



The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific

Habari kwa ufupi - AFSAAP
Newsletter No. 72 - June/July 2016

To contribute to the newsletter, please contact newsletter@afsaap.org.au



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Website](#)

AFSAAP Newsletter – June/July 2016

Australasian Review of African Studies

Volume 37 Number 1 June 2016 – OUT NOW

Financial members of AFSAAP will receive a hard copy of the journal ARAS in the traditional post in the first weeks of June and December each year. If you would rather only receive the E-Version of ARAS please let us know by emailing secretary@afsaap.org.au

All AFSAAP members can access ARAS (ONLINE ISSN: 2203-5184) from this link-

<http://afsaap.org.au/ARAS/2016-volume-37/>

To become a financial member of AFSAAP please subscribe here- <http://afsaap.org.au/join-members/join-afsaap/>

As a not for profit association AFSAAP is proud to be able to offer ongoing free memberships to former Australia Awards for Africa scholarship students who studied in Australia during 2010-2013. For further details see- <http://afsaap.org.au/resources/the-australia-awards-for-africa-scholarships/>

Africa: Moving the Boundaries

39th AFSAAP Annual Conference 5-7 December 2016

St. Catherine's College, University of Western Australia

2nd Call for Papers- deadline June 30th 2016. Details at

<http://afsaap.org.au/conference/perth-2016/>

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE EMAILED DIRECTLY TO THE CONFERENCE COORDINATOR david.mickler@uwa.edu.au

The Annual Cherry Gertzel / AFSAAP Postgraduate Prize

Postgraduate Students are encouraged to enter their paper to The Annual Cherry Gertzel / AFSAAP

Postgraduate Prize for the best postgraduate paper delivered at its annual conference. See <http://afsaap.org.au/conference/postgraduate-prizes/>



Africa's Global Engagement: Perspectives from Emerging Countries

Palgrave Macmillan. New Book Series / Call for Proposals - Series Editor: Professor Ajay Dubey -

Aims and Scope:

The 21st century has been characterized by a global rush to engage African countries. Unlike in the past, globalization has given African countries options to select and diversify their engagements. Though traditional powers are still trying to reinforce their links, African countries have generally found it more empowering to reduce their traditional dependence and develop more equitable relations with countries of the South, especially with emerging economies. Different regions and countries of the world find different opportunities and challenges in their attempts to engage the African region. Similarly, African countries, along with the African Union and other regional organizations, find different advantages in diversifying their traditional dependence. However, the new engagements have neither replaced the traditional engagement of Africa, nor are they wholly unproblematic from African perspectives. In this context, it is essential to understand and analyse emerging Africa's global engagements.

To that end, this series will cover important countries and regions, including traditional powers, that engage African countries, the African Union and African regional organisations. The book series will also address global and regional issues that exclusively affect African countries. Books in the series can be either monographs or edited works.

Further information can be found in the attached pdf - see Page 10

Checklist for authors for the Australasian Review of African Studies (ARAS)

Attached to this newsletter (in .doc and .xls format) is a checklist for publishing and published authors in ARAS. It provides ideas and ways to expand readership of your published paper(s), build links with potential co-authors and partners, and increase your own citations and research metrics. You will also be supporting the AFSAAP journal to increase its citations and status. [Click here for .xls](#) [Click here for .doc](#)

Latest news from Africa Media Australia

AFSAAP members may be interested in the news and events covered by [Africa Media Australia](#). [Follow this link to see the latest newsletter.](#)

Monash / AFSAAP Postgraduate Prize winner 2015 – Fieldwork Report

Charlotte Mertens, PhD Candidate, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne

Acknowledgements

In January 2016 I was awarded the Monash/AFSAAP Postgraduate Prize for my essay 'Sexual Violence in the Congo Free State: Archival Traces and Present Reconfigurations'. I am incredibly grateful for this sponsorship as it allowed me to travel to eastern Democratic Republic of Congo where I have been conducting fieldwork since 2012. I am now in the final stages of writing my PhD. In many ways this prize could not come at a better



time. It permitted me to go back to further clarify lingering questions, to validate data analysis conducted in 2012 and 2015 and to meet up with many humanitarian workers and friends I have met during the last years in the Congo. The significance of this Sponsorship cannot be emphasised enough. The discipline of African Studies has yet to reach an important place in the curriculum of Australian universities. This sponsorship is therefore of vast significance as it promotes research on Africa and it encourages students to collaborate with African Universities, overseas scholars and Associations on African Studies. Not only did it provide me with the chance to conduct another fieldtrip, it also allowed me to seek contact with a number of Congolese scholars at the Université de Bukavu on the subject of sexual violence. I presented my work and established connections for future collaborative research projects.

