The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP)

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CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

Linda Devereux, University of New South Wales-Canberra
Title: Contested Spaces: Can a socio-psychological approach contribute to an understanding of continuing violence in eastern DRC?

Abstract
Violence has engulfed the eastern border of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for decades. The civil war, frequently referred to as Africa's "First World War," has claimed an estimated four million lives and subjected civilians to displacement, rape, abduction, and torture. The roots of this violence are complex, and encompass economic, political and historical factors several of which can be traced to histories of colonization and corruption. The current scholarly analysis of violence, to a large extent, favours political, economic, historical and social frameworks of analysis. However, motivated by my doctoral research and my personal history, the aim in this paper is to reflect on the merits of a socio-psychological approach. I suggest concepts of intergenerational trauma and memory, such as the extensive work of Vamik Volkan who studies the psychopolitical and psychosocial aspects of large groups in conflict, may be useful as an additional tool to explore dimensions of violence that are rarely discussed in the context of the DRC. My purpose is not to impose a Western psychological framework onto an African context. However, I suggest that a socio-psychological analysis may supplement other approaches and potentially lead to a deeper understanding of this complex and violent situation.

Chukwudi Osondu, Federal Polytechnic, Nigeria
Nwabufo I. Okeke-Uzodike, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
Title: Sustainable development and conflicts in Africa states: courting the traditional conflict resolution and management strategies

Abstract
Africa has over the years been grappling with the issue of development. The persistent instability within the in many African states and sometimes the constraining hostile international economic environment tend to form part of the many factors which combine to truncate whatever little national effort at achieving these states targeted national development goals. Many development alternatives have been experimented by successive national governments of African states since independence, for most of them over the past five decades, both democratic and authoritarian regimes alike. These experiments have come with their attendant pitfalls and in most cases, general lack of achievement of the set goals. The post-Cold War Africa has witnessed a great measure of instability resulting from extremely intense conflict, mostly intra-state conflicts, which swept through Sub-Saharan Africa like wild fire in the magnitude that have not been experienced before. These conflicts unleashed on African and African states a myriad of problems that distort development programmes and targets, disabling every effort at charting agenda at lunching Africa out of the socio-economic doldrums it has found itself. This paper argues that for African states to muster a course of achievable sustainable development process, they have to be able to deal with domestic conflicts as they occur.

Thomas Mukoya, Freelance Photojournalist, Kenya
Title: Horn   of   Africa   Crisis-   One   year   on
Abstract
The Horn of Africa is one of the most complex and conflicted regions of the world. One year after the declaration of famine in Somalia by the United Nations the overall humanitarian situation in the region remains fragile. However, recent political and military developments may have opened up the possibility for increased stability in Somalia for the first time in many years. In his photographic presentation, Thomas will address these recent developments including the on-going military operations inside Somalia combating the presence of Al-Shabaab militia. Thomas joined the Kenyan Defence Forces military operations inside northern Somalia and Kismayu, and has also worked alongside photographers covering the same operations. He will also recoup on the successes and challenges that have faced the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa after re-visiting refugee camps in Dollo Ado near the Ethiopia-Somalia border and the Kakuma Refugee camp in Kenya one year after his earlier visits during the height of the crisis last year.

Juma Abuyi, University of South Australia
Title: *CONFLICTING FAMILY ROLES FOR ACHOLI MEN IN AUSTRALIA: THE IMPACT ON FAMILIES AND SERVICE PROVISION*
Abstract
When people migrate to Australia, the culture shock is enormous as they begin to realise the differences between their old way of life and the new. There is often bewilderment and misunderstanding, which can cause constant worry, unhappiness or family problems. It is arguable that the continuing loss of traditional African new arrivals values and the substitution of these values with Australian values initiate systematic problems within the family and community that may be difficult to resolve. Life in Australia for refugees or humanitarian entrants can be frightening and can bring about nervous tension, apprehension and frustration. Furthermore, the literatures point out that these challenges and difficulties not only affect individuals but also families, social networks and communities. This influences how refugees interact with the social and political system in the country of resettlement. Using both quantitative and qualitative methodology, this paper report on a study of 85 service providers and 20 Acholi men that examines the conflicting family roles for Acholi men in Australia: the impact on families and service provision. The main aim was to learn about how one group of male migrants – Acholi refugee from the Republic of South Sudan – deal with the changes that beset them, how their interactions with the social services develop. This presentation will focus on displaying the result of the findings.

Alan Thorold, Deakin University
Title: Recreating   Africa   in   Australia: The   Werribee   Open   Range   Zoo
Abstract
The Werribee Open Range zoo is situated to the west of the city of Melbourne in the State of Victoria in Australia. It is part of Zoos Victoria, the state controlled body that also includes the Royal Melbourne Zoo and the Healesville Sanctuary. The Werribee Zoo is distinctive in that it has a thematic focus on endangered animals from Africa. The zoo comprises two main sections. One section consists of very large open range enclosures in which some big African animals roam about and interact. Specially constructed safari vehicles can only access this section. The other section consists of a series of walking trails, which can be accessed, on foot by visitors to the zoo. The centrepiece of the zoo is the African walking trail. Also known as the Pula trail, it has been designed as a simulacrum of an African village in the Okavango region of Botswana and themed to educate visitors about the interaction of cattle

herders and wild animals (especially lions) in that region. The zoo also hosts African themed events such as the Rhythms of Africa, which is an annual showcase of African musicians based in Australia. They have drumming workshops, hair braiding, African food stalls and Ethiopian coffee to add to the African ambience. This paper describes the work and vision of the zoo and explores some of the thorny ethical and political issues around representing Africa and Africans in the context of an Australian zoological garden.

Virginia Mapedzahama, Myfanwy Maple, University of New England
Kwamena Kwansah-Aidoo, Swinburn University of Technology
Title: What's all the media hype about? The case of Tamworth Council and Sudanese refugees resettlement (2006)

Abstract
This paper adds to the growing body of work on media, minorities and racism in Australia by analysing the media reporting of the 2006 Tamworth Rural Council's initial decision to refuse the resettlement of five Sudanese families in Tamworth. The decision was reversed after a few weeks, ostensibly due to the pressure brought to bear on the council as a result of the media 'hype'. This paper is presents analyses of the reporting of both the council's initial decision and its subsequent reversal of the decision. The question at the core of our analyses is: did the media play a role in the over-(re)presentation of this case as racist or was this a case of the media reporting racism? We examine print media reports for patterns of presentation as well as representations of both the council and the refugees who were the focus of the reporting. In addition, we examine published reports on the media reporting of the case. We conclude – based on our contention that the media is not objective – that while the media played a significant role in making visible a case built on racial stereotypes, its reporting also contained racialising and paternalistic stereotyping that contribute to the reproduction of both everyday and systemic racism.

Matthew Neuhaus Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe & Zambia; High Commissioner to Dem. Rep of Congo and Malawi
Title: Zimbabwe's future

Andrew Manson, North-West University, South Africa
Title: In the Hands of Destiny: The Bakubung in South Africa's North-West province, (1968-2012)

Abstract
This paper examines the fortunes of a rural community during the apartheid years and in the years following the democratic transition. Comprising two segments, the Bakubung lived at Ventersdorp and Mathopestad in the former western Transvaal. Unable to effectively resist the balkanisation of the South African state, the former were removed under discriminatory legislation, into the homeland of Bophuthatswana. Their Mathopestad compatriots resisted removal, and partly due to a highly publicised visit by Senator Edward Kennedy in 1985, prevented being displaced, one of a handful of black rural communities in SA that successfully did so. In the post-apartheid period however their relative fortunes altered significantly. Those at Mathopestad, unable to sustain rural production, mainly relocated to the economic hub of the Witwatersrand, and contact with their home is precarious. The Ventersdorp people ironically found the farms they had been given in exchange for relocating to Bophuthatswana, to be mineral rich. Sitting now with assets of R700 million, this Bakubung chiefdom is being torn apart over contests relating to this windfall. The paper thus examines their fate in the context.

Raymond Kwun Sun Lau, The University of Queensland

Title: Civilian protection and perpetrator punishment or neither? The Responsibility to Protect and International Criminal Court's judicial intervention in Darfur

Abstract

There has been a change in expectations about international response to mass atrocities in the post-Cold War era and, in particular, the aftermath of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. In a bid to ensure that the world never again fails to act, the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 1998 and the adoption of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle in the 2005 World Summit mark the birth of two forms of responsibilities: responsibility to punish and responsibility to protect. While there are many areas of similarity between R2P and the ICC, they are not always complementary and mutually reinforcing. As a result, international policymakers may find themselves facing the dilemma of managing the tension between the immediate imperative of saving lives and protecting victims and the important prospect of punishing perpetrators and preventing future conflicts through deterrence. Using the nine-year-old conflict in Sudan's Darfur region as a case study, this paper explores the relationship between R2P and the ICC in responding to the government-sponsored atrocities against civilians in Darfur. Concerned about the seriousness of the situation in Darfur, the international community has been galvanised to invoke both R2P and ICC actions simultaneously in temporal terms in Darfur since 2004 onwards. This paper, however, argues that by attempting to protect civilians and punish perpetrators concurrently, the ICC is being instrumentalised by the UN Security Council as a diplomatic tool and this has caused tensions in stopping mass atrocities in Darfur. In particular, it explains why the Court should only be invoked for punishing perpetrators after steps have been taken to protect civilians in Darfur.

