AFSAAP Newsletter – May 2016

Africa: Moving the Boundaries
The 39th AFSAAP Annual Conference
7 December 2016, St. Catherine’s College, University of Western Australia

Call for Papers (deadline May 30 2016)

The UWA Africa Research Cluster and local organising committee are calling for the submission of paper and panel abstracts for the 39th Annual conference of the African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP).

Located in Perth, Australia’s “Gateway to Africa”, and set amidst the stunning surroundings of UWA’s Crawley campus on the Swan River, the conference will be an opportune moment to share critical ideas, engage and network with colleagues and research students, and further advance African Studies in our region. The 2016 conference theme, ‘Africa: Moving the Boundaries’, is designed to inspire participants to explore how physical, social, creative and conceptual boundaries are being stretched, transcended, re-constructed, re-defined, critiqued and challenged by a range of historical and contemporary dynamics, forces, and ideas of relevance to Africa, Africans and African Studies. These might include migration and the evolution of transnational communities; theories, representations and narratives of African agency; new social and scientific technologies; evolving forms of social and political activism; grand projects of regional integration; and responses to critical development and environmental challenges.

The conference keynote speaker will be confirmed in due course. To assist with organization, the committee would appreciate if abstracts could be self-identified as speaking to up to three of the following ten thematic streams: Politics, Law & International Relations • History & Heritage • Literature, Culture & the Arts • Science and Technology • Human & Sustainable Development • Gender & Sexuality • Societies, Identities & African Diasporas • Education & Research • Geography, Environment & Resources.

Abstracts are invited for both individual papers and themed panels of three presenters. All paper and panel abstracts will be reviewed by the conference organising committee after the 30 May
deadline and, for those abstracts accepted, formal invitations to present at the conference will be sent out before 30 June 2016. Registration will then open on 1 July and close on 30 September.

Please see the attached [paper abstract template](#) and the [panel abstract template](#) for the submission process.

**AFSAAP 2015 Conference Proceedings – finalised**


**Obituary: Jack Caldwell – 8 December 1928 – 12 March 2016**

Emeritus Professor Jack Caldwell AO

BA (New England), PhD (ANU)

John Charles ("Jack") Caldwell who died on the 12th March 2016, aged 87 was one of ANU’s international treasures. A 2009 survey of nearly 1000 demographers worldwide, named him the most influential researcher of all time in the demographic field. Caldwell shared most of his research career with his anthropologist wife of 60 years, Rosie “Pat” Caldwell. Together they were a formidable team. Pat’s death in 2008 had a great effect upon Jack. Caldwell was the author of 25 books, 128 book chapters and 139 journal articles. Caldwell’s seminal work included documentation of the role of mother’s education in fertility limitation and child mortality decline and the role of circumcision in inhibiting the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa. Read more at [http://www.assa.edu.au/fellowship/fellow/deceased/49](http://www.assa.edu.au/fellowship/fellow/deceased/49)

AFSAAP acknowledges the passing of this legend in African Studies, and the December issue of ARAS will feature a dedication and more detailed survey of his career in African Studies.
The forthcoming issue of ARAS – June 2016

The next issue of the Australasian Review of African Studies (ARAS) will feature the following articles:

Sexual Violence in the Congo Free State: Archival Traces and Present Reconfigurations.
Charlotte Mertens

Zimbabwe’s Fast Track Land Reform Programme: Beyond Emancipation, Towards Liberation
Tinashe Jakwa

Preventive Arbitration: Towards Strengthening the African Union’s Mediation Capacity for Human Protection
Obinna Franklin Ifediora

The Power of Non-Governmental Organizations in Sudan: Do Structural Changes Matter?
Nawal El-Gack

Analysis in African Music – Ghosts of the Past, Promises of the Future
Tony Lewis

Publishing articles about Africa?

Review and read this searchable list of ALL articles published in the “Australasian Review of African Studies” to December 2015.


