



As the world's problems continue to multiply both in number and in magnitude, the need for platforms of collaboration, both big and small, to find common solutions to common problems has never been greater. It is precisely for this reason that *Political Animal* has returned. Following a period of dormancy, the new editorial board has revived the newsletter and in doing so the editors hope to create a platform to showcase and stimulate collaboration between undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as departmental staff and external researchers. We have (re)introduced a number of exciting features including: Specialist Commentary, Student Voices, Undergrads Ask Postgrads, Research Skills for the 21st Century, From the HoD's Desk and The Publication Showcase and Spotlight. Some of the above-mentioned features are present in this issue while others will be rolled out with the second issue.

We commence this issue with remarks by our HoD Prof Suzanne Graham before celebrating the achievements of the Department for 2018. Thereafter, we look back at Semester A 2019 with fondness as we celebrate our rising stars of Politics and International Relations, as well as acknowledge and commend those who have represented the Department and UJ, both locally and internationally. We are pleased to announce that for this issue we have contributions by Dr Yolanda K. Spies and Mr Sfiso Sabela; both of whom are remarkable individuals doing great things who share these stories as we commemorate both Youth and Women's Day. Lastly, I provide some ethical hacks on how to turn social media into the best research assistant one could ask for before yielding the floor to the Publications Showcase and the sharp minds of our students. For this revival issue we are delighted to feature Prof Victoria Graham's book, *Pass of Fail? Assessing The Quality of South Africa's Democracy* in commemoration of the Republic's 25th anniversary of its democratic transition.

The passing paragraph should have already made clear that collaboration is alive and well! Going forward we hope to welcome more contributions from both inside and outside of UJ. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all contributors of this issue of Political Animal for their participation! We hope to work with you again in future! Moreover, reviving a publication such as this has been no small feat, nor is Political Animal's revival my isolated efforts. With this in mind, my sincerest vote of thanks goes to *Political Animal's* editorial board for their hard work and dedication; they are after all our Department's staunchest political animals!

Yours Sincerely,
Sven Botha, Lead Editor of Political Animal
July 2019

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All of the views and/or ideas expressed in Political Animal, are those of the individual contributors and not necessary those of the editorial board, the Department of Politics and International Relations, the Faculty of Humanities or the University of Johannesburg, unless stated otherwise.

From the HOD's Desk



Prof Suzanne Graham has been HoD of the Department of Politics and International Relations since 2017.

Prof Graham's teaching and research interests include: foreign policy, terrorism, globalisation and international conflict.

Prof Graham has authored and co-authored several academic articles. She is also the author of the book, *Democratic South Africa's foreign policy: Voting Behaviour at the United Nations* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).

Greetings and welcome back to the Political Animal! I decided to resurrect this Departmental initiative in the hopes that Politics and IR students would be inspired by the achievements and adventures of their peers and so that we can all share in celebrating the obvious fact that UJ has some of the most dynamic students and passionate lecturers and associates in the country!

It is so important, in a world full of corruption and commissions, load shedding and lobbying, racism and rioting, sexism and socio-economic inequality, among other serious challenges, that we take stock of how lucky we are in many ways. This year we have already seen the graduation of 5 Masters students and 5 PhD students, and we are only half-way. This is in large part due to the tireless efforts of Prof Landsberg and his team at the SARChI Chair: African Diplomacy and Foreign Policy. Our top achieving undergraduate students are making us all proud. Over the past two years our students have had opportunities to visit countries across the globe where they have networked and built relationships. Our students are creating initiatives, based on their own hard work and charisma, to try to foster active citizenship (Comfort Matoti and Sfiso Sabela, for example); to encourage education around human rights (Bongani Dlamini), and to show the link between politics and entrepreneurial endeavours (Siphumeze Bhaca).

We are also lucky to have an Office Manager, 'Ma Rae', who takes care of all of us daily. We also appreciate the dedication and interest of our tutors and our departmental student assistant, as well as the peer buddies and mentors at APK and SWC who have volunteered their time to assist their fellow students. We continue to welcome visitors from across the globe to our Department, to host seminars and to interact with our student body. We are hosting book launches and running international conferences. Later this year we will have a student conference that will highlight the emerging academic talent that we have in our corridors. We are a busy Department! Let's continue to celebrate the power of positive thinking and work together to achieve as much as we can. Remember, 'if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together'.



Our students and staff host US students from the International Scholar Laureate Program on their annual visit to our Dept.

Visitors to the Dept. in 2018:

- 1.) Prof Eiki Berg, University of Tartu, 26th-28th Feb 2018.
- 2.) Mr Bruno Luciano, PhD researcher from Birmingham, 23 April until 30 May 2018 working on the PAP among other things.
- 3.) Assistant Professor Wojciech Gagatek, at the Institute of Political Science, Warsaw University, Poland (Erasmus mobility scheme) visiting Dept. and offering guest lectures at UJ from 30th April -11 May 2018.
- 4.) Research Associate, Prof Ian Spears, visited the Dept. from the 15 June – 13 July 2018.
- 5.) Distinguished Visiting Prof David Boucher 1st July- 8th September
- 6.) Prof. Miro Hacek and Dr Simona Kukovic (University of Ljubljana) between 28th July and 2 August 2018.

Departmental seminar series

On 27 February 2018, Prof Berg, University of Tartu, Estonia, presented on 'Lines of contact between parent states and secessionist entities: Linking past, present and future in the conflict zones'.

On 13 April 2018, the Department, in collaboration with the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) together with the Norwegian Embassy hosted a seminar on "Justice, Peace and Reconciliation: Lesson for Peacebuilding Process". The seminar featured Dr Gunnar Stalsett and Ambassador Welile Nhlapo as keynote speakers and addressed the longevity of peace processes that is grounded in societal reconciliation rather than deterrence. The ongoing crisis in Myanmar regarding the Rohingya Muslims became the focus of a departmental seminar hosted on the 4th of May 2018. The seminar tackled the issue of international responsibility that is linked to the concept of Responsibility to Protect (R2P) given the Human Rights violations unfolding in Myanmar. The Speakers at this seminar were Nay San Lwin and Shafiur Rahman.