Deborah Mayersen, University of Wollongong
Thomas Galloway, University of Queensland
Title: Responding to Genocide: Australian Parliamentary Discussions about the Crisis in Darfur

Abstract

Australia's response [to the crisis in Darfur] has been slow, it has been hesitant, and, I regret to say, it has been inadequate', remarked Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs Kevin Rudd in February 2005. Since 2003, genocide in Darfur has claimed more than 300,000 lives, with 2.6 million more displaced by the conflict. The international response to the crisis has been slow and lackluster, and while the intensity of the conflict has fluctuated in the past nine years, the situation remains dire. As the crisis has unfolded, it has been the subject of substantial discussion within the Australian parliament. Members of Parliament have presented a spectrum of opinions as to Australia's responsibility, and capacity, to respond to the violence. Questions have arisen as to whether Australia can contribute individually, or whether a response through the United Nations is most appropriate. At the same time, Members of Parliament have been critical of the United Nations response and doubtful of Australia's ability to have an impact on the crisis. This paper will explore the central themes within Australian parliamentary discussion of the genocide in Darfur, and examine how this discussion evolved over time. It will also place the discussion within the wider context of Australia's place and obligations within the international community, and the international response to the genocide in Darfur. Finally, it will probe the factors that contributed to the relatively muted Australian response to this genocide.

Peter Run
The University of Queensland
Title: 'New Khartoums': Responding to post-secession settlement in South Sudanese cities

Abstract

After South Sudan seceded from the Republic of Sudan on July 9, 2011, new countries meant new citizenships. However, the Khartoum government stripped persons descended from South Sudan of

their citizenships even if they were born in the north and issued a deadline for relocation. The government of South Sudan in collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration have been helping these people to find new homes in South Sudanese cities and towns. A "New Khartoum" is a local moniker for emergency mass settlement accommodations made of corrugated iron sheets to meet the short term needs of returnees. This paper draws on the growing bodies of literature on the geographies of forced migration and shanty town formation in post-conflict cities to examine the South Sudanese responses to the emergence and expansion of "New Khartoums".

Nawal El-Gack, University of Canberra
Title: Development and Conflicts: the Case of Darfur
Abstract
The conflict in Darfur is not a new phenomenon. For the last five decades there are clashes and tension between many nomadic pastoralists and sedentary tribes in the region. They have fought violently over scarce natural resources but these conflicts were always resolved through the local reconciliation system. However, the current crisis was completely different in its nature than the previous conflicts. This crisis started in 2003, when two armed opposition groups launched surprising attacks on policemen, military bases and some Arab tribal leaders in the area, while accusing the government of marginalizing their people. On the other hand, the central government accused these groups and the Western power and media of using the tense situation, racism slogans and local conflicts in the region to serve personnel and political interests. Apparently, there are conflicting views and interpretations of this crisis but ordinary people, especially in the refugees' camps, are paying the price. Hence this paper will address these issues with more emphasis on development and environmental factors. It argues that this crisis is an internal problem but due to some regional conflicts, struggle over power and international interests and motive it becomes an international case. To improve our knowledge of this case, this paper will examine the causes of the problem and the role of different actors, aiming to put forward some practical solutions.

Imelda Deinla, Australian National University
Title: Fostering Rule of Law in African Integration: realities and contradictions
Abstract
Fostering the rule of law is an ambitious initiative in Africa where many states are weak, unstable or failed, and very poor. Yet the African Union and some Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have shown the capacity to deliver a rule of law program extending from promotion and development of regional norms to political and armed intervention to restore the rule of law. A shift from an absolutist conception of sovereignty towards acceptance of 'sovereignty with responsibility' has allowed the African Union and RECs to consciously foster the rule of law both as a means and end-goal of economic and political integration. Three key factors have influenced this paradigm shift: the pressures of globalization, the need for a comprehensive solution to the 'scourge of conflicts' in Africa, and the continued salience of Pan-Africanism. These factors have in turn shaped the modest successes as well as some of the failures of rule of law promotion in Africa, which will be examined in this paper. Africa's experience reflects the need for the rule of law as an authoritative mechanism for resolving conflicts but also shows that it is not a panacea for all the problems besetting Africa.

Samuel Makinda, Murdoch University
Title: SEEKING AN END TO SOMALI PIRACY: The Role of Governance and Development
Abstract
While many analyses of piracy off the Somali coast have prescribed robust military action, this paper argues that armed force can provide only temporary relief. It posits that a lasting solution to piracy lies in the transformation of the Somali society. Accordingly, the paper examines the relationship between the

crisis of governance in Somalia, the lack of meaningful development and piracy off the Somali coast. It observes that the crisis of governance and the lack of meaningful development are the main drivers of piracy. Therefore, it posits that an effective system of governance, accompanied by targeted development, would provide a lasting solution to Somali piracy.

David   Mickler,   University   of   Melbourne
Title: Peace and security governance in Africa: an Australian contribution
Abstract

Finex   Ndhlovu,   University   of   New   England
Title: Mapping Spaces for African Migrant Languages in Australia: Preliminary Findings from Regional NSW
Abstract
In spite of the overwhelming statistical and research evidence on the diversity of African identities in Australia (Ndhlovu, 2009, 2010, 2011; Borland and Mphande 2006, 2009, Bradshaw, Deumert and Burridge 2008), very little is known (beyond a range of stereotypes) about what the different ethnic groups of Africans do with their multiple language resources in their everyday life in Australia (cf. Musgrave, Ndhlovu, Bradshaw and Pho 2010). Most emerging migrant communities in Australia, including those from Africa, are often described using deficit-led approaches emphasizing migrants' lack of (or having limited) English language proficiency skills as a major barrier to their active citizenship participation. Such communities are rarely profiled from the strength-based perspective focusing on how they use their ethnic/heritage languages to create spaces for resettlement and networking processes in Australia. Based on preliminary analysis of data collected as part of an ongoing study with African communities in regional NSW, this paper reports on the linguistic and discursive practices that African migrants use to create and negotiate material and social spaces in regional Australia. The paper brings to limelight the effect of proficiency in multiple African languages on their speakers' affiliations, and their perceptions of being and belonging in local communities. In the final analysis, the paper suggests that African migrant languages in regional Australia occupy spaces that transcend the traditional role of ethnic identity markers.

Bina Fernandez, University of Melbourne
Title: Africa the 'mobile continent': moving around policies
Abstract:
Contemporary African migrations have to be viewed as co-imbricated with the political and social processes of constructing both borders and boundaries. While migrants may often 'refuse the border', they are nevertheless also constrained by them, as well as by the boundaries mobilized through migrants' gender, class, ethnic, religious or national identities. This paper argues that the policies of African governments tend to disregard the histories and realities of African migrations that occur in the space of Africa as territory. The policies, in contrast, tend to assume Africa as place, and are implicitly informed by two forms of bias: methodological nationalism (or the naturalization of nation-state divisions of the world) and a sedentary bias, both of which are typical of policy approaches to migration in the contemporary phase of globalization.

Christine McMurray, Australia National University
Title: North and Sub-Saharan Africans in Western Europe
Abstract
This paper explores recent data on North and Sub-Saharan Africans residing in France, Germany, Italy and Spain. All four countries face considerable challenges in counting the numbers of foreign born within their borders. Since 2004 France has conducted a rolling census based on an 8% sample of

municipalities over 10,000, but anti-discrimination laws make it illegal for the French state to compile statistics by race and ethnicity. The 2011 Spanish census asks about place of birth, nationality and place of residence one year and 10 years previously, but is a 12% sample census supplemented with vital statistics, social security and taxation statistics. Both the 2011 German and Italian censuses comprise sample surveys plus data from citizen registrations with local authorities, so also include only legal migrants who have chosen to register. These difficulties are compounded by free movement between EU countries and the possibility of travelling between North Africa and Western Europe by boat. The questions raised in this presentation will include: What is the statistical basis for estimates of African residents in these countries? How complete, reliable and comparable are their statistics? How do their regulations governing migration from African countries differ? To what extent do historical connections explain differences in patterns of African residence in these countries?

Nebil Shekur, University of South Australia
Title: Sustainable Land management (SLM): response to a climate change, case in Ethiopia.

Abstract
Environmental degradation in Ethiopia has seriously damaged national economy and gravely affecting well-being of the population, as agriculture comprises large proportion of the GDP and its close dependence on rainfall. The scale of the problem may be subject for debate, but there is no doubt that land degradation is the most serious threats of food production over most parts of the country. Most of the degradation processes are due to inappropriate land use, poor land management practices on steep slopes, and fragile soils. Though the ever increasing population enhanced the pressure both on arable and grazing land, the traditional farming systems of the people also contributed a lot. Forests are cleared and marginal lands are often used for cultivation without any conservation activities. Moreover due to the probable climate change effects Ethiopian agriculture need to transform in a way to withstand variations, in addition to its endeavour to build a climate resilient green economy. Therefore to curb these problems and improve agricultural development activities the government induced sustainable land management strategy based on watershed approach. SLM defined as an efficient, effective and sustainable use of land resources for the production of goods to meet changing human need, while maintaining the environment (WOCAT 2005).

Christian Madubuko, University of New England
Title: INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, TERRITORIAL ACQUISITION AND THE NEW SCRAMBLE FOR PETRO-OIL IN AFRICA: The Case of Nigeria's Niger Delta

ABSTRACT
For centuries starting with the slave trade, the West was believed to have ruthlessly exploited Africa. This exploitation was the principal source of primitive accumulation that signaled the dawn of the era of capitalist accumulation. In the late 19th century, in what is now known as the scramble for Africa, the continent was arbitrarily divided and carved up into colonies by the leading European powers, which violently subjected the African people and plundered the continent of its rich natural resources. In the post-independence period, African states became weak and pawns in the politico-economic chessboard of the international political economy. Consequently, Africa's path to development was chained by their debilitating colonial past. The West also chocked Africa with the entangling web of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) monetary aid that is believed to have inflicted debt regimes in the continent. In recent years, there have been new forms of scramble for Africa's oil resources by capitalist countries. These are represented by the various oil multinationals in the continent whose activities and interests in this region have ignited a new dimension of discontent and oil conflicts among oil producing communities, especially in the Niger Delta region against these companies leading to the formation of various social movements agitating for social and natural justice with negative consequences of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) that continues unabated.

Against the foregoing discussion, this paper discusses the oil violence/conflicts in the Nigeria's Niger Delta within the contest of the capitalist multinational oil competitions, youth unrest and its implications for the Nigerian state and oil bearing communities in the region. It also discusses the roles of the Nigerian government and the oil multinationals in creating rooms for conflicts and violent unrest in the region through policies that are generally viewed as anti-social development. Finally, the paper suggests ways the Nigerian government vis-à-vis Africa's oil producing states can utilize their oil wealth to address poverty, unemployment and social development for the region.

