



The African Studies Association of Australia and the Pacific

Habari kwa ufupi – AFSAAP
Newsletter No. 90 – June 2018

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AFSAAP Newsletter – June 2018

AFSAAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018

Africa in Transition: Governance, Society and Culture

Call for Papers

The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP) calls for proposals for pre-organized panels, roundtables, thematic conversations and individual papers for its 41st annual meeting to be held at UNSW, Sydney from November 21st to November 23rd 2018.

Recent years have witnessed significant transitions in the governance of African nations. Longstanding leaders, many of whom were major figureheads in the post-colonial era, have given way to demands for change. Sometimes the transitions have been relatively peaceful such as South Africa and Zimbabwe, yet others such as Libya and Egypt have been tumultuous, leaving the nations concerned reeling from the after effects of change. In other nations, the grip of power has been tightened with attempts to do away with term limits or to interfere in the political process surrounding elections. Still others, such as South Sudan, have plunged into civil and ethnic violence which threatens the future stability of this new nation. Climate change, environmental loss and migration are influencing African societies, complicating patterns of governance.

Such changes reverberate across society with calls to rethink the nature of civil society and political participation, as well as the nature of equity and belonging. The call to rethink the way that society functions exists not only in the political sphere, but also across the whole spectrum of the arts and cultural communities as they come together from diverse backgrounds to envisage a different kind of shared future. While the deep challenges that remain must be acknowledged, it is also the case that such change can provide fertile ground for creative thinking and the exchange of ideas between academics, political actors and civil society organizations.

We therefore invite papers that engage with, but are not limited to, the theme: Africa in Transition: Governance, Society and Culture. As always, we bring together scholars working in different disciplines. We invite participants to contribute theoretically innovative and empirically grounded papers, panels and Habari kwa ufupi - AFSAAP Newsletter NO. 89 – May 2018 presentations that enhance our understanding of these issues. Though the central focus will be on this broader theme, we also welcome contributions on other topics that consider Africa, or Africa/Australia/Pacific relations and Africans in the region. Habari kwa ufupi - AFSAAP Newsletter NO. 88 - April 2018.

All proposals will be peer reviewed. Abstracts of proposed papers, panels and roundtables should be sent by July 1st, 2018 to Dr. Anne Bartlett, International Studies, Morven Brown 230, UNSW, Sydney, NSW, 2052, Australia. Email: a.bartlett@unsw.edu.au A preliminary program will be announced by August 1st, 2018. Late proposals for papers will be considered only if space is available. All proposals will be peer reviewed by the program committee. Registration and conference fees must be paid before presenters will be placed in the formal conference program. Please check our [website](#) for more details.



MEMBERSHIPS DUE 2018

Renew your AFSAAP Membership

The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP) is in its 40th Year and looks forward to your ongoing membership and subscription. AFSAAP publishes its journal the Australasian Review of African Studies in June and December each year, and sends out a monthly newsletter with relevant information to those interested in African Studies generally. AFSAAP has 40 years worthy of conference proceedings, now archived. AFSAAP also hosts an annual conference. Please see the latest AFSAAP news at www.afsaap.org.au and you can also follow on Twitter @AFSAAP and Facebook. AFSAAP is a Not For Profit Association and depends upon your memberships to achieve this. Please RENEW your AFSAAP Membership Today. Go To <http://afsaap.org.au/join-members/join-afsaap/> for further information. Membership fees are very modest. You might like to also review the Opportunities for AFSAAP Members here - <http://afsaap.org.au/opportunities/> Please pass this message onto other colleagues interested in Africa. Apologies if you have received this message twice, or if you have already renewed your membership recently, or if you attended the fantastic AFSAAP2017 Conference, in which case your membership for 2018 has already been renewed. Feel free to visit our website at: www.afsaap.org.au

Announcing the publication of **THE AUSTRALASIAN REVIEW OF AFRICAN STUDIES** Volume 39 Number 1 June 2018
Online ISSN: 2203-5184

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22160/22035184/ARAS-2018-39-1>

[Editorial: Decolonising African Studies – The Politics of Publishing - Tanya Lyons pp. 3-12](#)

