



Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Newsletter

Dear Colleagues!

The Editorial Board of the Newsletter wishes you a Happy New Year!

Let it uncover the new horizons of opportunities and bring you unforgettable impressions!

According to the Executive order №10105-958 of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences dated November 2, Dr. Boris Petruk, the senior research fellow of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, was awarded an honorary diploma for the outstanding input into the development of African studies in Russia.



Russia – South Africa round table

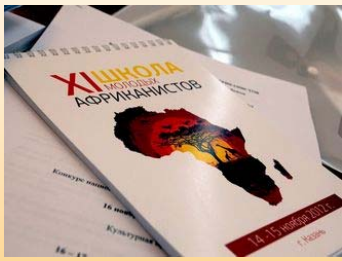
On the 1st of October a round table «Russia-South Africa: building bridges», dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the African National Congress of South Africa, South Africa's ruling party since 1994, was held at the National Research University - Higher School of Economics. The meeting was attended by scholars from the Institute for African Studies: Prof. V. Shubin, Dr. A. Arkhangel'skaya, Dr. V. Usacheva, A. Khamatshin. Among the invited persons were: Full Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Prof. A. Davidson, Prof. I. Filatova, Ambassador of South Africa to Russia Mandisi Mphahlela. During the round table, a presentation of the book «Russia and South Africa: Bridging the Divide» published in September 2012 at the HSE took place.

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Field research

In October-November 2012 Dr. Daria Zelenova visited South Africa by the invitation of the [School of Social Sciences](#) of the [University of the Witwatersrand](#) (Johannesburg). The research project «The phenomenon of self-organization as an example of communities in South Africa in the historical and contemporary context» was supported by the Russian Humanitarian Scientific Foundation grant № 11-31-00360. It was her second trip to South Africa as a part of research conducted under the guidance of Olga Aksyutina, a senior research fellow at the Center for Civilisational and Regional Studies. In Johannesburg Daria has worked in the leading country's archives storing materials devoted to the struggle against apartheid, in particular: [Historical Papers Archive](#) of the University of the Witwatersrand and the [South African History Archive](#) (SAHA). In addition to working with archival data, Daria held a series of interviews in Johannesburg and Durban with township and informal settlements residents, members of present protest movements, political activists, members of the youth, trade union and public organizations of the 1980s.





The XIth School of Young Africanists

November 14-15, The XIth School of Young Africanists «Problems of African Studies in Russia and abroad» was held at the [Institute of Oriental Studies and International Relations](#) (IOSIR) of [Kazan \(Volga Region\) Federal University](#) (KVRFU). Young researchers from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Yaroslavl, Kazan and Frankfurt were invited to KFU to discuss problems of African studies in Russia and abroad.

Conference presentations were divided into four sections: «International relations», «Resources and economic potential of Africa», «Social and Cultural Studies», and «Studies of African linguistics». Among the participants, the reports of the following research fellows and graduate students of the Institute for African Studies were presented: Dr. Alexander Zhukov, Dr. Sergei Kostelyanets, Dr. Olga Kulkova, Dr. Anastasia Bانشchikova, Eldar Salakhmetdinov, Svetlana Tishchenko, Albert Khamatshin, Oxana Ivanchenko, Grigory Karpov, Vladislav Kruchinsky, Alexander Panov, Petr Popov. In the capacity of the organizer of the School, the event was attended by Dr. N. Zherlitsyna.



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«Best books by the Institute for African Studies» contest 2011:

First place

- A. Urnov «Africa and the United Nations at the end of the first millennium of the XXI century. Issues of development, peace-building and reform of the UN»

Second place

- L. Fituni (ed.) «Socio-economic problems of the developing countries in strategy and tactics of international terrorism»;
- T. Deytch, E. Korendyasov (eds.) «Russia in the competition for African mineral resources»;
- T. Deytch, E. Korendyasov (eds.) «International problems of African countries»;
- V. Shubin and E. Korendyasov (eds.) «Africa in the contemporary international relations»...

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«Dialogue of Civilizations» Forum

The 10th Anniversary Session of the World Public Forum «[Dialogue of Civilizations](#)» was held on the Greek island of Rhodes from the 3rd to the 8th of October 2012 and was devoted to the problems of global transformations.

Chairman of the Center of geoeconomic research of the Institute for African Studies (North-South Lab) Alexander Neklessa delivered two reports: «[Transformations of the future](#)» and «Northern Romea. A complex dialog space».

African Studies Conference in Pavia (Italy)

The research fellows of the Institute: Dr. T. Deych, Dr. O. Kulkova, Dr. A. Zhukov and A. Lapushkina took part in the International African Studies [Conference](#), held on September 18-20 at the [University of Pavia](#). The conference was organized by the [Department of Political and Social Sciences](#).

