



AFRICAN POLITICS CONFERENCE GROUP (APCG)

of the
American Political Science Association (APSA),
International Studies Association (ISA),
and
African Studies Association (ASA).

APCG Newsletter No. 18
March 2009

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Chair's Letter

Dear Friends-

I hope that this letter finds all of you well. From all accounts, Africanists and the APCG were well represented at the recent ISA Conference in New York. Many thanks to all members who helped to organize panels and present papers as part of our group. And special thanks to John Clark for organizing a social gathering for APCG members.

We also welcomed a number of new members to the APCG and our membership list now stands at 268. Please continue to encourage your colleagues to join the APCG. You may email me at pvondoep@uvm.edu with new members or questions. Also, please take this opportunity to pay your 2009 dues of \$10! Only 52 members (about a quarter of total members) have paid dues to date. This is down from 64 for 2008. A form is attached to this newsletter. Please fill it out and send it with your check to our treasurer Richard Marcus.

Thanks to the heroic efforts of Dennis Galvan, the APCG has launched its new website! You can find it at: <http://africa.uoregon.edu/apcg/>. In addition to cleaning up the old website, Dennis was able to add a few more bells and whistles. Let me highlight two of these:

First, we have added links so that members can become part of APCG discussion groups, via "google groups." We have two discussion groups up and running. The first is a general members' discussion forum. Those who sign on will become part of an email list where members can freely exchange messages. This will allow members to make announcements to others, raise general queries, etc. Members may join this now, but I will also soon send out the link to our membership inviting them to sign up. We also created an APCG teaching forum. Members who sign on can become part of a discussion group devoted to teaching African politics. Our vision is for members to generate other such groups as

dictated by interest. We will then link these to the website.

Second, we have added a link for syllabi under the "resources" pull-down menu. Right now, only one syllabus is provided (mine). Our vision is to link and attach a large number of syllabi to the website to allow exchange of ideas about teaching. I encourage all of you to send me your syllabi, which we will then place on our website.

We owe a huge thanks to Dennis for all of his work on this, as well as his longtime service to the APCG as website manager. With the new website up and running, Dennis has indicated that it is time for him to step down as web manager. **We are currently looking for a new website manager.** We still have room to grow in terms of what we accomplish with our webpage, so this is a great opportunity for some creative energy. If you are able to volunteer for this job, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

We have submitted our proposed sponsored panels to the ASA for the annual meeting in New Orleans in November. These are: "Agency, Governance, and Policy in Post-genocide Rwanda," chaired by Susan Thomson; and "Elections and Voters in Africa: Clientelism, Ethnic Domination, or Policy Evaluation?," chaired by Staffan Lindberg and Daniel Young. ASA must still approve these, but we are fairly confident that will happen. Many thanks to all those who submitted proposals to the APCG. And special thanks to our hardworking ASA committee of

Aaron Tesfaye, Rachel Ellett and Lisa Aubrey for selecting these great panels!

We also have completed our work in choosing our panels for the APSA meetings in Toronto in September. This year we are able to put forward three of the panels submitted to the APCG-APSA committee, owing to co-sponsorship of one of them from another related group. These are listed on page 4 of the newsletter. Many thanks to all who applied. And, many thanks to our APSA committee, Susanna Wing, Alice Kang and Mi Yung Yoon, for all of their hard work.

We lost a dear friend to many and a treasured colleague, Alison Des Forges, this past February. Alison's scholarship and advocacy work for human rights was an inspiration to many of us, and she will be deeply missed. Please see Tim Longman's tribute to Alison in this newsletter. We hope everyone's work and scholarship has gotten off to a good start this year. We look forward to more interchange and news as the year progresses.

Kind regards,

Peter VonDoepp
APCG Chair

From the Editor

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This is the second issue of our newsletter since I became editor six months ago. The NL offers a unique opportunity for Africanists in North America and elsewhere to be in touch with each other. The NL is also an open and effective platform upon which we can share our news, promote our research, and let each other know of various opportunities that may be of interest.

Over the past few months, our group has continued to grow. Few have taken advantage of the newsletter for sending news and information, however. I am sure there is more to be said about new publications, information regarding grants, academic posts, and so on. Nevertheless, many have decided to contribute to the current issue,

and by doing so, helped me to set this issue up. For that I am grateful.

Needless to say, I would like you all to continue to e-mail me with information about publications, news, conferences, and anything else that may be of interest. The next issue will be published in June, so I'll remind you again as we approach that time to send in any material that you want to communicate to the group. (Remember, however, that one of our newsletter's "traditions" is to announce only already-published material.)

