

## ISG Newsletter July-August 2025

In the past two months, members of the International Studies Group – past and present – have won major international fellowships, conference invitations, tokens of scholarly esteem, published articles and book chapters, organised a regional workshop, and hosted a book launch – not bad at all for such a small group!

First of all, congratulations to Dr Sibanengi Ncube and Audrey Maringa on their outstanding achievements; respectively, a Visiting Fellowship at the University of Cambridge Centre for African Studies for six months from January 2026, and a CODESRIA Research in Indigenous and Alternative Knowledge Fellowship.

Conference invitations, some fully funded, other partially funded, have come flooding in: Nyasha Bushu was invited to an APN and Next Generation Research Methods Workshop in Mauritius; Saneze Tshayana attended the SAHJ Special Issue Workshop, 'Broadening Conceptions of the Political: Rethinking Women's Histories in South Africa', at the University of the Witwatersrand; Denise Banda, Keaobaka Tsholo, Dr Peter Uledi, Titus Chideme, and Dr Samuel Chikowero will all present papers at the forthcoming Regional History Society of Southern Africa Conference in Maputo; as will Belinda Makare at next month's Africa Writeshop in Critical Agrarian Studies and Scholar-Activism, jointly organised by *The Journal of Peasant Studies* and the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies at the University of the Western Cape. Well done, all of you.

Recognition for academic excellence was extended to Dr Geraldine Sibanda in the form of an invitation to serve as an external examiner for the University of Johannesburg, and an approach to collaborate with our Dean of The Humanities in a continuing project in the Humanities, for which special congratulations are expressed.

It has been an extremely busy eight weeks as regards publications. Dr Sibanda and Dr Alessandro de Cola edited a special issue of the *Southern Journal for Contemporary History*, in which they also contributed their own articles, namely 'Dossier: Reframing African Monetary History: A Southern African Perspective' [available [here](#)], and 'Chakachenjedza Ndochakatanga (Once Beaten Twice Shy)!: [Zimbabwe and the Economics of Mistrust](#)'. Dr Priscillah Machinga's previously flagged article in the *Third World Quarterly* is now available on [open access](#), a shortened version of which, by editorial invitation, will appear in *Conversation Africa*. Dr Kaluba Chama published an article, 'Women's Stronghold': 'Cassava and the Transformation of the Status of Women in Pre-colonial Zambia' in *Food & History Journal* (access it [here](#)); as well as a review of *Things Change: Black Material Culture and the Development of a Consumer Society in South Africa, 1800-2020*, by R Ross, in *Africa* (see [Africa. N.S. VI/2, 2024.](#)). Dr Innocent Dande has a co-authored book chapter, 'Diamonds, Animals, and Artisanal Miners: Towards a Multispecies History of Diamond Mining in Chiadzwa, Zimbabwe,' in J-B Gewald, S Iuning, and H Wels (eds), *Gaping Holes: Towards Multispecies Histories and Ethnographies of Mining in Southern Africa*, plus a review of J Skotnes-Brown's *Segregated Species: Pests, Knowledge, and Boundaries in South Africa, 1910-1948*, in *Agricultural History*, 2025, 99, 3.

Titus Chideme also has a book chapter, 'Livelihoods and Food Security in a Mining Setting: The Case of Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe, Zimbabwe, 1980-2020', accepted for inclusion in Palgrave Macmillan's forthcoming edited volume, *Rethinking Food Systems in a Warming World: Pathways to Resilient, Equitable, and Regenerative Agriculture*. Prof Bryson Nkhoma, who regularly puts all of us to shame, published a book chapter and two articles, respectively 'The Making of a Historian', in T Simpson and I Harisch (eds), *The Routledge Companion to*

*Postcolonial African Historiography*, which can be accessed [here](#) and (with co-authors), 'Colonialism, Governance and Fisheries: Perspectives from Lake Malawi,' in the *Journal of African History*, 2025 v66, 1-10, and 'Fishing (in) the Past to Inform the Future: Lessons from Lake Malawi and Mbenji Island', in *Marine Policy*, 2025, 173, 1-16.

Not least, Dr Mutale Mazimba, whose article, 'Racial Hierarchy, the Northern Rhodesia Rifles (NRR) and the First World War', very recently appeared in the *Journal of African Military History*. It can be found [here](#).

August saw the ISG host a workshop of its own, as well as an international book launch. Organised by Dr Peter Uledi, the workshop on 'Researching and Writing about the Global South', was funded by the Young Scholars Initiative and the International Studies Group and was attended by 25 participants from the University of the Free State, University of Cape Town, University of Johannesburg, University of Pretoria, National University of Lesotho, University of Zimbabwe, and the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Another ten people from Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Ivory Coast, and Nigeria attended online. Particular thanks to Prof Clement Masakure for his opening remarks and address.

Just a few days ago, the ISG was privileged to host the launch of *Cultivating Race. Transatlantic Agricultural Reform in South Africa, c.1900-1950*, a new book by Prof Julia Tischler of the University of Basel. The occasion was chaired by Dr Victor Gwande, and the discussant was Dr Lazlo Passemiers. Thank you very much, both of you.

Our seminar series, Ramblers and Stanley Trapido, have both been running for the past two months, the former ably organised by Saneze Tshayana and Dr Uledi. I am most appreciative of their efforts.

On 1 September, Dr Philipp Hofmann and Dr Samuel Chikowero – the first two members of our new postdoctoral fellowship intake – will join us. I trust you will give them a warm welcome, even as you guide them through Bloemfontein's cosmopolitan delights.

Prof Ian Phimister  
29 August 2025