



The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific

Habari kwa ufupi - AFSAAP
Newsletter No. 53 - October 2014

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OCTOBER AFSAAP Newsletter

AFSAAP 2014 – Africa Diversity and Development AFSAAP Annual Conference, Dunedin New Zealand, November 25-26.

Remember to register for the Conference – presenters must register before October 1st, all other participants must register prior to November 1st. See www.afsaap.org.au for links to the Conference Website and payment and registration pages. All queries – email afsaap2014@afsaap.org.au

Join the AFSAAP EXECUTIVE

Expressions of Interest to become an AFSAAP Office Bearer for 2015 are now open- As normal, all office bearing positions will be declared open at the AGM at the forthcoming conference in NZ, and all AFSAAP members are invited to nominate for one of the positions, even if you cannot attend the conference: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Postgraduate Representative. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please send a short description of why you believe you would be suited to the position, and what you can bring to AFSAAP. Send to secretary@afsaap.org.au by 17 October 2014. These will be disseminated in advance of the AGM. Please note that if you would like to nominate another person, you must get their written approval. Please note you can also nominate from the floor of the AGM at the time.

WIN the MONASH/AFSAAP Postgraduate Prizes for 2014 – value \$3500

Monash University and AFSAAP are proud to sponsor the Postgraduate Prizes totaling \$3,500 which are awarded to the best postgraduate paper(s) delivered at the annual AFSAAP conference. Monash University sponsors the \$3000 prize which includes a return trip to South Africa, and a visit to their South African campus. You could also go anywhere else in Africa!

See <http://afsaap.org.au/conference/postgraduate-prizes/> for further details



ADRAS Outcomes – Australia Awards to Africa

Joel Negin is at it again! <http://devpolicy.org/author/joelnegin/> See his analysis of the measurement of success of the Australia Awards Scholarships to Africa based on his research funded through the ADRAS scheme.

Where are they now? Australia Awards Scholars from Africa

AFSAAP would like to hear from former scholars and alumni who were members of AFSAAP during their time studying in Australia. Please write back to us and let us know in 400 words or less what you are doing now so we can include it in future AFSAAP Newsletter habari kwa ufupi.

Our newsletter goes out to over 2000 AFSAAP members which includes over 1000 Australia Award Alumni. This will be a great opportunity to network and remain in touch with each other. Please email your reply to president@afsaap.org.au

African Studies Reading Groups – Around Australia

Did you know AFSAAP will support you to set up an African Studies Reading Group? For the purchase of books and light refreshments to stimulate discussion. See <http://afsaap.org.au/resources/reading-group/> for further information. Reading group books currently available (in NSW, but arrangements can be made to send them to your group)- In My Fathers' House by Kwame Anthony Appiah; Africa Works: Disorder as Political Instrument by Patrick Chabal; Citizen and Subject by Mahmood Mamdani; Theory from the South by Jean Comaroff. Contact president@afsaap.org.au for further information.

Charlotte Mertens at the ASAUk

AFSAAP member Charlotte Mertens received one of the 2014 AFSAAP Travel Grants of \$1000 to attend an African Studies Association conference in another country (details on how you can apply are below). This is her report-

"From 9 – 11 September 2014 the African Studies Association of the UK hosted its 25th biennial conference at the University of Sussex marking its 50th anniversary. The ASAUk is a scholarly organization and membership body for academics, researchers and others with a scholarly interest in Africa and African Studies. It is administered by the Royal African Society. ASAUk supports research on Africa and facilitate links between the UK and African institutions, and between scholars in Africa and the UK, as well as African scholars publishing in Africanist journals in the UK and scholarly journal and book publishing in Africa. Two major programmes, the ASAUk teaching fellowships and the ASAUk writing workshops are designed to support and strengthen the connections between academics in the UK and their colleagues in Africa. The conference did not have an overarching theme but there were a number of streams which ran throughout the conference: African Utopias/Dystopias; Congo Stream; Culture Stream; From Global Crisis to Africa's Rising; Labour, Insecurity and Violence in South Africa; Literature: the Widening Horizons of Africa's Literatures; Publishing Stream.

I convened a panel entitled Between a Rock and a Hard Place? Reflections on the Ethical and Methodological Challenges of Researching Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict in the DRC and beyond



which was part of the Congo Stream. It addressed ethical and methodological challenges that are involved in researching war-time sexual violence in the DRC and beyond. The panel encouraged papers to engage with following questions: how are we to research sexual violence in war in a way that does not perpetuate a stereotypical image of women as victims and men as perpetrators and that does not enforce (post)colonial imagery and representations of the DRC as 'the heart of darkness'.

