and grounded rape claims within the survival economy of wartime Congo, including the patronage links to international relief regimes.

The following week, on Thursday the 10th, the series wrapped up with two excellent presentations on the complicated situation in Somalia. This began with a detailed historical overview of the Italian colonial era by Dr Ali Mumin Ahad, formerly of the Somali national University in Mogadishu, which led into the fall of the Barre regime in 1991 and complex situation of the current conflict. This was followed by a second paper by Nikola Pijovic, PhD candidate from the Australian National University in Canberra, on the continuing separatist claim of the autonomous province of Somaliland in the north of the county. Despite the great diversity of the two papers, an engaging conversation ensued that was benefited greatly by the presence of members of the Melbournian Somali community.

The series has now wrapped up, but if AFSAAP members are keen on presenting a paper at a similar series next year, expressions of interest should be sent to convener Sam Wilkins at [samdouglaswilkins@gmail.com](mailto:samdouglaswilkins@gmail.com) before the year's end.

## **Remittances to South Sudan from Australia**

A new article published on [rightnow.org](http://rightnow.org) (<http://rightnow.org.au/writing-cat/article/remittances-to-south-sudan-an-unrecognised-source-of-aid/>) has revealed that remittance from South Sudanese Australians in Australia to their country of origin totaled \$24.6 million in 2012. This means more money is being remitted to South Sudan from Australia than any other country in the world. The money meets diverse needs, including clean water, food, shelter, marriage dowries and business enterprises. South Sudanese Australians believe supporting family is a fundamental social duty.

According to Australia's 2012 census, South Sudanese Australians born overseas and here, now number 39,000 – making them the largest of any ethnic minorities of refugee background. Victoria is home to a majority of the population. South Sudanese Australians are making significant contributions to Australian society and economy: they provide the bulk of the workforce in Victorian abattoirs; sporting club recruiters across the country are paying attention to upcoming talent in a variety of codes; and in the

field of education, young South Sudanese Australians are graduating from higher learning institutions into a wide variety of professions, including law and medicine.

## **Victorian African Community Awards Greetings**

The Africa Media Australia (AMA) is pleased to announce that nominations are now open for their Victorian African Community Awards (VACA) 2013. AMA is organising the 2013 VACA as an opportunity to highlight the invaluable contribution that various individuals and organisations make to our communities by adding value to the lives of many and making Victoria a better place to be.

VACA also provides an opportunity to celebrate leadership, entrepreneurship and service to the community, as a means to encourage younger African-Australians to go for their dreams and achieve their full potential.

More details can be found at the AMA website ([www.africamediaaustralia.com/](http://www.africamediaaustralia.com/)).

## **Proposed refugee forum at Melbourne University**

A proposed Human Rights Forum on organ theft and extortion from African refugees in Sinai, Egypt, to be held at the University of Melbourne, Monday 9 December 2013, is seeking guests and contributions. Bishop Tim Costello, CEO of World Vision has signed on as keynote speaker.

The forum is being managed and organized under the University of Melbourne and Monash University's auspice and thanks to the steady supervision of African Think Tank Australia. It aims to facilitate critical discussion on the extent of human rights abuses in East and North Africa, the nexus between poverty, migration, asylum seekers and victims of human trafficking, and will provide recommendation and actions which might be undertaken in order to halt the flow of asylum seekers from the Horn of African countries across the Mediterranean Sea.

It will also be a gateway for an international upcoming conference to be happened in Middle East by early next year aimed at working out agreements, or at least the basis of agreements, that can force the political authorities of the countries involved to take action and responsibility for a trade worth hundreds of millions of dollars which continue to claim thousands of silent victims every year.

## **(The American) African Studies Review call for editors**

The Publications Committee of the (American) African Studies Association Board of Directors has announced a call for editors for the ASA's flagship journal, *African Studies Review*. As per the ASA's Policies and Procedures, ASR editors are appointed for a term of four years. The tenure of the current ASR Editorial team will end in 2014 and the ASA is launching this Call for Editors for the 2014-2018 term.

The ASA welcomes applications from individual editors, teams of editors, and/or lead editors with institutional support for the journal. The current editorial team is eligible to re-apply either as individual editors or as an editorial team with host institution support.

The Call for Editors and application requirements can be found on the ASA website (<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?AfricanStudiesAssoci/1ce5c92a35/ab606dfb37/0fd85d6bbe>). Questions about the process of selecting the editor(s), or the editorial duties involved, may be addressed to the Chair of the Publications Committee, Tejumola Olaniyan at [tolaniyan@wisc.edu](mailto:tolaniyan@wisc.edu) or to the ASA's Executive Director Suzanne Moyer Baazet at [suzanne@africanstudies.org](mailto:suzanne@africanstudies.org) or (848)445-1369.

Applications should be received no later than November 7, 2013.

## 3rd Biennial Kwame Nkrumah International Conference

Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Vancouver, Canada and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana are pleased to invite you to participate in the Third Biennial Conference, Kwame Nkrumah International Conference, held under the theme of "Re-engaging the African Diasporas: Pan-Africanism in the Age of Globalization". The conference will be held on **August 21-23 2014** at the Kwantlen polytechnic University in British Columbia, Canada.

The 2014 interdisciplinary conference will provide a platform for scholars and students from educational institutions from across the globe to share ideas on how to pool resources and to provide a synergy of knowledge, efforts, projects and programs in Africa and throughout the African world community that are designed to develop the intellectual, social, economic as well as cultural life opportunities of people of African heritage.

The conference will provide a platform to map out development strategies within and outside the frameworks of Africa's development instruments, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Africa Union's Sixth Region Project, which is aimed at integrating people of African descent in the continent's development.

## Moscow African Studies Conference

On **May 27-30**, 2014 in Moscow, the Research Council for the Problems of African Countries and the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences hold the 13th African Studies Conference titled "Society and Politics in Africa: Traditional, Transitional, and New." The Conference will take place at the Institute for African Studies and the Institute for Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The working languages are Russian and English.

Please find attached the Final Call for Papers Announcement of the Conference of Africanists "Society and Politics in Africa: Traditional, Transitional, and New. The Organizing Committee would appreciate your familiarizing the interested colleagues with this Announcement.

AMA also encourages everyone to nominate both individuals within the broader Victorian African community and other friends of Africans (from mainstream society) whose work deserve recognition and celebration. You can also nominate organisations, especially not for profit bodies providing settlement and integration

services to African-Australian communities.