T. Deych and O. Kulkova delivered reports «China and Africa in the XXI century» and «[African policy of the UK under David Cameron's government](#)» respectively. A. Zhukov organized the panel «Perspectives of Peace and Statebuilding in Africa» where he spoke on «[Safeguarding or Undermining Statebuilding? Politics of Counter-Insurgency in the Pre-Independence. Southern Sudan \(2005 - 2011\)](#)». A. Lapushkina took part in the session of the latter panel and presented a [paper](#) «Exploring the ways to decrease the level of aggression in the Ghanaian society: implications for state educational policies». [Read more](#)

ASA Conference in Philadelphia

Prof. Dmitri Bondarenko and Dr. Alexander Zhukov took part in the African Studies Association's [55th Annual Meeting](#) that took place in Philadelphia (PA, USA). Bondarenko gave a paper titled «The Culture of Self-Reliance and Foreign Aid to Tanzania: The Case of Mosquito Bed Nets Distribution», while Zhukov co-convoked the panel on «Conflict, (Counter-) Terrorism and Intervention in the Sahara-Sahel».

PIR-Center international seminar

October 4, Dr. L. Prokopenko, senior research fellow at the Centre for Sociological and Political Sciences Studies spoke on «The refusal of the South African nuclear weapons and on its participation in the development of peaceful nuclear energy». [Read more](#)

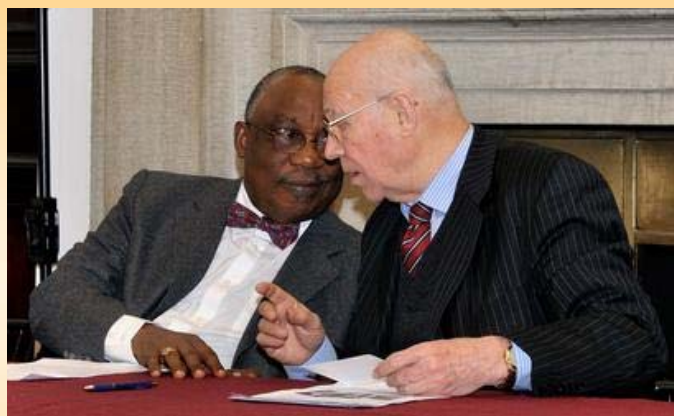
Inter-Institutional Collaboration

October 22, the meeting of the direction and leading researches with the director of the [Institute of Oriental Studies and International Relations](#) (IOSIR) of the [Kazan \(Volga Region\) Federal University](#) (KVRFU) L. Latipov and first vice-director N. Akhtyamova took place at the Institute for African Studies.

During the assembly the prospective of mutual research activities were discussed. As a result, the cooperation agreement has been signed.

Lecture of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

December 19, the [Ambassador](#) Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Nigeria H.E. Assam Ekanem Assam gave a talk on the current situation in Nigeria at the conference-hall of the Institute for African Studies. [Read more](#)



Viva Africa 2012

Dr. Veronica Usacheva took part at the 7th International Conference on African Studies ["Viva Africa!"](#) with paper «Russia's "Soft Power" in Africa: the Tool for Effective Foreign Policy» (October 18-19, 2012, Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic).

Seminar series «Culture and Society»

On the 25th of September the session of the «Culture and Society» seminar series was held at the Center for History and Cultural Anthropology, Institute of African Studies. Prof. Dmitri Bondarenko spoke on «International Aid to Africa and the Culture of Self-Support (Case Study of the Tanzanian Anti-malarial Programme)».

October 30, the Chair of the Center Dr. Ekaterina Demintseva delivered a report «African Students in France in the First Decade of the 21st Century».

November 27, Dr. Anastasia Banshchikova spoke on «Ratio Decidendi in the Narratives Concerning Crucial Periods of Ancient Egyptian History».

Ekaterina Demintseva's lectures in France

January 7, 2013, the Head of the [Centre for History and Cultural Anthropology](#) Dr. E. Demintseva gave a speech «Migration in the Russian universities: the case of brain gain?» at the seminar «[Brain Drain vs Brain Gain: Russian and Chinese studies](#)» held at the Institute of Political Studies ([Sciences Po](#), Paris).

January 11, 2013 E. Demintseva spoke on «Study of African students at the Institute of African Studies in the 1960s and 1980s» at the Graduate School of Social Sciences ([EHESS](#)) in Paris.

A. Arkhangelskaya's trip to Africa

From October 26 to November 24, 2012, the research fellow of the Centre for Southern Africa studies Dr. A. Arkhangelskaya visited South Africa and Angola within the framework of the research project «Understanding Russia's Africa engagement: Complementaries and competition between South Africa and Russia» with the South African Institute of International Affairs.