The papers were all based on experiences from the field and focused on the conflict in eastern DRC. My paper titled *The Invisible Traps of Making Sexual Violence Visible* investigated how dominant frames of conflict-related sexual violence shape research and explored how the politically situated researcher can navigate these frames and power relations involved. The paper also identified some traps in making wartime rape visible which had been identified in the process of my fieldwork. Other panelists were Chloe Lewis from Oxford University and Katie McQuaid from University of Sussex. Chloe's paper focused on the politics of representation when researching male-directed sexual violence in DRC. Through the lens of ethnographic research the paper critically reflected on the ethical tightrope of balancing researcher ethics with "giving voice" to survivors, male and female. Katie's paper drew methodological attention back to violence as it is lived, experienced, and articulated through situated acts of speaking. This ethnographic paper, arising out of two years of anthropological fieldwork amongst Congolese refugees in Uganda, revealed how sexual violence in war- and peace-time occurs as part of complex and multi-layered constellations of intersecting and multiple forms of violence woven through everyday life, occurring within socio-cultural, political and economic dimensions. The panel was very well received and was followed by a lively debate.

I presented a second paper on *Imagining the Congo: The United Nations, Sexual Violence and the Power of Injury* in a panel on Gender, Security and Peacekeeping in Africa. In this paper I analysed the debate on conflict-related sexual violence at the UN Security Council that preceded the voting of Resolution 2106 in June 2013, paying particular attention to the enduring figure of the female Congolese rape victim who serves as a powerful metaphor for justifying international political attention and humanitarian action.

In conclusion, convening a panel and presenting two papers at ASAUK2014 enabled me to receive valuable feedback from academic experts in my field of inquiry. In addition it afforded me the opportunity to establish and deepen networks with peers and senior researchers. As a member of AFSAAP, I represented the organisation at ASAUK. It is my view that research on Africa and African studies is hugely lacking in Australia. While AFSAAP has done extensive work to fill this gap, there is need for more collaborative research, more funding and a deeper understanding of Africa in the community at large. I hope my representing the organisation at an overseas conference has contributed to a greater visibility of AFSAAP abroad.

I would like to thank you for the funds I have received.*

Best wishes

Charlotte Mertens

PhD Candidate University of Melbourne



AFSAAP Travel Grants – to visit other African Studies Conferences

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST are invited from AFSAAP members to apply for small travel grants to promote AFSAAP on a wider scale. We invite expressions of interest (EOI) for one Member to represent AFSAAP at an overseas conference, identified by the Member, which focuses on African studies. This EOI is in accordance with one of AFSAAP's mission statements, "to establish contact with African universities and scholars, other overseas scholars and African Studies associations, and to promote interchanges with them". In your EOI, please clearly outline, in 500 words how you will 'deliver' on this mission statement. Specifically, please outline:

- Key details of the conference that you have identified, including a brief background of the hosting association or institution (i.e. academic merit, quality of proceedings etc.)
- How your visit will benefit AFSAAP
- What activities will you undertake to promote AFSAAP and encourage overseas scholars to consider participating in AFSAAP conferences

You will be expected to write a report on your visit for the Habari kwa ufupi newsletter, detailing the bullet points, above. AFSAAP will contribute up to \$1,000 in travel costs. The successful applicant will make their own travel arrangements and the applicant must provide invoices to the AFSAAP Treasurer. The AFSAAP Executive reserves the right not to award any funding in a calendar year, depending on the budget and quality of the applications. Please Email all Expressions of Interest to Secretary@afsaap.org.au

"The Commonwealth: Australia's Traditional 'Window' into Africa"

ARAS Book reviews Editor, Nikola Pijovic has just published an important article in The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs, Published online: 29 Jul 2014.

ABSTRACT - The Commonwealth's importance for Australia's overall foreign policy is often seen as relatively negligible, but its importance historically for Australia's foreign policy engagement with African states should be seen as quite central. Since the 1960s, the Commonwealth forum has provided Australia with the most extensive multilateral (and to an extent bilateral) opportunity to engage with African states and issues, and as such should be recognised as Australia's traditional 'window' into African affairs. This article for the first time brings together a discussion of all of the major episodes of Australia's foreign policy engagement with African states taking place within the Commonwealth forum and argues that, at least until the late 2000s, the Commonwealth was indeed the main vehicle for Australia's most prominent foreign policy engagement with African issues.

