AFRICAN POLITICS CONFERENCE GROUP (APCG) of the American Political Science Association (APSA), International Political Science Association (ISA), and African Studies Association (ASA).

APCG Newsletter No. 7
(August 2006)

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1. Message from the Chair, Professor John Harbeson

Dear Friends,

I admit it, this time I’m sending a mixed message--on purpose! I want to reflect a bit both on where we’ve come and where it seems to me we need to moving in the immediate and near future.

APCG continues to be very healthy organizationally, thanks to the support and participation of so many our members. One can see that just by looking at Cathy’s notes from our last meeting at ASA. By my count we have 239 members, our website and Newsletter are up and running --and, hey, do Dennis and Staffan do a great job or what!--, we continue to field our quota of panels at all three conventions (ISA, APSA, and ASA), we have committees at work on awards and nominations as usual, and Anne reports a healthy and completely unspent balance in our treasury. And we have new initiatives like Lahra Smith’s piece for the Journal of Political Science Education on Africa politics materials for our non-Africanist colleagues to use in their courses.

Also, I very much look forward to Ira Katznelson’s visit to our business meeting at APSA next week. Mounting an APSA Africa initiative has been Ira's special
project during his year as APSA president, and he's made a good deal of progress so far. I know he's looking forward to thinking with us about how we as an organization can help with this project which, of course, will long outlast his presidency.

At the same time, we need to think about how to move our organization to the next level on the principle if we don't think ahead, we're in danger of falling behind! The thoughts that follow are not just my own but reflect conversations with several of us. Anne notes that while we have a healthy membership and the beginnings of a treasury, she notes many Africa specialists not yet in our ranks, and our gentle encouragement to date on dues have yielded a response from only about 25% or so of our membership. At the same time, I must report that we have not had particularly strong responses to our calls for papers for the last few conventions, and, of course, this was a central rationale for our existence! So I do think we need to think together about how to promote ourselves to our colleagues, how to generate stronger responses to our calls for papers, and how to enhance our organization in ways that will make it easier to generate the modest dues contributions we ask.

So, I would like to start a conversation about where we go from here. Possibly we might do an online survey of our members to generate ideas on what we might do to take ourselves to the next level. Certainly we can start that conversation at APSA, and later at ASA.

Again, as always, my thanks to one and all for all everyone has done and continues to do to make this organization go. It's such fun to be your chair under these circumstances!!

I look forward to seeing everyone at APSA and, later at ASA

Cheers,

John

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2. Notes from the Editor

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The upcoming submission deadline for the last issue of the year is: **November 30.**

Make sure to include your news, calls and publications - we all want to know about them!

I have now started my new job at Department of political Science and Center for African Studies at University of Florida, so please direct your future emails to me using this email address: lindberg@polisci.ufl.edu

Finally, a reminder of the APCG panels at upcoming APSA and ASA conferences. Make sure to attend if you can - our future allocations of panels is determined by the number of people attending!
## APCG-panel at APSA's 2006 Annual Meeting:

**Title:** Political Liberalization and Democratization in Africa Since 1990: Patterns of Inclusion and Exclusion, Power Relations, State Legitimacy  

**Chair:** Aaron Tesfaye, William Paterson University  

**Papers**  
Nicholas Cheesman, St. Peter's College, Oxford "State formation and power in Africa: Differentiating the 'centralized-bureaucratic' state."  
John Clark, Florida International University, "Political Liberalization and Military Intervention in African States Since 1991."  
Bruce Heilman, College of William and Mary, and Paul Kaiser, University of Pennsylvania, "Religion, Political Authority and the Articulation of Power During Transition Moments in Tanzania."  
John Quinn, Truman State University, "Rebuilding Democracy after the End of the Cold War: The Effects of Majority State Ownership on Subsequent Democratization in sub-Saharan Africa."  

