

ISG NEWSLETTER MARCH – APRIL 2025

The past two months have witnessed some significant publishing achievements by past and present ISG members.

First up was the launch on 22 April of **Dr Admire Mseba's** *Society, Power, and Land in Northeastern Zimbabwe, ca. 1560–1960* (Ohio University Press, 2024). The event was hosted by the University of Southern California's Levan Institute for the Humanities. At much the same time, **Dr Mutale Mzimba's** study of Central African labour mobilisation during the First World War cleared several major hurdles on its way to acceptance by Ohio UP. She and **Dr Anusa Daimon** follow in the footsteps of **Dr Alfred Tembo** and **Dr Kundai Manamere**, marking a tremendous achievement by our small group in collectively publishing with one of the best Africanist presses in the world.

Dr Chama Kaluba and **Dr Sibanengi Ncube** scored a notable success by having their proposal for a special issue 'Re-Inserting Commodities in Southern African History' accepted by the *South African Historical Journal*. The special issue will comprise papers from the workshop on commodity history organized and hosted last September by the ISG. Among the journal articles published in the last eight weeks were **Prof Bryson Nkhoma's** 'State Power, Dilemmas and African Agency: Peasant Food Production and the Making of the Colonial State in Malawi, 1883–1961', in the *Journal of Southern African Studies* (it can be accessed [here](#)); **Dr Hyden Munene's** 'Trade unionism and decolonisation in Africa: the Zambian experience, 1949–1964', in *Labor History* (with Robby Kapesa); and **Dr Mutale Mazimba's** 'Precolonial Foundations of One Zambia, One Nation: The Role of Ethnic Cousinship (Ichimbuya) in Forging National Unity in Independent Zambia', in the *Zambia Journal of History* (with Ackson Kanduza). It can be accessed [here](#).

Dr Geraldine Sibanda published two working papers in the International Economic Thinkers series; respectively 'International Economic Thinkers-Profile: Kenneth K.S Dadzie', ECOINT IET Profile #11, available [here](#); and 'International Economic Thinkers-Profile: Bernard Thomas Gibson Chidzero', ECOINT IET Profile #10, available [here](#); while **Dr Hyden Munene's** *Copper King in Central Africa: Corporate Organization, Labor Relations, and Profitability of Zambia's Rokhana Corporation* was recently very positively reviewed in *African Studies Review*, where it was described as 'a meticulously researched and neatly organized volume'.

Invitations to conferences far and wide continued to roll in. **Saneze Tshayana's** paper, 'Looking for Love in the Wrong Places? Representations of Transactional Sexual Relationships in Post-1994 South Africa' has been accepted for a virtual presentation at the Australian Historical Association conference; **Nyasha Bushu** was invited to present a paper at the 30th Biennial International Peace Research Association conference, November 5 - 8, 2025, at Parihaka Pa and New Plymouth, New Zealand; **Dr Chama Kaluba** received a fully-funded invitation from the University of Pavia to present a paper at a workshop next month in Kitwe on the environmental history of the Copperbelt. Two major conferences will be held in June; HASA in Kimberley, and the Britain-Zimbabwe conference in Oxford, organized in large measure by **Prof Clement Masakure** and by **Prof Tinashe Nyamunda**, both formerly ISG postdoctoral Fellows. The ISG will be represented on each occasion by large contingents presenting papers, but more about this closer to the time.

Nyasha Bushu won a Next Generation 2025-2026 Doctoral Dissertation Completion Fellowship Award for his PhD project, 'Beyond chiefly courts: African grassroots justice practices in Southern Rhodesia c.1890-1937'; and **Dr Chama Kaluba** gave an online guest lecture to the Southwestern University, Texas. on the social, economic, and political development of cassava in Zambia.

No doubt I would say this, but I am once again struck by your demonstrable ability to produce first-class academic work across the Southern and Central African region and globally. My congratulations to you all.

Prof Ian Phimister

30 April 2025