

ISG NEWSLETTER July - August 2024

The third newsletter for the 2024 academic calendar covers the months of July and August. Three seminars were presented in the Department – with two Stanley Trapido meetings presented by Dr Priscillah Machinga and Dr George Bishi, and a Ramblers session delivered by Dr Mutale Mazimba. They covered very different topics; Dr Machinga's presentation focussed on Shona midwives in Colonial Zimbabwe; Dr Bishi's talk examined Native and District Commissioners' vernacular names and the politics of Knowledge Production in colonial Zimbabwe, and Dr Mazimba's presentation explored the history of indigenous healthcare provision during the First World War in Colonial Zambia. The occasions provoked lively discussions, ably chaired by Dr Kaluba Chama, Dr Clement Masakure and Dr Innocent Dande.

The achievements listed below include invitations to act as a discussant, workshop and conference attendance, papers published and accepted for publication, reviews of recently published books, and book launches.

Dr Saima Ashipala was invited to serve as a discussant for Prof. Henning Melber's presentation on his recently published book, *The Long Shadow of German Colonialism: Amnesia, Denialism, and Revisionism*, in a Webinar Series Co-hosted by the Department of History and the *Southern Journal for Contemporary History*, University of the Free State. In addition, Dr Saima Ashipala secured a fully funded invitation to attend and present at a workshop in Lusaka titled 'Past Futures: New Histories from Southern Africa', in Lusaka, Zambia, from 3-4 July 2024, while Nicola Yon was selected to participate in a conference hosted by YSI on 'Economic Thinking and Economic Development in Africa: Past, Present, and Prospects for the Future' to be held at the University of Nairobi, Kenya where she will present a paper titled 'Reimagining Economic Development: The Informal Economy Care Work and Social Security Policies in Zimbabwe'. Nyasha Bushu attended the 2024 APN & Next Gen Research Methods Workshop which was held in Lagos, Nigeria from 22-25 July 2024. Dr Jennifer Chansa presented, virtually, a paper titled 'The environmental impact of pre-independence mining expansion on the Northern Rhodesian Copperbelt', at the 4th World Congress of Environmental History which was held in Oulu, Finland, while Dr George Bishi presented a paper titled "The white hordes from the west": Australian media representations of white Rhodesian immigrants during Zimbabwe's decolonisation, 1960s to late 1970s', at the Australian Historical Association Annual Conference which was held at Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia from 1-4 July 2024. Congratulations to all.

Congratulations also to Nyasha Bushu, Dr Kaluba Chama, Dr George Bishi, and Dr Priscillah Machinga for recently publishing an article and a book chapter, and for articles accepted for publication. Nyasha Bushu co-authored an article with Ushewedu Kufakurinani titled 'The Zimbabwean Economic Crisis' which was published in [Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Africa History](#), and Dr Kaluba Chama's book chapter 'The Teaching of History in Zambia: The Use of Project Method in Reviving the Value of History Education', was published in an edited collection by Gideon Boadu and Charles A. Oppong, [History Education in Africa, Research, Perspectives and Practices](#) (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024), pp.193-214 (). Dr George Bishi's

article, 'A fictitious referendum and a European affair': African Perspectives of the 1922 referendum and the 1923 Responsible Government in Southern Rhodesia', was accepted for publication in the *South African Historical Journal*, while Dr Kaluba Chama's article "Women's Stronghold': Cassava and the Transformation of the Status of Women in Pre-colonial Zambia' was accepted for publication in *Food and History Journal*.

Congratulations to Dr Michael Glover and ISG research fellow Dr Les Mitchell had their edited volume *Animals as Experiencing Entities: Theories and Historical Narratives* was reviewed in the local online newspaper the [Daily Maverick](#).

Congratulations to Dr Ruhan Fourie and Dr Karen Horn who launched their books at the Bloemfontein Arts Festival that was held at the University of the Free State. Dr Ruhan Fourie's book *Christian Nationalism and Anticommunism in Twentieth-Century South Africa* examines how the Dutch Reformed Church (NG Kerk) played a significant role in developing and maintaining the fear of communism during the twentieth century, and Dr Karen's book, *Prisoners of Jan Smuts: Italian Prisoners of War in South Africa in WWII* explores the history of the Italian prisoners-of-war (POWs) who were incarcerated in South Africa during the Second World War. Well done to all.

Last but not least, I would like to welcome two new postdoctoral fellows who joined the ISG at the beginning of August. These are Dr Mutale T. Mazimba and Dr Peter Uledi. Dr Mazimba's expertise lies in modern African History with specific areas including First World War studies and socio-economic histories of Indigenous societies, and Dr Uledi's research interests cover Environmental History, Peasant Studies, and Economic History. Welcome to the International Studies Group.

Clement Masakure

29 August 2024