**Discussants:** Nadia Horning, Middlebury College and Jessica Piombo, Naval Postgraduate School

## APCG-panels at ASA’s 2006 Annual Meeting:  

### 1. Round Table  

**Title:** Democratization in Africa: What Role Does Elections Play?  

**Chair:** Staffan I. Lindberg, University of Florida (from August 2006)  

**Participants:** Joel Barkan, University of Iowa  
Larry Diamond, Stanford University  
Carrie Manning, University of Georgia  
Stephen Ndewa, The World Bank  

**Abstract:**  
This round table probes the question what role elections play in democratization; are they merely procedures at best reflecting some superficial aspect of democracy or can they be an engine of democratic development in other spheres? We are asking if repetitive elections in Africa are at best reflections of democracy or if the repetition of electoral practices and creation of arenas for (sometimes severely flawed) political competition can be a causal factor in the further democratization beyond the electoral regime? This panel seeks to evaluate the effects of holding
elections in Africa over the past 15 years in a comparative perspective, and to provide guidance for the future.

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<th>2. Panel</th>
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<tr>
<td>Panel Title: “Pop Culture and Politics: Understanding the role of informal cultural politics in Africa”</td>
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<td>Chair/Discussant: Peter Von Doepp (University of Vermont)</td>
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<td>Papers:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victor Brobbey (American University) and Kevin S. Fridy (University of Florida) - “Win the Match and Vote for Me: The Politicization of Ghana’s Accra Hearts of Oak and Kumasi Asante Kotoko Football Clubs”</td>
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<td>Tim Nevin (University of Florida) - “Cultural Chameleons in the extraordinary seventies; popular music and social change in pre-civil war Liberia”</td>
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<td>Lisa Allette Brooks (Yale University) - “Songs and Sovereignty: Performing Nation Through Music Addressing HIV/AIDS in Botswana”</td>
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<td>Steve Marr (University of Florida) - “Buy, Buy, Buy: Consumption, Identity and the Making of Modern Citizens in the Shopping Malls of Gaborone, Botswana”</td>
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3. Recent Publications on African Politics


Clapham, Christopher. 2006. 'Ethiopian Development: The Politics of Emulations.' *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics* 44, 1: 137-150.


Subrahmanyam, Gita. 2006. 'Ruling Continuities: Colonial Rule, Social Forces and Path Dependence in British India and Africa.' *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics* 44, 1: 84-117.

Taylor, Scott D. 2006. 'Divergent Politico-Legal Responses to Past Presidential Corruption in Zambia and Kenya: Catching the "Big Fish," or Letting Him off the Hook?’ *Third World Quarterly* 27, 2: 281-301.

4. Members' News

Bruce J. Berman (Queen's University) became the director and principal investigator of the Ethnicity and Democratic Governance program, supported by a five-year $2.5 million grant from the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in Ottawa. The program includes 32 scholars from 19 universities in eight countries representing political science, history, anthropology, law, sociology and philosophy. There are five Africanists involved in the group. His 2005 presidential address to the African Studies Association has been published as 'The Ordeal of Modernity in an Age of Terror,' *African Studies Review* 49, 1, April 2006, pp. 1-14.

Cathy Boone (University of Texas) has been elected Vice Chair of APSA’s Comparative Democratization section for 2006-8.

A. Carl LeVan has taken up a position at School of International Service, American University, Washington, DC. Web page: http://dss.ucsd.edu/~clevan

Peter Lewis has taken up a new position as Director for the African Studies Program at The Johns Hopkins University-SAIS, 1619 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Email to Peter is now: pleague18@jhu.edu. Phone: 202-663-5681.

Richard R. Marcus has accepted a new position at International Studies Program, California State University, Long Beach

Anne Pitcher was recently named a Presidential Scholar by the Dean of the Faculty at Colgate University for 2006-2007. She continues next year as the Director of the Center for Ethics and World Societies.

Robert Press (University of Southern Mississippi) just completed two months of research in Liberia on human rights activism from 1979 to 2003.

Lahra Smith has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

Scott Strauss (University of Wisconsin) is the editor of a special issue on Darfur of the new journal *Genocide Studies and Prevention* 1:1 (2006), published by the University of Toronto Press.