Alice Judell, University of Sydney
Title: The (dis)Possession of Waste at the Mbeubeuss Dump in Dakar
Abstract
Urban dumps in the African continent are under scrutiny by many international and transnational actors. With the increasing prices of raw materials, whether governments (national or local), transnational corporation, academics, non-governmental organisations or local grassroots movements are all showing a growing interest in waste management in urban centres in Africa. Dumps are being privatised under the hegemonic discourse of social-environmental policies. However it often relates to the growing needs of developing African countries and transnational corporations for cheap raw materials. The case of Mbeubeuss in Dakar (Senegal) is particularly interesting as it is a prime example of this growing attention. Not only is Mbeubeuss one of the largest urban dumps in that part of the world, but it is also the dump receiving the most media attention in West Africa. This article focuses on the mechanisms at stake in the privatisation of Mbeubeuss, and moreover the reactions in opposition to the dispossession of the inhabitants of Mbeubeuss. This article draws upon individual field research in Mbeubeuss in February 2011, in the context of the Dakar World Social Forum, as well as the literatures on local waste management and African social movements.

Etienne Nel, Tony Binns & Jessie Smart, University of Otago
Title: URBAN AGRICULTURE ON THE COPPERBELT IN ZAMBIA AS A REPSONSE TO ECONOMIC CHANGE: AN OVERVIEW OF CURRENT AGRICULTURAL PRACTISES AND EMERGING INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT.
Abstract
Urban agriculture is now widely recognized as a both an inevitable and a legitimate response to the lack of economic opportunities available to the residents of the burgeoning cities of the Global South. Unfortunately many governments still adopt a negative response to the growing of crops and the keeping of animals in urban areas, leading to the destruction of crops and enhanced suffering on the part of the poor. One area of the Global South, which has been particularly hard-hit by economic change is the once thriving Copperbelt of Zambia where the collapse of once prosperous mines and industries from the 1990s has forced the majority of the population into a reliance on informal livelihood strategies and urban agriculture. Partially in response to the scale of economic loss, the City Council of Ndola, in a move, which is virtually unique in Africa, has decided to overtly support urban agriculture through policy support, collaboration with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Agriculture and efforts to leverage infrastructural and financial support. This presentation is based on fieldwork in the area undertaken from 2010-12. An overview of the scale of the economic loss the area has experienced is provided, the key role which urban agriculture now plays in people's livelihoods is outlined and emphasis is placed on an assessment of the impact of policy support. The latter leads into a discussion on what impact the Ndola City Council has had and what else the city still needs to do and the broader implications of such support for cities elsewhere in Africa.

Geoffrey Hawker, University of Macquarie
Title: The Extractive Industries Transparency Index (EITI): Transformative in Africa and Australia?

Abstract

The EITI is the most prominent of the "transparency measures" that governments, multilateral organisations and NGOs have forged over the last decade to deal with the excesses of private development, especially in the resources sector of the South. The nations of the North have generally not regarded themselves as candidates for scrutiny through the EITI but now the Australian national government is reluctantly supporting a pilot extension of the EITI to Australian companies. African experience of the EITI has lessons for Australia, a reversal of the route of knowledge so often assumed in the North.

Alec Thornton, University of New South Wales, Canberra

Title: A level playing field? Improving market availability and access for small scale producers in Johannesburg, South Africa

Abstract

Rapid urbanisation has resulted in an increase in urban poverty in the developing world. In response, some governments in developing nations are increasingly considering urban agriculture to combat poverty. However, understandings of formal intervention to link small-scale urban food producers to urban markets are still limited. This paper will present findings from a tentative study of the Johannesburg Fresh Produce Market; a farmers' market located in Johannesburg, Gauteng province, South Africa. Results from a survey of urban farmers suggest that a free market economy may not provide equal benefit between large and small-scale urban producers. Key findings reveal that beneficial relationships and risk-sharing mechanisms are key for urban producers to access this urban market.

Richard Vokes, University of Adelaide

Title: Time for School: Development, Education and Social Change in South-western Uganda

Abstract

This paper explores the social significance of education in Uganda, through an examination of school fees. It begins with the observation that over the past decade or so, discussion of school fees has become a dominant discourse throughout the country, one in which practically all Ugandans, of all social classes, from both rural and urban areas, and across all regions, now engage. 'School fees' no longer refer only to the payments that are made to educational establishments in order to fund students' education. In addition, the phrase has also become a key idiom through which people articulate more general concerns about kinship relations, economic obligations, and processes of social change. Yet so too, this discourse also informs practice, especially in the three or four weeks before the start of a new school, college or university term, during which parents and guardians will typically enter into an intense (often frenetic) round of engagements with their kin, their exchange partners, and with various institutions of state, in an attempt to raise the monies required to keep their children, and their other dependents, in school. The purpose of this paper is to both explore how and why this discourse of school fees has become so dominant in Uganda in recent years, and to trace some of the implications of its various social effects. In relation to the former, the paper argues that the current situation is the outcome of a range of overlapping trends, which include (amongst other things): 1) a colonial, and post-colonial, history in which a series of elite schools dominated access to the political space in Uganda, 2) a new set of development agendas which, beginning in the early 1990s, have privileged education spending, 3) a concomitant rise in the number of private education providers, and 4) a growing perception, largely fuelled by the media, that education represents the only means for achieving physical, and social, mobility in Uganda. In regard to social effects, the paper goes on to argue that exchanges related to school fees have today become the primary mechanism wealth re-distribution in Uganda. This rather grand claim is supported by a range of ethnographic evidence, drawn from both rural and urban areas, and from a number of different regions, and includes

examination of wealthy businessmen's patronage networks, local officials' electioneering practices, and the recent emergence, throughout the country, of 'ekigombe' savings societies.

Valentine Mukuria, University of Macquarie
Title: UNIVERSITIES IN AUSTRALIA AS THE PLACE AND SPACE FOR ENGAGING AFRICANS IN AFRICAN STUDIES: REFLECTIONS ON AFRICANS IN THE ACADEMIC SPACE
Abstract
African studies are taught at various higher education institutions across the globe, with even some departments designated as African Studies Departments. Universities in Australia can be considered as a space for discourse, dialogue, learning and teaching of African studies, with particular emphasis on what and how African people can contribute towards enriching the curriculum on African studies. So what role do African people play in shaping, re-shaping and enhancing the African studies curricula in Australian universities? What sorts of platforms facilitate the sharing and exchange of knowledge from and by African people about African issues? What are African issues anyway and what can we learn from Africans about these issues? What knowledge about African issues and Africans can be counted and accounted for in the universities' "knowledge bank"? This paper is a reflective response that explores the above questions as pertaining to African studies at an Australian university in Sydney and proposes recommendations on how Australian universities can enrich the curricula on African studies by intentionally creating a place for the participation and involvement of African people in the academic space.

Michael   Nest,   Independent   Researcher
Djumapili Isaac Bacirongo, Former Activist
Title: Recording an African-Australian memoir: motivations and challenges
Abstract
Memoirs of migrants and refugees are an established genre in Australia, but the telling of African Australian stories is in its infancy. This means that common themes are yet to emerge, other than flight from violence and sanctuary in a new country which is at the heart of refugee stories everywhere. Common challenges, distinct to the recording of African Australian stories (as opposed, for example, to Chinese, Italian or Aboriginal Australian stories), are also yet to emerge. This presentation analyses the motivations and challenges of recording a specific oral history from the perspective of a story-teller (Djumapili Isaac Bacirongo, a Pygmy activist from DR Congo who came to Sydney as a refugee in 2003) and of a recorder (Michael Nest), who are collaborating on an oral history project. For the story-teller, there is a strong desire to tell the history of his Pygmy community, which continues to be discriminated against and marginalized from education, work, housing and land in Congo. There is also a desire for his children to know their family history. A key challenge is fear of 'coming out of the shadows' – of possible negative consequences if his story is published and becomes known. A sense of inferiority is so ingrained in Pygmies that simply stating 'I am a Pygmy' is a radical act and takes courage. For the recorder, there are technical writing challenges and one must be calculated: sufficiently compassionate in order to elicit memories, but sufficiently detached to remain alert to the questions that need to be asked, the gaps that need to be filled and what memories will interest a publisher. Recording oral histories is not straightforward. The remembering process is complicated and the significant events that need to be recorded can involve strong emotions such as loss, shame or fear.

Russell McDougall, University of New England
Title: The Teddy Bears' Picnic: English Literature in Sudan, Condominium to Independence
Abstract

In 2007 a middle-aged "English" teacher named Gillian Gibbons was jailed in Khartoum, convicted of inciting religious hatred by allowing her class to name an quintessentially English teddy bear "Mohammed." No subject has played a more important or ambiguous role in British colonial education than English; and no educator was more important to nation building across the British Empire than the English Teacher. Yet English teachers in Africa have often played the role of a double agent, working both for and against local interests. This paper will focus on the subject English during Sudan's transition to independence, a period uniquely complicated in the history of the British Empire, not only by the tensions between Britain and Egypt but also by the new Cold War positioning of the Middle East in global politics. It will show how the discipline – both at the University of Khartoum and in British universities - responded to the emergent Sudanese independence movement, to the achievement of independence in 1956, and to the first suspension of democracy with the coup of 1958.

Tanya   Lyons,   Flinders   University
Title: The hidden links with Africa: Australian academics in African Studies
Investigating the results of the Africa Project 2011 which audited Australian Universities for their topics, courses and capacity in African Studies, and utilizing the more detailed results of an audit of one Australian university's academic staff and their connections to Africa, this paper will explore the "hidden" links with Africa in Australian Universities. The paper will argue that initiatives such as the Australia-Africa University Network will necessarily rely on the these individuals "coming out" and supporting the partnerships and collaborations with their African counterparts. This paper will argue that more Australian academics should become members of AFSAAP than currently are – if not by subscription, then by identifying their current research in the field of African Studies.

