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## ISG newsletter March-April 2026

The fact that the International Studies Group for much of its existence has regularly outperformed much larger and better-resourced History Departments elsewhere in South Africa and the SADC region turns mainly on two considerations. The first and most fundamental is that from start to finish, appointments have been made solely on academic excellence. And secondly, over time, this has created a virtuous circle whereby the Group's reputation has attracted first-class applications, even as it has opened doors to permanent posts elsewhere in institutions keen to employ the best young talent. The point does not need labouring beyond the opportunity it gives me to celebrate some recent successes by past ISG members now employed across the globe, as well as the many achievements scored over the last two months by present members of the Group.

Hot on the heels of his recent success in winning the American Historical Association's Martin A Klein Prize in African History for 'the most distinguished work of scholarship on African history published in English during the previous calendar year', this for his *Society, Power and Land in Northeastern Zimbabwe, ca. 1560-1960*, flagged in a previous newsletter, **Prof Admire Mseba** has been given tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in History at the University of South California. **Prof Bryson Nkhoma** has been recognised as one of the Founding Fellows of the Academy of Sciences (TAS) of Malawi, in future serving on think tanks dealing with issues of national development. He is already the Lead Researcher for the *State of Higher Education Report*, and the Coordinating Lead Author for the first chapter of the *2026 National State of the Environment and Outlook Report*. If this was not enough, he has also been approached to be the external examiner at three universities and has recently co-authored four journal articles. Details of his major British Academy research grant must await institutional ratification. **Dr Sibanengi Ncube**, who is presently a visiting Fellow at Cambridge, lectured to graduate students there in the past month, and will shortly deliver a lecture at the University of Sussex. **Dr Kate Law** won a prestigious Leverhulme Fellowship, which will allow her to have a year away from teaching at Nottingham to finish a book currently under contract with Manchester University Press. **Dr Danelle van-Zyl Hermann** and **Dr Rosa Williams** published a special issue of the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, arguably the premier journal in the field, drawing on a workshop they hosted at the University of Basel in which the opportunities and challenges of using photographs to write histories of health and healing in colonial and postcolonial Africa were explored. **Dr Innocent Dande** and **Dr Jennifer Chansa** each published articles in accredited journals, respectively in the *Review of African Political Economy*, and the *South African Historical Journal*, and **Dr Hyden Munene** appeared on a Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation TV panel discussing Kenneth Kaunda's legacy.

Turning to present members of our Group, particular congratulations to **Drs Belinda Makare** and **Nyasha Bushu** whose doctoral degrees were conferred earlier this month,



and to **Colette Mborera** who has been awarded the 2026 African Fellowship for Research in Indigenous and Alternative Knowledges (AFRIAK). Together with noted animal historians Saheed Aderinto and Nancy Jacobs, **Dr Michael Glover** will be on a panel about "Doing more-than-human histories and ethnographies in Africa" at the Lagos Studies Association Conference in June. An interview about his recent book *Cattle's Experiences of Colonialism* was published on [Psychology Today](#), and he was also interviewed for *The Animal Turn Podcast* about his fieldwork in animal history.



THE LAGOS STUDIES ASSOCIATION

## Highlights of LSA 2026

June 16-20  
Lagos (Trinity University, Sabo-Yaba) and on Zoom



**Chair/Organizer**  
**SEUN SEDE WILLIAMS**  
University College Dublin

**ROUNDTABLE**

### Doing More-Than-Human Histories and Ethnographies in Africa: Challenges, Prospects and Lessons

**Panelists**

 <p><b>Saheed Aderinto</b> Florida International University</p>	 <p><b>Nancy J. Jacobs</b> Brown University</p>	 <p><b>Michael J. Glover</b> University of the Free State</p>	 <p><b>Rebecca Marsland</b> The University of Edinburgh</p>
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Your publications keep rolling in: well done **Dr Peter Uledi** and **Dr Bushu** for their forthcoming article, 'Ambivalent Realities: Economic Prospects and Slum Conditions: Case of the Mbare Matapi Flats in Harare, Zimbabwe, c.1980-2020', in the *Southern Journal for Contemporary History*; **Dr Sam Chikowero** for his chapter, 'A Community of Outcasts and Misfits? A Historical Analysis of Indigenous Environmental Ethics in Gokwe, Zimbabwe', due to appear in A. Wilson (ed), *Spirituality and the Environment in Africa: Critical Engagement with Sacred Sites and Ecological Systems*; and **Dr Mutale Mazimba** (jointly with **Dr Alfred Tembo**) for her 'War and Memory in Zambia: Soldier Narratives on the First and Second World Wars', in the *International Journal of Military History and Historiography*.

In June, **Dr Geraldine Sibanda** will present an extract from her monograph in progress at the 'Coming to Conclusions I: From the International to the Planetary' conference hosted by the European University Institute in Florence; she has also received a funded invitation to present a paper, "'Yes, but!": Bernard Thomas Gibson Chidzero, Economic Diplomacy and the Final Act of UNCTAD VII', at the 'New Histories of the "North-South Conflict' conference, to be held in July by the University of Vienna. **Dr Sam Chikowero** will present a seminar by invitation at the National University of Science and Technology in Bulawayo and will present a paper at the African Association for the Study of Religions conference in Gaborone, also in July. And lastly, with full details to come in the next Newsletter, the ISG will be extremely well represented at the Southern African Historical Society conference scheduled to be held in Harare towards the end of June. Among those presenting papers are **Saneze Tshayana**, **Denice Banda**, **Bohlokoa Khanyetsi**, **Titus Chideme**, **Dr Priscillah Machinga**, **Mborera**,

**Dr Kaluba Chama, Dimpho Mokhoantle, Ernest Tewesa, Lillian Munetsi, Nhlakanipho Zulu, Dr Uledi and Dr Chikowero.**

I ended the last Newsletter by wondering if you could keep working at the cracking pace it described, and promising to harass and harangue you along the way! Neither were called upon. If anything, you have excelled yourselves – my congratulations to all of you.

Prof Ian Phimister

30 April 2026