



# The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific

Habari kwa Ufupi – AFSAAP  
Number 94 – November 2018

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## AFSAAP Newsletter – November 2018

### AFSAAP Conference 2018 Draft Program out!

Africa in Transition: Governance, Society and Culture  
41st AFSAAP Annual Conference  
University of New South Wales, Sydney,  
November 21st – 23rd 2018

Conference Convener: Dr. Anne Bartlett UNSW (Sydney)

Contact: [afsaap2018@afsaap.org.au](mailto:afsaap2018@afsaap.org.au)

The annual AFSAAP Conference is now just weeks away. The response has been, as usual, overwhelming from all over the world with several interesting panels in store. Please check out the [Draft Programme](#) for the full program including a number of other activities lined up for you!

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### AFSAAP EXECUTIVE 2019 – NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

As normal, all office bearing positions of the African Association of Australia and the Pacific (AFSAAP) will be declared open at the AGM November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11am at UNSW during the 2018 Conference. All AFSAAP members are invited to attend the AGM and also nominate for one of the positions:

- President,
  - Vice-President,
  - Secretary,
  - Treasurer
  - Postgraduate Representative(s)
  - ARAS Journal Editor
- See the [website](#) for further details.

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### ARAS Editorial Team – Expressions of Interest 2019-2021

Nominations are sought for the position(s) of Editor and Co-editor for the Australasian Review of African Studies (ARAS), the official journal of the African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP). The term of office is usually three years. See Details [Here](#).

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## African Discussion Group - Australian National University (ANU) – Margaret O’Callaghan Seminar

The ANU has recently established an African Discussion Group for academics, students and general public who share an interest in discussing about topical research about Africa. It is a collection of ANU academics staff and students committed to the promotion of academic research conducted either in or on Africa by ANU academics. Through the monthly discussion series, the ANU aims to promote and discuss academic research on Africa in addition to academic research by African scholars at the ANU. This will be a public platform, and in the future, the groups hopes to engage with other public and private institutions. The inaugural talk titled ‘Lighting the way? Understanding energy and development in Kenya’ was given on the 28th September, 2018, by Edwina Fingleton-Smith of the Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU. The second talk will be as follows:

**Margaret O’Callaghan** (Visiting Fellow, ANU Crawford School of Public Policy)

**'Examining African Mining Conferences: Clarifying the Benefits and the Costs of Omission'**

**Thursday 25th October, 6pm**

Fenner Seminar Room, Building 141, Fenner School of Environment and Society Linnaeus Way. This building is at the corner of Daley Road and Linnaeus way.

Margaret O’Callaghan will speak on the impact of mining in Africa and the role played by corporates, civil society, government agencies and other key actors using Zambia as a case study. Learn more about her talk [here](#). The presentation will provide an overview and analysis of conferences focused on mining in Africa, including those run by corporates, civil society, regional agencies and governments. It will highlight the resulting issues, especially those related to costs and benefits for both the continent and mining communities.

The group will meet in the late afternoon on the last Thursday monthly on the ANU campus. Details of meetings will be posted [here](#). All welcome!" The African Discussion Group is an initiative by certain academic staff and students at ANU, and as yet doesn't have a 'host department' or set home in ANU. However, the best place to learn of upcoming events related to African Studies at ANU is the website ANU African Studies Network as <http://africanetwork.weblogs.anu.edu.au>. Future African Discussion Group seminars will be advertised on this website.

## Women Researching in Africa: an afternoon of African Studies

Thursday 1 November 2018 - 1 pm to 5 pm

Flinders University, 182 Victoria Square, Adelaide, Level 10

### Schedule

1pm Welcome (coffee/tea/light snacks)

1.15pm Dr. Ruth Jackson (Deakin University)

1.45 Dr. Max Kelly (Deakin University)

2.15 Dr. Clare Buswell (Flinders University) - Bewitching times - the witch speaks. This paper examines the use of witchcraft in confronting the social, moral and physical disruptions of social change in Colonial Kenya.

2.45 Dr. Judith Thomas (University of Adelaide) *Investigating Perspectives of Refugee Secondary Students on the Family in Australia*

3.15 Dr. Tanya Lyons (Flinders University) – *The seven dilemmas of feminist fieldwork*

3.30 Ms. Valerie Baya (UNISA) - The African Students Assoc of SA.

3.45 Official Book Launch – Ruth Jackson and Max Kelly (eds). *Women Researching in Africa: The Impact of gender*, Palgrave/MacMillan, 2019.