Richard Grant, University of Miami
Title: E-waste and E-Scrap Circuitry: the Ghanaian Interchange
Abstract
Research to date focuses on e-waste imports into particular African states and e-waste sites and recycling within individual African cities. The emerging consensus is highly critical of linear understandings of final resting place of e-waste. A richer and more nuanced conceptualization of e-waste is to recognize that e-waste is ongoing and that some components can have different lives, entering into processes and result in different reconfigurations within separate production circuits. A very powerful, provocative image of youths engaging in burning computers to extract traces of precious metals raises the important question of the human-health-environmental consequences but such powerful imagery also anchors e-waste understandings to specific e-waste sites, (typically urban slums) overlooking ongoing connectivity from the urban slum to elsewhere. E-waste circuitry in Accra, Ghana is assessed. The paper delves deeper within economic processes and study how scrap metals get re-circulated within different production economies. The paper uses customs trade data of e-scrap exports and we map international geographies of e-waste exports. The corporate geographies of International operators who adopt innovative technique to circumvent domestic as well as international regulations are mapped to illustrate e-waste mosaics. The findings show how e-scrap metals are exported from urban Africa to Europe and Asia. This research makes three contributions: It maps the invisible African urban informal economy; documents trace metal exports; and adds a more nuanced and critical understanding of the international e-waste economy.

Ainsley Elbra, University of Sydney
Title: Panacea or Pretence? The role of private governance in alleviating Zambia's resource curse
Abstract
While the pervasiveness of the resource curse continues to be debated, for most of sub-Saharan Africa the paradox of plenty remains - the continent is rich in minerals yet many states have struggled to

achieve consistent economic growth and development outcomes. The existing literature is state-centric, failing to acknowledge the role of international extractive firms in the perpetuation of this paradox. The role of private governance in developing states has not been thoroughly examined. Proponents of institutions such as the EITI argue that private governance brings added transparency and accountability, aimed at alleviating the problems associated with the resource curse. Instead, this paper shows that in the case of Zambia the private authority of firms, relative to the state, has led to the government's inability to raise taxes or implement sufficient monitoring and auditing functions thereby worsening the outcomes associated with the resource curse. Zambia's membership of the EITI, at the recommendation of Western donors and the World Bank, is aimed at rectifying this imbalance of power. However, it is argued that membership of the EITI is unlikely to curb the private authority of mining firms and may actually enhance their power by strengthening their legitimacy.

Margaret O'Callaghan, Australian National University
Title: Solwezi: what happened to the Zambian El Dorado?
Abstract

Up until early 2000 the sparsely populated North Western Province of Zambia had been "historically excluded from capitalist development", politically neglected and economically undeveloped. The turning point came when the long standing Angolan and Congolese wars ended and global copper price rocketed. Known to be an extension of the neighbouring Katanga and Copperbelt geological formation, mining companies moved in. By 2010 two major mines were in full production and a third was in the process of being opened up, with others following.

Almost overnight Solwezi, the provincial capital, was transformed from a sleepy rural town into a thriving metropolis, a supposed Eldorado to which Zambians flocked. A decade on, based on the compilation of an annotated bibliography, this study will provide an analysis of what the literature says about how NWP has coped with the deluge. It will also discuss whether it is possible to tell who is benefiting and whether the previously prevailing high poverty levels have lessened. It will also examine whether its experiences are comparable to those of the famous, well documented but devastated Copperbelt and whether any lessons have been learnt about effectively coping with such a deluge.

Kwamena Kwansah-Aidoo, Swinburn University of Technology
Virginia Mapedzahama, University of New England
Title: "I just go on with life, I ignore them and just go!" Coping responses to Racism among the New African Diaspora in Australia
Abstract

Racism as stressor is acknowledged in both popular discourse and in academic literature. However, in Australia, there is a relative lack of literature that explores how groups or individuals who persistently experience racism cope with this stressor. This paper adds to the literature on racism coping strategies in Australia by highlighting the experiences of the African diaspora in Australia. Drawing on the data from a small qualitative study on identity and belonging among the African diaspora, we examine how participants talk about racial encounters and the ways in which they deal with those encounters. We conceptualise two main coping styles that our participants employ: in the first instance, there is direct response/ acknowledgement, which involves confronting the event and naming it as a racist event. In this case, there is alertness to the racist act and a willingness to speak out either directly to the person(s) perpetrating the act or seeking a forum to voice their concerns about the experience – a clear overt response. Second is avoidance, which we argue include non-acknowledgement of racism, claims to a framework of colour-blindness (and even claims of an Australian society that is colour-blind). Our concern in this paper is mainly with analyses of avoidance coping strategies and how these are negotiated and played out within the context of the everyday livelihoods of respondents. We

contend that avoidance strategies, though seemingly a passive denial of racism are in fact not so; they are conscious agentic acts of 'survival' intended to help those who use them, cope with persistent racism, which as the literature indicates, may have health implications that go beyond the confines of this paper.

Ibolya Losonzc, Australian Natinal University
Title: "We are thinking they are helping us, but they are destroying us." – Repairing the legitimacy of Australian government authorities in the South Sudanese community
Abstract
Dealing with a range of government authorities is the reality of the daily life of many newly arrived humanitarian immigrants to Australia. In recent years a range of projects to improve the relationships with members of the South Sudanese community of Australia have been initiated by the community and governments. Still, in-depth interviews of more than 30 South Sudanese community members and community development workers find these relationships to be fractured. Dealing with government authorities is often experienced by the community as unhelpful and lacking respect, trust and awareness of the unique circumstances and needs of the community. Some members of the community questioned the legitimacy and integrity of these organisations and their actions. Managing relationships and utilising the unique values and identities of divergent groups requires government organisations that have legitimacy (Tyler, 1997). In the view of Suchman (1995), the legitimacy of organisations depends on the degree to which people believe, within their socially constructed system of norms and values, that such organisations act in ways that are proper and appropriate. Thus legitimacy represents the reaction of people to the organisation as they see it. Using this perspective as theoretical framework, this paper will examine the extent of legitimacy assumed by members of the South Sudanese community to government authorities and will consider strategies for repairing and managing it.

David Lucas and Barbara Edgar, Australian National University
Title: AFRICAN AUSTRALIANS IN 2011
Abstract
The results of the 2011 Australian Census of Population are being progressively released and show substantial increases in numbers born in many African countries, including Zimbabwe (up 50 per cent since 2006) and South Africa (up 40 per cent). In August 2012, the TableBuilder online tool became available for 2011 Census data, so that users can create their own tables at different geographical area levels. This paper looks at the characteristics of the Africa-born in 2011 with some emphasis on the faster-growing birthplace groups. Comparisons are made between countries such as South Africa, which supply business and skilled migrants, and countries from which most migrants enter under the Humanitarian program. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Settlement Database provides supplementary data up until 2011. Other sources include the documentation from the Australian Human Rights Commission's African Australians project and from the Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with the Countries of Africa.

Paul Munro, University of Melbourne
Title: Charles Lane-Poole's legacy: The rise and decline of Forest Reservationism in Sierra Leone
Abstract
In 1912, the colonial forester Charles Lane-Poole (at the age of 24) not only set up Sierra Leone's Forestry Department and drafted the country's first forestry law, but he also set in motion a specific approach to the 'management' of the country's forests: the creation of forest reserves. This system of forest reservation was justified as a moral mission, and involved moving control of the country's forests away from the local population (who were deemed to be too ignorant) to a Forestry

Department under the colonial government. The impetus behind this approach was based on a (flawed) notion that the country had been (and was continuing to be) heavily deforested, and therefore required the intervention of European forestry science to prevent future desiccation. This presentation traces this phenomenon of forest reservation in Sierra Leone; drawing upon archival and interview data, the presentation critically examines how this approach to reservation has been shaped through different epochs, and its implications for contemporary forest conservation in Sierra Leone.

Bernard K. Mbenga, North-West University, South Africa
Title: Absentee landownership, labour tenancy and crop production among the Bakgatla people of the Pilanesberg region of the North-West Province, South Africa, 1902 – 1929
Abstract

This paper examines forms and conditions of African tenancy and crop production on white-owned farms in the (former) Transvaal, South Africa, generally and among the Bakgatla people of the Pilanesberg region specifically, from 1902 (the end of the South African (Anglo-Boer) War) to c.1929 (the beginning of the world economic depression). It shows that of the several forms of tenancy in the Transvaal, it was labour tenancy in particular that predominated in the Pilanesberg and gives reasons for the phenomenon. It argues that despite the restrictions of the Natives Land Act of 1913, which segregated land in South Africa between whites and blacks and made African sharecropping on white-owned farms illegal. African farm tenants in the Pilanesberg prospered as labour tenants on such farms precisely because of the region's high degree of absentee landownership – which allowed tenants a degree of independence and therefore the freedom to maximize production and profits.

Moses Tesi, Middle Tennessee State University, USA
Title: China in Africa: A Case Study of Chinese Economic Activities and Development or Non-Development in Cameroon
Abstract

Much has been written in the past decade about China's growing economic relations with Africa. Key to the discussions that this has generated is whether the Chinese economic surge will generate the much needed development that has eluded the region, or whether it will instead sap the region's resources and leave it worse than it was as European colonialism had done earlier. This paper examines this question within the context of China's relations with Cameroon. The goal is to use Cameroon as a case study to investigate the broad question of China and African development or non-development and the more specific issue of the benefits and/or harm of China's economic penetration of Cameroon. Research for the paper was done in Cameroon in the summers of 2008, 2010, and 2012, and in China in the Summer of 2011.