Departmental seminar series (continued)

Given the rise of populism in the global and South African political spectrum, the department hosted a seminar to reflect on South Africa's current politics on 10 July 2018. The political discourse has been dominated by the narrative which advances that South Africa attained political freedom in 1994, but the majority of South Africans are yet to realise economic freedom. Pivotal issues on economic freedom have been the land question and radical economic transformation. In terms of institutions of higher learning, a fee-free education and transformation in the epistemological grounding of universities and in general terms. Professor Ian Spears shared his thoughts on these issues as the keynote speaker at this seminar.

Student News

The Department is pleased to announce that one of its Master's students, **Ayabulela Dlakavu**, received the award for the best MA submission by South African Association for Political Studies (SAAPS) at a gala dinner held in Pretoria on 21 October 2018. Dlakavu's dissertation was rated the best from the MA submissions received nationally. Well done to Ayabulela for this outstanding achievement!



(Left to right)
Prof Suzanne Graham
and Mr
Ayabulela Dlakavu at the
SAAPS Conference
Dinner, University of
Pretoria

See more exciting
SAAPS news on page
12!

Student News (continued)

TOFAC 8

Ngah Kiven Gabriel, a PhD student, participated in the 8th Toyin Falola Annual International Conference on Africa and African Diaspora (TOFAC 8) held in Nairobi, Kenya, at the United States International University between 3 and 5 July 2018. Ngah presented a paper titled **“Natural resources, the bourgesification of the elite and conflict of State power in Central African Republic: 1991 – 2017”**.

The aim of TOFAC is to bring together a vast array of scholars to dialogue about issues concerning Africa and Africans throughout the world from both historical and contemporary perspectives. As such, the conference was attended by over 200 participants and covered diverse issues that impacted the continent in a number of areas including development, education, human rights, education, economic development and leadership among others. Ngah was presented with a certificate of participation at the conclusion of the conference.



The High Level Politics Forum 2018

A student of Politics, Comfort Matoti, attended the sixth session of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development with the theme “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. The sub-set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were reviewed were SDG 6 – clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 – affordable and clean energy, SDG 11 –sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12 –responsible consumption and production, SDG 15 – life on land and SDG 17 – strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (this SDG is considered every year).

The session was held in New York between 9 and 13 July 2018. Part of the sixth session was aimed at engaging students in order to capacitate and impart skills and knowledge towards the realisation of the 2030 Agenda. The aim, among others, was to share experiences and facilitate peer to peer collaboration together with learning about practical actions and best practices.



South African Universities Debating Championships

The Department funded a total of 15 delegates out of the 21 that attended the Southern African Universities Debate Championships (SANUDC) which were hosted by the Durban University of Technology from 3 to 9 July 2018.

The championships were first held in 1999. However, the University of Johannesburg's Debating Union (UJDU) won the championships for the first time ever during this year's edition.

Webster Morrison and Ruth Madlazi collected the most points in the English-as-a-second language (ESL) category during preliminary rounds and broke first to the octo final. They proceeded to the quarter finals, semi-final and final where they were crowned champions on a unanimous decision. They were also tied at first place as the best ESL speakers and received a R2000 prize on the spot. Bella Mkhabela and Luyanda Mazwi broke 18th to the English-as-a first language (EFL) partial quarter finals. Neo Masoeu and Tumelo Bore broke 12th to the EFL partial quarter finals. Khumo Magane and Mpho Maphosa broke to the ESL octo final. Neo Kgaphola and Phathutshedzo Nthulane broke 6th to the EFL semi-final. Thapelo Khambule and Rethabile Maboko broke 5th to the ESL octo final. We also had 3 adjudicators breaking- Zenani Mhlungu, Lethumusa Mdluli and Fadzai Mutare. Congratulations and well done to the UJDU team!



The UJ Debating Union Delegation at the Durban University of Technology.

Student News (continued)**Model Provincial Legislature (Gauteng)**

Four students from the department participated in the first ever Model Provincial Legislature in Gauteng.

Bongani Dlamini, Toni Mamabolo, Rethabile Maboko, Lawrence Khutsang Letseka represented the University of Johannesburg at the first ever Model Provincial Legislature.



(Left to right)

Bongani Dlamini, Toni Mamabolo, Rethabile Maboko, Lawrence Khutsang Letseka
South African Institute of International Affairs
University of the Witwatersrand

The four students were awarded the overall third best delegation and the best university delegation. Their research and preparation resulted in the South African Institute of International Affairs requesting them to be part of the youth delegation to provide the national Department of Environmental Affairs with a youth statement that will add to the national policy regarding the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Centre for Comparative Conflict Studies (CFCCS) at the Singidunum University, Belgrade (Serbia)**– Summer School**

One of our third year students, **Makhutso Ramatlape**, attended the CFCCS summer school at the Singidunum University in Belgrade, Serbia between 24 June 2018 and 1 July 2018. The CFCCS summer school program is an initiative that has been running since 2009. The Summer School in Comparative Conflict Studies is part of the Politics department at FMK and the MA program in Critical Political Studies. It provides a learning opportunity for students interested in the study and analysis of societies in and post-conflict. The Summer School in Comparative Conflict Studies provides students with an interactive learning experience utilizing frontal lectures and class discussions focusing on comparative conflict analysis of different case studies.

The program consists of six possible courses ranging from Rethinking Peace Education; Migrants Borders & Power; Memory & Conflict and Religion & Conflict. Makhutso chose the course in Migrants, Borders, Power(s): Contemporary Struggles, Moral Claims and Regimes of (im)mobility. This course comparatively explored different theoretical approaches as well as different cases and configurations of migration and borders (in Europe and beyond). Well done to Makhutso for completing the course!

Student News (continued)***The Gen2030: Youth Series***

UNICEF has a renewed focus on investing in the second decade of life. The pragmatic focus is Adolescent Health and Wellbeing; Girls' Education and Skills Development; Protection from Violence and Harmful Practices; Innovation; Communication for Development (C4D) and Empowerment for Increased Participation and Contribution.