Details of the fieldtrip

At the end of May 2016, I travelled to Bukavu, the capital of South Kivu in eastern DRC. I shared my work on continuities between imperial violence and current sexual violence with some scholars at the University of Bukavu. I conducted an additional 10 interviews with Congolese humanitarian workers and students to understand how the international response to sexual violence in conflict has evolved since 2012. I also observed the work of a hospital in Nzibira in the territory of Walungu. I spent three weeks in the field. I travelled to Goma where I conducted further interviews.

I have benefited greatly from this sponsorship and I am very grateful for it. The trip has been an amazing experience and not only have I been able to conduct more qualitative research and liaise with Congolese scholars on the subject, the trip has also helped me to maintain contact with an extensive network of humanitarian workers and researchers in the DRC that I had established during previous fieldtrips. Without a doubt the sponsorship will help to deliver a high-quality empirically based thesis.

THANK YOU.



Submitted by Charlotte Mertens



The 9th International Conference on African Development

May 27 – 28, 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia –

Report from Zafu Assefa Teferi, Curtin University- Awarded the \$1000 AFSAAP Travel Grant to promote AFSAAP and attend an Overseas Conference relevant to the field of African Studies – see <http://afsaap.org.au/opportunities/funding-to-attend-conferences/>

I would like to say thank you to AFSAAP for the Travel Grant that enabled me to participate in the 9th International Conference on African Development.

The conference was organized by the Centre for African Development Policy Research at Western Michigan University, in collaboration with Addis Ababa University and local universities in Ethiopia. The conference theme was “Challenges and Opportunities for Good Governance and Leadership for Sustainable Development of African States.” The focus was on all aspects of sustainable human development and social and economic progress, including peace and justice, reducing poverty, inequality, and violent conflict, democratic good governance and leadership in Africa.

The conference was structured into two days of sessions, with group events on two evenings. During the conference, attendees were able to choose from plenary and parallel sessions.

I presented a paper entitled “The Application of Sustainable Cities Model to Slum Settlements in Addis Ababa.” The paper examined how inputs and waste outputs from a settlement need to be reduced whilst simultaneously improving livability.

I talked about AFSAAP during my presentation and during breaks. I found many of the participants were very keen to join AFSAAP and to participate in AFSAAP conferences. At the end of the conference I networked with the representatives of local Universities and invited them to make links with AFSAAP. They were interested in AFSAAP and participating in the future conferences.



Zafu Assefa Teferi at the 9th International Conference on African Development
May 27 – 28, 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Submitted by Zafu Assefa Teferi



Hatful of History – South Africa, Rhodesia and Australia

Hatful of History is a research blog by Dr Evan Smith (Flinders University). He has an interest in transnational communism, anti-communism and decolonisation, looking at the various connections between the settler colonies in South Africa, Rhodesia, and Australia, alongside Britain. You can visit the blog at: <https://hatfulofhistory.wordpress.com/>

Submitted by Evan Smith

Crossing Borders, Traversing Boundaries: Bridging the Gap between Research, Practice, and Theory - 2nd Annual Zimbabwe Historical Association (ZHA) Conference – Dates: 2-3 September 2016

Venue: Long Cheng Plaza Conference Room (154), cnr. S. Machel and Mutley Bend, Belvedere (next to the National Sports Stadium), Harare, Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwe Historical Association (ZHA) invites historians and scholars from related disciplines to the second annual conference to be held in Harare. This year's conference focuses on borders and boundaries. Borders and boundaries – geographic, political, or conceptual – remain important to the study of history. However, traditional boundaries are regularly transgressed, imperfectly administered, and unevenly acknowledged. At the same time, partly as a reaction to globalization and partly as a response to emerging regionalism and ethno-regionalist movements, a number of states have set in motion a process of rescaling in which they have devolved part of their power in governance to supra-state and sub-state regions. As a result, the complex roles of borders and boundaries have become more relevant than ever, necessitating a reconceptualization that sees them as processes, discourses, practices, even symbols, through which power functions.

