

### ISG Newsletter September 2023

This month marks the eleventh anniversary of the ISG's first intake of six PhD and four MA students. By the end of next year, mid-2025 at the latest, 39 PhD students drawn from throughout Southern, Central, and West Africa will have graduated, a record without equal in the region. From start to finish, this success has rested on a rigorous selection process and your own drive and commitment to the highest international standards, manifest in a steady stream of articles and monographs published in leading journals and presses. It has also borne fruit in your ability subsequently to secure academic positions in some of the best universities in Britain, Europe, North America, Australia, and Africa. Most recently, both Hyden and Miyanda have secured jobs in two of Zambia's biggest public universities; Hyden as a Senior Researcher and Postgraduate Lecturer in Human Rights, Governance and Peacebuilding at the Copperbelt University in Kitwe, and Miyanda, even more remarkably, as acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation at Chalimbana University in Lusaka. Really very well done!

Other achievements recorded during the past month include Sibanengi being invited to conferences in Stellenbosch and in Tokyo, respectively the 3<sup>rd</sup> Postdoctoral Research Conference for Africa, and the International Symposium on Navigating Commodities: Production, Markets, and Consumption in History; and Shalot securing a fully-funded invitation to the REFA Festival at the University of the Witwatersrand. Geraldine's H-Diplo Roundtable review of Timothy Scarnecchia's *Race and Diplomacy in Zimbabwe* can be accessed here: <https://hdiplo.org/to/RT25-2>; and Una's blog on Pink and breast cancer awareness in Botswana at: <http://www.auswhn.org.au/blog/pink-breast-cancer-awareness/>. Congratulations, as well, to Innocent, whose book manuscript has cleared its first hurdle on the way to acceptance by Brill in their Human-Animal Series.

Thank you to Alessandro, and to Max, who presented seminar papers in the last few days; Alessandro to the Stanley Trapido series on Tuesday, and Max at the Ramblers series on Wednesday. Both were well-attended, lively occasions.

September has also witnessed Bryson, Hyden, and Miyanda's postdoctoral Fellowships come to an end. Their contributions to the ISG, initially as PhD students and latterly as Fellows, were exemplary, whether in terms of the quality of their research, wide-ranging publications, or graduate supervision. All of them have, or shortly will be, offered Research Fellowships attached to the ISG. Those of you who came to Tuesday's staff meeting will know that from the middle of October, I will be taking personal leave, immediately followed by a year's sabbatical in Britain, my first since coming to UFS. Dr Clement Masakure will head the ISG, and I trust that you will give him the same support I have enjoyed. As for me, it has been a pleasure - well, most of the time - and a privilege - all of the time - to have worked with past and present ISG members.

Ian Phimister  
28 September 2023