



# Newsletter

Dear friends!

We are glad to restart the series of our newsletters. Here you will find the information about publications, conferences, events and other activities of our Institute.

Your comments are most welcome.

Sincerely yours,  
Alexandra A. Arkhangelskaya  
Head of the Centre of Information and International Relations

## Russian Academy of Sciences members elections

December 21-22 on the [Assembly](#) of the Russian Academy of Sciences according to the Academy's Statute [Alexei M. Vasiliev](#), the Director of the Institute for African Studies, was elected as a full member (academician) of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

We send our sincere compliments to Alexei Mikhailovich and the whole Institute!



## Publications:

### THE TSUNAMI OF REVOLUTIONS

[Alexei M. Vasiliev](#)

Director of the Institute for African Studies, full member of the Russian Academy of Sciences

The tsunami of revolutions in North Africa and the Near and Middle East has radically changed the geopolitical realities in this region and beyond. That is not the point that the unrest has engulfed Arab countries also east of Suez. What is more important is that the countries south of the Sahara too are not immune to the events in the northern part of the continent. It is necessary to carry out a serious and unbiased analysis of the causes of these revolutions, their character, driving forces, methods, and results precisely in order to foresee the next round of historical development not just in Africa and other developing countries.

The revolutions and protest movements in the Arab world influence global energy markets. Oil prices have noticeably grown. True, the key is situation in Saudi Arabia and Iran – large energy exporters – which are still stable. The combined exports of Algeria and Libya are equal to Iranian exports, so the conflicts in these countries are alarming for the global energy industry, but not critical.

The U.S. and other NATO countries, as well as Russia and China, have the development of a strategy in relation to the revolutionary events in the region on their foreign policy agenda. The geostrategic position of Israel and the Arab-Israeli peace process may also be significantly altered... ([read more](#))

[Other publications of the Institute for African Studies in 2011.](#)

## School of Young Africanists

On November 29-30 the Institute for African Studies hosted the [X Jubilee Conference of Young Africanists «Africa in the Global World: Past, Present and Future»](#). More than a hundred young scholars from



Moscow, Yaroslavl and Saint-Petersburg took part in the event. The participants' papers observed various problems, i.e. economic, political, cultural and linguistic.

Due to the collaborative work of the Institute for African Studies and Peoples' Friendship University of Russia a fair of the items of traditional crafts from Zimbabwe, Namibia, Cote-d'Ivoire and Benin was organized. At the evening the banquet was opened by the ceremony of the best abstracts contest winners' awards.

On the second day of the conference the roundtable at the Institute brought together the young scholars to discuss the opportunities of their participation in the international research projects and the ways of financial support through grants and scholarships.

### Conference in France

On November 24-25, in Montpellier, the international [conference](#) «Policymakers' Responsibility in a Changing World. The Mediterranean: The Waves of Change» was held. [Alexei M. Vasiliev](#) presented a paper entitled «The tsunami of arab revolutions: new geopolitical relations».

### Conference in Canada

Prof., Ph.D. [Dmitri M. Bondarenko](#) gave a paper titled «Are They Part of Our Nation? Tanzanian and Zambian University Students' Attitude to the European and South Asian Minorities Compared» at the 110th [American Anthropological Association](#) Annual Meeting held in Montreal (QC, Canada) on November 16-20, 2011.

### Conference in South Africa

Prof., Ph.D. [Vladimir Shubin](#) presented a paper titled «[Comrade Mzwai](#)» on the life and activities of the leader of the African National Congress Mzwai Piliso at the conference «One Hundred Years of the ANC: Debating Liberation Histories and Democracy Today» held in Johannesburg on 20-23 September.

### Roundtable at the Institute of Europe RAS

On December 13 the research fellow Olga S. Kulkova [presented](#) a paper on «Great Britain and Lybia: What Next? Prospects of Bilateral Relations in the Light of the NATO Operation in Lybia – Aftermath» at the roundtable «Britain in crisis: tactical measures and strategic goals», organized by the Center for British Studies of the Institute of Europe RAS.

### Beijing Forum

Vladimir Shubin was invited by the Peking University to take part in the [Beijing Forum](#) held on 4-6 November and presented there a paper on «Africa: 50 Years After Independence and Today's Challenges».