4pm – end.

If you would like to share your research in African Studies please contact Tanya Lyons – We can squeeze you in respectfully!  
*Attendance is free, but please RSVP Tanya for catering purposes: RSVP: [tanya.lyons@flinders.edu.au](mailto:tanya.lyons@flinders.edu.au)*

### Call for Papers

South African Historical Journal Society, Conference June 2019, Abstracts due 15th December <http://explore.tandfonline.com/cfp/ah/rshj-southern-african-historical-association>

WRITING RETREAT African Studies, Gauteng South Africa January 2019, apply by 31st October <https://twitter.com/AfrikanStudies/status/1050310569717313536>

### Call for contributions: Handbook on African Diaspora

A Handbook on African diaspora professionals in the academe worldwide, is being developed and if you are interested in contributing to this project which will contribute to a better understanding of the African diaspora experts and professors of various disciplinary backgrounds in universities and higher education institutions worldwide, and also highlight the good work they are doing in their professional calling. It will also present an opportunity for Africans in the diaspora to share their experiences and learn from one another. Here are the links to the call and instructions for chapter contributions:

IGI Global: <https://www.igi-global.com/publish/call-for-papers/call-details/2060>

H-Net: <https://networks.h-net.org/node/73374/announcements/2710353/multidisciplinary-issues-surrounding-african-diasporas>

**NEW WEBSITE** Democracy in Africa <http://democracyinafrica.org/>

### Call for panel proposals: The 8th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS 2019)

**Theme: Africa: Connections and Disruptions**

**Deadline for panels is November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

The 8th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS 2019) invites the submission of panel proposals addressing the theme of Africa: Connections and Disruptions. We welcome panels and papers representing all disciplines and methodological approaches of the Social Sciences and Humanities. First priority shall be given to proposals explicitly concerned with the conference theme, but the scientific committee will also consider panels on other topics. Connections and disruptions form and inform debates at the African local and at the global level: They are addressed in the decolonization of the academy, in the questions over who is connected to which conversations and who is denied. More details [here](#).

### 'African Music and Cultural Festival' in Melbourne

**Date: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2018**

**Venue: Federation Square, Melbourne, Victoria**

**Time: 10am - 10pm**

The African Music and Cultural Festival (AMCF) is the largest annual African festival in Australia showcasing an amazing array of vibrant music, dancing, diverse arts, cultural performances and authentic African food that transports visitors to Africa. This hugely successful event involving over 35 African Australian communities and organisations last year attracted a crowd of over 30,000 people

including representatives from the three tiers of government, non-governmental organisations. The attendance at this year's event is expected to be in excess of 40,000 people. More details can be found [here](#).

### **2018 AFSAAP Travel Grant – ASAUK - Kirsty Wissing post-conference report**

Kirsty is a recipient of the 2018 AFSAAP Travel Assistance Grant. This grant from AFSAAP assisted her attend the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom (ASAUK) conference in the United Kingdom a couple of months ago. Below is her report on her successful trip.

A Canberra winter. Far removed from the warmth, the church/mosque/information centre/trader/traffic/goat/rooster noises of postgraduate fieldwork in southern Ghana. There, the mind can defrost if not also, in my case, perhaps overheat a little. To converse, suggest and interchange ideas with community members and university colleagues alike that would inform my thesis and also my general outlook.

In pursuit of more such conversations, to freshen the mind and regain feeling in my literally and metaphorically numb thumbs, I was lucky to attend, convene a panel and present at the biannual African Studies Association of the United Kingdom (ASAUK). This conference was hosted by the University of Birmingham's Department of African Studies and Anthropology (DASA), formerly known the Centre for West African Studies.

To me, the collegial cross-disciplinary approach of DASA – combining anthropology, history, human geography development, literature, media, popular culture and religion – seems to reflect the values that the African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP) holds of bringing the diverse training and employment experiences of its members into dialogue as focused on the African continent and its diaspora. It was also a chance to reconnect with academics and students at DASA that had hosted me as an Endeavour Research Fellow in 2016 to discuss research progressions.