ARAS needs you to cite as many articles as possible as we aim to get recognition by the Institute of Science Indexing (ISI), managed by Thomson and Reuters. Independently published by AFSAAP, ARAS is completing against the power of corporate publishers, and understands that many universities are restricting their academics to only publish in the ISI ranked journals, or forego their funding. AFSAAP has survived as an independent association since 1978, and its journal ARAS maintains the highest academic standards for peer reviewed research and publication. The attached list of articles published demonstrates that. ARAS is self-funded through subscriptions to AFSAAP and does not require authors to pay to publish. AFSAAP members also receive many other benefits, and membership fees remain modest.

Call for PhD applications in African Studies

The University of the Free State in collaboration with the University of Bradford have issued a call for PhD applications in African Studies. A flyer is attached which provides more details.

WorkCover WA seeks a Moru interpreter

Workcover WA oversees and regulates the workers’ compensation scheme in Western Australia. Conciliation and Arbitration services provide a dispute resolution service and on occasion require a translator to assist workers. We are seeking a Moru interpreter to assist with one of our matters.

Kasia Lesiak - A/Case Management Officer
kasia.lesiak@workcover.wa.gov.au
Africa Day Australia

Africa Day is the annual commemoration of the 1963 founding of the African Union (AU) which is celebrated in Africa and many countries around the world. In Australia, Africa Day is celebrated in partnership between Africa Day Australia, numerous African Australian community organizations, members of the diplomatic corps, government organizations, members of various political parties and numerous community organizations. Events include a gala dinner, talent competitions, forums and other events. For further information see [http://www.africadayaustralia.org/](http://www.africadayaustralia.org/).

AFSAAP travel grants

AFSAAP has awarded a $1000 travel grant to AFSAAP Member Mr. Zafu Teferi to attend the 9th ICAD 2016 on Theme of Challenges and Opportunities for good governance and leadership for Sustainable Development of African States, May 27-29, 2016. Mr. Teferi will represent AFSAAP at this international African Studies conference.


Conference on African-Asian Encounters (III):
“Afrasian Transformations: Beyond Grand Narratives?”

Goethe University Frankfurt, September 28-30, 2016. A call for papers has been issued, with details in the attached flyer on page 9.

Call for Applications: Haycock Research Grant: Sudan and South Sudan

The British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA) invites applications for grants from the Haycock Fund, to support projects of research in Sudan/South Sudan. Applications may be for any sum between £1,000 and £9,000 pounds sterling, and may be made in respect of research projects in any area of the humanities and social sciences. For further information please see: [http://www.biea.ac.uk/call-for-applications-haycock-research-grant-sudan-and-south-sudan/](http://www.biea.ac.uk/call-for-applications-haycock-research-grant-sudan-and-south-sudan/)

The RoundTrip Foundation

An international development NGO, the RoundTrip Foundation was established in Australia in 2013 with a focus on Africa. It seeks to harness the power of travel to fight poverty in local communities, and believes that no journey is complete without giving back.

Recently, the organisation started a responsible travel resource on its website that includes articles written by professionals in the travel industry and is weighted towards African-specific content ([www.roundtripfoundation.org.au/responsible-travel](http://www.roundtripfoundation.org.au/responsible-travel)).
RoundTrip is looking to build this resource with a focus on Africa and how travel influences the lives of local people and communities. For example: exploring the link between wildlife conservation and investment in local culture and economies.

The organisation would be very interested to hear from AFSAAP members with regard to:

- their thoughts and experiences with regard to responsible travel in Africa, especially if they would like to make a written contribution to the responsible travel webpage
- anyone with social media expertise who would like to become involved

Drop Alan a line at alan@roundtripfoundation.org.au and for regular updates, sign up for their newsletter at www.roundtripfoundation.org.au

**AFSAAP members in the media**

AFSAAP member Dr Lauren Johnston was interviewed recently by The Australian newspaper on the topic of “The real story behind China’s African investments”:


Please forward your recent media coverage to newsletter@afsaap.org.au for inclusion in this newsletter.

