
International

2012 APSA Africa Workshop: Gaborone, Botswana “Local Communities and the State in Africa”

From July 15 to 27, APSA launched the fifth annual Africa Workshop in partnership with the faculty of social sciences at the University of Botswana in Gaborone. The program is part of a multiyear initiative to support political science research and teaching in Sub-Saharan Africa through a series of residential political science workshops at African universities and research institutions. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Africa Workshop is a major component of APSA's efforts to support research networks linking US scholars with their colleagues overseas and engage political science communities outside the United States.

The 2012 workshop, *Local Communities and the State in Africa*, focused substantively on the dynamic between formal state institutions of power in Africa and the many influential subnational actors, with an added emphasis on field research methods. A diverse team of five professors from across the social sciences jointly led the event, which was attended by 26 political and social scientists, including 22 Africa-based scholars and four advanced PhD candidates from the United States, who were competitively selected from a pool of over 130 applicants. Together, these scholars represented 14 countries and 27 different institutions and comprised the largest and one of the most diverse workshop groups to date.

Throughout the workshop, participants discussed an extensive set of read-



Leaders, participants, and staff gather on campus at the end of the APSA Africa Workshop at the end of July 2012.

Bottom Row: Sethunya Mosime, Lungisile Ntsebeza, Happy Kayuni, Azeez Olaniyan, Joyce Ejukonemu, Abosede Babatunde, Jeffrey Paller, Felicia Odame, Naomi Moswete, Danielle Carter

Next Row: Fatai Aremu, Booker Magure, Adel Saleh Mohamed, Yacouba Moluh, Mesharch Katusimeh, Richard Houessou, Kirk Harris, Martha Wilfahrt, Tabitha Naisiko

Next to Top Row: David Udofia, Majuta Mamogale, George Bob-Milliar, Lapo Magole, Joseph Mbaiwa, Oluyemi Oyenike Fayomi, Lauren MacLean, Andrew Stinson, Opportuna Kweka

Top Row: Parakh Hoon, Innocent Chirisa, Adediran Ikuomola, Arka Abota Aynako

ings based on topical, theoretical, and methodological subthemes, presented findings from their own research, and focused heavily on improving their manuscripts for publication. An all-day symposium “Botswana’s Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective” included several local guest speakers and was attended by students and faculty from across the university community. Participants also made time to explore various cultural sites in and around Gaborone, including the Thamaga women’s pottery cooperative, the ancient rock paintings at Manyana, and the Mokolodi Nature Reserve.

Dorothy Mpabanga, director of the Center for Specialization in Public Administration and Management (CESPAM) at the University of Botswana, provided invaluable assistance in facilitating the workshop.

The event has now been held twice in both West Africa (Ghana, Senegal) and East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania) and once in Southern Africa (Botswana). To date, 98 Africa-based scholars from 26 countries have participated in the workshop, as well as 21 US-based scholars. For more information on the 2012 workshop or the overall program, please visit the APSA Africa Workshop website at www.apsanet.org/africaworkshops.

WORKSHOP COEADERS:

Mr. Parakh Hoon, Virginia Tech; USA
Ms. Lauren MacLean, Indiana

University; USA

Mr. Joseph Mbaiwa, Okavango Research Institute; Botswana

Ms. Sethunya Mosime, University of Botswana; Botswana

Mr. Lungisile Ntsebeza, University of Cape Town; South Africa



Arka Abota Aynako and Adel Saleh Mohamed are deep in discussion during a workshop session.



Richard Houessou, seated with a laptop computer, fields questions for some workshop participants about his statistical research.

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS:

Mr. Fatai Aremu, University of Ilorin; Nigeria

Mr. Arka Abota Aynako, Addis Ababa University; Ethiopia

Ms. Abosedo Babatunde, University of Ilorin; Nigeria

Mr. George Bob-Milliar, University of Ghana; Ghana

Ms. Danielle Carter, Michigan State University; USA

Mr. Innocent Chirisa, University of Zimbabwe; Zimbabwe

Ms. Joyce Ejukonemu, Federal College of Education (Technical), Bichi; Nigeria

Ms. Oluyemi Oyenike Fayomi, Covenant University; Nigeria

Mr. Kirk Harris, Indiana University; USA

Mr. Richard Houessou, Institute of Empirical Research in Political Economy; Benin

Mr. Adediran Daniel Ikuomola, Adekunle Ajasin University; Nigeria

Mr. Mesharch Katusiimeh, Uganda Christian University; Uganda

Mr. Happy Kayuni, University of Malawi; Malawi

Ms. Opportuna Kweka, University of Dares Salaam; Tanzania

Ms. Lapologang Magole, University of Botswana; Botswana

Mr. Booker Magure, Rhodes University; South Africa

Mr. Majuta Mamogale, University of Witwatersrand; South Africa

Mr. Adel Saleh Mohamed, Sohag University; Egypt

Mr. Yacouba Moluh, University of Yaoundé II; Cameroon

Ms. Naomi Moswete, University of Botswana; Botswana

Ms. Tabitha Naisiko, Queen of Apostles Philosophy Center, Jinja; Uganda

Ms. Felicia Odame, University of Development Studies; Ghana

Mr. Azeez Olaniyan, Ekiti State University; Nigeria

Mr. Jeffrey Paller, University of Wisconsin, Madison; USA

Mr. David Okon Udofia, University of Juba; South Sudan

Ms. Martha Wilfahrt, Cornell University; USA ■

Calling Leadership Teams for 2013 Workshop

APSA is currently soliciting applications from political scientists interested in serving as coleaders for the 2013 APSA Africa Workshop. Submissions must come from a team of two US-based and two Africa-based scholars. Those applying to be coleaders must propose a workshop theme, location, and African institutional partner. The application deadline is November 1, 2012. For more information, visit the Africa Workshop website or contact Andrew Stinson at africaworkshops@apsanet.org. ■



Workshop participants and staff pose under the "David Livingstone Tree" near Manyana. This very old tree was the site of an informal school in the late 1840s where David Livingstone held classes. The tree, a landmark of sorts, is unique vegetation in the area.

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