Joyce Osei Owusu & Kwamena Kwansah-Aidoo, Swinburn University of Technology
Title: Scorned: The Woman's Film in an African Context
Abstract

This paper explores the woman's film within the context of Africa and African cinematography by examining the Ghanaian video film Scorned (2008), written and directed by Shirley Frempong Manso. Some African film scholars, particularly those that write on Nigerian and Ghanaian Videos films, have adopted western categorizations in their attempts to classify the various films churned out by the bourgeoning film industry in Ghana and Nigeria. Consequently, borrowed categories like Drama, Comedy, Romance, Melodrama, and Horror have been used to delineate one genre from the other within this stream of African film studies. In response to this situation, Haynes (2010) warns against the imposition of imported generic taxonomies on such videos without proper scrutiny and adjustment, and makes an argument "for cultural humility and inductive procedures in approaching video film genres" (Haynes 2010: 20). Bearing Haynes' caution in mind, this paper examines the themes,

narrative structure, and cinematic style employed in the Ghanaian video film Scorned (2008), comparing it to the 1930s – 1950s women's film genre of Hollywood. We argue that the film Scorned follows the traditional genre of the woman's Hollywood movie while simultaneously subverting some of the ingrained elements and expectations of that genre. From an analytical point of view of African popular culture, we posit that the film merges and renegotiates the generic elements of the woman's film as represented in the Hollywood woman's film genre and melodrama by focusing on the underpinning ideologies, plot, and aesthetics in making visible the Ghanaian woman's experience and constructing a female consciousness. Such engagements contribute to teasing out some of the generic elements, which could constitute the African woman's film.

Jean Burke, Australian Catholic University
Title: Discrimination and violence against Tanzanians with albinism in the Great Lakes region: social exclusion and national shame
Abstract
Africans with albinism experience stigma as people with white skin in black societies, and as people with disabilities of low vision or blindness and tendencies towards contracting skin cancers. A recent form of discrimination is attacks against people with albinism in Tanzania, reported by news media since 2006. Violence in the Great Lakes region appears to be driven by traditional 'witchdoctors' and carried out by contract killers to meet a market for albino body parts along an axis of wealth and poverty. This paper discusses how discrimination and violence against people with albinism, especially children, is portrayed in Swahili and English Tanzanian news articles of 2008-2012. A content analysis reveals that coverage is most commonly framed in terms of law enforcement and national shame, reflecting sourcing from court and police reports and politicians' statements, with some human rights framing. This analysis also shows how people with albinism are portrayed as 'skin-disabled', humans with rights and economic commodities, and their attackers as sub-human and betrayers of the nation. While exhortations are made to accept and include people with albinism, strategies of protection, such as institutionalising children in boarding school, also effectively act to exclude them.

Samuel Muraguri Muchoki, La Trobe University
Title: '[In Australia] what comes first are the women, then children, cats, dogs, followed by men': Exploring the narratives of men with refugee backgrounds from the Horn of Africa
Abstract
This article reports on the interpretation given by men in relation to their 'position' relative to that of women in Australia. The findings are drawn from the author's PhD research project that investigates the sexuality and sexual health of men with refugee backgrounds from Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Eritrea in the context of migration and resettlement. Overall, participants argued that men as a gendered group rank lowest in Australia. They pointed out two major areas that led to this: the economic independence of women, against the backdrop of men's inability to fulfil the traditional role as providers to their families; and the social structure in Australia [laws, policies and services] that govern gender and family relations. The author argues that upon resettlement these men are confronted with 'new ways' on organising personal life—doing sexuality, doing gender, doing relationships, doing erotism, doing identities. These become 'arenas' on which they question their masculinity. Consequently, they devise various strategies in an attempt to adjust to the ways personal life is organized in Australia; some opposing it, others tolerating and accept it. These strategies influence how they enact their sexuality and do affect the sexual health and sexual well-being of some men.

Mamadou Bah, University of Waikato, New Zealand
Title: The Military and Politics in West Africa: Instrumental vs. Primordial Approaches

Abstract
Recent studies on theories of contemporary violent conflicts identify strong relationship between military intervention in politics and armed conflicts in West Africa. These studies conclude that, coups – whether successful or otherwise – often trigger countercoup, military factionalism, ethnic polarization, chaotic politics and communal violence, which often contribute to the outbreak of armed conflicts in West African nations. Yet, a closer examination reveals varied outcome of military intervention in the political affairs of the region. While in a number of cases such interventions triggered large scale violence and/or armed conflicts, in a number of other instances political stability followed military intervention in politics. What determine the outcome of military intervention in political affairs of the region? This study argues that the understanding of the divergent outcome of military intervention in West African politics can be enhanced by using a model derived from ethnic and identity literature – in the Instrumental and/ or Primordial sense – whereby military behaviour in politics is seen through the lens of an ethnic group's behaviour. This study can advance interdisciplinary research of political behaviour of military establishments in West African nations that goes beyond the conventional civil-military relations discussion.

Lorraine Bowan, University of New South Wales-Sydney
Title: The Rule of Law and the Judicial Straight Line; the Right to Fair Trial in Sierra Leone.
Abstract
Taking the right to fair trial as a yardstick for assessing Sierra Leone's transition from a lawless state at war with itself (1991 – 2002) to the stable democracy of a state with the rule of law, this paper examines three legal cases, each separated by the passage of six years and concerning, firstly, the execution of twelve soldiers accused of treason, secondly, the treason trial of an aspiring politician and thirdly, the detention of ten ex-combatants campaigning for pensions. All were marred by serious procedural unfairness and violations of fair trial rights. The police station, the courthouse and the prison are the places where people face the law but the conceptual spaces of this process are globalised through international law. This paper found that a temporal transition paradigm was less insightful than a paradigm that offers a way of looking into the nature of a sovereignty that resists the actualization of international legal norms in this African setting. The significance of the findings lies in the way we perceive the tension between the citizen and the state in Africa on the one hand and the state as global citizen on the other.

Gregory Rublee, Australian National University
Title: Norms of Political Participation in Pre-Colonial and Colonial Sierra Leone: Clash of Cultures?
Abstract
Governance reform is all the rage in development policy circles, with an emphasis on the norms of good governance, such as transparency, accountability, and participation. I will examine the norms of political participation in pre-colonial and colonial Sierra Leone, highlighting the similarities and differences between the indigenous and British ideas of proper participation. In addition, I focus on the clash of norms that British colonial rule brought, exploring how the norm adaptation that resulted ended up shaping the idea of political participation in post-colonial Sierra Leone. This is based on a chapter in my thesis as it relates to the current state of international norm internalization in Sierra Leone in the area of participatory governance.

Kofi Poku Quan-Baffour, University of South Africa
Title: Unity in Diversity: Ubuntu in the classroom to promote learning among adults from diverse backgrounds
Abstract

Millions of adults in South Africa cannot read and write, not even in their home languages, because they did not get the opportunity to attend school during childhood. To enable them access written information and contribute effectively to the socio- economic development of the country the majority government that came into power in 1994 has made basic education provision available to them. The adult learners who attend classes at the various learning centres in the various communities come from diverse cultural backgrounds with wealth of experiences. Such lived experiences when tapped could enhance learning during classroom interactions. This paper focuses on the application of the African philosophy of Ubuntu (sharing, love, cooperation and support) as a teaching strategy to elicit experiences, support and cooperation among adult learners. As an adult educator for over three decades the author sees learning as a social activity and when classroom interaction is based on the precepts of ubuntu it may not only enable learners to support each other for the achievement of learning goals but can also encourage them to practice the African philosophy in their communities in various ways to promote social cohesion in a country polarized by apartheid ethnicity and xenophobia.

Mpho Dichaba, University of South Africa
Title: Community consultation: An African approach to implement an enduring basic education learning   programme   for   adults
Abstract
In most rural communities in South Africa, thousands of adults lack basic education and this impede family and community development. Adult educators may provide basic learning programmes to adults and for these programmes to be sustainable, the target groups or community members need to be consulted before setting or starting. In Africa informal and formal consultations are of great cultural value. Before any project starts in an African community the planners meet the chief and lobby for his support. Once the chief agrees he would call for meeting with all his subjects- the beneficiaries or the target groups- and explain to them the importance of the project. In line with this African cultural value of consultation educators of basic education programme need to consult target groups to sell the idea to them and get their inputs. Once they are involved right from the onset adult learners are not likely to vote with their feet when the programme starts. They may patronise it for the achievement of their learning goals. The objective of this paper is to discuss the value of stakeholder consultation in the implementation of sustainable adult learning programmes in rural communities in South Africa. The paper which is based on the experiences of the authors in the field of adult education for many decades used the qualitative research method to validate their assumption.

Jill Sergeant Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO).
Title: HIV and sub-Saharan African Communities in Australia: Questions Unanswered
Abstract
Since 2005 the number of HIV diagnoses in Australian residents who were born in sub-Saharan Africa has been increasing and in 2011 this group constituted 7.6% of all new HIV diagnoses in Australia and 32% of all heterosexual diagnoses between 2007 and 2011. In late 2009 the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) began a series of consultations nationwide with sub–Saharan African communities in order to investigate why this rise might be occurring and identify key care, support, HIV prevention and policy issues. The consultations, which were followed by national forums in May 2011 and September 2012, involved community leaders, people living with HIV, multicultural HIV/BBV services, and HIV services. The consultations identified that key challenges faced by African people with HIV in Australia include late diagnosis, racism, stigma and discrimination; and immigration-related problems such as financial hardship and difficulty accessing treatment. Key issues in HIV prevention work are the stigma attached to HIV, mythologies around HIV transmission and illness, gender inequity, and cultural sensitivities around talking about sex. Key policy issues relate to immigration, Medicare ineligibility and the disproportionate representation of African men among people who are

prosecuted for the knowing transmission of HIV. The consultations also identified gaps in our knowledge and raised a number of questions, such as where and why people are becoming infected, how to best address stigma, how to enhance social research in this population without exhausting small communities, and why African men are over-represented in criminal cases. This presentation will explore these questions, with reference to the experience of the African diaspora in other developed countries.

