



Extraordinary Institute general assembly in Honor and Memory of Nelson Mandela

On the 18th of December the Conference Hall of the Institute for African Studies became a venue for the Extraordinary general meeting dedicated to the life and memory of the former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela.

The speeches were delivered by the Director of the Institute, Full Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Alexei Vasiliev, Prof. Vladimir Shubin, Full Member of the Academy of Sciences Apollon Davidson, Dean of the African diplomatic Corps – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Madagascar [Eloi Alphonse Maxim Duvu](#), Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa Mandisi Mpahlwa, former Head of Soviet military special force of ANC in Angola V.F. Shiryayev («comrade Ivan»), State Duma Deputy V.N. Tetekin.

The assembly was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of the African Diplomatic Corps in Moscow (embassies of South Africa, Madagascar, Namibia, Mauritania, Morocco, Tanzania, Egypt and others), Dr. Igho Natufe (Institute Visiting Scholar), journalists of ITAR-TASS, Voice of Russia, etc



Happy New Year!

The Editorial Board of the Newsletter wishes you the embodiment of plans, fascinating research projects and positive emotions in the New Year!



Roundtable Russia-Nigeria

November 18-19, the Institute hosted the joint roundtable with the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (Lagos) on the Past, Present and Future of the Nigerian-Russian Relations organized in co-operation with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the Russian Federation.

The delegation of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs headed by its General Director Prof. B.A. Akinterinva specially arrived to take part in this event. At the opening of the roundtable the welcome



speeches were delivered by His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the Russian Federation Mr. Assam Ekanem Assam, Director of the Institute for African Studies, Full Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences A.M. Vasiliev, Director of the Africa Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia S.N. Kryukov. The keynote address was presented by Prof. B.A. Akinterinva. The other papergivers and discussants were Dr. T.S. Denisova («Russian-Nigerian cooperation: main stages of development»), Prof. A. Oyeboade («Nigerian-Russian relations in a multipolar world»), Dr. Igho Natufe, Executive Director of the Russia-Nigeria Business Council V.V. Vozdvizhensky, Deputy Director of the Institute Dr. I.O. Abramova, Prof. V.G. Shubin, Dr. B. Obasekola, Counselor of the Embassy of South Sudan in Russia S.E. Nyavella Amaikvei. The roundtable was led by the Deputy Director of the Institute Prof. D.M. Bondarenko. [Read more.](#)

[Alexei Vasiliev's](#) report at the assembly of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences

On the 29th of October during the [assembly](#) of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences the Full Member of the Academy A. Vasiliev delivered a [paper](#) on «Arab revolutions and protest movements. Causes. Driving forces. Results». Among the discussants were Full Members of the Academy: Yuri Izrael, Nikolai Shmelev, Mikhail Ugryumov, Alexander Dynkin, Valeri Kozlov, Valeri Kostyuk, Vladimir Fortov; V. Vdovin (Academy's Trade Union), I. Belyaev (Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

International cooperation



November 19, the Cooperation Agreement between the [Institute for African Studies](#) and the [Nigerian Institute of International Affairs](#) was signed.

At the signing ceremony Director of the Institute for African Studies Acad. A.M. Vasiliev emphasized that the Nigerian Institute of International Relations is the most long-standing partner of the Institute: the first cooperation agreement was signed in 1978. Since then, the two institutions have organized a number of joint academic events, including seminars in both Nigeria and Russia, and field research in Nigeria.

