



## **Congratulations on your anniversary!**

28th of August, 2016 the famous historian and Africanist Natalia A. Ksenofontova celebrated a double anniversary - 75 years since she was born, and 50 years of academic activity. To date, Dr. Ksenofontova published nine personal monographs and more than one hundred chapters and articles. Many of these works were awarded prizes in the contest for the title of "Best Books of the Institute for African Studies" RAS. Her remarkable academic standing is reflected in the fact that she was the publishing editor of more than 20 personal monographs and collective publications, was elected member of the Scientific and Academic Councils of the Institute for African Studies RAS. Students and post-graduate students from different institutes and universities seek her consultation. The variety of Natalia's talents is seen not only in academic sphere, she is a talented administrator. In 1997, the Directorate of the Institute appointed her Head of the Publishing Department. In this position, she managed to organize the Institute's publishing process literally from the ground. Her

Department produces annually from 10 to 20 books, thus making an invaluable contribution to the promotion of the scientific achievements of Russian Africanists.

## **“Current state of Southern Africa. Collection of articles” has published**

The book "Current state of Southern Africa. Collection of articles" presents a wide spectrum of analysis by economists, historians, political scientists and culturologists from the Institute of African Studies and a number of other research and educational institutions on the problems and challenges facing the countries of the region, focusing on the most developed of them - Republic of South Africa. Such a focus on this country is counterbalanced by the articles on various aspects of politics and economics of such important countries of Southern Africa as Angola and Zambia.

The publication is consecrated to the memory of our colleague, **Gennady Vladimirovich Shubin** who abruptly left this world in early 2016 (04.09.1966-02.02.2016). As a Senior Researcher of the [Center for Southern Africa Studies](#) of the Institute for African Studies RAS and Ph.D (Hist.), he made a significant contribution to the development of African Studies in Russia.



## **It is time for Russia to return to Africa**

2 of July, 2016 the Director of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences prof. Abramova gave an [interview](#) to "Pravda.ru". The interview was devoted to the problems of contemporary Africa and the Russian-African relations.

## Participation in the 14th Conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists

20-23 of July, 2016 the Institute members participated in the [14th Conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists in Milan](#). Professor Dmitry M. Bondarenko was the co-head of the African studies section "Knowledge of the past, present and future in a changing Africa" and gave a paper "Knowledge of the past as a social capital: securing the present and future of the African migrants in the United States". Dr. Kavykyin presented a report on the theme: "The pre-Islamic and pre-Christian beliefs of the Sub-Saharan Africa: the impact on Social and Political Institutions ". Dr. Usacheva made a presentation: "Modern African migrants in the United States: cultural adaptation in metropolitan areas and small towns".



## Ceremonial presentation of the Ph.D. diploma

12 of July, 2016 His Excellency the Ambassador of Namibia in Russia Ndali Che Kamati solemnly handed the candidate diploma of the political Sciences. Thesis: "Political problems of the southern Africa development (Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa)".



## "Islam in Russia"

17 On 17 August , 2016 the leading Researcher of the Institute for African Studies RAS, Ph.D. in Economics Renat Bekkin had a lecture titled "Islam in Russia" at the Summer School for Islamic Studies "Muslims in Europe: Challenges to Pluralism", organized by the International Institute of Islamic Thought in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina). The lecture was devoted to the history of Islam in Russia and generated a great interest among the audience.

During his visit to Sarajevo Dr. Renat Bekkin had a meeting with Professor Ahmet Alibachich, the Director of the Advanced Research Center of the International University of Sarajevo.



### **Meeting the leadership of the Institute for African Studies with the Namibian delegation**

5 of September, 2016 was held a meeting of the Institute for African Studies leadership with the Namibian delegation. The meeting was attended by a Vice-Chancellor of the [University of Namibia](#), Professor Kenneth Kamwi Matengu and His Excellency the Ambassador of Namibia Ndali Che Kamati. Various issues, including the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Institute for African Studies and the University of Namibia were discussed.



### **Participation in the ASAUK 2016 Conference**

7-9 of September, 2016 The ASAUK (African Studies Association of the UK) biennial conference was held at the University of Cambridge. The conference brought together scholars from a variety of academic disciplines and from across the globe. It attracted 660 attendees, 630 panels, 1300 papers from 93 countries.

Junior research fellow of the Institute for African Studies Lapushkina A. gave a paper at a panel "Childhood in African societies".



### **Participation of Vasilyev A. in a seminar on Russia's strategy in the Middle East**

8 of September, 2016 Honorary President of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Academician Vasilyev Alexei took part in a seminar on Russia's strategy in the Middle East. The seminar was organized by the Center for Middle Eastern state policy ([RAND Corporation's Center for Middle East Public Policy](#)) in London.

### **V International Forum on Asia and the Middle East**

24-25 of September, 2016 the Honorary President of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Academician Vasilyev A. took part in the V International Forum on Asia and the Middle East on the theme "A global perspective of the Middle East Management". The forum was organized by the [Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University \(SISU\)](#).



## **The memory of the slave trade and the relationship between African-Americans and migrants from Africa in the US**

On 29th of September 2016, at the Center for European and American Studies of the Institute for Ethnology and Anthropology RAS took place the session of the seminar on foreign anthropology, devoted to the [Memory of the slave trade and the relationship between African-Americans and immigrants from Africa to the United States](#).

Dmitry M. Bondarenko, Dr.Sc. (History), Professor, Deputy Director of the Institute for African Studies RAS delivered a speech. He based his report on the materials of his fieldwork collected in the seven states of the USA during in 2013-2015. His purpose was to show how differences in historical memory of African-Americans and modern migrants from sub-Saharan Africa affect their mutual acceptance and relations.

In particular, this applies to the reflection of the transatlantic slave trade in the collective memory and mass conscience of both groups. This slave trade is a phenomenon that has contributed to the creation of the black Americans' community itself and the problem of the unity of the "black world" and its history.

The report shows that the historical memory of the transatlantic slave trade, slavery and struggle to overthrow it is the key value for the historical consciousness of the African-Americans. For African migrants to the US the topos of slavery is also important, but, firstly, not to such an extent and secondly, it is refracted in their minds at a different angle: for them it is not the story of betrayal of black people by other black people, but the story of exploitation of black people by white people.

Significant differences in perception, evaluation and attributing importance to the slave trade, slavery and struggle against it largely divide the two groups of black people in the United States, rather than unite them before the face of "white" America.

The absence of the feeling of unity of the historic past among many African-Americans and modern African migrants spiritually and mentally separates them from each other, contributing to the establishment of ambiguous and complex relationships between the two groups of black population in the US.

## **OBITUARY**

**Lyudmila Yanchishina**  
**(11.04.1938 – 25.08.2016)**

On 25th of August 2016 suddenly passed away one of the oldest members of the Institute for African Studies, Senior Research Fellow, Ph.D (Economy). We will remember our colleague Lyudmila Mikhailovna as a prominent scientist, decent and responsive person. We express deepest condolences to his family and friends. May she rest in peace!