Thomas Jerome Yeboah, University of Education Winneba-Ghana and Kofi Poku Quan-Baffour, University of South Africa
Title: FROM PERSECUTION TO EMPOWERMENT: THE CHANAGING ATTITUDE OF BONO INDEGENS TOWARDS PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

Abstract
Literature is replete with ample evidence of persecuting practices against persons living with disability worldwide. Across the world, some people with disability have been subjected to ridicule, alienation and even death. Others are either ostracized or face perpetual exclusion from community interactions. The objective of this study was to examine the current dispositions of the Bono people of Techiman, Ghana, towards persons with disability in the society. The study used qualitative methodology to explore the current attitudes of some indigenes of Bono Techiman towards persons living with disability. The Bono who are distinct sub-group of the Akan, the largest ethnic group in Ghana, are culturally conservative. The authors employed purposive sampling technique to recruit 60 participants for the explorative study. The sample included 15 traditional leaders, 15 religious leaders, 15 persons living with disabilities and 15 parents of persons with disability. Findings from the study revealed that the practice of ill-treating persons with disability is no longer tenable amongst the Bono because of the influence of education and Christianity. Most of the people with disability are currently enrolled in schools whilst others are engaged in one economic activity or the other. The study concludes that there is a changing attitude of the indigenes towards persons with disability from persecution to empowerment.

Abdullah Teia, South Australia University
Title: The Nuba people of Sudan : Cultural Perspectives and The Impact of War

Abstract
Many Australians are familiar with Africans who arrived to Australia yet very few have heard of the African Nuba of Sudan. The Nuba occupies a small area, yet the languages they speak are equivalent to those spoken in all Africa. They are famous for their unique culture, one of Africa's oldest cultures. This paper will discuss findings from a qualitative and historical overview of the culture, identity and livelihoods of the African Nuba. It also explores historical links between Australia and Sudan (1885) and with the Nuba Mountains, (1920, 1950 and 1962) and Nuba cultural perspectives. Key findings include that competition over resources, racial, political, and religious wars are threatening the Nuba's social fabric. The international community has both moral obligation and responsibility to protect the people of the Nuba, the Blue Nile and the rest of indigenous Sudanese from extinction.

Nikola Pijovic, Roskilde University, Denmark
Title: Seceding but not Succeeding: Explaining Somaliland's lacking international recognition in the African context

Abstract
The purpose of this paper is to examine and analyze one aspect of the complexities of Somaliland's

international recognition as a sovereign state. Its focus is on international relations and foreign policies of Somaliland and several African countries, all of which are, for various reasons, important for Somaliland's international recognition. What the paper seeks to understand is how Somaliland's lacking international recognition is influenced by the foreign policies of relevant African states, and the African Union?

Tubake Refiloe Thobejane
James Cook University
Improvement of Formulated Feeds and Feeding Management in Intensive Aquaculture
Most of the Sub-Saharan Countries relay on food aid and are plagued with food insecurity. Improvements of agricultural production will play a major role in addressing some of the challenges. Fishing is a common agricultural activity in communities living in coastal areas and also along the rivers, lakes and creeks. The fishery systems are under treat from upstream activities and overfishing owning to growing population and unsustainable management practices. This challenge is further exacerbated by increase food and nutrition demands, climate change and other factors. Introduction of and/or transformation to intensive aquaculture production systems will contribute to breaking the cycle of food insecurity. The main factor which affects the success of intensified aquaculture is feed cost, accounting for 70 % of the total production system. The success in this type of culture is highly dependent on the availability of nutritionally complete and cost effectiveness of the formulated feed. On the other hand, even a nutritionally balanced diet exhibiting poor water stability will quickly become nutritionally impoverished as a result of nutrient loss through leaching and not contribute to the growth of the culture animal. In turn, while the use of high-quality feed may not necessarily provide high returns, improvements to feed management practice can significantly increase returns for the feed to be utilised efficiently by cultured animals. Therefore, the aim of this proposed study is to evaluate the use of binders to improve diet water stability, ideal pellet size for easy handling and optimal feeding for effective feed consumption which will enhance growth of the cultured animals, minimise feed wastage that will subsequently reduce production costs of feed.

Nebil SHEKUR
University of South Australia
Sustainable Land management (SLM): response to a climate change, case in Ethiopia.
Environmental degradation in Ethiopia has seriously damaged national economy and gravely affecting well-being of the population, as agriculture comprises large proportion of the GDP and its close dependence on rainfall. The scale of the problem may be subject for debate, but there is no doubt that land degradation is the most serious threats of food production over most parts of the country. Most of the degradation processes are due to inappropriate land use, poor land management practices on steep slopes, and fragile soils. Though the ever increasing population enhanced the pressure both on arable and grazing land, the traditional farming systems of the people also contributed a lot. Forests are cleared and marginal lands are often used for cultivation without any conservation activities. Moreover due to the probable climate change effects Ethiopian agriculture need to transform in a way to withstand variations, in addition to its endeavour to build a climate resilient green economy. Therefore to curb these problems and improve agricultural development activities the government induced sustainable land management strategy based on watershed approach. SLM defined as an efficient, effective and sustainable use of land resources for the production of goods to meet changing human need, while maintaining the environment (WOCAT 2005).

Samuel Muraguri Muchoki
La Trobe University

**'[In Australia] what comes first are the women, then children, cats, dogs, followed by men':
Exploring the narratives of men with refugee backgrounds from the Horn of Africa**
This article reports on the interpretation given by men in relation to their 'position' relative to that of women in Australia. The findings are drawn from the author's PhD research project that investigates the sexuality and sexual health of men with refugee backgrounds from Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Eritrea in the context of migration and resettlement. Overall, participants argued that men as a gendered group rank lowest in Australia. They pointed out two major areas that led to this: the economic independence of women, against the backdrop of men's inability to fulfil the traditional role as providers to their families; and the social structure in Australia [laws, policies and services] that govern gender and family relations. The author argues that upon resettlement these men are confronted with 'new ways' on organising personal life—doing sexuality, doing gender, doing relationships, doing erotism, doing identities. These become 'arenas' on which they question their masculinity. Consequently, they devise various strategies in an attempt to adjust to the ways personal life is organized in Australia; some opposing it, others tolerating and accept it. These strategies influence how they enact their sexuality and do affect the sexual health and sexual well-being of some men.

Mamadou Diouma Bah
University of Waikato, New Zealand
The Military and Politics in West Africa: Instrumental vs. Primordial Approaches
Recent studies on theories of contemporary violent conflicts identify strong relationship between military intervention in politics and armed conflicts in West Africa. These studies conclude that, coups – whether successful or otherwise – often trigger countercoup, military factionalism, ethnic polarization, chaotic politics and communal violence which often contribute to the outbreak of armed conflicts in West African nations. Yet, a closer examination reveals varied outcome of military intervention in the political affairs of the region. While in a number of cases such interventions triggered large scale violence and/or armed conflicts, in a number of other instances political stability followed military intervention in politics. What determine the outcome of military intervention in political affairs of the region? This study argues that the understanding of the divergent outcome of military intervention in West African politics can be enhanced by using a model derived from ethnic and identity literature – in the Instrumental and/ or Primordial sense – whereby military behaviour in politics is seen through the lens of an ethnic group's behaviour. This study can advance interdisciplinary research of political behaviour of military establishments in West African nations that goes beyond the conventional civil-military relations discussion.

Kwame Agyei
Australian National University
Towards Sustainable Climate Change Mitigation in Ghana: Making the National REDD+ scheme pro-poor
Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable forest management (REDD+) is an incentive-based climate change mitigation mechanism that seeks to sustainably manage forests in developing countries for its manifold functions including reducing carbon dioxide emissions from deforestation, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction. As an incentive based mechanism, the REDD+ scheme will invariably involve sharing of revenue amongst various stakeholders. Any perception of inequity in the framework for sharing of such benefits could greatly affect the attainment of the environmental and socio-economic objectives of the REDD+ scheme. Some approaches proposed for sharing of benefits from the REDD+ scheme include Payments for Environmental Services (PES) Approach; Participatory Forest Management Approach and the Forest Concession Management Approach. This paper discusses

these three approaches in terms of how each approach will address equity from the perspective of forest fringe communities in Ghana. Secondary data for this research will be sourced from published materials on the three approaches whereas targeted sampling will also be utilised to identify respondent for primary data collection. It is anticipated that the research will lead to specific recommendations that could refine the benefit sharing scheme of a national REDD+ scheme in Ghana.

JENNIFER A. ONGALO ORWA
Avondale College of Higher Education
On Interstitial Spaces: Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye's identity, belonging and subversion in *Homing In*
This research seeks to identify the distinctive characteristics of Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye's writing paying specific attention to her representations of people, places and spaces in Kenya. Macgoye has been studied by Kenyans, as an African writer but she is also referred to as "British-born". It is these identities, including the hyphenated identity, that are of interest in the study as they change, challenge and re-shape existing knowledge of African people, spaces and places. Binaries are designations of power relations where there is always a dominant one (Derrida) as in the colonised/coloniser relationship from which colonial and neo-colonial writing is constructed. Macgoye, on the other hand, occupies an interstitial space where the binarisms of "colonial/postcolonial; white/Kenyan woman" are problematic. Does her work exist in the liminal space (threshold area; in-between space); a space of symbolic interaction with both or more cultures? This presentation explores how Macgoye negotiates the space she writes in to re-map, re-examine and remake the boundaries of culture, language and history and current ways of reading.

Christian C. MADUBUKO
University of New England
INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, TERRITORIAL ACQUISITION AND THE NEW SCRAMBLE FOR OIL IN AFRICA: The Case of Nigeria's Niger Delta
For centuries starting with the slave trade, the West was believed to have ruthlessly exploited Africa. This exploitation was the principal source of primitive accumulation that signalled the dawn of the era of capitalist accumulation. In the late 19th century, in what is now known as the scramble for Africa, the continent was arbitrarily divided and carved up into colonies by the leading European powers, which violently subjected the African people and plundered the continent of its rich natural resources. In the post-independence period, African states became weak and pawns in the politico-economic chessboard of the international political economy. Consequently, Africa's path to development was chained by their debilitating colonial past. The West also chocked Africa with the entangling web of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) monetary aid that is believed to have inflicted debt regimes in the continent. In recent years, there have been new forms of scramble for Africa's oil resources by capitalist countries. These are represented by the various oil multinationals in the continent whose activities and interests in this region have ignited a new dimension of discontent and oil conflicts among oil producing communities, especially in the Niger Delta region against these companies leading to the formation of various social movements agitating for social and natural justice with negative consequences of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) that continues unabated. Against the foregoing discussion, this paper discusses the oil violence/conflicts in the Nigeria's Niger Delta within the contest of the capitalist multinational oil competitions, youth unrest and its implications for the Nigerian state and oil bearing communities in the region. It also discusses the roles of the Nigerian government and the oil multinationals in creating rooms for conflicts and violent unrest in the region through policies that are generally viewed as anti-social development. Finally, the paper suggests ways the Nigerian government vis-à-vis Africa's oil producing states can utilise their oil wealth to address poverty, unemployment and social development for the region.