Field research of Prof. Bondarenko and Dr. Zhukov in the USA

From September 15 to November 2 two members of the Institute for African Studies, Vice-Director for Research Prof. Dmitri Bondarenko and Junior Research Fellow Dr. Alexander Zhukov, took part in the field research conducted in five states and eight cities of the USA: Philadelphia (Pennsylvania), Boston, Cambridge, Springfield (all Massachusetts), Evanston, Chicago (both Illinois), Minneapolis (Minnesota), and New York City (New York). The field research was carried out as part of an anthropological project of the Institute aimed at exploring the relationship between, and mutual perceptions of African Americans and recent migrants from Africa to the USA. The project was supported by the Russian Foundation for Humanities (project 13-01-18036). [Read more.](#)



XII School of young africanists

November 7-8, the Higher School of Economics ([HSE](#)) hosted the XII All-Russian School of young africanists «BRICS and prospective of socio-economic, political and cultural development in Africa». The Conference was organized by the Institute for African Studies, Institute's Young Scholars Council and the Lab of Monitoring of the Socio-Political Destabilization Risks of the Higher School of Economics.

The opening ceremony was followed by the keynote speeches delivered by the Head of the [School of Asian Studies](#) of the HSE Prof. A.A. Maslov, Full member of the Russian Academy of Sciences A.B. Davidson, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Sudan to Russia Omer Dahab Fadl Mohamed, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Benin to Russia Aniset Gabriel Kochofa, Prof. I.V. Sledzevskiy, Prof. V.G. Shubin (Institute for African Studies), Head of the Lab of Monitoring of the Socio-Political Destabilization risks Prof. A.V. Korotaev. The Conference was supervised by its moderator, Dr. N.A. Zherlitsyna.

The following young scholars from the Institute gave their papers: Dr. S. Kostelyanets, Dr. O. Kulkova, Dr. I. Tatarovskaya, Dr. H. Turyinskaya, Dr. D. Zelenova, E. Salakhedinov, D. Kochetov, G. Karpov, A. Noskov, A. Rodin, I. Teterin, L. Romanenko, M. Obratsova, V. Sidorov, A. Khamatshin, N. Voronina, O. Ivanchenko, P. Popov, V. Kruchinskiy, and A. Panov.

The end of the second working day was marked by the closing remarks by the School Organizing Committee with the approval of the resolution. The cinema club session following the ceremony displayed the documentary «Lesedi Ethnographic Village» by Svetlana Zusina ([Moscow State University](#)) and «Dear Mandela» directed by Dara Kell and Christopher Nizza (South Africa). [Read more](#)

Research in Morocco

October 22-30, Dr. E.B. Demintseva and Dr. N.L.

Krylova, the research fellows of the Institute for African Studies, conducted a short-term research in the Kingdom of Morocco within the project «African students in the Soviet Union: post-graduate mobility and career development» supported by the [Russian Foundation for Humanities-Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme](#) (France) grant №13-21-08001.

During the stay, the scholars interviewed a number of citizens of Morocco – alumni of Soviet and Russian Universities with two focus-groups of the Association of alumni representatives in Rabat and Casablanca. Besides, the meeting with the representatives of the Association of Russian women – wives of Moroccan graduates from Russian Universities was arranged in Casablanca. The appointments with the Associations were organized by the Head of African department of [Rossotrudnichestvo N.V. Sukhov](#) who also moderated the meetings of focus-groups. During the reception by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Morocco H.E. [V.P. Vorobyev](#), the arrangements on further scholars' cooperation with Russian diplomats in Northern Africa have been reached.

On the 25th and 26th of October Dr. Demintseva, Dr. Krylova and Mr. Sukhov made a presentations at the colloquium «Elites maghrebines et subsahariennes formees en URSS/Russie et dans les pays d'Europe de l'Est».



«Mobility, Migration and Flows» The 56th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association

November 21-24, Baltimore (Maryland, USA) hosted the 56th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association «Mobility, Migration and Flows». The Conference was held in Marriott Baltimore Waterfront Hotel bringing together more than 1200 participants.

Two researchers from the Institute for African Studies took part in the «Africa International Relations and Conflict» panel: Prof. Vladimir Shubin spoke on «Sub-Saharan Africa: Consequences of the War in Libya», while Dr. Olga Kulkova delivered the paper «British Policy Towards Africa in the Areas of Security, Defense, Peace-Keeping and Peace-Building (2008 – 2012)».