[Africa's Past Invented to Serve Development's Uncertain Future - Scott MacWilliam pp.13-38](#)

[A Critique of Colonial Rule: A Response to Bruce Gilley - Martin Klein pp. 39-52](#)

[Curbing Inequality Through Decolonising Knowledge Production in Higher Education in South Africa - Leon Mwamba Tshimpaka pp. 53-80](#)

["There is really discrimination everywhere": Experiences and consequences of Everyday Racism among the new black African diaspora in Australia - Kwamena Kwansah-Aidoo and Virginia Mapedzahama pp. 81-109](#)

['African-Australian' Identity in the Making: Analysing its Imagery and Explanatory Power in View of Young Africans in Australia - Abay Gebrekidan pp. 110-129](#)

[Africa 'Pretty Underdone': 2017 Submissions to the DFAT White Paper and Senate Inquiry - Helen Ware and David Lucas pp. 130-143](#)

[Celebrating 40 Years of the Australasian Review of African Studies: A Bibliography of Articles - Tanya Lyons pp. 144-169](#)

[Book Review - AIDS Doesn't Show Its Face: Inequality, Morality and Social Change in Nigeria, by Daniel Jordan Smith. Tass Holmes](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Roundtable Discussion with AFSAAP Member Dr Nikola Pijovic

Topic: **What does Australia want in Africa?**

Date: **Wednesday, 20 June 2018**

Time: **14h30 - 17h00**, followed by light refreshments

Venue: **SAIIA Head Office, East Campus, Wits University**

Enquiries: **Ms Luanda Mpungose**, luanda.mpungose@wits.ac.za

The South African Institute of International Affairs cordially invites you to a roundtable discussion on 'What does Australia want in Africa?' In early 2012, Australia's Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd became the foreign minister with by far the most trips to Africa, with seven in under 18 months. In contrast, Australia's longest serving foreign minister, Alexander Downer, visited Africa just four times between 1996 and 2007. Even Julie Bishop, the current Australian foreign minister, has since 2013 visited the African mainland only once. But why so many visits to Africa during Kevin Rudd's time in office, and perhaps most importantly, why so little engagement with Africa before Rudd's time, and since? How can one of the wealthiest nations in the world and a 'middle power' with global interests largely neglect engaging with Africa? You can read more about this exciting event [here](#).

About Dr Nikola Pijovic

Dr Nikola Pijovic has a PhD in political science from the Australian National University and is currently writing a book on Australia and Africa. He has written media pieces and academic articles on Australian aid to Africa, Australia's foreign policy engagement with Africa, and Australian foreign policy in general. Nikola also researches Africa in the Indo-Pacific and has published on terrorism, Al-Shabaab, and statehood in Somalia. There will be responses from the



Australian High Commission, and the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), to be confirmed.

Second Announcement and Call for Papers

State-Building in Africa: Prospects and Challenges 1st International Social Scientists Conference

Where: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

When: March 4th – 7th, 2019

Dear Colleagues, On March 4th - 7th, 2019 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania The Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy and the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences will hold the 1st Social Scientists Conference titled “State-Building in Africa: Prospects and Challenges.” The Conference will take place on the premises of the Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy in Dar es Salaam along the Indian Ocean. The working language is English.

The deadline for paper proposals (in the form of abstracts within 300 words in English) is November 1, 2018. The proposals should be sent directly to the respective panel convener(s) who is (are) to inform the applicant about his (her) application's fortune by November 15, 2018 – the date by which the panel conveners are to submit their compiled panels to the Organizing Committee. Please see further details [here](#).

African Career Accelerator Awards

Call for Applications

The Crick African Network is pleased to announce a call for applications for the African Career Accelerator Awards. The Crick African Network's African Career Accelerator (CAN ACA) awards will provide Fellowship support for African Post-Doctoral researchers aiming to make the transition to becoming an independent researcher and launching their own research group. The CAN ACA awards will invest in early-career researchers who have demonstrated strong scientific and leadership potential, as well as a commitment to continuing their research on the African continent. This call is made possible by funding from the UK's Global Challenges Research Fund. Expression of Interest deadline: 23:59 (GMT) on 1st July 2018. More details [here](#).

