



Institute for African Studies
of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Newsletter

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On the 6th of October, the solemn meeting of the Academic Council of the Institute for African Studies was dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the first Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Patrice Emery Lumumba.

The session gathered Russian scholars, Congolese and Russian diplomats, journalists who discussed the life and political pathways of Lumumba. [Read more](#)



New publications: «Federalism in Africa. Problems and Perspectives»

The [volume](#) edited by Dr. Igho Natufe and Dr. Khristina Turinskaya grapples with theoretical and practical aspects of operating a federal system on the African continent. The part of the book written in English emerged from the presentations of scholars on the panel «Nigeria: 100 Years After Amalgamation» (13th International Conference of Africanist in Moscow, May 27 – 30, 2014). The section in Russian arose from the roundtable «Problems and Perspectives of Federalism in Africa» (Institute for Africa Studies, November 12, 2014). The authors focus on history and contemporary problems of federative relations in Nigeria, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Madagascar and other countries in Africa.

ФЕДЕРАЛИЗМ В АФРИКЕ:
ПРОБЛЕМЫ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ

FEDERALISM IN AFRICA:
PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES

Political culture in post-colonial Africa and post-communist Europe

September 30th, Prof. Peter Skalník (University of Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic) arrived at the Institute with a [guest lecture](#) «Political culture in post-colonial Africa and post-communist Europe».

Prof. Skalník is a graduate of Department of African Studies, Leningrad (St. Petersburg) State University, chief editor of the international journal «Modern Africa», chairman of the Commission on Theoretical Anthropology [IUAES](#) (International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences), for many years served as the IUAES deputy president.



Prof. Vladimir Shubin's keynote on the Forum in Livingstone

Prof. Vladimir Shubin delivered a keynote address «Russia and Southern Africa: From Kalashnikov to Rosatom» at the [conference](#) «Southern Africa beyond the West: Political, Economic and Cultural Relationships with the BRICS Countries and the Global South», organized on August 7-11 in Livingstone (Zambia) by the Journal of Southern Africa Studies and the Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (Lusaka).

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Following this, by the invitation of the General Staff of the Angolan Armed Forces, Prof. Shubin participated in the conference «Angola. The War for national liberation and independence», held on August 25-26 in Luanda. The event was dedicated to the 40th anniversary of Angolan Independence. He made a presentation on «The Soviet Union and the struggle for the liberation of Angola (1961-1975)».

Civic BRICS Forum 2015

June 29 - July 1, the [Civic Forum](#) of the BRICS countries was held. More than 400 representatives of the civil societies, experts, academics and journalists from different areas took part in this event. Within the Forum the final document «Handling the civil society of the BRICS leaders of the BRICS countries» was presented. The head of the Laboratory of Geo-economic Studies of the Institute, A. Neklessa took part in panel discussion «Culture and inter-civilization dialogue» with the report «The complex world of cultural and civilizational diversity. Understanding the reasons».

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A. Neklessa also took part in the [25th Economic Forum](#) «Towards a Resilient Europe. Strategies for the Future» in Krynica-Zdrój, Poland, 8-10 September 2015. He participated in the section «Hybrid war – Facets and Dimensions of Armed Conflicts in the 21st Century».



Third season of field research in the USA

From September 20 to October 6, 2015, the research into the mutual perceptions of, and relationship between recent migrants from sub-Saharan Africa and African Americans, launched by the Institute for African Studies in 2013, was continued in the cities of St. Louis, MO and New York, NY. The research is supported by the [Russian Foundation for the Humanitarian Research](#) (projects 13-01-18036 and 14-01-00070). The fieldwork was done by the Institute Vice-Director Prof. Dmitri M. Bondarenko and Senior Research Fellow Dr. Veronica V. Usacheva.

The set of methods used in the third season was a combination of those used previously and some new ones. Extensive structured interviews were supplemented by informal talks with people met on the streets of Black and non-Black neighborhoods, in different establishments run by African migrants and African Americans, etc. The method of observation was used especially actively while visiting Black neighborhoods in both cities.

In total, in three field seasons, of 2013, 2014, and 2015, the project participants (Dmitri M. Bondarenko, Veronica V. Usacheva, and Alexander E. Zhukov) recorded 196 interviews and conversations of different duration and degree of structuring, made notes of observations of many events in life of African Americans and African migrants; the photo archive consists of 806 photos. The research team members believe that the scope and quality of the collected evidence allows to make valid conclusions about the mutual perceptions of, and actual relations between African Americans and sub-Saharan African migrants.

The participants of the research express sincere appreciation to their American colleague [Dr. Anika Walke](#) for her inestimable support in its organization and conducting. [Read more](#) about the research trip.



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During the research trip Prof. Dmitri M. Bondarenko delivered a guest [lecture](#) at the Washington University in St. Louis on the «African Migrants in Moscow».

September 4, 2015: «African students in the Soviet Union»



The international colloquium «African students in the Soviet Union: life and education in the USSR, professional fate» was the final touch of the three-year research project of the [FMSH](#) – The Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, implemented by Russian, French and African researchers in Russia, European countries and Africa. The main goal of the colloquium was to understand through the fate of the former students who lived on different continents, how the Soviet education, was perceived and evaluated in the world, how the graduates of the Soviet Universities themselves perceived the role of their education in their career and life in general. The scholars discussed the results of the policy of the USSR in the sphere of educational programs for the foreign students and impact of the alumni of the Soviet/Russian Universities on political and social structure of African countries.

[Read more.](#)

Agreement on cooperation with the International Center for African Studies

September 21-22, the Administration and academic staff of the Institute conducted meetings with the delegation from the Embassy of the Republic of Sudan in Moscow and the International Center for African Studies (Khartoum). Following the meeting, the Agreement on cooperation between the institutions was duly signed.

[Read more.](#)



30 September: regular meeting of the Club of friends of Madagascar

The regular session of the [Madagascar's friends' Club](#) that took place at the Institute for African Studies, was devoted to the presentation «Economic and political situation in Madagascar in 2015» by the Senior Researcher of the Centre for Tropical African Studies Dr. S. Shleonskaya. The Club focuses on the popularization of the Malagasy culture in Russia and strengthening of the Russian-Malagasy relations.

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The regular monthly session on the 28th of October was devoted to the arrival of Mrs. Lanto Ramahefarisoa, the President of l'Association des Enseignants Malgaches de Russe, the holder of the «Pushkin medal» for the preservation and promotion of Russian language and culture on the island. The meeting was attended by HE Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Madagascar, Elois A. Maxim DOVO.

Media

Many countries in Africa were created artificially
Deputy Director of the Institute, Prof. Dmitry Bondarenko shared with «Lenta.ru» which African countries can be called «failed states», spoke about the dangers and benefits of the European colonialism, the manners how the development of mobile communications in the world fueled the civil wars in Congo and why Africa needs China.

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What is BRICS?

Historian Alexandra Arkhangel'skaya talks on the imbalance of the international economy in the beginning of the century, economic potential of South Korea and the future of BRICS.

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TASS is authorized to declare

Being invited to the radio station «Mayak», Prof. Dmitry Bondarenko [spoke on](#) the specifics of history of Angola.

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Object 22: The fate of the African monarchies

Prof. Dmitry Bondarenko [talks](#) about the last Dahomey Amazon woman who died in 1979, anthropology of African continent and the fate of the African monarchies.

Book Acquisition&Exchange Program

The Institute for African Studies has an honor and privilege to propose its publications to your library. Please, check the list of the proposed publications on our [web site](#). For any inquiries, contact the Centre for information and international relations by e-mail: inter.inafr@mail.ru.