The renewed focus on investing in the second decade of life is primarily due to the fact that sub-Saharan Africa currently has around 257 million adolescents and youth, and this number will increase to almost half a billion by 2050.

UNICEF has taken the opportunity to facilitate and be part of the conversation with African children and millennials. As such, UNICEF has engaged youths in sub-Saharan countries in digital storytelling to ensure that their voices can be heard.



UNICEF held a training workshop between 5 September 2018 and 9 September 2018 at the Cradle of Humankind near Johannesburg. The University of Johannesburg was represented by one of the students from the department, **Bongani Dlamini**. Bongani is also a Girls' and Boys' Education Movement (GBEM) alumni. Well done to Bongani for being an agent of change.



The Rising Stars of Politics and International Relations

The Department of Politics and International Relations wishes to acknowledge and congratulate the top-performing undergraduate students¹ for Semester A 2019! These achievements are a true testament that hard work pays off in the end and that UJ is nurturing some phenomenal scholars and practitioners of tomorrow! Onwards and upwards!

| Politics 1A | Politics 2A | Politics 2C | Politics 3A | Politics 3C |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Bula, NB | Anderson, KF | Anderson, KF | Hifazat, S | Civelek, C |
| Caniat, AM | Baloi, Z | Chilaule, L | Kgatlane, KNB | Hifazat, S |
| Chitedze, FI | Barne, CS | Gobane, R | Kwinika, D | Letswalo, N |
| du Toit, C | Chilaule, L | Mazibuko, A | Letswalo, N | Mdlongwa, S |
| Dube, PD | Gacula, M | Mkhabela, BN | Liphoko, KH | Mkhwanazi, NN |
| Gumbi, N | Hoxobes, IT | Moremi, HT | Mabonda, E | Mogotlane, C |
| Mabaso, TS | Khoza, TR | Nako, YV | Maile, TTM | Selahle, BR |
| Madikizela, K | Kontyo, S | Ngom, NSN | Mailula, DKM | |
| Majoe, RN | Landsberg, JM | Nkosi, S | Maleyana, M | |
| Mathibela, P | Laython Matthews, S | | Martinez Pacheco, JU | |
| Matusse, MN | Magubane, NS | | Matoti, C | |
| Mavi, NM | Mazibuko, A | | Mawela, AML | |
| Sithole, NS | Mbuyi, CM | | Mkhosi, Z | |
| Thubana, J | Mda, AS | | Mngini, ME | |
| Khuzwayo, ZK | Mokoena, MC | | Mogotlane, C | |
| Mahamed, AK | Msibi, BM | | Monguni, L | |
| RK Makoloi | Ntsane, MP | | Ndou, TT | |
| Selebalo, KT | Paledi, TD | | Nxumalo, KN | |
| Seshoka, PW | Sabela, SB | | Pakade, S | |
| Ubisse, NG | September, ZS | | Radjabu, KR | |
| | Sonjica, Z | | Seerane, K | |
| | van Heerden, L | | Selahle, BR | |
| | Zwane, NV | | Selialia, I | |
| | | | Semakale, N | |
| | | | Shiburi, A | |
| | | | Timothy, YR | |

¹ To be classified as a 'Rising Star' by the Department a student has to achieve a final average of 70% or more for any particular module. Achievers are alphabetized.

Reflecting on Africa Month Public Symposium on interrogating the role of young leaders in Pan-Africanism and regional integration

By: Malusi Mncube and Sandile Molo

Frantz Fanon famously said, "Each generation must discover its mission, fulfill it or betray it, in relative opacity." Generations of Pan-Africanists, from activists, politicians, economists, philosophers, literati to the musical activists all endeavored to fulfill their mission of uniting Africa and its diaspora. The mission of Pan-Africanism can be regarded as the promotion of the political, socio-economic, and cultural unity and self-reliance of Africa and its Diaspora. Unity and self-reliance are the two major objectives of Pan-Africanism. According to Nkrumah, Africa must unite or perish. Nkrumah also argued that, "independence is only the prelude to a new and more involved struggle for the right to conduct our own economic and social affairs; to construct our society according to our aspirations, unhampered by crushing and humiliating neo-colonialist control and interference" (Obeng, 1997:20). The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) seeks to contribute towards the attainment of Pan-African mission applicable to this generation.

In line with the above argument, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in collaboration with the University of Cape Town Convocation and the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance hosted a public symposium on the 10 May 2019 at Baxter Theatre, Cape Town. The theme was "Interrogating the role of young leaders in Pan-Africanism and Regional Integration". The Symposium was a commemoration of Africa Month, which among others seeks to increase the appreciation and demand for arts and culture, goods and services, and to stimulate competitive markets for trade among African countries.



The UJ Delegation at the symposium on the African Peer Review Mechanism 10 May 2019

It is against this historical background that the APRM was initiated in 2002 and established in 2003 by the African Union in the framework of the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). APRM is a tool for sharing experiences, reinforcing best practices, identifying deficiencies, and assessing capacity-building needs to foster development policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration.

Therefore the May 2019 Symposium in Cape Town was structured in the form of keynote addresses and interactive panel discussions focusing on topical issues and themes relating to Nationalism and Pan-African Citizenry, African Integration and the Free Movement of People, as well as Youth and Business Innovation in the Fourth Industrial Revolution(4IR).

The event was preceded by a networking dinner and keynote address by Professor Ibrahim Gambari, Chairperson of the APR Panel. Prof Gambari noted that the platform is critical, amongst other efforts to secure Africa's future through youth and women. He discussed the nexus between peace, security, democracy and development, and the imperative of leadership in achieving the Africa which the Africans want, in the context of the African Union Agenda 2063, and that the youth must be at the centre of this change.

Other speakers included APRM CEO Professor Eddy Maloka, Prof Mamokgethi Phakeng, the Vice-Chancellor of University of Cape Town, Prof Alan Hirsch, Director of the Nelson Mandel School of Public Governance, Honourable Brigitte Mabandla member of the APR panel of Eminent Persons, and Prof Carlos Lopes of the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance and former head of UNECA and advisor to UN Secretary General on Africa. They all reinforced the need to pursue Africa's Agenda 2063 and that the youth dividend must be effectively leveraged to attain these goals and aspirations.