Timothy Shaw has taken up a position as Professor of Human Security & Peace-building at Royal Roads University in BC. Email: tim.shaw@royalroads.ca
5. Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER, 2006
THE 2006 AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF UK (ASAUK) BIENNIAL
CONFERENCE, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK
(September 11-13, 2006)
This conference is organized to bring together Africanists working in a wide variety of
disciplines. For more information, visit http://www.asauk.net/asauk06/

OCTOBER, 2006
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE STATE OF AFFAIRS OF AFRICA
(ICSAA), Boston Quincy Marriot, MA, USA (October 26-28, 2006) The International
Institute of Justice and development, Inc (IIJD) will host the First International
Conference on then State of Affairs in Africa (ICSAA) at the Boston Quincy Marriot
Hotel. The conference will bring together experts from all over the world and from
international organizations and UN organizations. Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first
female and newly elected President of Liberia will be the Keynote speaker at this
conference. The conference is organized around the themes of democratic governance,
judicial institutions, elections and political processes, anticorruption, constitutional legal
analysis, public policy, participatory processes, and economic development. For more
information, contact conference.icsaa@iijd.org or visit http://www.icsaa.iijd.org

Proposals are invited for panels, roundtables, and poster sessions for the African
Heritage Studies Association’s 39th annual conference to be held at the University of
South Florida, Tampa, October 19-21. The theme of this year’s conference is
“Understanding Health and Well-Being in Africa and its Diasporas.” The conference
encourages bold questions about health security/insecurity and its inseparable link to the
political economy of Africa and its diasporas. Conference participants are encouraged to
view health security/insecurity in the broadest terms, allowing for rethinking of the basic
concepts by which we understand the well-being of a people. This is an interdisciplinary
conference, and participation is invited from academics as well as other professionals,
from faculty and from graduate students. We prefer electronic submissions as
attachments in MS Word or Rich Text Format (to africana@cas.usf.edu), but hard copies
may also be mailed to: Program Chair, AHSA Annual Conference, Department of
Africana Studies, University of South Florida, 4202 East Fowler Avenue, Tampa, Florida
33620; phone (813) 974-2427. Note: Web submission will be available by mid May at
http://www.cas.usf.edu/africana_studies/ahsa.html Deadline for Submissions: July 15,
2006. For further information, contact us at africana@cas.usf.edu.

NOVEMBER, 2006
Wharton African Students Association, announce that this year’s Wharton African
Business Forum (WABF) will take place at John Huntsman Hall on the University of
Pennsylvania campus on Saturday November 11th, 2006. The theme for the conference
is Africa: Building New Partnerships, Impacting the Global economy. Alberta Tete-Lartey
albertat@wharton.upenn.edu

2007
PSA Development Politics Group 2nd Annual Conference, International Development Department, University of Birmingham, 26th January 2007: ‘Making Politics Practical: Development Politics and the Changing Aid Environment’ The conference thus welcomes paper proposals that seek to explore the ‘(re) politicisation’ of development studies and the need for constructive, rather than merely critical, engagement with policy makers. Selected papers may be considered for publication in a special issue of a journal (currently under discussion). Abstracts of no more than 300 words to be sent to Dr Heather Marquette by Friday 27th October 2006. Further details available from http://www.idd.bham.ac.uk. Alternatively, please email the conference organiser, Dr Heather Marquette (h.a.marquette@bham.ac.uk).

CONFERENCE ON POPULAR CULTURES IN AFRICA, University of Texas at Austin, USA (March 30-April 1, 2007). The submission deadline for abstracts is November 1, 2006. The University of Texas at Austin is pleased to announce a three-day conference focusing on the histories, genres, meanings, purposes, and impact of popular cultures in Africa. The aim of the conference is to examine how popular cultures have evolved and contributed to the character of Africa. Participants will be drawn from various countries. Submit proposal that includes a 250-word abstract and title, as well as the authors name, address, telephone number, email address, and institutional affiliation to Conference Convener, Toyin Falola (toyin.falola@mail.utexas.edu) or Conference Coordinator, Tyler Fleming (tylerfleming@mail.utexas.edu).

6. Announcements, Jobs, Grants and Fellowships

Chair, Department of Africana Studies, University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Senior level twelve-month appointment beginning July 1, 2007. Salary competitive. Applications are invited from individuals in any disciplinary tradition whose teaching and research demonstrate a commitment to Africana Studies as an interdisciplinary enterprise and whose vision of the field embraces the study of all facets of the African Diaspora. For more information about the position and program please visit our website: <http://www.africana.uncc.edu/>www.africana.uncc.edu. Screening of applications will begin 1 November 2006 and will continue until the position is filled. For more information please contact the chair of the search committee at jsmail@email.uncc.edu.

