



# The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific

Habari kwa Ufupi No. 93 October 2018

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## AFSAAP Newsletter – October 2018

### AFSAAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018

#### Africa in Transition: Governance, Society and Culture

IMPORTANT REMINDER: \*\*\* AFSAAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018 REGISTRATION CLOSES NOVEMBER 1, 2018 \*\*\*

Registration for the AFSAAP Annual Conference 2018 running under the theme “Africa in Transition: Governance, Society and Culture” is ongoing. The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP) called 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. All conference participants must register and pay for the conference. The online registration portal outlines the fees associated with the conference as well as a simplified process of paying online. All fees include 3 Day Conference fee and AFSAAP membership for 2019. For further details, including the terms and conditions, please visit the conference registration page [here](#)

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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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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Academic Co-Lead for Africa

Dr. Alec Thornton has recently been appointed Academic Co-Lead for Africa, with the Institute for Global Development (IGD) at UNSW Sydney. Academic Leads and Co-Leads play a key role in leading the IGD's internal and external consultation and communication activities. Academic Leads work in partnership with the IGD Director, IGD Manager, and our partner institutions to develop strategies and coordinate activities in target regions (in this case, Africa with a current focus on Uganda). Academic Leads assist with strategy and ensure activities in their region are coordinated and align with IGD's broader goals. More details [here](#).

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

Call for papers: Women Researching in or on Africa are invited to present their research at this forthcoming afternoon of African Studies in Adelaide. All themes will be considered.

When: Thursday 1 November 2018

Time: 1 pm to 5 pm

Where: Flinders University, 182 Victoria Square, Adelaide, Level 10

1 – 4 pm: Seminar by women researching in or on Africa

4 pm: Book launch of *Women Researching in Africa - The Impact of gender* followed by light refreshments

Keynote speakers – Ruth Jackson (Deakin University) and Max Kelly (Deakin University).

Please send a short synopsis of your research to Ruth, Max or Tanya – by 30 September 2018

[r.jackson@deakin.edu.au](mailto:r.jackson@deakin.edu.au)

[max@deakin.edu.au](mailto:max@deakin.edu.au)

[tanya.lyons@flinders.edu.au](mailto:tanya.lyons@flinders.edu.au)

Attendance is free, but please RSVP Tanya for catering purposes: RSVP: [tanya.lyons@flinders.edu.au](mailto:tanya.lyons@flinders.edu.au)

### Scholarships: Call for Applications

The Department of Historical Studies at the University of Cape Town has entered a new phase of curriculum innovation and knowledge production, expressed in an innovative five-year programme, HISTORY ACCESS, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Aimed at training a new generation of South African historians who are conceptually multilingual, technically competent, and academically rigorous, the projected key outcomes of this programme include the production of a critical multilingual conceptual lexicon, journal articles/ book chapters, innovative (new media) articulations of original research, and increased interface with public lives of the historical discipline. HISTORY ACCESS is pleased to offer at the Department of Historical Studies, University of Cape Town:

- 2 three-year PhD scholarships, each to the value of the annual amount of ZAR 130,000, the second and third year of funding being subject to satisfactory academic progress;
- 3 two-year Master's scholarships, each to the value of the annual amount of ZAR 100,000, the second year of funding being subject to satisfactory academic progress; and
- 4 one-year Honours fellowships, each to the value of ZAR 90,000

Find out more [here](#).

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Call for Papers for Project Workshop 2018 in Cape Town, South Africa

“Christian and Muslim Development Organizations in Urban Africa: New Challenges for Researchers and Practitioners”

*To be held at the Cape Town Lodge Hotel in Cape Town, 8 November 2018*

Conventional assumptions hold that secularization and development – understood as modernization and progress – lead to a decline in religion, or at least its relegation to the realm of private life. However, in the early 21st century a new political and scholarly concern with the ways in which religious organizations have come to (re)occupy the public sphere has emerged. This workshop explores how the growing presence of religious actors in various domains of collective life might be (re)shaping societal and political concerns with notions of 'modernization', 'development', and 'progress' in novel ways.

We call for papers which look at the ways in which Christian and Muslim organizations have become involved in development activities, and how the challenges arising from this involvement can be analyzed in a comparative perspective in African urban settings. Paper proposals are invited to investigate the various roles that faith-based organizations (FBOs) from diverse Christian and Muslim backgrounds play for the provision of social services in contemporary urban Africa, especially in the areas of health care, gender-related issues, and education. The workshop will also provide opportunities to discuss perspectives for future collaboration between FBO practitioners and researchers, and the various expectations they have in relation to each other's work.

Please submit your abstract of no more than 200 words to the following email address:

Fboafrika2018@Gmail.com. The deadline for the submission of abstracts has been extended to October 5, 2018.