The symposium was attended by over 200 delegates from across the continent and the diaspora, APRM member state ambassadors, academics, civil society organisations and representatives of international development agencies.

The quality of South Africa's democracy after 25 years: Challenges and Prospects **Event coverage by: Sfiso Sabela**

South Africa has come a long way since the dark days of apartheid, some progress has been made in redressing the legacy thereof and building for the future. This is the indication that came out of a lecture attended by academics, students and the public at Liliesleaf Farm where Professor Victoria Graham and Professor Chris Landsberg both of the University of Johannesburg's Politics and International Relations Department alongside SAIIA's Aditi Lalbahur were the speakers.

According to Professor Graham, to adequately assess the quality of our democracy over the past twenty-five years we have to look at the intrinsic nature of our democracy, that is, as prescribed on paper and we also have to look the substance of our democracy which can be seen through material living conditions and the livelihood of the citizenry. On paper, she suggested, our constitution is among the very best in the world and that is a positive sign, this is accompanied by the rule of law and institutional capacity, representation and government accountability, civil society and popular participation, freedom and equality. She also pointed out, however, that rampant corruption, slow growth, dysfunctional service delivery, xenophobic violence and other social ills have threatened the rule of law and supremacy of the constitution as we know it.

But a democracy that only looks good on paper does not yield the desired benefit for anyone. This means that democracy has to translate to employment, good quality of education, service delivery and other material benefits for the citizens which include the guaranteed rights in the constitution such as the right to vote and the right to protest and it seems that in this regard there is still a lot of work to be done. In a study presented by Professor Graham 62% of the participants indicated they would be "very willing" to give up their constitutionally granted and guaranteed right to vote in exchange of housing, employment and safety while only 35% said they would opt to keep their right to vote and 3% was undecided. This paints a damning picture firstly because citizens should not have to choose between livelihood and their constitutionally granted liberties and secondly because it shows that hard earned rights and their significance diminishes with deteriorating living conditions.

What does all of this mean for the future of our democracy, our participation and rule of law? Does it mean one day we will choose an authoritarian government with the hope to satisfy our material living conditions? The government is presented with the challenge to address issues of unemployment, poverty, inequality, crime and corruption if our democracy is to survive and not just survive but thrive. We are a young democracy, let us take the lessons from the past twenty-five years, acknowledge our shortcomings and embrace our successes but most importantly we hope to grow stronger and set an example not just to our regional and continental counterparts but to the rest of the world.



(Left to right)
 Ms. Aditi
 Lalbahur,
 SAIIA and
 the UJ's
 custodian of
 democracy,
 Prof Victoria
 Graham!



UJ's walking
 search engine
 on foreign
 policy,
 diplomacy and
 so much more,
 Prof Chris
 Landsberg!

My Japanese Adventure

By: Tracy Hoxobes

I spent roughly 17 days in Sendai, Japan. I was one of the students selected to attend a summer exchange program at the Tohoku University in Sendai.

The TUJP was one of the most interesting and educational programs I've attended. The program consisted of lectures, workshops, sightseeing trips, homestays and extramural activities such as Karate.

The Japanese culture is quite unique. Living in their environment and fully experiencing their culture gave me a better understanding about the country and the people. I gained a different perspective on life and hope to absorb the positive aspects of the Japanese work ethic.

This experience would not have been possible without the guidance and input of the University of Johannesburg and the International House. I am surprised by how much I've changed and learned whilst in Japan. I think this is something every person should experience in their life.



Undergraduates and postgraduates from the Department of Politics and International Relations participated in the Japanese Programme hosted by Tohoku University from the 1st until the 16th of July 2019.

Exciting news from SAAPS

The South African Association of Political Studies (SAAPS) is proud to announce the establishment of the Early-Career Research Committee (The Committee). The Committee has been introduced to help make SAAPS more attractive to students and early-scholars of Political Science, International Relations and related disciplines.

As such the Committee aims to achieve the following:

- Provide opportunities for students and early-career researchers to conduct book reviews
- Provide opportunities for first-time publication
- Promote collaboration between established and fledgling scholars

Staff and students are invited to participate in this Committee's work. Any interested participants should send an email expressing their interest and possible ideas to:

219119824@student.uj.ac.za.

Please note that all participants must be paid up SAAPS members. Membership enquiries can be directed to the email address above.

For more on SAAPS
Twitter: @SAAPSZA
www.saaps.org.za



SAAPS

South African Association of
Political Studies

Undergrads Ask Postgrads

A Note from the Editors

The Undergrads Ask Postgrads feature is here to act as springboard for collaboration among students in the Department. In this feature undergraduate students submit their questions related to postgraduate studies, research related matters or the dilemma of maintaining a work-life balance to postgraduate students who will answer them.

If you have a question **YOU** would like the answer to or would to participate as postgraduate respondent, write to our Student Affairs Editor, Mr. Sekgolo Johannes via email: ui.politicalanimal@gmail.com

Please note: Editors reserve the right to refuse questions.

1. What are the entry requirements and how do you apply for postgraduate studies (particularly Honours)?

A 65% average in the undergraduate degree with a major in politics or international relations is the minimum standard with the Department of Politics and International Relations to enrol for Honours degree. Applications are done online from 1 April until 31 October.

2. What are the differences between undergraduate and postgraduate studies in terms of (i) workload, (ii) study habits, (iii) focus and (iv) interaction with faculty members?

Ayanda Dlakavu (PhD candidate): I am of the view that undergraduate and postgraduate studies are fundamentally different. This is because undergraduate studies are multidisciplinary in nature, and so the workload might be less than postgraduate studies, however, you are challenged to be industrious and wear different thinking caps. A political science assignment will require a different approach as compared to a sociology assignment. Postgraduate studies, on the other hand, are more focused and you are now beginning to specialize and move away from other disciplines. Postgraduate studies are different from undergraduate studies in the sense that they often coincide with the beginning of complex life challenges such as whether you need to find work, how you will maintain yourself. Essentially, postgraduate studies coincide with your personal maturity, and the classroom now meets the realities of everyday life. Thus, you pursue postgraduate studies with an end goal in mind: where will this Honours degree take me professionally? How will this Master's degree advance my employability and livelihood prospects? Despite the different challenges for both undergraduate and postgraduate studies, the essential equalizer and common denominator is time management. Manage your time, so that you meet assignment deadlines.