**Call for Applications: 2nd CODESRIA/CASB Summer School in African Studies and Area Studies in Africa. “Interdisciplinarity in Area Studies: Basic and Applied Research”**

**Dakar, 22 to 27 August 2016**

**Deadline: 31 May 2016**

[Download Application Form](#)

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) and The Centre for African Studies Basel (CASB) call for applications for the 2nd CODESRIA/CASB Summer School in African Studies and Area Studies in Africa.

The Summer School sets out to stimulate and consolidate interdisciplinary approaches in research on Africa, but also on other regions of the world undertaken from within the African continent. It focuses on African Studies as an instance of area studies and seeks to identify themes that are theoretically, conceptually and methodologically relevant to the reflection on the intellectual challenge of Africa as an object of knowledge and its contribution to general scholarship while inquiring into the relevance of the findings to African approaches to other regions. The goals of the Summer School can be broadly defined in the following manner:

- The Summer School allows PhD and MA students, under the guidance of senior scholars, to engage critically with new theoretical, conceptual and methodological developments in African Studies and Area Studies in Africa in general and make them relevant to their work;
• The Summer School stimulates PhD students to reflect on the potential relevance of knowledge on Africa to the task of improving our theoretical, conceptual and methodological tools both for the disciplines as well as for interdisciplinary work;

• The Summer School fosters among PhD students a sense of belonging to a community of scholars in pursuit of knowledge and scholarship;

• The Summer School encourages junior scholars to work towards carving a space for African Studies or Area Studies in Africa in general in the broader field of scholarship and in this way helping to place Africa right at the centre of knowledge production.

• The Summer School serves to identify young scholars who wish to develop or finalise a PhD-project in the field of African Studies and Area Studies in general and to further support them in their pursuit of their career goals.

The Summer School is offered with the generous support of the Oumou Dilly Foundation (Switzerland) in cooperation with CODESRIA and aims at strengthening the links between the community of scholars organized in the CODESRIA community and scholars from the African Studies community in Switzerland.

Application & Registration

The summer school is open for PhD students enrolled at an Institute of Higher Education in any country. We encourage the application of PhD students enrolled in African and Swiss institutions. Travel, accommodation and meals during the summer school will be provided for participants enrolled at institutions in Africa. Participants will be selected on the strength and merits of:

1. One duly completed application form;
2. A cover letter;
3. A five-page application in which they explain: (a) what they are working on, and (b) how their work relates to the topic of the Summer School;

In addition, applications must be supported by a CV and two letters of recommendation.

Please submit your application as PDF to area.studies@codesria.sn (until 31 May 2016).

See flyer on page 8

British Institute in Eastern Africa

‘Call for Applications: Haycock Research Grant: Sudan and South Sudan’

The British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA) invites applications for grants from the Haycock Fund, to support projects of research in Sudan/South Sudan. Applications may be for any sum between £1,000 and £9,000 pounds sterling, and may be made in respect of research projects in any area of the humanities and social sciences. See

http://www.biea.ac.uk/call-for-applications-haycock-research-grant-sudan-and-south-sudan/
CALL FOR PHD APPLICATIONS IN AFRICA STUDIES

This call is open for specialisation in the field:

- Conflict and Peace in Context

Selected candidates will be:

- Admitted to the prestigious PhD Programme in Africa Studies
- Eligible for UFS tuition fees bursaries for PhD study
- Sponsored to attend a PhD Winter School
- Closely mentored by subject specialists from CAS and JEFCAS

This application is competitive as limited spaces are available. Normal PhD admissions criteria will apply, including a research proposal.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

23 May 2016

PARTNERS

The PhD Winter School is jointly hosted by the Centre for Africa Studies (CAS) at the University of the Free State and the John and Elnora Ferguson Centre for African Studies (JEFCAS) in the Department of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford.

PHD WINTER SCHOOL

Attendance is compulsory and will take place on the UFS Bloemfontein campus from 18-20 July 2016.