The project is devoted to the activities of the Russian and South African business on the continent, particularly in the case of corporate activity in South Africa and Angola. The research included the interviews were done with Russian, South African and Angolan scientific, governmental and business

organizations' representatives, as well as the representatives of the related diasporas.



Russian-Indian conference in Mumbai

On the 29th of November the group of Russian africanists headed by the full member of the RAS Alexey Vasiliev, took part in the Russian-Indian conference [«New Actors and Diaspora as Important Factors in Africa's International Relations and Development»](#) held in Mumbai, India. A. Vasiliev has delivered a speech devoted to the role of Africa in the international relations system in context of BRICS forming. Dr. T. Deytch presented her paper «Chinese diaspora in Africa in context of economic and security problems in Africa».

Dr. V. Usacheva and Dr. V.Usov have reported on «Russia's "Soft Power" in Africa: the Tool for Effective Foreign Policy» and «Politics of India in Africa and Indian diaspora» respectively.



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Lectures at the Polytechnical Museum

December 1 to 9 a course of 4 lectures devoted to Africa took place at the Polytechnic museum.

Within a framework of the course, Dr. Ekaterina Demintseva, Dr. Alexandra Arkhangelskaya and Kirill Babaev delivered lectures on: «Africa in questions and answers», «The misteries of the Black continent languages», «A bloomy country. The Republic of South Africa», «Eastern Africa sultans' enigmas».

13th International African Studies Conference

On May 27-29, 2014 in Moscow the Research Council for the Problems of African Countries and the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences hold the 13th African Studies Conference titled «Society and Politics in Africa: Traditional, Transitional, and New».

The deadline for panel proposals submitting is April 1, 2013. [Read more](#)

Expedition «Living Parallel»

As part of the development of mutually beneficial cooperation with business structures, the work with the consulting firm DBA-Concept continued: in accordance with the agreement signed in 2011, the second educational expedition «Living Parallel» for the business representatives of post-Soviet states (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania) was held in October-November 2012. During the trip, which route passed through Benin, Togo and Ghana, businessmen listened to the lectures on «Culture as a resource for development». The route was planned by one of the lecturers of the expedition, deputy director for research of the Institute for African Studies, Prof. D. Bondarenko.



Young Scholars Council column

November 7, the regular general meeting of young scholars of the Russian Academy of Sciences took place in the Big Hall of the RAS. The event was attended by delegates from all academic institutions of the RAS: chairmen of young scientists councils and their nominated representatives. As a part of the agenda of the meeting a summary report on the three-years work of the retiring chair of the Council discussed the concerns of the academic youth, as well as the election of a new board. The new head of the Council was elected: Andrey Kotelnikov, a chairman of the young scholars council of the [Joint Institute for High Temperatures](#). Among others, the meeting was attended by the Institute for African Studies delegates V. Kruchinsky and P. Popov.



discussion «Africans in Russia: problems of adaptation and integration» organized in cooperation with the [Maison des Sciences de l'Homme](#) (Paris).

The first section of discussions was devoted to the problems of Africans staying in Russia and a search for possible solutions, the second section explored the topic «The former African students in the USSR / Russia: career and destiny». The participants narrated about the life trajectories of African students who graduated from the Soviet/Russian universities and subsequently either returned to their home countries, or stayed in Russia or emigrated to other countries. Scientists from Russian research

centers and universities, researchers from African and other countries, representatives of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Federal Migration Service, Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, «RosSotrudnichestvo», and communities of the African students and African residents in Russia actively participated in the roundtable discussion. [Read more](#)

Prof. Patrick Bond's lecture

December 13, Prof. [Patrick Bond](#), Director of the [Centre for Civil Society](#) and School of Built Environment and Development Studies, [University of KwaZulu-Natal](#) (Durban) gave a [talk](#) at the Centre for Southern Africa Studies of the Institute for African Studies on «The Marikana Massacre and South Africa's Resource Curse: Lessons for a Bottom-Up BRICS».

Ph.D. thesis defense



On the 24th of October A. Zhukov has defended the Ph.D. [thesis](#) on «Background and stages of

internationalization of military-political conflict between the Northern and Southern Sudan (1983-2011)» at the Dissertation Council of Historical Sciences of the Institute for African Studies on «History of international relations and foreign policy» specialization.

Ph.D. Students

The following Ph.D. students were enrolled to the [Doctoral Studies Department](#) of the Institute:

Voronina Natalia (specialization «General history»), Beresneva Ksenia and Romanenko Lidia (both – «World economy»), Rodin Anton, Filippov Alexey (both – «History of international relations and foreign policy»).

«Africans in Russia» roundtable

October 31, the Institute for African Studies hosted the round table