Best wishes,

Mamoudou Gazibo
Newsletter Editor

A TRIBUTE TO ALISON DES FORGES

The crash near Buffalo of Continental Flight 3407 on February 12, 2009, deprived the African studies community of its most prominent scholar-activist and a leading voice for human rights in Africa. Alison Des Forges, trained at Yale University as a historian, served for many years as an adjunct professor of history at SUNY-Buffalo, where her husband Roger taught Chinese history. In the early 1990s, Des Forges got involved in investigating human rights abuses in Rwanda and Burundi as a volunteer for Human Rights Watch (HRW). When the genocide against the minority Tutsi population began in Rwanda in 1994, Des Forges took the lead in calling for international condemnation, tirelessly lobbying government officials to take action and patiently correcting the media's portrayal of the violence as "ancient tribal hatreds."

Human rights work soon became Des Forges' full-time occupation. She oversaw the creation of a field office for HRW and the Paris-based International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH) in Rwanda and led an international team of researchers in investigating how the 1994 genocide happened. For five years, Des Forges worked on drafting what is now recognized as the definitive account of the genocide, *Leave None to Tell the Story: Genocide in Rwanda*, which won the Raphael Lemkin Prize and earned Des Forges a "genius grant" from the MacArthur Foundation.

Rather than slowing down, Des Forges took on greater responsibilities with HRW, directing expanded human rights monitoring in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo as well as criticizing abuses by the new Rwandan government, something that earned her the wrath of many who had praised her work on the genocide. At the same time, she tirelessly pushed for accountability for the Rwandan genocide, testifying in 11 trials at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and at trials in Belgium, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Canada, as well as testifying before the French National Assembly about French government implication in the genocide.

Des Forges' activism was always informed by her background in academics, and she remained actively engaged in the African Studies Community, participating in the ASA annual

meeting almost every year. Though not in a conventional academic post, Des Forges was a patient and inspiring mentor who regularly advised researchers going into the field in Central Africa and generously gave of her time providing feedback on works in progress. She insisted on thorough and careful research as a basis for human rights monitoring, and she allowed the facts about abuses to dictate her positions rather than being driven by political considerations. Her approach was even-handed, earning her enemies among the powerful on all sides but gaining the respect and appreciation of activists, scholars, and common people in Africa and abroad. No one knew the facts about modern Rwanda better than Alison Des Forges, and last year, because of her position as the most influential critic of the regime, the Rwandan government banned her from entering the country.

I had the good fortune of working for Alison for a year as the director of the HRW/FIDH field office in Rwanda and later conducting human rights missions in Burundi and Eastern Congo under her direction. Alison was a demanding supervisor, more energetic than her much younger employees, and meticulous and persistent in the pursuit of facts. I remember once staking out a military officer in Ruhengeri with her, waiting for hours in front of his home and ultimately tracking him down in a bar to secure an interview that she felt was essential to our research. We drove back to Kigali at break-neck speed just in time for me to catch my plane home. What inspired me most were the good spirits that Alison always maintained, even in the face of the terrible tragedies that she dealt with on a daily basis.

Whether she had been mugged walking to her hotel in Arusha or was facing down threats from military officers, she was always patient and always managed to see the humor in a situation. When I was dealing with difficult times working in Rwanda in the aftermath of the genocide, Alison would cheer me up by telling me about how terrible the snow was in Buffalo. "At least the weather in Rwanda is beautiful," she would say. Alison would have been the first to note the irony that as dangerous a life as she led in Africa, it was ultimately the weather in Buffalo that led to her demise.

Timothy Longman, Vassar College

ACPG Sponsored Panels

ACPG panels for APSA have been selected. Dates and rooms are not yet available but will be printed in an upcoming newsletter

Panel 1:

Title: African Leadership Roles and the Role of the Civic in a Context of Political Change

Sponsor(s): African Politics Conference Group

Chair: Bruce Magnusson, Whitman College

Disc. Carl LeVan, American University

Papers:

Richard Marcus, California State University, Long Beach

“The Ravalomanana Reforms and the Efficacy of Civic Oversight in Madagascar”

Peter A. VonDoepp, University of Vermont

“Legal Associations and the Fight for Political Liberalism in New African Democracies: Comparative Insights from Malawi, Zambia and Namibia”

Mabel Brodrick-Okereke, University of Cambridge

“The Role of Women’s Civic Associations in the Conflict over oil in the Niger Delta”

Parakh Hoon, Virginia Tech

“Personalism without Neopatrimonialism: A ‘crucial case study’ of leadership and civil society in an African democracy”