If you wish to attend the workshop without presentation, please register under the same email address by October 20, 2018. More details can be found [here](#)

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

*Habari* this month launches a new series featuring prominent African studies figures.

Dr. Anne Bartlett, Vice-President AFSAAP

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

I am from the UK, lived in the USA for 20 years (between New York, Chicago, San Francisco) before moving to Sydney in 2015. Worked in Sudan, South Sudan and East Africa for about 18 years. Over that time I have worked on the Darfur crisis, in South Sudan, refugee/host integration in Kenya for the World Bank and UNHCR, and more recently on land conflict reduction and environmental destruction in Acholiland, northern Uganda.

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

My entry into African Studies was accidental. While doing my PhD at the University of Chicago under the supervision of Professor Saskia Sassen, I went back to London to understand how the politics of immigrants and refugees were affecting London as a global city. While working on this project as an ethnographer, I started working as a participant observer in a refugee center in West London. Quite by accident, this refugee center was a hub for Sudanese politics and the director of the center's board was a former Governor of Darfur, Sudan and a member of the Islamist political establishment. At the end of 2002 and beginning of 2003, I met another refugee from Darfur at this center, whose brother

was involved in starting an uprising in the region against the Sudanese government. The politics of this refugee center soon became a microcosm of the politics of Sudan: the power of the center's director as former Governor of Darfur against the refugee who was a supporter of Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) -- the armed group. With the uprising imminent, I started to follow these armed groups across borders trying to understand their motivation for picking up arms against the Sudanese State. I also noted how the human rights freedoms of London provided a means by which the insurgency could be organized and facilitated from a global city. This is what I wrote my PhD on.

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

Chairing the hearing in 2004 at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva on the unfolding Darfur Crisis, after Kofi Annan had just addressed the UN on the mistakes of the International Community with regard to Rwanda (it was the 10th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide)

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

Working as an ethnographer with armed groups from Sudan was the ultimate challenge, but also brought the biggest reward. I learnt perseverance: to work when I was tired and apprehensive. I learnt to listen and not think I had the answers. I also learnt that people who you might not necessarily feel you have anything in common with, can sometimes become the very people that you have the most joy working with. Working within a genocide is not fun, but the Sudanese people (who have an amazing sense of humour) taught me to value what I have and to get the most out of life. It is a lesson that Australia can well learn about Sudanese and South Sudanese people.

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

Africa has the most potential for growth of any continent, but it has the most challenges. Politicians and policy makers need to stop reading Africa through the lens of our own politics, institutions and ideologies and start appreciating the continent and its people for their own sake. While Australia is situated closest to the Asia/Pacific region, Africa will still be the continent to watch over this century. African Studies and Africanist academics have a huge role to play in contextualizing and providing a more nuanced understanding, thereby avoiding the stereotypes of the continent that have been so prevalent of late.

#### **Panel Discussion on 'The media in Africa—Africa in the media'**

'The media in Africa—Africa in the media' was the theme of a well-attended panel discussion and Q&A on 29 August 2018 with visiting journalists from Africa which constituted the first public event of the recently formed UWA Africa Research & Engagement Centre (AfREC). Journalists from Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritius, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe explored the nature of contemporary journalism and media dynamics across Africa. They comprised Samrawit Assefa Hailu (senior journalist and producer, Ethiopia Broadcasting Service), Shirley Asiedu-Addo (senior reporter/correspondent, Ghana's *Daily Graphic* newspaper), Jean-Paul Arouff (editor in Chief, *Business Magazine* of Mauritius), Thandeka Gqubule-Mbeki (economics editor, South African Broadcasting Company), Halima Abdallah (Uganda, correspondent of *The East African* newspaper) and Dumisani Muleya (editor/senior reporter of the *Zimbabwe Independent* newspaper). Framed not only by recent examples of press repression but also by a growing openness and ubiquity of the media, speakers spoke on such matters as optimistic changes in some countries, such as for example, Ethiopia, continuing dilemmas and risks still facing journalists, and the rise of social media that had widened media participation. Problems, advances and achievements all were aired, including traditions of press freedom, the interfering role of private interests and governments, the mix of state and private media, imbalances in ownership patterns, intimidation, gender representation, and the contribution of media to dislodging corruption. The journalists also discussed their own experiences covering elections, the need for better training of

journalists, how the media can be supported, and persistence of baneful, static stereotypes of Africans. Questions from the floor stimulated still more thoughtful comments on the sometimes perilous yet always vibrant nature and status of investigative journalism, internal pressures within some media, and other matters. The discussion was ably led and contextualised by Dr Richard Vokes and introduced by Dr David Mickler, AfREC director of research and interim director respectively. Together the contributions painted a vivid picture of the challenges and achievements of wide sections of the media across Africa today. (Peter Limb, Perth).

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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](#).