Between Jakarta and Geneva: why Abbott needs to view Africa as a great opportunity

AFSAAP member Prof Sam Makinda from Murdoch University has just published this insightful article on Australian foreign policy toward Africa. You can download it here <http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/VTRFawyEntCTZPYeQpvQ/full>



Becoming Australian: Migration, Settlement, Citizenship

A new book by Brian Galligan, Martina Boese and Melissa Phillips, Melbourne University Press, 2014. Available paperback, hardcopy or ebook: Melbourne University Press <https://www.mup.com.au/items/138026>. Becoming Australian gives an account of Australia's modern migration and settlement policies, and explains how this ongoing nation building project is progressing. It details and builds on the experiences of recent migrants and refugees, from pre-arrival through settlement, employment and taking out citizenship. As migrants and refugees become Australian, Australia and its people are changing. We show how extraordinarily multicultural Australia's migrant intake has become. Australia has become a more diverse and pluralistic nation where cultural and ethnic distinctiveness and differences are tolerated within a liberal democracy. Government policy that promotes multiculturalism defines it in non-cultural, liberal democratic terms and Australian values. Ironically, this marginalises cultural difference through relegating it mainly to the private realm. At the same time the integrative forces of Australian culture, society and day-to-day laid-back living undermine the individual maintenance of cultural differences across generations. In modern Australian migration policies, culture is of no consequence; skills are the new touchstone for selection with most selected for the economic contribution they can make to the nation. Our book changes the way we think about Australia and its people, and sets the stage for a more informed national discussion of their true character.

Malawi – Accusations of Witchcraft against children.

AFSAAP Member Erwin van der Meer has sent this link to a documentary that was aired on national TV in the Netherlands and is mostly in Dutch although some parts are in English. See the documentary here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JntYR7sGrk>. Erwin has previously published an article in ARAS on Child Witchcraft Accusations in Southern Malawi- <http://afsaap.org.au/ARAS/2013-volume-34/>

African Communities Conference – Adelaide

The 2014 National African Conference Committee would like to cordially invite you to attend the 2014 National Conference of the Federation of African Communities Councils in Australia at Festival Centre Banquet Room, Adelaide South Australia. The Conference will start on the 4th to 6th of December 2014. Attending the 2014 National Conference of the Federation of African Communities Councils in Australia presents a great value and an excellent opportunity to meet industry experts and learn about the African Achievements in Australia. Contact Dr Joseph Masika OAM, President: Federation of African Communities Councils in Australia joseph.masika@sa.gov.au

Fight Ebola

The Federation of African Communities Councils in Australia has established a National Committee to execute its "All Hands on Deck- Fight Ebola in West Africa national campaign" Mr. Edward D. Solo, National Vice President of the Federation of African Communities Councils in Australia (FACCA) Incorporated has been appointed as Chairman of the committee.



The Australasian Review of African Studies - Call for Papers

ARAS invites contributors to submit articles related to African Studies that will contribute to a better understanding of Africa in Australasia and the Pacific. ARAS is published twice a year in June and December by The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific. ARAS is a multi-disciplinary journal (ERA ID 18727) that seeks to provide critical, authoritative and accessible material on a range of African affairs that is interesting and readable to as broad an audience as possible, both academic and non-academic. All articles are double blind peer reviewed by two independent and qualified experts in their entirety prior to publication – see <http://afsaap.org.au/ARAS/about-submissions/> for details on submissions. ARAS is published as a hard copy journal which is posted out to current AFSAAP full-subscribers, and is available in electronic format to all AFSAAP subscribers and members from www.afsaap.org.au/ARAS/. Furthermore, all ARAS articles are now available electronically through Informit Databases, and they are indexed through ProQuest Sociological Abstracts and Worldwide Political Science Abstracts. The current and previous 2 years of back issues are available online to all AFSAAP members at www.afsaap.org.au. All back issues prior to this are accessible to all.

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All correspondence should be sent to: editor@afsaap.org.au

Back issues of AFSAAP Newsletter and African Studies Review and Newsletter

Attention Long-Time members of AFSAAP- Back issues of the AFSAAP Newsletter are needed. If you happen to have a copy of Volume 8 1986 AFSAAP Newsletters, and or any of the 1980s newsletters please contact the AFSAAP President at president@afsaap.org.au. Sam Wilkins has been busy updating the AFSAAP website and now has linked almost all of the back issues of the journal ARAS – and the previously named issues of the African Studies Review and Newsletter, and AFSAAP Newsletter. We have a few issues and volumes missing from the 1980s so if anyone can assist with copies please contact us at president@afsaap.org.au

Apologies

The AFSAAP Website crashed on September 25th. This was an issue with the web host. All effort was made to resolve the problem quickly. Members and conference participants will still have time to join and register later. Please contact president@afsaap.org.au if you have any concerns about your registrations during that period of time.