The ASAUK conference drew participants from across the African continent, Europe, the United States and Canada and far flung places like that island called Australia to interchange ideas and find common ground in research and policy. From the analysis of African first ladies, to extractives, the arts, and assertions of traditional and electoral legitimacy, topics were diverse and dynamic.

With Barbara Carbon (KU Leuven, Belgium) and Stephan Miescher (University of California, Santa Barbara, the United States), I co-convened and also presented in a panel that considered anticipated and unexpected infrastructural impacts of dam-building in relation to the power of water, comparing Ghana and the Democratic Republic of Congo. I also unpacked how theatre can promote inter-faith dialogue in Ghana in a presentation convened by Eric Otchere (University of Cape Coast, Ghana). Thanking AFSAAP at each presentation for enabling attendance at the conference, and also using informal conversation opportunities, I was able to share AFSAAP's work, mission, and promote the upcoming conference in New South Wales.

While in Europe, I also presented research and discussed AFSAAP as an organisation in Sweden at the European Association of Social Anthropologists conference at the University of Stockholm, and elsewhere in the United Kingdom at the Association of Social Anthropologists of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth conference at the University of Oxford, and at the Royal Anthropological Institute in London.

Feedback from these forums will directly feed into my PhD dissertation as well as related articles. I am

grateful to AFSAAP for the chance to learn from and contribute to scholarship about the African continent in and its diaspora, and in doing so to promote AFSAAP and bring diverse experiences and disciplines together.

### Prominent African Studies Figures in Australasia and New Zealand

*Habari* continues with its series featuring prominent African studies figures.



Dr. Edson Ziso, Secretary AFSAAP

**1. *Can you tell us a bit about yourself?***

I was born and raised in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. I attained a BA Hons History and Development Studies and a MA Development Studies from Midlands State University, Zimbabwe. I worked at the same institution first as a Teaching Assistant and then Lecturer between 2005 and 2008. I then joined Plan International as Field Monitor (Emergency Food Aid) and then as a Community Development Facilitator in Mutasa and Mutoko districts, respectively. In 2010, I was fortunate to be awarded a full scholarship to pursue a MA Public Policy at the University of Erfurt, by the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) under its Public Policy and Good Governance (PPGG) program. Soon after finishing in 2012, I was also awarded a full Adelaide Scholarship International (ASI) to pursue a PhD in Politics where I graduated in 2016. I am currently a Visiting Research Fellow in the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Adelaide and also working for the state's Department for Child Protection.

**2. *Can you share with us who you started off in the field of African Studies? For instance, what was your PhD on?***

My interest in African studies was nurtured both by mere life experience growing up in Africa and also through academic study especially the influence of some of my lecturers including Prof. Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni, himself a very prominent Africanist scholar. I wanted to understand what really could explain the African condition in the context of the global political economy. My PhD focused on China's growing economic relations with Africa. In particular, I examined its relations with Ethiopia with a special focus on how this was affecting state-society relations.

**3. *What would you say was the highlight of your career so far and why?***

Getting my PhD published as a book by a reputable publisher certainly counts as the major highlight of my career this far. It enabled my research to reach a far more wider audience than I could have ever imagined.

**4. *And what about possible challenges you faced? Is there any advice you can give to PhD students or ECRs based on such challenges?***

The pressure of producing a PhD thesis within a set time especially as an international student is certainly immense. By the operation of the law itself (visa provisions), there is an expectation that one has to finish within a certain number of years. This certainly affords an international student any time

to acclimatise or settle in the new country. There is also little margin for error once you get started.

**5. *What do you think is the future of African Studies in Australia?***

There is huge potential for African studies in Australia. This optimism stems from the centrality of the African continent to the global economy as a very formidable emerging market. As scholars continue to produce evidence-based scholarship that points to mutual benefits for Australia and Africa in the varied fields as security, economic development, socio-cultural linkages, energy and trade, the current posture by politicians and policy makers in Australia of being apathetic to Africa can be overhauled.

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**JOIN AFSAAP Today for 2019**

If you are unable to attend the AFSAAP 2018 conference, don't forget to [Please RENEW your AFSAAP Membership Today](#). The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP) is in its 40<sup>th</sup> 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 worth of conference proceedings, now archived. AFSAAP also hosts an annual conference. Please see the latest AFSAAP news at [www.afsaap.org.au](http://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](#). Membership fees are very modest. You might like to also review the [Opportunities for AFSAAP Members](#).