[Further information click here to see "Call for abstracts".](#)

Coping with Loss and Change: The Afrikaner Diaspora in Australia

Research project outline, Hanna Jagtenberg, PhD Candidate in Anthropology, University of Adelaide

My research concerns emigration experiences of Afrikaans-speaking South African immigrants in Australia, commonly still known as Afrikaners, but increasingly as 'Afrikaans' – one of the major changes in their lives since 1994, as the working title of my project suggests. I became intrigued with the Afrikaner/Afrikaans people while doing fieldwork in South Africa for my MPhil degree in 2011. Living amongst them, I noticed how lost they feel in contemporary South Africa and how ruptured their families have become due to their massive emigration, mainly to Australia. After doing preliminary literature research, I found that little work was being done on this phenomenon, and, although there is a growing body of literature on recent South African emigration to Australia in general, the voice of the Afrikaners remains largely unheard. Perhaps the lack of interest in this group of people is a consequence of their apartheid stigma. However, everybody has a story and everybody deserves the chance to tell this story. The purpose of social science research is not to judge: it is to find out about society and make it transparent to its members. Learning about each other, who too often remain 'The Other', enhances understanding of where people are coming from, without having



to approve of or justify anything. Understanding in its turn can lead to improved relations, since, in the end, we all want to move forwards. In this light, the main aim of my research is to tell the story of the Afrikaner Diaspora in Australia: how they look back on their lives in South Africa, why they decided to emigrate, and how they are coping with the losses and changes that South Africa's 1994 transition and their subsequent decision to emigrate to Australia have brought about. At this stage, I am in the middle of my fieldwork and I have talked to approximately one hundred Afrikaans-speaking South African immigrants in Australia. Anybody who is interested, wants to comment, ask questions, or is working on the same or related issues, you are very welcome to contact me: hanna.jagtenberg@adelaide.edu.au

Submitted by Hanna Jagtenberg

African Studies Reading Group in Melbourne - AFSAAP

A Report on activities 2015-2016, prepared by Emmanuel Awoh Lohkoko, Reading Group Convenor and PhD Candidate University of Melbourne (with support from Dr. Bina Fernandez, University of Melbourne).

The African Studies Reading Group in Melbourne has been meeting regularly since 2012. The group membership consists of academic staff and PhD candidates from universities in Melbourne, as well as independent scholars. Membership is open to all who have an interest in African studies. We usually meet once a month during the academic semester, and mutually decide on topics for study and debate. From its inception, the group has been generously supported by AFSAAP, through the purchase of books (copies of the earlier books purchased are now available from AFSAAP for circulation to other reading groups), and through funding of refreshments that make for a convivial discussion. Outlined below is a summary of the key readings and discussions we have engaged in over the past year.

Summary of African Studies Reading Group activities

Accumulation by dispossession, 29/4/15

This session sought to understand the manner in which land had been acquired in Africa by foreigners. Emphasis was placed on the processes and consequences on African's development. It emerged that large scale land had been arbitrarily acquired in most parts of Africa. This had a negative effect on Africa's development. Some of the resources relied on were:

1. "The 'new' imperialism: accumulation by dispossession." Socialist Register 40, (2006) by Harvey, D.
2. "Primitive accumulation, accumulation by dispossession, accumulation by 'extra-economic' means." (2006) by Glassman, J.
3. "Primitive Accumulation, Enclivity, Rural Marginalisation and Articulation." (2007) by Bond, P.

Reading Ibn Khaldun in Kampala, 29/5/15

The purpose of this session was to find out whether there were any other alternative knowledges other than the supposed Eurocentric knowledge which seem the world order (universal). This was done through a 14th century text by a North African author titled: Reading Ibn Khaldun in Kampala by Mahmood Mamdani. Through the piece of reading, we concluded that there were other alternate knowledges other than the now Eurocentric universal world order.



African Feminism, Gender and empowerment, 2/9/15

Gender issues are intertwined in almost every activities in Africa just like elsewhere. In this session, we sought to understand the dynamics of gender as a phenomenon and feminists scholarships from African academics.

1. African feminism in context: Reflections on the legitimization battles, victories and reversals by Josephine Ahikire
2. Pan-Africanism, transnational black feminism and the limits of culturalist analyses in African gender discourses Carole Boyce Davies.
3. Beyond Determinism: The Phenomenology of African Female Existence by Bibi Bakare-Yusuf.
4. Between Knowing and Imagining: What Space for Feminism in Scholarship on Africa? By Charmaine Pereira.