Bosele Tladi (MA candidate): The undergraduate workload is a lot, but not as demanding as postgraduate. I think the honours research may have something to do with it because even during the holidays you still must work on it, you can't stop just because the semester is over. In terms of study habits, you need to be a bit stricter with yourself in your postgraduate years because it requires more from you. Focus is purely dependent on what you want for yourself. The more you want to achieve a certain goal the more focused and determined you'll be to achieve it, whether you're at undergraduate or post-graduate level. I believe there is greater interaction with faculty members when you're at the postgraduate level than at the undergraduate level. I think that's because when you're an undergrad you're viewed as "a child" or young, but when in postgrad you're not necessarily seen as an equal, but you're no longer seen as "a child."

3. What are the differences between undergraduate research on assignments, and postgraduate independent research?

Robyn Williams (MA candidate): Undergraduate research is much simpler. You often receive questions which are straightforward, and you have a lot of information available to you as you have most likely covered the topic in depth. In honours, when working on assignments it is like a race against time, so you must be organized and make sure you are constantly up to date with the content. At MA level, it's tough considering that the research is completely your own work and you must go out and decide what you are studying, why and how. Although you have a supervisor, you still need to be very independent and be tough and critical on yourself.

Tinashe Sithole (PhD candidate): Postgraduate research requires students to engage in more advanced research methods and independent study while focusing on a subject specialism. Whereas at undergraduate level research assignments might focus on a broad topic. Hence postgraduate research requires much extensive reading and a student usually produces a long research paper on the research problem.

5. How do you manage your time differently as a postgraduate student as opposed to when you were an undergrad student?

Ayabulela Dlakavu: There is no method of time management. However big or small the task, what matters is how you allocate time to complete the task. Perhaps at the postgraduate level, your time is also consumed by new life challenges and dynamics. Thus, you need to budget your time more carefully at postgraduate level.

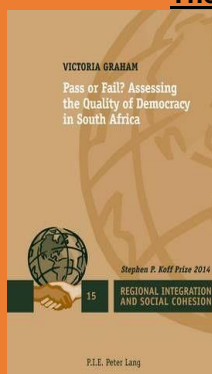
Tinashe Sithole: Strong time management is one of the most important parts of your postgraduate studies. Have you ever found yourself wishing for more hours in a day? Postgraduate school can be overwhelming and if you find yourself struggling to meet the demand you are not alone. Time management is an important skill that you should learn in order to manage the pressure that comes with meeting deadlines. Using a planner allows you to keep track of your work and the weekly to-do list which is important in planning on how best to manage your time. This helps in keeping up with priorities and adhering to a strict schedule of deadlines and creates a sense of accountability towards oneself. Be honest about how you use your time as you should be able to dedicate ample time to research before you write a paper.

The Publications Showcase

The Publications Showcase is a new feature designed with a dual purpose. Firstly, this feature aims to showcase the prolific publishing culture of the Department of Politics and International Relations at UJ. Secondly, it is hoped that students will use this information to identify political mentors and supervisors with greater ease. The Publications Showcase features publications published by both staff and students over the last two years as well one publication which is put under the Publication spotlight.

Given that this feature is still under development this issue will only showcase recent student publications as well as the Publication Spotlight! In preparation for issue 2, the Editors would like to invite all lecturers, researchers and students in the department to submit a list of their latest research outputs (2018 and 2019 only) via email to: uj.politicalanimal@gmail.com by **no later than the 1st of November 2019. Please note that only submitted publications will appear in this feature.**

The spotlight



Pass or Fail? Assessing the Quality of Democracy in South Africa by Prof Victoria Graham presents us with a new tool/framework of analysis for determining the extent to which South Africa's has matured since the democratic dispensation. The value of this volume lies in the fact that it explores and evaluates democracy within the African context; as Harlan Koff and Carmen Maganda note: "[Prof] Graham books is innovative because it does not only implement [a] research framework but the author conceptually appropriates it" (see pg 21).

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Student publications (2019)

Botha, S., 2019. 'Radicalisation via E-jihad in an era of interactive social media: A closer look at Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram and ISIS', Buchanan-Clarke, S., Coutts, L., Moffat, C., Russell, S. and Tschudin, A. (eds.), *Extremisms in Africa: Volume 2*. Jacana Media, Auckland Park. (Honours student)

Dlakavu, A., 2019. A response to the conundrum that is Helen Zille and the DA, <https://m.news24.com/MyNews24/a-response-to-the-conundrum-that-is-helen-zille-and-the-da-20190530> (PhD student)



Dr Yolanda Kemp Spies is a senior research fellow with UJ's NRF Chair: African Diplomacy and Foreign Policy.

Dr Spies trained as a diplomat at the South African Foreign Ministry and at Oxford University, and practiced diplomacy for 19 years, living and working on four continents before joining academia in 2006.

Dr Spies' most recent publications (2019) include two books (complementary volumes) on the theory and practice of diplomacy: [Global Diplomacy and International Society](#) and [Global South Perspectives on Diplomacy](#). Both books have been acclaimed by international peers.

Diplomacy – lived, interrupted, published **By Dr Yolanda K. Spies**

Sometimes life takes you on a train journey and then throws you out of the carriage. One can sit down next to the track and weep about it – or run alongside the moving train to try and get back on; wait for the next train; or take a (very long) walk. I tend to try everything until something works; and yes, I've been thrown out of carriages many times in my life. My just-published books on diplomacy are the result of two such interrupted journeys.