Panel 2

Title: Ethnicity, Religion and Traditional Authority in African Politics (Panel Co-sponsored by Comparative Politics of Developing Countries)

Sponsor(s): African Politics Conference Group

Chair: R Keith A. Darden, Yale University

Disc. Thad Dunning, Yale University and Daniel N. Posner, University of California, Los Angeles

Papers

Jeffrey Karl Conroy-Krutz, Columbia University

“Who Are Africa’s (Non) Ethnic Voters? Evaluating Theories on the Salience of Ethnicity in African Electoral Politics”

Dominika Koter, Yale University

“Social Structure and Political Mobilization”

John F. McCauley, University of California, Los Angeles

“The Political Implications of Religion and Ethnicity in Africa: a Field Experiment along the Muslim-Christian Divide”

Katharine A. Baldwin, Columbia University

“Big Men and Ballots: Results from a Survey Experiment in Zambia”

Panel 3:

Title: Democratization, State Strength and Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: New Empirical and Conceptual Horizons

Sponsor: Peace Studies

Chair: Richard Joseph, Northwestern University

Disc. Richard Joseph, Northwestern University

Papers:

Carl LeVan, American University

“The Consequences of Political Inclusion: A Report from Contemporary Africa”

Scott D. Taylor, Georgetown University

“Strong States are Good for Business: Democracy, Market and State Capacity in Africa”

Mark Y. Rosenberg, UC Berkeley

“A Bayesian Model of Single-Party Dominance”

John W. Harbeson, CUNY, City College

“Toward Further Democratic Stateness in Sub-Saharan Africa: Conceptual and Empirical Challenges”

OTHER CONFERENCES- CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS

ASA 2009 CALL FOR PROPOSALS - Submission Deadline Extended!

The African Studies Association has extended the 2009 Call for Proposals submission deadline to 11:59 pm EST on March 31, 2009. The ASA's 52nd Annual Meeting will be held November 19-22, 2009 at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel, New Orleans, LA. This year's Annual Meeting theme is "Africa at a Crossroads." The Program Chair is Aili Tripp, University of Wisconsin-Madison. You may log on to your MyASA account at www.africanstudies.org to submit your proposal. Membership dues and the pre-registration fee or the non-member pre-registration fee must be paid before you will be able to submit a proposal.

Kwame Nkrumah International Conference

From Colonization to Globalization: The Intellectual and Political Legacies of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah and Africa's Future

Kwantlen Polytechnic University invites you to participate in the Kwame Nkrumah International Conference: August 19-21, 2010 at its beautiful Richmond campus in British Columbia, Canada. The Conference will commemorate the centenary of the birthday of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Africa's Man of the Millennium, and bring scholars and students from Canada and around the world to share research and ideas on Africa's place in the global community, and to discuss the life, achievements and shortcomings of Africa's foremost Pan-Africanist. Molefi Kete Asante, USA-based Temple University Professor—one of one of the most distinguished contemporary scholars, as well as the author/co-author and editor of no less than 68 books and scholarly articles—will provide a keynote address in celebration of the conference with other scholars of similar calibre and talent in the context(s) of Pan-Africanism, post/neo-colonialism and globalization via a cross-disciplinary, multi-centric, and international perspectives.

Paper Abstract Submission: Abstracts of approx. 250 words for papers of 20 minutes duration, and suggestions of panels consisting of 3 panelists each are welcome and should be e-mailed, with a short bio-note (50 words) contact address, and one to three keywords related to the area of research to Dr. Charles Quist-Adade at Charles.quist-adade@kwantlen.ca or Dr. Frances Chiang at frances.chiang@kwantlen.ca no later than August 30th, 2009, final notification of selection to be communicated by September 30, 2009.

Call for applications: workshop fellows

Workshop on Elections and Democracy (June 21-July 10, 2009), *Sponsored by the American Political Science Association and the Institute for African Studies, University of Ghana*

The American Political Science Association (APSA) and the Institute for African Studies at the University of Ghana, Legon are pleased to announce a call for applications from individuals who would like to participate in a June 21-July 10, 2009 "Workshop on Elections and Democracy: Exchanging African and Comparative Perspectives." The Workshop will be held at the facilities of the Institute for African Studies in Accra, Ghana. The organizers, with a grant secured from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, a private philanthropy in the United States, will cover all the costs of participation (travel, lodging, meals, daily stipend, materials) for up to 23 qualified applicants (20 African, 3 U.S.). The working language of the workshop is English. Professional fluency in English is absolutely required.