CONTACT

For more information/terms & conditions/application forms, please contact: Professor Heidi Hudson
Director: Centre for Africa Studies
PO Box 339
Bloemfontein
9300
Tel: +27(0)51 401 2327
Email: hudsonh@ufs.ac.za
Call for Applications:
2nd CODESRIA/CASB Summer School in African Studies and Area Studies in Africa
Dakar, 22 to 27 August 2016

Interdisciplinarity in Area Studies: Basic and Applied Research

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) and The Centre for African Studies Basel (CASB) call for applications for the 2nd CODESRIA/CASB Summer School in African Studies and Area Studies in Africa.

The Summer School sets out to stimulate and consolidate interdisciplinary approaches in research on Africa, but also on other regions of the world undertaken from within the African continent. It focuses on African Studies as an instance of area studies and seeks to identify themes that are theoretically, conceptually and methodologically relevant to the reflection on the intellectual challenge of Africa as an object of knowledge and its contribution to general scholarship while inquiring into the relevance of the findings to African approaches to other regions. The goals of the Summer School can be broadly defined in the following manner:

• The Summer School allows PhD and MA students, under the guidance of senior scholars, to engage critically with new theoretical, conceptual and methodological developments in African Studies and Area Studies in Africa in general and make them relevant to their work;
• The Summer School stimulates PhD students to reflect on the potential relevance of knowledge on Africa to the task of improving our theoretical, conceptual and methodological tools both for the disciplines as well as for interdisciplinary work;
• The Summer School fosters among PhD students a sense of belonging to a community of scholars in pursuit of knowledge and scholarship;
• The Summer School encourages junior scholars to work towards carving a space for African Studies or Area Studies in Africa in general in the broader field of scholarship and in this way helping to place Africa right at the centre of knowledge production.
• The Summer School serves to identify young scholars who wish to develop or finalise a PhD-project in the field of African Studies and Area Studies in general and to further support them in their pursuit of their career goals.

The Summer School is offered with the generous support of the Oumou Dilly Foundation (Switzerland) in cooperation with CODESRIA and aims at strengthening the links between the community of scholars organized in the CODESRIA community and scholars from the African Studies community in Switzerland.
Conference Announcement – Call for Papers

_African-Asian Encounters (III)_

**Afrasian Transformations: Beyond Grand Narratives?**

Goethe University Frankfurt, September 28-30, 2016

Across various disciplines, our understanding of African-Asian interactions and their transformative potential has been significantly shaped by grand narratives and theoretical frameworks. The Global South, postcolonialism, the Indian Ocean World or China’s Scramble for Africa are routinely invoked to understand African-Asian encounters, as are different notions of development, area studies or transregionalism. These epistemological lenses have informed our perspectives and generated important insights, but they have also created significant blind spots. For instance, restricting the focus of attention to Chinese agency shifts attention away from other Asian (and African) actors. Many scholars working on the Indian Ocean emphasize connectivity but pay little attention to conflict and boundary making. Concepts such as the Global South or postcolonialism highlight a common past of oppression and resistance, but it is by no means certain whether that past can serve as secure orientation for the present and the future. The intricate small and large Afrasian stories of transformation that we encounter in our research often seem to strain against the limits imposed by the grand narratives we habitually come across in our fields of expertise. Coming to terms with Afrasian transformations in the social world may indeed involve a challenge to revise the theoretical frameworks that inform our own work.

This interdisciplinary conference is part of a series of international conferences on African-Asian Encounters that started with “New Cooperations – New Dependencies?” (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, March 2014) and continued with “Re-Thinking African-Asian Relationships: Changing Realities – New Concepts” (Cape Town, South Africa, March 2015). The Frankfurt Conference invites scholars to take stock of various grand narratives in their respective research work, to critically reconsider current theoretical and methodological frameworks employed in understanding African-Asian interactions, and to discuss how they navigate between empirical work and theory production. In what ways do their findings challenge existing grand narratives? Do we need to rethink or modify these narratives? Should we move beyond grand narratives altogether? Or can we come up with new narratives that capture present – and future – Afrasian realities in new ways?

We invite contributions that theorize African-Asian interactions and address grand narratives prevalent in/across various disciplines. We also welcome contributions that reflect on African-Asian interactions in various fields and connect their empirical findings to the overall conference theme.