

ISG Newsletter September/October 2025

Before sitting down to compose our Newsletter, I often wonder if there will be enough news to fill a page or two. I really should stop worrying. In the nearly five years of their existence since covid restrictions first precluded daily contact, these Newsletters have consistently recorded evidence of the remarkable scholarly excellence displayed by past and present ISG members. This Newsletter is no exception, scaling even greater heights regarding the level of external research awards you have secured.

Quite remarkable news, released from embargo too late for earlier inclusion, is **Dr Sarah Frank's** outstanding achievement in winning a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship, which carries a wonderful research purse of about £1.5 million, that is, about ZAR 36 million at today's exchange rate, for four years, with more generous funding after that for a further three years. The award and project, embracing a post-Second World War study of armed forces veterans and their families, includes **Dr Alfred Tembo** and **Dr Mutale Mazimba**, so an altogether quite astonishing feat by ISG members in a context of eye-wateringly stiff competition. Some indication of the range covered by successful proposals can be found here: <https://www.ukri.org/news/ukri-announces-winners-of-120-million-future-leaders-fellowships/> Congratulations as well, to **Dr Mazimba** again, and to **Dr Mathew Ruguwa** on winning the 2025 CODESRIA MEANING-MAKING RESEARCH GRANT, worth US\$25 000, with their project, 'A comparative analysis of mineral extraction and social conflict in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, 1963-2025'; to **Dr Geraldine Sibanda** for obtaining funding from the Young Scholars Initiative to support next month's Economic History symposium on 'Money and Economy Making in Southern Africa'; to **Dr Tawanda Chambwe** for securing a Gerda Henkel Foundation grant to carry out research on 'African Bus Mobility and Entrepreneurship, 1965 - 2000'; and to **Colette Mborera** and **Dr Peter Uledi**, both of whom received funding to attend and present papers at the African Economic History Network conference hosted by the National University of Lesotho.

Prof Clement Masakure has been awarded a Visiting Af[rica]Ox[ford] Fellowship, described as intended 'to allow exceptional African researchers to build international networks and focus on a project of their choice in collaboration with Oxford-based scholars'. He will work on humanitarian care during Zimbabwe's liberation struggle. **Dr Chambwe** has been appointed Chairperson in the Department of History, Heritage and International Studies at Midlands State University in Zimbabwe; and **Dr Alessandro de Cola** has started as a postdoctoral University Assistant in the Department of Economic and Social History, at the University of Vienna. Very well done, the three of you.

A virtual presentation was made by **Dr Kaluba Chama** on "'Icimbo ca Malilo" as Oral History: Social and Therapeutic Role of a Funeral Dirge in Post-colonial Zambia', to the International Oral History Association Conference held in Krakow, Poland; and **Dr Saima Ashipala** was a virtual attendee at the International Conference on 'Labour and Social History, Workers and Worldmaking: Labor in the Era of Decolonization', where she chaired a panel on Apartheid, Labour, and Resistance. She was also a member of the conference's plenary team and will serve on its editorial committee. As a member of the Southern African Historical Society Executive Committee, **Dr Sam Chikowero** will be going to meetings and workshops at the University of the Witwatersrand in preparation for next year's SAHS conference to be held at UZ; while **Audrey Maringa** attended the Codesria induction workshop on Indigenous and Alternative Knowledges, hosted in Kigali, Rwanda; **Dr Jennifer Chansa** was present at the 'Judiciary and Democracy in Africa' conference organised by the Southern African Institute

for Policy and Research and the Africa Judicial Research Network in Lusaka; and **Dr Priscillah Machinga** delivered a paper, "The Enigma that was (is) Winnie Madikizela Mandela: Revisiting Her Role(s) and Character in the History of anti-Apartheid Political Activism in South Africa, Paying Attention to her Eulogies, Obituaries, Social Media Discourses and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Records", to our own Stanley Trapido seminar series. Thank you all.

Congratulations to **Dr Michael Glover** on the imminent publication of his book, *Cattle's Experiences of Colonialism: and Animal History of Southern Africa*, for which see https://brill.com/display/title/73078?srsIid=AfmBOogdwo_BLZMtpyFahqAo0Y7H1q3-6mfyI8KXe8K-I_Tsl10oMZw8

and to **Dr Chansa**, **Dr Geraldine Sibanda**, and **Saneze Tshayana**, respectively, for the publication or forthcoming publication of their articles, 'Mosquitoes, Dambos and Mine Tailings', in the *Journal of Southern African Studies*; 'South-South Politics and Northern Connections: Roots of the XXI century New 'Global South'', in *The International History Review*; and 'Gendered Histories: The Past, the Present, and Power in Niq Mhlongo's *Way Back Home*', in the *South African Historical Journal*.

This past month saw **Dr Innocent Dande** come to the end of his postdoctoral Fellowship with us, an occasion marked by a Departmental farewell lunch at which **Prof Masakure** presided and paid tribute to **Dr Dande's** distinguished scholarly record. The latter will, of course, retain his affiliation to the ISG as a Research Fellow. As one person leaves, so another arrives - a warm welcome to **Dimpho Mokhoantle**, whose MA with distinction has secured her a fully funded PhD Studentship with us, starting in January 2026.

And lastly, if anyone should be an honorary member of the ISG, it is UFS' Senior Director of Research, **Dr Glen Taylor**, who for more than a decade has provided the crucial funding support making possible everything that we do. Copied below is the occasion of his most recent award.



The University of the Free State (UFS) is proud to celebrate the remarkable achievement of [Dr Glen Taylor](#), Senior Director of the [Directorate for Research Development \(DRD\)](#), who has been honoured by the [Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association \(SARIMA\)](#) with the award for distinguished contribution to the research management profession.

Congratulations, **Glen**, and thank you!

Prof Ian Phimister

29 October 2025