### Conference on BRICS at MGIMO

On November 9–10 MGIMO (Moscow State Institute of International Relations) hosted the [conference](#) «BRICS Members as Rising Giant States: New Role in the System of International Relations, Global Projection of Foreign Policy Strategies, National Models of Modernization Comparative Analysis». Vladimir Shubin, Ph.D. Tatiana Deych, Ph.D. (Econ.) Yevgeniy Korendyasov, Ph.D. Vyacheslav Usov, Ph.D. [Alexandra Arkhangelskaia](#) presented the papers.

Among the participants of the forum were



Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinator on BRICS Vadim Lukov, Director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (RAS), full member of the RAS Alexander Dynkin, Director of the Institute of the Far East (RAS), full member of the RAS Mikhail Titarenko, Director of the Institute of Latin American (RAS), full member of the RAS Vladimir Davydov, Head of the Analytical Center under the Government of the Russian Federation Alexey Makushkin.



## Agreements

In autumn 2011 the Institute for African Studies signed Memorandums of Understanding with:

- [The University of Dodoma](#) (Tanzania);
- [The Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy](#) (Tanzania);
- [Ethiopian International Institute for Peace & Development](#) (Ethiopia).

We continue our collaboration with the leading academic and research centers in the framework of already existing agreements.

## International exchange

In October and November 2011 Ph.D (Econ.) Irina Matsenko and Alexandra Arkhangelskaya visited Great Britain by the invitation of the [Centre for African studies](#) of the School of Oriental and African studies, University of London (SOAS). In addition, I. Matsenko visited the [Institute of Development Studies](#) at Sussex University (IADL) and the [Center for African studies](#) and the [Center for the Study of the African economies](#) (CSAE), Oxford University. A. Arkhangelskaya exchanged ideas with colleagues in Chatham House, the London School of Economics, took part in the [conference](#) "Oil Politics in Africa" at Coventry University, and also visited the University of St. Andrews and the University of Edinburgh.



## Lectures at foreign universities

November 8, 2011. D. Bondarenko [delivered](#) a guest lecture on "Alternative ways of social evolution and the basic principles of the organization of culture" at the [Department of Anthropology](#) at Harvard University (Cambridge, USA).

A. Arkhangelskaya delivered a [lecture](#) about the relations between Russia and Africa at Richmond University during her visit to the UK.

## Seminar "Crisis of the Modern World"

On October 26, 2011 at the Institute for African Studies (Russian Academy of Sciences) took place the first session of the seminar "Crisis of the Modern World: New forms of Sociality", organized by the Center for Civilization and Regional Studies.

Head of the Laboratory of Goeconomic Research A. I. Neklessa has given a report "The Coming of the Post-Secular World?"

## Field research in South Africa

In the autumn of 2011, by the invitation of the Faculty of Sociology of the University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg-Cape town) Junior Research Fellow of our Institute Vladislav Kruchinsky and Ph.D. (Polit.) Daria Zelenova undertook the research trip to South Africa (Johannesburg – Cape Town). The trip was held in the framework of the research "The Phenomenon of Self-organization in the Townships in South Africa in the Historical and Modern Context" and supported by the grant from Russian Humanitarian Scientific Fund № 11-31-00360a2. During the time of their academic visit scientists have been able to collect extensive ethnographic material, interviews with residents of townships and informal settlements, participants of the protest movements and initiatives, including the leaders of the ANC and the UDF (United democratic front), with the members of the local organizations in communities, which led active struggle against apartheid in the 1980s. Scientists also worked with the historical archives.



## Field Study in Tanzania

A post-graduate student, Junior Research Fellow of our Institute Albert Khamatshin conducted a field research study in Tanzania in November-December.

## Visits

V. Shubin met [Kgalema Motlanthe](#), the Deputy President of South Africa during his stay in South Africa and met with the researchers from the Institute of Africa, South African Institute of International Relations, and the Institute for Global Dialogue, Center for Conflict Studies and other academic and educational institutions of the Republic of South Africa.

Delegation from the Union of Angola Veterans (UAV), among them Senior Research Fellow of our Institute, Ph.D. Gennady Shubin, visited South Africa in December 2011 in connection with the publication of the book "[BushWar. The Road to Cuito-Cuanavale. Soviet Soldiers' Accounts of the Angolan War](#)" (editors and compilers: G. Shubin and a member of UAV, Ph.D. [A. Tokarev](#)). This book was recently translated into English and published in South Africa in the publishing house "Jacana".