Ibrahim Ahmad Kargbo
Murdoch University
Local Participation in the Sierra Leone Decentralization Process-prospects and setbacks…

In February, 2004, Sierra Leone officially introduced decentralization with a view to re-establishing local governance, reducing resource gaps and income inequalities among regions and promoting political accountability/transparency. A Local Government Act was enacted on the 29th January, 2004 purposefully to help newly elected Local Governments acquire the management skills necessary to translate resources into service delivery improvements on the ground. The first four years, according to the Act, were specified as the transition period, during which authority and corresponding financial resources for a defined set of functions were to be transferred to Local Councils. To date, Sierra Leone's decentralization process does not unfold without challenges; there is a lot more to be done in shaping its trend, and this is urgent to sustain the gains already recorded. The major obstacles are three-fold; the controversial role of traditional leaders; opaque and controversial mining arrangements; and a fragmented legal framework. This paper eulogizes the view that political decentralization will work better with enhanced/strategic public participation at both the central and local levels; that it can guarantee improved service delivery nationwide and provide a comprehensive monitoring mechanism for all decentralised functions through a new National Anti-Corruption Strategy framework suggested to Government.

Gladys Milimu
Macquarie University
Technology Integrated Pedagogical Documentation: Early Childhood Teachers' Beliefs and Practices Enhanced Through Technology Based Professional Learning and Support Project

Pedagogical documentation in early childhood development and education (ECDE) programs has been acknowledged to be important since it creates common working values among children, educators, administrators, parents and the significant others ((stakeholders) in ECDE. This paper is a report on the results of a case study involving eleven teachers in two early childhood development and education settings in Kenya. These female teachers participated in a professional learning and support project comprising of six workshops focusing on integration of technology in planning and pedagogical documentation. Findings indicate limitation in teachers' confidence, beliefs and practices in integration of technology in pedagogical documentation prior to participation in the project. The teachers' evaluation of the project through self rating and group discussion demonstrated enhanced confidence, beliefs and practices in integration of technology in pedagogical documentation after participation in the professional learning and support project. The teachers also reported to have developed a positive attitude, motivation and interest in integration of technology in their everyday practices. Further, they developed a deeper understanding of ECDE technology beyond the narrow perspective of computers.

David Norris
University of Southern Queensland
Gender, Flight and Neglect: An Examination of the Sexual and Gender-based Violence against Women Refugees

This paper examines the experiences of Congolese refugee women in their flight from conflict, examining the SGBV perpetrated against them therein. The experience of SGBV throughout flight is examined in order to ascertain its nature and intent. It is important to determine the pattern of sexual violence and whether or not the use of sexual violence is random or a strategic and systematic tool for multiple and widespread displacement. The paper also looks beyond the movement of people internally, and examines the population flow across state borders. In doing so, the paper assesses the consideration of gender in the paradigm of international law. Refugee law based on the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees is examined from a gendered perspective to determine

to what extant women's persecution is considered or ignored throughout the legal process of refugee determination. The paper critically examines the gendered language and application of the Convention's definition of a refugee and especially the use of the public/private binary in the examination of applicant's experiences of persecution. Ultimately, this paper explores the insecurities of Congolese women, and the effectiveness of international refugee law to remedy said insecurity.

Clifford Amoako
Monash University
Emerging Issues in Urban Flooding in African Cities - The Case of Accra, Ghana
Urban floods have become a critical development challenge for both developed and developing countries. They are particularly problematic in Africa, the world's fastest urbanizing region. This paper aims at exploring the impacts on and readiness of Africa cities in dealing with urban flooding, using Accra, the capital of Ghana - a West African country - as a case study. Accra is a rapidly growing coastal city affected by perennial flood hazards, and with rising sea levels, flooding may become an even greater problem. Flood events have been attributed to overflow of rivers within the city's catchment, uncontrolled growth, poor waste disposal and rapid urbanization. Climate variability and/or change have also been cited as a cause of urban flooding. Using documentary review and institutional data, the study presents key issues in urban flood risk management and suggests the way forward for planning urban resilience to flood events.

Charles Elias Makasi
University of Melbourne
Identifying the clinical symptoms of severe malaria that predict death and severe disability: Analysis of data from a randomised clinical trial on severe malaria in Bangladesh, Ghana and Tanzanian children
Background. Data collected from the largest community- based, multi-country randomized, controlled trial, assessing the benefit of emergency treatment with rectal artesunate given to children with severe malaria en route to hospital. This data was used to identify predictors of a poor prognosis from severe malaria in the community. **Methods.** Three countries (Tanzania, **Ghana and Bangladesh**) participated in the study whereby, patients suspected to be having severe malaria who could not be treated by oral medication were allocated randomly to a single dose artesunate. Clinical assessment was performed on recruitment and detailed information was recorded in the Case Record Form. 8 predictors of death in the community (Sex, age, inability to eat/drink/ suck, altered consciousness, coma, parasitaemia inability to sit/stand/walk unaided and repeated convulsions.) Will be examined using a multivariate logistic regression model. **Results.** Results that will be obtained from this analysis will be used to improve management of severe malaria and also a useful contribution in the knowledge of malaria field and public health in general. **Conclusions.** Relevant clinical predictor of deaths in the community will be used to improve mortality due to severe malaria in Africa, Asia and elsewhere

Alois Katiti
University of Tasmania
Determination of relationship between MODIS satellite imagery Vegetation Indices (arithmetic mean), field biomass measurements, and rainfall of Sandveld Research Station in the Camel Thorn Savannah of Namibia.
Namibia's rangeland production is subjected to unreliable low rainfall with high seasonal and spatial variability. Therefore the seasonal biomass production in terms of vegetative cover, biomass and density varies greatly throughout the year. For these reasons the rangeland ecosystem is said to exhibit amongst the greatest uncertainties in agricultural production especially with respect to livestock industry. Monitoring and assessment of the seasonal changes is important in order to

promote sustainable rangeland management practices. Remote sensing and GIS can contribute significantly to providing temporal data on a vast spatial scale. Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) vegetation indices such as Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), Enhance Vegetation Index (EVI), Leaf Area Index (LAI) and Fraction Photosynthetic Active Radiation (FPAR) are well known vegetation productivity indicators and have dominated the field at both a national and regional level for estimation of rangeland biomass production. This project focused on establishing the relationship between vegetation indices and field biomass data, in order to create a model that could be used to estimate the seasonal biomass production of the study area. The relationship was determined using linear regression statistically as well as by visual analysis of the time-series graphs. Even though the results obtained were not conclusive, acceptable relationships were observed in some cases.

David Duriesmith
The University of Melbourne
Identity and Hegemony: Challenging the notion of 'identity politics' as a cause of civil war in South Sudan
International discourse around the Second Sudanese Civil War (1983-2005) commonly appeals to the notion of 'identity politics' as a causal explanation for the conflict. This idea has provided commentators in the international arena and the press a clear explanatory narrative for a complex range of armed forces actions and motivations. This paper challenges the utility of 'identity politics' as an explanatory concept and suggests its use has served to reinforce the hegemony of militarised organizations. When subjected to a gendered analysis the notion of 'identity politics' in South Sudan proves to be deeply problematic. On all sides of the conflict appeals to 'identity' have been used by oppressive authority figures to legitimise their rule and naturalize the authority. It is suggested that the rhetoric of 'identity politics' has been used by all sides of the conflict to defuse criticism and scrutiny for injustices. The paper explores how references to 'identity politics' by international authors have unwittingly provided support to militarised male leaders and marginalized the oppression of less visible constituents.

Susan Dobson
University of South Australia
Liberal peace, non-state actors and Rwanda, 1994 – 2012.
As intrastate conflict proliferated across the African continent in the post-Cold War era, powerful democratic states increased their focus on interstate intervention, justified by the liberal peace agenda. As largely unsuccessful economic restructuring was replaced by political restructuring, democratic institutions designed to promote good governance were introduced into many conflict prone states. Through an analysis of Rwanda's post-conflict political restructure since 1994, my research demonstrates how, once political gain by association with Rwanda's humanitarian crisis waned for powerful states, ongoing political restructuring was largely left to non-state actors. This coincided with a call for 'African solutions to African problems' which progressively infused the African political landscape, particularly in more marginal states. Consequently, non-state actors from Africa and abroad intensified their efforts to implement democratic change in the first decades of the 21st century. By exploring the role, motivations and impact of the United Nations, the African Union and the British Commonwealth on Rwanda's post-conflict experience over the past two decades, this paper will evaluate how successful these non-state actors have been in promoting democratic change in Rwanda, and whether or not the liberal peace project, originally proposed by state actors is fundamentally suited to non-state actors.

Alice JUDELL

'The (dis)Possession of Waste at the Mbeubeuss Dump in Dakar'
Urban dumps in the African continent are under scrutiny by many international and transnational actors. With the increasing prices of raw materials, whether governments (national or local), transnational corporation, academics, non-governmental organisations or local grassroots movements are all showing a growing interest in waste management in urban centres in Africa. Dumps are being privatised under the hegemonic discourse of social-environmental policies. However it often relates to the growing needs of developing African countries and transnational corporations for cheap raw materials. The case of Mbeubeuss in Dakar (Senegal) is particularly interesting as it is a prime example of this growing attention. Not only is Mbeubeuss one of the largest urban dumps in that part of the world, but it is also the dump receiving the most media attention in West Africa. This article focuses on the mechanisms at stake in the privatisation of Mbeubeuss, and moreover the reactions in opposition to the dispossession of the inhabitants of Mbeubeuss. This article draws upon individual field research in Mbeubeuss in February 2011, in the context of the Dakar World Social Forum, as well as the literatures on local waste management and African social movements.