Junior Research Fellow Petr Popov was among the papergivers in the «Grassroots strategies» panel with the presentation «Mutual Aid Practices in African Cities – The Case of Poor Urban Communities in Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania)», based on the evidence collected during field research in the United Republic of Tanzania in September 2013.



Daria Zelenova's report at the Centre franco-russe de recherché seminar

December 3, Dr. Daria Zelenova made the presentation «Fighting for the city in South African metropolis. History of protest movements and South African squatters' self-organization». The paper was based on the data collected during field researches in South Africa in 2009-2012, focused on self-organization and protest among squatters, poorest city dwellers and social movements they are involved in.



Among the participants and organizers of the seminar were: A. Bikbov ([Moscow State University](#)), Dr. E.B. Demintseva ([The Higher School of Economics](#)), O. Kirchik ([The Higher School of Economics](#)), Carine Clément ([The European University at St Petersburg](#)), Amandine Regamey (Université Paris I/CERCEC), Carole Sigman ([Centre franco-russe de recherche en sciences humaines et sociales de Moscou](#)).

«Urban Anthropology» conference

December 4–6, the Conference of the young scholars «Urban Anthropology» took place at the [Institute for Ethnology and Anthropology](#) of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The Conference presentations were split by 9 panels and a number of special lectures of Russian anthropologists.

In the framework of the panel «Image of the city» Junior Research Fellows Dr. Daria Zelenova, Oxana Ivanchenko and Petr Popov gave the paper «Uswahilini of Dar-es-Salaam in the Context of Transformations of African Megalopolis». The paper was based on the fieldwork evidence collected by P. Popov and O. Ivanchenko recently in Tanzania where they observed the practices of mutual assistance of the poorest areas' dwellers. The phenomenon of «uswahilini» described by the papaergivers appeared in colonial times as an official name of the area for indigenous black Tanzanians. In post-colonial era it did not vanish but acquired a new meaning and is nowadays used for marking an unfavorable area of the city, settled mainly by migrants from countryside or other categories of the poorest population. At the same time, the image of uswahilini which was shaped in minds of Tanzanians and even in the conception of many scholars appeared to be rather stereotypic and exaggerated the scale of marginality and criminality of its inhabitants.

The presentation «Marginal African Migrants in Moscow: Modes of Social Behavior and Strategies of Survival» made by Alexander Panov carried on the tradition of Russian African scholars observing the Sub-Saharan Africa's migration to Russia. A. Panov paid attention to the social being and experience of the low status, marginal migrants (refugees, asylum seekers, labor and transit migrants, including illegal), their motivation before departing to Russia, social description, living conditions in Moscow, relations with native Russians and other groups of migrants to Moscow.

Exhibition «African passion. Known and uncharted...»

December 19, the staff members of the Institute for African Studies took part in the opening ceremony of the exhibition within the cultural exchange program among the Russian Federation and African countries.

The exhibition was organized by the Institute for African Studies, Nagornaya Gallery, Russian-African Foundation for Research, Culture and Business Cooperation, Rossotrudnichestvo, and a number of African Embassies in Moscow. Welcome speeches were delivered by the representatives of African Diplomatic Corps, vice-president of the Society of friendship and cooperation with the United Republic of Tanzania D.A. Malov, N.V. Sukhov (Rossotrudnichestvo), Deputy Director of the Institute Prof. D.M. Bondarenko.



The show-pieces from the collection belonging to the Institute and from private collections of the Institute employees Prof. Bondarenko, Dr. A. Arkhangelskaya, A.O. Lapushkina were exposed. Among the guests of the vernissage were Prof. L.L. Fituni, Dr. A.A. Arkhangelskaya, N.I. Bondar, V.V. Kruchinsky, A.O. Lapushkina, P.A. Popov, T.N. Sokolovskaya, A.D. Khamatshin.

On the 25th of December in the framework of the exhibition an African independent directors' films screening was organized by Dr. Arkhangelskaya; on the 4th of January Dr. A.A. Kazankov delivered the lecture «Traditional African music» with elements of master-class.