During my twenties and early thirties I was a career diplomat: successful, ambitious and loving my career. I was promoted rapidly and on course to become an Ambassador. But then I married a colleague, and my career fell apart when, almost immediately after our wedding, he was posted as Ambassador to South Korea. Back in 1996, when I became “Mrs”, there was no way a South African diplomat could be employed at an embassy while being married to the Ambassador (head) of that same embassy. As a ‘spouse’ one could take unpaid leave but only for a maximum of 6 months – after that, only two options remained: resign from the foreign ministry or keep the job but return to work at Head Office. That particular civil service regulation was clearly archaic, but nobody had challenged it until then. And then I did so, not knowing what it would lead to.

It was a tortuous process – there was nothing pleasant about the many years it took me to win that fight. I wanted to be with my husband, and I wanted to be a practicing diplomat, i.e. work at the Embassy. If I were not allowed to do the latter, at least I wanted unpaid leave for the duration of the four-year posting, so that I could resume my own career when we returned to Pretoria. Despite official orders to do so, I refused to resign and also refused the alternative, namely, to return to Head Office. The struggle continued even after we returned home in 2001. All in all, it took seven long years of untangling bureaucracy and scaling legal obstacles before I won my case; seven years of essentially being frozen out while my colleagues progressed in their careers. There were many times when I wept with frustration and anger. Ironically, when I finally won my case (and thus paved the way for a new generation of ‘liberated’ working spouses) I had become a different professional animal: rather than continuing to be a diplomat, I wanted to be an academic. See, during those long years I kept busy by studying, studying and studying. I finished my Masters, then my Doctorate. Thus, just a few months after resuming my diplomatic career in 2005, I resigned to take up a new career as academic, specializing in diplomatic studies. In my free time I could now write the book that I had started on many years ago, the one I had set aside to concentrate on my studies. As it slowly started to take shape, I realized that it would end up being a much better book than I could have written in my previous professional life – because by now, my practical experience as a diplomat was firmly complemented by academic rigour.

Unexpectedly, I was once again thrown out of a carriage in 2018 when Palgrave Macmillan (after initially accepting my manuscript for publication) told me that it was ‘too long’. Their editorial policy prohibited publication of such hefty manuscripts. How much ‘too long’? I asked, and when they told me that it was double the maximum allowed size, I was stunned. How could I be expected to cut off half of all my meticulously documented research? I spent a whole week feeling crushed and defeated. But then it struck me: I could reconfigure my manuscript into not just one, but two independent books! It would take several more months of work to do the ‘divorce’, but it was possible. And that is exactly what I did. Palgrave Macmillan has just published both of the books, within months of each other, and the feedback has been incredible.

I am enjoying this current train ride immensely, but I know I might just be thrown out of a carriage again. It is a scary thought, but oh, so exciting!



Sven is the Lead Editor of *Political Animal* and a postgraduate student within the Department of Politics and International Relations at UJ. In addition to his affiliation to UJ, Sven is also an associate with the Centre for African Studies at Leiden University (the Netherlands).

Sven is also a member of the National Executive Council of the South African Association of Political Studies (SAAPS) as well as the chairperson of the SAAPS Research Committee on Early-Career Research.

Sven's research interests include: terrorism and counter-terrorism in the Global South as well as the facilitation and promotion of early-career research.

Research Skills for the 21st Century (Number 1)

Social media: The best research assistant one can have **By: Sven Botha**

In the present time social media, and more specifically interactive social media (that refers to the likes of Twitter, Facebook and YouTube as opposed to television and radio) has touched and revolutionised every aspect of life. Some prominent examples include: communicating with friends and/or relatives, online dating as well as the recruitment of individuals by extremist organisations; and academia is no exception. While dawning, the reality remains ever-green which can only result in a need to generate a greater understanding how to use social media to one's benefit within the realms of research. With this in mind, the contributor will outline three brief avenues through which fledgling and established researchers alike can use social media to aid their research agendas.

1. Use #AcademicTwitter
Hashtag (#) AcademicTwitter is a popular hashtag used on Twitter by all academic disciplines to showcase research, discuss common research challenges and how to address these challenges. Over time your Twitter feed/timeline will customise your use of the hashtag to your academic interest(s). The space that is #AcademicTwitter will enable you to find research 'friends' and find solutions to problems that all academics face. Some common Twitter handles in this respect include: @AcademicChatter, @AcademicGrumbles and @thephdstory. Additionally, as you navigate this online world you will be able to grow your network, which will enable you to bridge gaps and bring scholars from the Global North and the Global South together.
2. Political Science Data: Don't forget to ask for help
Data is a key component within Politics and International Relations as it with most of the academic disciplines; it can help prove or disprove an argument and, perhaps most importantly, help inform policy agenda for those aspiring to good governance both domestically and internationally. Political Science Data is a Facebook group established and administered by Barry Edwards, among others, from the Department of Political Science at the University of Central Florida. The group currently has 15, 585 members mainly consisting of academics, students and independent researchers from around the world who use the platform to share their data sets and enquire about the existence of subject-specific data sets; discussions have ranged from electoral and demographical data to military expenditure and arms control. In addition to its deep pool of data sets, the even deeper pool of participants has also allowed for a comparison of data sets, particularly in terms of scope and quality.
3. Increase your presence in vertical academia
Social media has become so prominent that academic-specific platforms that allow students, academics and independent researchers to establish online academic portfolios. The advantage of processing and maintaining an online academic portfolio is threefold. Firstly, all your research is featured all in one place. Secondly, prospective employers, collaborators and postgraduate supervisors are able to view your research and monitor your progress. Finally, these platforms allow you to access free copies of academic articles and book chapters should your library have a copy. Additionally, these platforms allow you request copies of research from the authors for research purposes should copies not be available for downloading. Some key platforms in this regard include [Research Gate](#) and [Academia.edu](#).

Bringing it all together, social media can be an invaluable research assistant if you learn to use it correctly. Needless to say, the above is only a beginners' guide to the union that is academia and social media, therefore, students and scholars should be encouraged to explore new ethical hacks and share them as they are discovered.