Emily Stewart
University of Melbourne
Reseeding Print Culture: Bibliodiversity and Nigerian Publishing Futures
Since the arrival of Christian missionaries in the mid-nineteenth century, Nigerian print culture in English has proliferated, emerging as a critical site on which wider political and cultural tensions have played out. This paper considers the development of Nigerian print culture through the twentieth century and beyond—from the 'Mbari generation' and the rise and fall of the Onitsha book market, to the growth of blogging culture and celebrity author reading cultures in the present day.
Drawing on the concept of *bibliodiversity*, I propose a radicalising of print culture methodologies. I argue for bibliodiversity as a mode of analysis which, while indebted to postcolonial and globalisation theory, provides a greater capacity for understanding the movements and multiplicities of Nigerian culture: what Arjun Appadurai has described as the 'woof' of humans in motion.

Ms Ainsley Elbra
University of Sydney
Panacea or Pretence? The role of private governance in alleviating Zambia's resource curse
While the pervasiveness of the resource curse continues to be debated, for most of sub-Saharan Africa the paradox of plenty remains - the continent is rich in minerals yet many states have struggled to achieve consistent economic growth and development outcomes. The existing literature is state-centric, failing to acknowledge the role of international extractive firms in the perpetuation of this paradox. The role of private governance in developing states has not been thoroughly examined. Proponents of institutions such as the EITI argue that private governance brings added transparency and accountability, aimed at alleviating the problems associated with the resource curse. Instead, this paper shows that in the case of Zambia the private authority of firms, relative to the state, has led to the government's inability to raise taxes or implement sufficient monitoring and auditing functions thereby worsening the outcomes associated with the resource curse. Zambia's membership of the EITI, at the recommendation of Western donors and the World Bank, is aimed at rectifying this imbalance of power. However, it is argued that membership of the EITI is unlikely to curb the private authority of mining firms and may actually enhance their power by strengthening their legitimacy.

John Lightbound
University of Wollongong
Theorizing Points of Consensus in Regional Policy Approaches to Combatting HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) assign great importance to the need for global cooperation to ameliorate the effects of HIV/AIDS and to aiding the African continent. The extent of effective action however, has been varied. This paper examines national and regional approaches with respect to the delivery of aid to Africa, and the particular challenges associated with provision of HIV/AIDS medications and education programs in sub-Saharan Africa. The paper interrogates the points of consensus regarding the most efficient methods of ameliorating the transmission of the HIV virus. Case studies from Malawi, South Africa and Uganda demonstrate that education programmes within the school system and for sex-workers are both crucial and cost-effective in slowing the spread of the virus. A key point of consensus is that women must be a focus for targeted education and empowerment due to their status as the group most affected by HIV/ AIDS, and as those who bear the burden of care for others. This leads us to conclude that a range of regional policy approaches can be formulated to specific local circumstances.

Mayeso Kanyowile
Flinders University of South Australia
Facilitators and barriers of high stakes test outcomes among Deaf students in Malawi: stakeholders' perception of the Malawi School Certificate of Examinations (MSCE). This paper presents preliminary finding of an explanatory investigation on factors leading to successful and unsuccessful test outcomes for deaf students at MSCE. Passing these tests is a prerequisite for tertiary education admission and minimum job recruitment requirement for knowledge based employment. Using a qualitative descriptive phenomenological inquiry, the aim was to establish best practices with which to support deaf students prior and during MSCE tests. Data were sourced from interviews, focus groups and documents. The results reveal that students can obtain a MSCE if they possess intrinsic motivation; receive extra teacher support; pursue social as opposed to science subjects; and are mainstreamed with a lower teacher:pupil ratio. The onset of deafness; inaccessible instruction; inaccessible tests; and gaps in teacher skills, lead to poor test outcomes. It is argued that unless a policy framework is operationalised to enforce equitable access to instruction and tests through accommodations such as signing, the Deaf will continue to be denied their civil right to education by a state failing its civil duty of developing a productive citizenry.

Stephen O'Brien
The University of Queensland
A qualitative study of impressions and experiences of HIV in Zimbabwe
HIV remains a significant social, political and economic problem in Zimbabwe however, few researchers have explored people's lived experiences of the virus in that country. This paper draws on qualitative interviews conducted with 60 people living in urban communities of Harare, Zimbabwe, to outline several conceptual contributions to understanding HIV in that country. Traditional and religious interpretations of illness, as well as the historical roots of the epidemic, shape the experience of the virus and HIV-related stigma. An exploration of intersections between sexuality, disease and culture among the participants indicates that an observable shift in attitudes, particularly with regards to patriarchal notions of sexuality and gender is underway. Furthermore, the spiritualisation of disease and the gendered mediation of HIV shape the uptake of Antiretroviral Therapy and other forms of bio-medical technologies. Finally, grassroots social activists contest and re-frame the HIV narrative through advocacy and informal and formal activism and organising to revindicate a series of human rights and social demands in support of people living with and affected by HIV.

Raymond Kwun Sun Lau
The University of Queensland

Civilian protection and perpetrator punishment or neither? The Responsibility to Protect and International Criminal Court's judicial intervention in Darfur

There has been a change in expectations about international response to mass atrocities in the post-Cold War era and, in particular, the aftermath of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. In a bid to ensure that the world never again fails to act, the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 1998 and the adoption of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle in the 2005 World Summit mark the birth of two forms of responsibilities: responsibility to punish and responsibility to protect. While there are many areas of similarity between R2P and the ICC, they are not always complementary and mutually reinforcing. As a result, international policymakers may find themselves facing the dilemma of managing the tension between the immediate imperative of saving lives and protecting victims and the important prospect of punishing perpetrators and preventing future conflicts through deterrence.

Using the nine-year-old conflict in Sudan's Darfur region as a case study, this paper explores the relationship between R2P and the ICC in responding to the government-sponsored atrocities against civilians in Darfur. Concerned about the seriousness of the situation in Darfur, the international community has been galvanised to invoke both R2P and ICC actions simultaneously in temporal terms in Darfur since 2004 onwards. This paper, however, argues that by attempting to protect civilians and punish perpetrators concurrently, the ICC is being instrumentalised by the UN Security Council as a diplomatic tool and this has caused tensions in stopping mass atrocities in Darfur. In particular, it explains why the Court should only be invoked for punishing perpetrators after steps have been taken to protect civilians in Darfur.

Hannah Climas
Flinders University
Australia's activist foreign policy, North Africa and the United Nations Security Council
The role of a 'creative middle power' in the international sphere

Australia's historic win of a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council 2013-2015 represents a new activist approach to foreign policy taken by the Rudd/Gillard government, based on a recognition that "the UNSC in the immediate period ahead, is directly relevant to a number of core Australian national security interests". In this way, Australia's activist foreign policy is in our best interests, at least for the current moment – this extends to our relationship with the Arab states of North Africa. This partially reflects a new approach by the Rudd/Gillard government, and partially reflects necessity – the extreme events of the Arab Spring in North Africa and subsequent regional political reform required Australia to commit to a level of action that it might not otherwise have felt the need to. This echoes Kevin Rudd's belief that "as a creative middle-power Australia could – and indeed had a responsibility to – play a role in important global events, even those happening far from Australia's region". This extends to North Africa, where Rudd has made it clear that "Australia will not abandon those who strive for peace and freedom".

Lydia Wanja Gitau
University of Sydney
Resilience in Survivors of Mass Violence and its Contribution to Reconciliation in Post-Conflict Rwanda

This paper explores the concept of resilience in survivors of mass violence as a critical factor in promoting reconciliation in post-conflict societies in Africa, with particular reference to Rwanda. It examines how people who have experienced untold atrocities in conflict continue to bounce back, live on, exude hope, and be productive in society. This is particularly intriguing when, as is the case in various programmes concerned with organizing and coordinating psychological interventions for the survivors, the attention is given to finding marks of trauma and dysfunction in the survivors. The paper disputes the assumption that reactions to experiences of violence are entirely negative; that the

effects of violence have to be dealt with in conventional ways, usually Western-based, for healing and reconciliation to be realised. The paper cautions against applying Western standards to different ethnocultural contexts of recovery, and promotes the design of interventions that are supportive of the natural capacity for resilience in the survivors. The paper considers various micro level interventions, including faith-based and other local community-based efforts, and their contribution towards reconciliation in post-conflict Rwanda.

Ian Edelstein
Australian National University
This presentation will form the basis for a chapter of my thesis which deals with the history of Pan-Africanism, which is essential background for the the study of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania's (PAC) ideological outlook. South African recent and contemporary history (both pre and post-apartheid), was strongly influenced and inspired by the leading Pan-Africanists of the time.   Pan-Africanism which is often misunderstood is as topical today as when the idea was first formulated. With this in mind, it will be valuable to hear firsthand the views of Africanists and other conference participants on this topic.

Abdullah Teia
South Australia University
The Nuba people of Sudan : Cultural Perspectives and The Impact of War
Many Australians are familiar with Africans who arrived to Australia yet very few have heard of the African Nuba of Sudan. The Nuba occupies a small area, yet the languages they speak are equivalent to those spoken in all Africa. They are famous for their unique culture, one of Africa's oldest cultures. This paper will discuss findings from a qualitative and historical overview of the culture, identity and livelihoods of the African Nuba. It also explores historical links between Australia and Sudan (1885) and with the Nuba Mountains, (1920, 1950 and 1962) and Nuba cultural perspectives. Key findings include that competition over resources, racial, political, and religious wars are threatening the Nuba's social fabric.   The international community has both moral obligation and responsibility to protect the people of the Nuba, the Blue Nile and the rest of indigenous Sudanese from extinction.