Witchcraft and Gender in Africa, 30/9/15

Spirituality and belief systems are central to African societies. This session sought to understand how witchcraft, one of the belief systems intersect with gender issues in Africa and as well how that affects development. It was found that witchcraft accusation and persecution were biased towards women. It seemed it was more of power dynamics and women were more at risk of being accused since they seemed to have inadequate power in comparison with the men of the society. Some of the resources relied on were:

1. Witchcraft Accusations and Female Homicide Victimization in Contemporary Ghana (2004) by Adinkrah Mensah.
 2. Women, Witch-Hunting and Enclosures in Africa Today (2009) by Silvia Federici.
 3. Justice at the Margins: Witches, Poisoners, and Social Accountability in Northern Uganda, (2014) by Tim Allen & Kyla Reid.
- Discussion on AFSAAP conference papers, 4/11/15

The purpose of the session was to discuss selected papers that were presented at the 2015 AFSAAP conference at Deakin University.

Pentecostalism in Africa, 25/11/15

An emerging issue on the Africa continent is the rise in religiosity among the people of Christian faith. The new wave of Christianity is often characterised with prophecies, miracles, healings and prosperity messages. The purpose of this session was to understand why there is such a high patronage of people in the new Christian faith and its processes. Find below some of the resources that were used:

1. Privatising the millennium, new protestant ethics and the spirits of capitalism in Africa, and elsewhere (2000) by Jean & John Comaroff.
2. The spread of Pentecostalism to the countryside: Dynamics of religion and development in rural Ethiopia (2013) by Dena Freeman.
3. 'Make a complete break with the past': memory and post-colonial modernity in Ghanaian Pentecostalism (1998) by Birgit Meyer.



Decoloniality, 27/01/16

Following on the keynote address and workshop on decoloniality by Sebelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni at the AFSAAP 2015 conference, we sought to understand the dynamics of decoloniality in Africa as an emerging area in African studies. We engaged with the key debates of decoloniality which argues that the humanity of black people is doubted and emerges as one way of telling story of the modern world from the experiences of slavery, imperialism and colonialism. From the readings, we understood that at the core of decoloniality is the agenda of shifting the geography and biography of knowledge- that is, who generates knowledge and from where? Below are some of the readings that we reviewed:

1. Genealogies of coloniality and implications for Africa's development (2015) by Sebelo J, Ndlovu-Gatsheni
2. The decolonial Mandela: Embodiment of peace, justice and humanism (2015) by Sebelo J, Ndlovu-Gatsheni
3. Why decoloniality in the 21st century? By Sebelo J, Ndlovu-Gatsheni

Psychology of Development, 24/02/16

Development as a project can be viewed and approached in many ways. One of the ways that is central to a successful conception and execution of a project is to understand the psychology of those who conceive, execute and benefit from such projects. The goal of this session was to understand the role the mind plays in development with specific reference to Africa. This reading was necessitated by the argument that the psychological dimension of agency and empowerment has been overlooked in development discourse. It is thus the argument of this school of thought that there is an inherent psychological dimension to human action.

1. A critical psychology of the post-colonial (2005) by Derek Hook.
2. The future in the mind: Aspirations and forward-looking behaviour in rural Ethiopia (2014) by Tanguy Bernard, Stefan Dercon, Kate Orkin and Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse.
3. World development report (2015): mind, society and behaviour.

The psychology of colonialism, 30/03/16

This session explored the relationship between the colonised and the coloniser through the classic text by Fanon Frantz: Black Skin, White Mask. In it, Fanon uses psychoanalysis, literary criticism, to help the black man to free himself of the arsenal of complexes that was developed by the colonial environment (the psychology of colonialism) which assumed that black people had no culture, no civilisation, and no long historical past.

An article by James Ferguson titled 'Declaration of independence: Labour, personhood and welfare in South Africa,' 27/04/16

This session examined relations of social dependence through the work of Ferguson, where within the South African society he examines how such relations were understood in pre-capitalist and early capitalist social systems. In it, Ferguson kind of concludes that dependence was not simply bondage or unfreedom (as the emancipatory liberal mind tends to assume). On the contrary, in a social system put together around competition for followers, it was actually the existence of possibilities for hierarchical affiliation that created the most important forms of free choice.



Achille Mbembe's Necropolitics 25/05/16

In this session, we debated the central thesis of Mbembe in his article titled 'Necropolitics, which assumes that the ultimate expression of sovereignty resides, to a large degree, in the power and the capacity to dictate who may live and who must die. For him, to kill or to allow to live constitute the apex of sovereignty, its fundamental attributes.

AFSAAP Opportunities

AFSAAP aims to support research in African Studies by promoting postgraduate research in Australia and New Zealand. We offer the following opportunities –

- Annual Postgraduate Prize for the best paper presented at the annual conference
- Postgraduate travel grants to attend the annual conference
- Grants for all members to attend another African Studies Conference around the world.
- Small grants to establish an African Studies reading group in your State or University.