The workshop leaders are Dr. Daniel A. Smith (Department of Political Science, University of Florida, USA), Dr. Kevin S. Fridy (Department of Political Science, University of Tampa, USA), Dr. Beatrix Allah-Mensah (Department of Political Science, University of Ghana, Ghana), and Dr. Ukoha Ukiwo (Department of Political and Administrative Studies, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria).

Program announcements, the 2009 Application Form, and more information about the workshop can be found online at the APSA Africa Workshops project website, www.apsanet.org/africaworkshops.

The application deadline is March 27, 2009.

Brown University Series

With the inauguration of the Brown International Advanced Research Institutes (BIARI) in June, 2009, Brown University is set to build a new kind of academic community – responding to the needs of a rising generation of scholars from around the globe and contributing to global research through transnational academic collaboration.

Each June, Brown University, with support from Santander Universities, will host a series of Institutes under the BIARI umbrella. Each Institute, designed specifically to address the needs and questions of its given field, will assemble young scholars from the Global South

and the US, along with leading scholars and key global experts in the field, to build an open academic platform where dialogue is expanded, ideas are disseminated, and career opportunities are enhanced.

BIARI Schedule June 2009

- Towards a Global Humanities: Critical Traditions from the Global South

(May 31st-June 13th, 2009)

This Institute will focus on critical intellectual traditions from the Global South. Discussion and debate will be configured around four main thematic clusters:

1) History, Democracy and the Politics of Memory;

2) Theorizing Violence: Contested traditions;
3) Global Flows: Diaspora and critical thought;
4) Opening Up Epistemes: Indigenous knowledge systems, converging sciences and digital humanities

- Development and Inequality in the Global South

(May 31st - June 13th, 2009)

This Institute will focus on cutting-edge research and innovative methodologies used to explore, quantify and account for inequality, and promote new thinking about development.

APCG NOMINATIONS FOR BEST ARTICLE AND BOOK

Nominations for Best Article on African Politics 2009

The time has come once again to select and reward the best article on African Politics, but we need APCG members help.

Please send in your nominations for the best articles on politics in Africa to the APCG Best Article Committee. Articles are eligible if they were published in the 2008 calendar year and should be mainly focused on Africa and centred within the political science discipline. Please feel free to nominate more than one article!

Contact: nicholas.cheeseman@politics.ox.ac.uk

Nominations for Best Book on African Politics 2009

As members of the *Best Book on African Politics 2009* Committee of the African Politics Conference Group (APCG) of the American Political Science Association (APSA), the International Studies Association (ISA), and the African Studies Association (ASA), we are soliciting nominations for the 2009 Best Book on African Politics.

Books should be on an issue related to political science or international relations with special reference to Africa, and published in 2008. Edited volumes do not qualify. The award is presented at ASA's annual convention 19-21 November 2009 and is also given prominent space in the APCG Newsletter.

The APCG is an official affiliate organization of APSA, ISA, and ASA with some 300 members across these organizations, and have several sponsored panels at their annual meetings. APCG has rapidly become the leading organization for academics in political science and related disciplines studying Africa. The best book award thus provides not only recognition of the author but also widespread visibility of the winning product.

Nominations are due April 15, 2009 and one copy should be sent to each of the committee's members :

- Staffan I. Lindberg (Chair)
Department of Political Science
University of Florida
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Gainesville, FL 32611
sil@ufl.edu

- Warigia Bowman
Assistant Professor
Department of Public Policy Leadership
107 Odom Hall
University of Mississippi
mwbowman@olemiss.edu

John Harbeson
Professor of Political Science *Emeritus*
City University of New York
Mailing address: 4978 Sentinel Dr #203
Bethesda, MD 20816
Jwharbeson@aol.com

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON AFRICAN POLITICS

Boone, Catherine .2009. "Electoral Populism Where Property Rights Are Weak: Land Politics in Contemporary Sub-Saharan

Africa," *Comparative Politics*, 41/2 (January), 183-201.