Call for submissions to the newly-relaunched African Review of Foreign Policy, which is published by United States International University. John Harbeson has agreed to serve on the advisory board for the journal and we’re hoping we can get some good
submissions from APCG members. Manuscripts and further inquiries should be directed to: arfp@usiu.ac.ke

JOIN THE WEST AFRICAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (WARA).

Join now for news on the 2005-6 fellowship competition for pre-doc. fellowships, post-doc.fellowships, grad. student internships, travel grants for West Africans, and residencies for West African scholars. Go to http://www.africa.ufl.edu/WARA/ and click on "fellowships" and "membership." Membership comes with a glossy, semi-annual newsletter and lots of perks at the West African Research Center in Dakar. Watch for our annual membership meeting on Saturday night at the African Studies Association meeting in November 2005.

Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowships at the Washington, D.C.-based National Endowment for Democracy invites applications from candidates throughout the world for fellowships in 2007-2008. Established in 2001, the program enables democracy activists, practitioners, scholars, and journalists from around the world to deepen their understanding of democracy and to enhance their ability to promote democratic change. The program is intended primarily to support activists, practitioners, and scholars from new and aspiring democracies; distinguished scholars from the United States and other established democracies are also eligible to apply. Projects may focus on the political, social, economic, legal, and cultural aspects of democratic development and may include a range of methodologies and approaches. A working knowledge of English is an important prerequisite for participation in the program. The application deadline for fellowships in 2006-2007 is Wednesday, November 1, 2006.

The International Studies Association-Midwest invites proposals for panels and papers on all aspects of international studies for its 2006 annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, November 3-5, 2006. Panel proposals should be submitted by email to isamidwest@truman.edu and should include the title of the panel or roundtable, titles and 250 word abstracts for each paper, and full contact information for all the participants. Paper proposals should be submitted to the same address and should include full contact information of the author, the title of the paper, and a brief, 250 word abstract. For more information about the conference, please visit www.missouri.edu/~isa-m/AnnualMeeting/index.htm or write Conference Chair and CompDem section member John Ishiyama (jishiyam@truman.edu).

The Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies announce the 2007 competition of the INTERNATIONAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (IDRF) program designed to support distinguished graduate students in the humanities and social sciences conducting dissertation research outside the United States. Fifty fellowships of approximately $20,000 will be awarded in 2007 with funds provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. For more detailed information, visit the IDRF website at www.ssrc.org/programs/idrf. Deadline: November 1, 2006.

SPECIAL EDITION OF AFRICAN STUDIES "FEMINISM AND CONTEMPORARY CULTURE IN SOUTH AFRICA"

* The submission deadline for papers is September 15, 2006
Issues surrounding voice, victimhood, agency, subjectivity, power, gaze, silences, knowledge and nation have often been recast in African Feminist theory and need
further exploration in South African today. Works dealing with the ambiguities and complexities of gender in South African culture are sought for a special edition of the interdisciplinary journal African Studies. Articles should be sent to Ronit Frenkel (ronit@languages.wits.ac.za). For more information, visit http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/castauth.asp

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The APCG is served 2006/2007 by the following members:

Steering Committee
John Harbeson, Chair  City University of New York
Nelson Kasfir, Vice Chair  Dartmouth College
Catherine Boone, Secretary  University of Texas
Anne Pitcher, Treasurer  Colgate University
Gretchen Bauer, at large  University of Delaware
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ISA Program
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Sandra Joireman  Wheaton College
John F. Clark  Florida International University

ASA Program
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Carl Levan  University of California, San Diego

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Scott Strauss  University of Wisconsin
Kidane Mengisteab  Pennsylvania State University
Elke Zuern  Sarah Lawrence College

Best Article Award
Will Reno  Northwestern University
Janet Beilstein  Independent Scholar
K.C. Morrison  University of Missouri

Nominations
Don Rothchild  University of California, Davis
Ed Keller  University of California, LA
Jim Wunsch  Creighton University
Carrie Manning  Georgia State University

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