The AFSAAP Executive willing consider other suggestions on how best we can promote African Studies and research in this region. See <http://afsaap.org.au/opportunities/>

Update Your Profile on afsaap.org.au

A reminder that all current AFSAAP members are able to provide a personal profile for the members section of www.afsaap.org.au. The profile is used by various members of the public (particularly the media) to locate African experts, and includes institutional affiliation, links to personal homepages, countries of specialisation and a paragraph summarising academic interests in African studies.

Members who have not yet done so should contact AFSAAP Secretary@afsaap.org.au



palgrave
macmillan

New Book Series / Call for Proposals

Africa's Global Engagement Perspectives from Emerging Countries

Series Editor:

Professor Ajay Dubey

General Secretary, African Studies Association of India (ASA India); and
Centre for African Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru
University, New Delhi, India

International Editorial Board:

Dr. Adriana Erthal Abdenur, Fellow, Igarapé Institute, &
Researcher, Brazilian National Council for Technological
and Scientific Development (CNPq) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Prof. Chris J. Alden, International Relations, The London
School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK

Prof. Li Anshan, Director, Centre for African Studies, Peking
University, China

Prof. Aparajita Biswas, Centre for African Studies,
University of Mumbai, Mumbai

Prof. Yongkjo Chang, Director, Institute of African Studies
(IAS), Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea

Dr. Annette Skovsted Hansen, History and Global Studies,
Aarhus University, Denmark

Prof. Gladys Lechini, Director, IREMAI, National University
of Rosario, Argentina

Dr. Tanya Lyons, School of History and International
Relations, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia;
President, African Studies Association of Australasia & the
Pacific

Prof. S.N. Malakar, Centre for African Studies, Jawaharlal
Nehru University, New Delhi

Prof. K. Mathews, Department of Political Science and
International Relations, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Prof. Yoichi Mine, Graduate School of Global Studies,
Doshisha University, Japan

Prof. Maria Nzomo, Director, Institute of Diplomacy &
International Studies, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Analúcia Danilevicz Pereira, Director, Brazilian Centre for
African Studies (CEBRAFRICA), Department of Economics
& International Relations; Faculty of Economic Sciences,
Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul-UFRGS/Brazil

Prof. Timothy M. Shaw, Visiting Professor, University of
Massachusetts, Boston, USA; and Emeritus Professor,
University of London, UK

Dr. Karen Smith, Department of Political Studies,
University of Cape Town, South Africa

Prof. Ian Taylor, International Relations and African
Political Economy, St. Andrews University, Scotland, UK

Prof. Chris de Wet, Institute for Water Research, Rhodes
University, South Africa

[Visit series
homepage](#)

Aims and Scope:

The 21st century has been characterized by a global rush to engage African countries. Unlike in the past, globalization has given African countries options to select and diversify their engagements. Though traditional powers are still trying to reinforce their links, African countries have generally found it more empowering to reduce their traditional dependence and develop more equitable relations with countries of the South, especially with emerging economies. Different regions and countries of the world find different opportunities and challenges in their attempts to engage the African region. Similarly, African countries, along with the African Union and other regional organizations, find different advantages in diversifying their traditional dependence. However, the new engagements have neither replaced the traditional engagement of Africa, nor are they wholly unproblematic from African perspectives. In this context, it is essential to understand and analyse emerging Africa's global engagements.

To that end, this series will cover important countries and regions, including traditional powers, that engage African countries, the African Union and African regional organisations. The book series will also address global and regional issues that exclusively affect African countries. Books in the series can be either monographs or edited works.

Expected Content:

The series will focus on the following aspects, among others:

- In its current global engagement, is Africa still a "helpless" player? Who dictates the terms of Africa's new engagement, and how it impacts various African countries?
- In the current competition between traditional powers and emerging economies to engage Africa, is Africa's global engagement merely undergoing a geographical shift, or is it moving toward increasingly equitable international relations? How traditional powers have re-strategised themselves to retain their influence on Africa and how Africa is responding to them?
- How is Africa involved in the issues of global governance and how it negotiates and navigates its positions on issues of global concerns?

➤ **Submit your proposal for a new monograph or contributed volume in this series**

Contact your Series Editor. Professor Ajay Dubey: pmbookseries1@gmail.com

Contact your Publishing Editor. Sagarika Ghosh: sagarika.ghosh@springer.com / nupoor.singh@springer.com