A Word From Our Partners

The Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation
Compiled by: Dr Oluwaseun Tella

Background

The Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC) was established at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) in South Africa in 2016 as one of four flagship centres dedicated to conduct research throughout Africa and its Diaspora. The Institute seeks to contribute substantively to UJ's decolonisation efforts and to promote original and innovative ideas on issues relating to Pan-Africanism; Africa's International Relations; the Transformation of the Higher Education Sectors of South Africa, Africa, and African-American Studies; and Africa/European Union (EU) Migration. The Institute's key focus is on research, public engagement, teaching, and capacity-building.

Research

The research is focusing on four key projects: "The Pan-African Pantheon"; "Transforming Ivory Towers To Ebony Towers: Lessons For South Africa's Curriculum Transformation in The Humanities From Africa and African-American Studies"; "Engaging South African Foreign Policymakers and the Public"; and "Africa/European Union Migration".

Teaching

The teaching flows from the research, and Institute staff started teaching two Honours courses annually, from 2018, on "Conflict Resolution in Africa" and "Pan-African Thought."

Conflict Resolution in Africa

This module employs an interdisciplinary approach to the analysis of conflict resolution in Africa, focusing particularly on the continent's historical, political, and economic dimensions. The focus of the course is on Africa's evolving security architecture centred on the African Union (AU) and regional bodies such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Of particular relevance is the critical understanding of the roles of key hegemony in managing Africa's conflicts – particularly South Africa, Nigeria, the United States (US), and France. The module also assesses UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts in Africa, including case studies from the Suez crisis of 1956 to the current conflicts in the two Sudans. The module then conceptualises the link between security and development, and analyses the security-migration-development nexus in Sudan. It also examines South Africa's peace diplomacy and development agenda, as well as the multifaceted responses to security challenges in Africa. The course finally critically analyses issues beyond Africa's state-centric security architecture. Critical challenges of gender and conflict are examined, exploring the role of women in conflict and their representation in decision-making efforts in peacebuilding issues in Africa; as well as the role of Africa's broader civil society in conflict management, HIV/AIDS, climate change, poverty reduction, and governance.

Pan-African Thought

Pan-Africanism can be defined as the efforts to promote the political, socio-economic, and cultural unity and self-reliance of Africa and its Diaspora. The subject of Pan-African political thought is one that has historically been under-researched. One of the first attempts to synthesize these ideas into a single volume was Guy Martin's African Political Thought, which was published only as recently as 2012. This course is thus particularly timely in ensuring that Pan-African knowledge production is part of, and influences, mainstream global thinking. The course will provide a historical overview of Pan-Africanism focusing on its political, economic, and cultural aspects before unpacking the political, economic, and philosophical dimensions of contemporary Pan-Africanism. The perspectives of Pan-African theorists and practitioners will be highlighted in this course including such figures as Edward Wilmot Blyden, Henry Sylvester-Williams, W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, Amy Ashwood Garvey, Frantz Fanon, Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Cheikh Anta Diop, Walter Rodney, Steve Biko, Ruth First, Angela Davis, Mariama Bâ, Valentin Y. Mudimbe, Ali A. Mazrui, Samir Amin, Maya Angelou, and Thabo Mbeki.

Global African Studies

Global African Studies focuses on the emerging role of "Global Africa and Socio-Economic Development" in the twenty-first century. Students are expected to be awarded a joint Master's degree by both UJ and the University of the West Indies (UWI). The course is due to start in 2021. This coursework masters (Development Studies) programme areas will focus on the theories, principles, practice, and policies promoting integrated and holistic human development at the local, national, regional, and international levels in the context of poverty, inequality, and exclusion among and between African and Caribbean in particular. The programme includes theories and approaches to human and socio-economic development, underdevelopment, development management, developmental states, environmental and natural resources management, sustainable development, and gender and development. The five modules that have been agreed for the Master's course are:

1. Critical Development Theories;
2. Pan-African Thought;
3. Social Policy;
4. Advanced Research Methodology; and
5. Minor Dissertation in Development Studies (20 000 words).

The Confucius Institute
Navigating a Complex Relationship: CACS' Empirical Focus on Africa-China Relations
Compiled by: Bhaso Ndzendze

If the rise of China, the nation set to become the number-one economy in the world within the next decade or sooner, is the greatest story of the past number of decades, its growing and increasingly matured presence in Africa (this in some ways being the source of the former trend) is not too far behind. Trade between these two entities seems to grow exponentially with each successive year. On average – as the numbers modulate themselves differently across different countries in a continent of 54 economies, this caveat is always needed – there has been a 20% year-on-year growth in terms of two-way trade, and a 40% year-on-year growth in Africa-bound FDI from China over the 2000 to 2018 period. Some 30% of all new loans to the continent have been from China alone. No other single external player matches these levels of engagement. This relationship also has a human face and is characterised by traffic in both directions. According to UNESCO, in 2014 China became second most popular destination for around 60, 000 African students studying abroad (just behind France which hosts some 95,000 students). This number has since jumped to 81, 562 as of 2018 ([at 16.75% share](#), this makes Africa itself the second most popular source of international students in China after Asia).

These are trends worth seriously and objectively studying, lest their full implications be realised too late; or worse, be sensationalized or misconstrued. This realisation was the impetus for the [establishment of the Confucius Institute \(UJCI\)](#),

and [latterly the Centre for Africa-China Studies \(CACS\)](#) in 2018 by the University of Johannesburg, always with its finger on the pulse of the future.

Our Work

The Centre for Africa-China Studies is affiliated with the Confucius Institute. The latter has a staff of lecturers from China who teach Mandarin from basic to proficient levels, and regularly marks important events in the Chinese calendar (such as the Chinese New Year, and the Spring, Lantern, Dragon Boat festivals, as well as the National Day and Autumn Festival later in the year) with public events featuring performances, historical lectures and cuisine. This branch also teaches the martial arts, particularly Wushu and its team have been the gold medal winners for two years in a row in the Gauteng region of the Wushu Federation of South Africa. Likewise its students [have been the top performers](#) in the annual language-testing Chinese Bridge Competition.