Report on Africa Day event held in Perth

This is a brief report, based on AFSAAP President Peter Limb's notes on the excellent Africa Day event held in Perth on May 25, 2018.

Africa Day was marked in Perth by a well-attended public panel discussion at UWA on 25 May. An attentive and interactive crowd of 60-70 people heard a range of expert speakers address sustainable development themes across Africa. The panel was the last event of a week-long Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) gathering and was organised by the University of Western Australia Africa Research Cluster (ARC) and WUN Global Africa Group (GAG) in partnership with the Organisation of African Communities in WA (OAC). Dr David Mickler (Senior Lecturer in International Relations; Coordinator, ARC; Co-Chair, GAG), ably chaired the meeting.

The presentations were framed by the African Union's long-term strategy for the continent's integration and sustainable development, 'Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want', aimed at an 'Integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena'.

The keynote address was given by Professor Ebenezer Owusu (Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana), who spoke on “Universities and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)”, focusing on advances in meeting the 17 SDGs (that include no poverty, zero hunger, gender equality, climate action, etc.). He gave examples of how Ghana had made solid progress towards such goals (such as halving poverty rates, introducing free senior high school education, reducing illiteracy and improving sanitation) and how his own university engaged with development challenges through such avenues as on-campus cultivation of fortified indigenous foods (including fruits, vegetables and rice) and efforts towards campus gender parity. He made the important and widely applicable observation that to achieve such targets universities must go beyond their walls and break the social distance of “ivory towers”. A lively round of questions from the audience, including from African students, successfully nudged the Vice Chancellor to speak at more length of obstacles still in the way of meeting the targets.

Among the interesting papers were those by Prof. Maano Ramutsindela (Environmental/Geographical Science, Deputy Dean of Science, University of Cape Town; Co-Chair, GAG), Dr Casta Tungaraza (President, African Women's Council of Australia; Chair, Australian Foreign Minister's Advisory Group on Australia-Africa Relations; Representative, OAC), and Prof. Petra Tschakert (Rural Development; Co-Coordinator, International Development program, UWA; Coordinating Lead Author, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). Prof. Tschakert spoke about the urgent need to address solutions to climate change globally and in Africa, adducing important statistical



data, and summarising results of a comparative study of climate change effects in Gauteng and Limpopo provinces of South Africa.

A/Prof. Richard Vokes (Anthropology/Co-Coordinator, International Development program UWA; President, Australian Anthropological Society; Editor, Journal of Eastern African Studies) presented interesting data on development, improvements in health and decline of armed conflicts in Africa, influencing a new optimism, although serious conflicts continued in such countries as South Sudan and Mali. HIV infection rates had dropped 27% in five years and there was extensive development of new minerals attracting considerable investment from China, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. New forms of partnership exchange with China, for example, were giving the possibility of a stronger base to African governments. The central question was whether the model would work: it was necessary to learn the lessons of history, as there was a remarkable similarity between today's forms of development and modernisation paradigms of the 1960s, with the many dams, railway and housing projects resembling 'Modernisation 2.0', and accompanied by the revival of Afrofuturism.

Dr Lawal Marafa (Hong Kong) stepped in at the last minute to speak after the failure to issue a visa to Prof. Winnie Mitullah (Director, Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi). He addressed contradictions between recent high economic growth rates in Africa and the need to translate such rates to the grassroots. For instance, some 70% of the world's poor were women, and of these 60% were in Africa. By 2050, Africa would have 50% of the world's available uncultivated land, but had only 4% irrigated land; 80% of Africa's food continued to be produced by smallholders.

The meeting was a fine opportunity for African and Australian academics and students as well as the public to discuss important issues of development in Africa. The presence of students and members of the African community, plus the growing focus on African studies at UWA all augur well for future advances in the study of Africa in Australia. The following evening the Organisation of African Communities of WA held a gala to mark Africa Day.

~ Peter Limb, AFSAAP president, Perth.