Daria Zelenova visited China as a representative of the Council of Young Scientists of the RAS.

## Exhibitions

From September 30 to December 4 the «Garage» Center for Contemporary Culture hosted the South-African painter William Kentridge [exhibition](#) of images and a series of 'drawings for projection': short animated films portraying daily life under apartheid. His work charts a universal history of war and revolution and also includes Namibia and Ethiopia, as well as the cultural history of post-revolutionary Russia.



W. Kentridge. «The Magic Flute» Opera illustrations 2004-2005

## «Culture and society» seminars

October 18. Dmitri Bondarenko gave a report titled «Tanzanian and Zambian Students' Attitude Towards European and South African Minorities: Comparative Analysis of Field Research Data».

November 1. at the Center for history and cultural anthropology the monthly seminar «[Culture and society](#)» passed. Vladimir Shubin presented a report about his visit to South Africa.

On November 22 Ph.D. Oleg Kavykin presented a paper on «Anthropology of Sports in Africa».

On December 13 Grigori Karpov talked about his research proceedings in the framework of «Migration Stream from Africa to Great Britain in the second half of XX c – beginning of XXI c.».

## Vladimir Shubin's seminar series

Since October the weekly lectures and seminars of Vladimir Shubin took place at the conference-hall of the Institute for African Studies. The course was devoted to the history of southern African countries.

## Ph.D. theses defences

October: Irina Abramova, «[Resource Potential of Africa in the world economy in the XXI Century](#)» (Endogenous determinants of the African countries participation in the World's new economic model), Doctoral (Econ.) thesis.

December: [Jaka M. Mwa mbi](#), Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Republic of Tanzania to Russia, «[Pragmatic approaches to overcome household food insecurity](#)», Ph.D. thesis, University of Dar-es-Salaam. Academic advisor Leonid Fituni, Professor, Vice-Director, Institute for African Studies.

Sergey Kostelyanets, «Sociopolitical and humanitarian aspects of Darfur conflict in Sudanese region», Ph.D. (Polit.) thesis. Academic advisor Ph.D. Nikolay Tikhomirov, Dean, Diplomatic Academy.

Konstantin Tkachenko, «Germany's foreign economic relations with Northern African states (1990-2011)», Ph.D. (Econ.) thesis. Academic advisor Irina Abramova, Professor, Vice-Director, Institute for African Studies.

## New members of the Institute

[Alina Lapushkina](#)  
Stanislav Mezentsev  
[Petr Popov](#)  
Hristina Turyinskaya

## Academic council

On December 6 the extended assembly of the Academic council of the Institute for African Studies took place.

Ph.D. Petr Kupriyanov, a chair person of the Veterans council of the Institute for African Studies, was congratulated on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Moscow,

Alexandra Arkhangelskaya and Irina Matsenko presented the reports on the academic trips to Great Britain.

Daria Zelenova and Natalya Zherlitsyna (Ph.D.) reported on the X School of Young Africanists that took place at the Institute.

Leonid Fituni (Ph.D. (Econ.)) delivered a report on «Arab spring: dialectics of the objective and subjective».

## Media about the Institute for African Studies

The «Engagement» channel prepared a [tv-program](#) about the Institute in the framework of tv-show «Russia's young scholars» and tried to answer the questions: «What is it – Africa? What does attract researchers in African Studies? Are the events on the North of the continent accidental?» The director of the Institute Alexei Vasiliev, Ph.D. (Econ.) Irina Abramova, Dmitri Bondarenko, Yevgeniy Korendyasov, Daria Zelenova and Alexandra Arkhangelskaya took part.

The full list of interviews of the members of the Institute for media may be found [here](#).

## Cinema club

On the November 30 the Cinema club was launched at the Institute for African Studies. The films by African directors and foreign specialists on Africa are planned to be displayed monthly.

The first show displayed a film - «Manenberg» portraying the lives of the inhabitants of South-African township. The formal opening of the club was attended by more than 50 people, including the staff members of the South-African Embassy and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The film itself has caused a lively discussion supported by the organizing committee of the club who have just arrived from the places shown in the movie.