

ASA-UK

7-9 September 2016

Selection of Cambridge Conference Streams

Peace, Protest and Political Struggle

Panels in this stream will look at different contexts, strategies and outcomes of political struggle, including violent and non-violent protest, strikes, demonstrations and rebellion. Topics may include the dynamics of urban and or rural protests, environmental protest, the role of violence in political change, state and international responses to political struggles, the transnational politics of peace, conflict and protest. Proposals are welcome from historical and contemporary cases across Africa.

Contact: Devon Curtis (dc403@cam.ac.uk) and Marta Iniguez de Heredia (mi306@cam.ac.uk)

Popular Culture

This stream considers popular culture from across the continent in all its diverse and dynamic forms. Panels on popular music, theatre, popular fiction, fashion, photography, film, and comedy are most welcome. Topics to be explored include, but are not limited to: the relationship between popular culture and power; agency and audiences; genre; language and slang; gender and sexuality; celebrity and stardom; and nationalism.

Contact: Andrea Grant (amg68@cam.ac.uk)

Malawi and the Zambezi Region: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

Keeping Malawi as the central focus, the aim of this series of panels is to bring together scholars working on common themes within the Zambezi region – defined primarily as Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. These countries share a similar colonial history (all with the exception of Mozambique were colonized by the UK, and later formed part of the Central African Federation), as well as linguistic and cultural communities, and similar economic, geographic, and environmental features. Panels will involve scholars from a variety of disciplines (including history, anthropology, health and social sciences, development studies, and politics) with an interest in issues relating to land, chieftaincy, migration, rural and urban life, religion, health and medicine, politics and performance. We hope that these panels will enable scholars to form new connections and draw meaningful comparisons between the countries of the Zambezi region.

Contact: Zoe Groves (zg242@cam.ac.uk) and Jessica Johnson

Newspapers, periodicals and print cultures in Africa

A new and growing body of scholarship is exploring newspapers, periodicals and magazines in Africa not merely as sources for Africa's history and politics but as cultural artefacts worthy of study in their own right. Recent work by historians, anthropologists and literary scholars has shown the ways in which, from the late nineteenth century, print media has enabled the summoning of new publics, created new subjectivities and produced new literary forms. This strand offers an opportunity

to bring together ongoing research from across the continent across a series of panels and explore ways forward for this new direction in research.

Contact: Emma Hunter (Emma.Hunter@ed.ac.uk)

Africa and International Law: Recipient, Creator or Rebellious Reformer

This stream explores Africa's multidimensional relationship with international law. To what extent did African states, when newly independent, receive a package of international law in the making of which they had had little say? To what extent has Africa contributed to new international law, inspired by African practices and experiences? And in which areas have we seen Africa rebel against existing international law with a view to reform it?

Contact: Sarah Nouwen (smhm3@cam.ac.uk)

Political legitimacy and hegemony in modern Africa

This stream encourages panels that address the relationship between citizens and political formations, whether states, political parties, non-parliamentary political organisations or armed political groups. We expect panels will address fundamental questions about what it is that makes a state legitimate or otherwise in the eyes of its citizens, and what it is that causes people to ally themselves with a political movement that may or may not be in power. We particularly welcome contributions that seek to untangle the confusion between party legitimacy and state legitimacy that exists both in political discourse and in some of the academic literature. Theoretical reflections and case-study based contributions will be equally welcome, and panels may be regionally or thematically based. Ideas might include appeals to legitimacy through anti-colonial and other historical claims, developmental undertakings, maintenance of order, defence of the nation, or the dispensing of patronage.

Contact: Justin Pearce (jp663@cam.ac.uk)

Militaries and Politics

Fifty years since an African 'Winter of Discontent' saw a wave of military coups across the continent, forty years since the establishment of entrenched military regimes such as the Derg in Ethiopia, Africa is again experiencing numerous direct interventions into state politics by branches of the armed forces. Over the last three years coups, attempted coups and explicit political action have reasserted ambiguous military power in the political sphere, from Mali and Guinea-Bissau to Burkina Faso and Burundi. Elsewhere, African contributions to peacekeeping forces, changing dynamics of conflict and the prospects of constitutional change have raised new questions for the role of the security forces in state politics. Assessing these contemporary events and re-examining historical dynamics of military politics, this stream brings together studies from all disciplines that consider the relationship of African militaries and security services with local and regional politics, with particular emphasis on questions of change and continuity across time.

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