A member of the Belt and Road Studies Network, the Centre for Africa-China Studies has a full-time staff of 5, and a network of 10 Visiting Research Fellows spanning the continent (Ethiopia, Nigeria, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), and 3 of the other 5 BRICS countries (currently with the exception of India). These scholars work on a variety of issues and puzzles in the Africa-China relationship, with a premium on rigor, empiricism and modest assertions as demanded by the scientific protocol. Broadly, we have 3 programs: People-to-People Relations, Economic Relations, and Africa-China Relations in International Forums. *Some* of the recently published and soon-to-be published research in this regard includes:

- An analysis the [possible linkages between](#) the African Union's Agenda 2063 and China's Belt and Road Initiative;
- An analysis of the (im)possibility of [a parsimonious theoretical account](#) of the Africa-China relationship;
- An analysis of the [implications of the US-led war on terror](#) on Africa-China relations;
- An analysis of the bilateral relations between China and African countries, including [Ethiopia](#), [Kenya](#) and [Egypt](#);
- Review of Emmanuel John Hevi's works, written half a century ago about [China's likely influence in Africa](#);
- An [economic opportunity analysis](#) of the decline in diplomatic relations between African countries and Taiwan (with eSwatini currently being the only African state recognizing the island as the one China);
- A study on the [effects of China on intra-regional integration](#) in Africa;
- An analysis of the [African Union's strategic relationship](#) agreement with China;
- An analysis of the opportunities presented in the agricultural sector by the occurrence of the ongoing US-China trade war;
- An analysis of the empirical validity of the notion of a scramble for markets in Africa between China and the US;
- An in-depth look at the 'Made in China 2025' initiative and its implications for Africa-China trade;
- A study of [the BRICS in Africa](#);
- A series of studies on the 4IR interfaces of Africa-China relations.

We also teach an Honours course on the International Political Economy of Africa-China Relations (POL8X13). The course gives an historic and contemporary overview of the political and (perhaps more measurably) economic relationships, while also assessing (from *within*) the domestic shapers of African countries' interest in China and of China's trade and foreign policy towards Africa. This portion of the course, which assesses the internal foreign policy-making mechanisms and machinations within China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is probably the most eye-opening for many of our students as it highlights and proves the extent to which there is no one Chinese approach to Africa. Understanding this alongside the fact that there are over 10, 000 Chinese companies in sub-Saharan Africa, most of them privately owned, demystifies the notion of a 'China Inc.' with a singular strategy and a universal impact on the continent. The course also places these relations within the broader cusp of China's global outlook.

With these capacities, CACS has been [well-positioned](#) to present policy advice in various platforms to various China-interested African entities and government branches, as well as [Africa-interested](#) Chinese entities and government branches. At the same time our seminars have been well-received and have enjoyed participation by leading scholars, business leaders, government officials as well as emerging young researchers.

Upcoming events

- On 15 August we will be hosting (UJ APK Library) Zimbabwe's Ambassador to South Africa, where he will discuss the contours of Zimbabwe-China relations.
- On 23 August we will be hosting (UJ APK Library) a public dialogue featuring a discussion by Professor Maxim Khomyakov on BRICS countries' presenting of multiple modes of modernity.
- On 17-18 September we will be hosting (UJ Arts Theatre) a two-day conference on Africa's industrial cooperation with China.
- On 9 October we will be hosting (UJ APK Library) bestselling author of *When China Rules the World* and world-renowned China expert Professor Martin Jacques

Student Voices**Can Youth Day be Celebrated More Meaningfully?****By Sfiso Sabela**

In 1976 the youth took to the streets to protest against the use of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction and more broadly against the system of Bantu education. The police opened fire on the students, injuring and killing scores in what brought global outrage against the apartheid government and escalated the calls to end the system of apartheid. The biggest and bloodiest of those marches was on the 16th of June in 1976 having begun in 1974 in Soweto and soon spread across the country.

To this day, the 16th of June is still commemorated as the National Youth Day annually and different kinds of celebrations, from government organized rallies, political-party organized events to simple outings with friends and many others². Some of the ways to celebrate this day do not do justice to those who lost their lives in the struggle against the National Party government as they simple do not speak to the significance of this day and they do very little in raising awareness about the fact that each generation has its mission to fulfill. Can this day be commemorated in a more meaningful way?

The youth today faces different challenges compared to the challenges faced by the youth of 1976 and some of these ills are as a direct result of issues that took place prior to 1994. High levels of unemployment amongst the youth³, lack of skills, drugs and substance abuse, inequality between the rich and the poor, lack of opportunities, spread of diseases such HIV and AIDS and education disparities our energies should be focused on addressing these. Our challenge may not be having people presiding over them, but they have the potential to destroy us.

Here are some of the ways we can address the issues facing us.

Development of Assets Based on Community Development, these are strategies for community driven development (ABCD)⁴. This means that communities need to recognize the assets around them such as land for communal farming, investments in small businesses such as the tuck shops and kota shops immediately next to them, recycling and many other opportunities that could be used to create employment, develop their skills and unite the community. a community that works together is bound to develop stronger bonds and sustainable relationships.

We can also use new and existing non-governmental and non-profit organizations to share information as broadly and as widely as possible with our friends and families all over the country. One social entrepreneur from Cape Town is already doing this⁵ through a non-governmental organization that provides education to the pupils of cape flats and other disadvantaged areas around the Cape.

The use and abuse of drugs and other substances can be curbed if the government prioritizes it, builds more rehabilitation facilities and trains people to operate those centres and create programs to reintegrate the survivors into society, universities, colleges and offer them employment. Apart from actively solving these issues, we need to think about them, we need to use June 16 as an opportunity to reflect on our collective struggles and marvel at our collective successes, we have been victims for far too long but now we have the opportunity to be hands on, not just in celebrating the past but in creating the future.

² Joburg.co.za details some of the celebrations that took place this year.

³ Statistics South Africa says unemployment is at 55% after the first quarter of 2019.

⁴ Supplied by Collaborative for neighborhood development. See <http://www.neighborhoodtransformation.net/>

⁵ Bhongolwethu Sonti is the Director of Programmes at the *Tore's Foundation*, a non-government organisation (NGO) that promotes the fostering of democracy by providing liberal educational opportunities in developing countries. <https://capechameleon.co.za/overcoming-the-challenges-facing-south-africas-youth/>