- Craiutu, Aurelien and Sheldon Gellar(eds). 2009. *Conversations with Tocqueville: The Global Revolution in the Twenty First Century* (Landham, MD: Lexington Books.).
- Englebert, Pierre. 2009 (Forthcoming June). *Africa : Unity, Sovereignty and Sorrow*. Lynne Rienner.
- Gazibo, Mamoudou. 2009. "Una rivoluzione nelle relazioni internazionali? L'approcio cinese all'Africa et le sue sfide", *Afriche e Orienti*, numero 2, 2008, pp. 15-23.
- Green, Elliott 'Decentralization and Conflict in Uganda:' *Conflict, Security and Development* 8, 4 (December 2008): 427-450.
- Green, Elliott. 2008. 'Understanding the Limits to Ethnic Change: Evidence from Uganda's "Lost Counties";' *Perspectives on Politics* 6, 3 (September): 473-485.
- Lindberg, Staffan I. and Minion K. C. Morrison. 2008. "Are African Voters Really Ethnic or Clientelistic?: Survey Evidence from Ghana." *Political Science Quarterly* 123(1): 95-122.
- Lindberg, Staffan I. 2009. "Byzantine Complexity: Making Sense of Accountability". Working Paper No. 28, Political Concepts Series. International Political Science Association; Committee on Concepts and Methods.
- Poteete, Amy R. 2009 (Forthcoming). "Defining Political Community and Rights to Natural Resources in Botswana." *Development and Change* 40, no. 2 (March).
- Poteete, Amy R. 2009 (Forthcoming). "Is Development Path Dependent or Political? A Reinterpretation of Mineral-Dependent Development in Botswana," *Journal of Development Studies* 45, no. 4 (April).
- Quinn, John James, Associate Professor of Political Science at Truman State University had his article "When You Cannot Find the Perfect Match: Using Accumulated Most Similar Design Case Studies" accepted for publication in the *Journal of Political Science Education*. It will be out this summer. It offers a way of bolstering the use of a most similar case study design in an African political economy context.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gretchen Bauer is thoroughly enjoying her sabbatical in Gaborone, Botswana, looking at why there are so few women in Botswana's parliament when there are so many in neighboring countries. She is affiliated with the University of Botswana Department of Sociology and has already given a couple of seminars. For some insights into being on sabbatical with kids, visit her blog at: <http://dumelafromqabs.blogspot.com/>.

Warigia Bowman has been hired as Assistant Professor in The Department of Public Policy Leadership University of Mississippi 1070 dom Hall University, MS 38677

Carl LeVan, chair of the Africa Council at American University, is organizing a workshop on "The Consequences of Inclusive Governance in Africa." USAID is providing additional support. Scholars and practitioners from Africa, Canada, and the US will explore new ideas about how large cabinets, unity governments, and power sharing are impacting fiscal discipline, policy bargaining, and vertical accountability. All discussions will take place on AU's main campus in Washington, DC from April 24 – 25.

Susanne D. Mueller worked with the Waki Commission of Inquiry into the Post Election Violence (CIPEV) in Kenya last year. The commission's Report is on the web. just search «Waki».

From Clive Napier :“The Department of Political Sciences at Unisa, Pretoria, has been in existence for a little over sixty year. African politics has been offered at the undergraduate and graduate level for close to forty years as one of three sub-fields in the department. Despite our limited resources, we offer a seven module undergraduate program in African politics as well as a graduate Honours, M A and doctoral degree. Colleagues are also involved in research and networking. We hold an annual Africa Day conference at the end of May each year which has become an institution in the university. We are keen to expand our links with yourselves and participate in your three annual conference panel sessions. We do however need warning of five to six months in order to make the necessary arrangements. We look forward to closer links in the future in furthering our quest for knowledge and understanding of the politics of the African continent.” Clive Napier – African Politics, Unisa E mail: [Napiej@unisa.ac.za](mailto:Napiecj@unisa.ac.za)

Bob Press is in Sierra Leone this academic year on a Fulbright teaching human rights at Fourah Bay College, and researching human rights activism there as well. He can be reached at bob.press@usm.edu

RENEW MEMBERSHIP FOR 2009!



**AFRICAN POLITICS
CONFERENCE GROUP**

*A Coordinate Group of
American Political Science Association
African Studies Association
International Studies Association*

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University of Oregon

Mamoudou Gazibo, Newsletter Editor
Université de Montréal

**Membership Dues
2009**

Name: _____

Institution: _____

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Amount Enclosed: \$10.00

Please enclose this form with a check for \$10,
payable to:

Richard Marcus, APCG Treasurer
International Studies Program
California State University, Long Beach
1250 Bellflower Blvd.- MS 4605
Long Beach, CA 90840-4605

The APCG is served 2009 by the following members:

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Johns Hopkins/SAIS
Harvard University

Best Article Award

Parakh Hoon
Rachel Riedl
Nic Cheeseman

Virginia Tech. University
Princeton University
Oxford University

Nominations

Lahra Smith
Elliott Green
Kalu Kalu

Georgetown University
London School of Economics
Auburn University Montgomery

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please send an email to me (mamoudou.gazibo@umontreal.ca).