



# Newsletter

On the 15th of April Anatoly Gromyko turned 80 years old. The staff of the Institute congratulates Anatoly Andreevich with his anniversary, wishing health and success in his research!

[Here](#) is the list of his publications.



## **Olga Kulkova is the winner in Russian Scientific Works contest**

At the end of 2011 Russian International Affairs Council and Gorchakov Fund of Public Diplomacy organized a contest among young researchers in the field of international affairs - «[Global perspectives 2011](#)». The research fellow of the Institute for African Studies Olga Kulkova participated in the contest with the work «British policy towards African countries under T. Blair (1997-2007)» won the prize for the first place in nomination «The best PhD dissertation on the theme of international affairs, defended in 2011».

## **Publications**

### **Prof. Alexey Vasiliev**

Director of the Institute for African Studies, full member of the Russian Academy of Sciences

### The political situation in Egypt after the parliamentary elections

The recent elections in Egypt were the first truly free and democratic elections in the country's history. These elections were made possible by the January 2011 revolution, which toppled the authoritarian military regime of Hosni Mubarak. (The causes, nature, and driving forces of the revolution have already been studied in numerous works, including those of the author of this study). The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF), which had taken power in the country, held the elections under the pressure of the "Arab street" and influential political groups, especially the Muslim Brotherhood, as well as responding to the demands of the United States and other Western countries, for which the very existence of the military regime became discomfoting.

The elections gave representatives of various sectors of the Egyptian society and various ideological convictions an opportunity to express their will and demonstrate their preferences. It turned out that most Egyptians reject both the secular liberal-democratic or left-wing parties that propagate Western values, adapted to some degree, to the specifics of the Egyptian society and its deep religiosity, and the supporters of the former dictatorial regime, whom they call the al-felool (an Arabic word meaning "remnants"). The voters rejected the former ruling National Democratic Party and its ideology. The majority of Egyptians have tied their hopes for a better future, justice, political freedoms, higher living standards, the accountability of the government and return of dignity and national pride with Islamist parties.

As noted by all observers, the elections were free and fair. For example, we can cite former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Carter pointed that his organization monitored and analyzed the electoral processes in 87 different parts of the world, and that it can therefore whole-heartedly confirm the integrity of the electoral process in Egypt and its compliance with international standards of transparency and fairness. However, he also expressed remarks on the underrepresentation of youth in the upcoming parliament and called the parties to increase the participation of women in all fields. ([Read more](#))



### Conference «The Future of Africa»

March 13-14, Institute of African Studies together with the Rosa Luxembourg Foundation (Germany) held an international conference «The Future of Africa: the Struggle of Old and New Actors». With more than 70 participants, 25 reports were presented, covering a given issue. Among the guest speakers were representatives from the Russian, German, Chinese, Indian, Brazilian, South African, Senegalese and Tanzanian research communities.

### International Summit on BRICS

On the 4-7 of March director of the Institute for African Studies academician Alexey Vasiliev delivered a report on the «BRICS 2020 – general vision» at the International Academic Forum of BRICS countries, held in Delhi (India).



### 50 years of Russian-Algerian collaboration

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of April the celebrative meeting of the Institute for African Studies Academic Council with the embassy of Algeria «Half a century of collaboration and friendship between Russia and Algeria (to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary from the establishment of diplomatic relations between RF/USSR and ANDR)» took place at the Institute. Among the speakers were academician Alexey Vasiliev, the ambassador of Algeria Smail Cherguï, the ambassador of Russian Federation in Algeria (1995-1999) Valeriy Yegoshkin, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia [Mikhail Bogdanov](#)

### Seminar «The crisis of the present world»

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of February at the Institute for African Studies the meeting «The crisis of present world and new forms of sociality» took place under the moderation of Prof. Igor Sledzevsky titled «The world of new kleptocracy». The deputy of Academic Council of the Institute, the pro-rector of the Institute of Asian and African Studies (MSU) Prof. Leonid Geveling delivered a speech «Planetary model of politic deformations: violence vs. corruption». Co-director of the seminar, the deputy of laboratory for geoeconomical researches Prof. Alexander Neklessa delivered a report «Transmutation of the power: government-corporation vs. civil society».

### Alexander Tkachenko at the conferences

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of February at the Russian-Italian seminar «[Russia, Italy and EU: answers on regional challenges](#)» that took place at the MGIMO University (MIA RF) Alexander Tkachenko, Ph.D. (Econ.), the Head of the Centre for North African and African Horn Studies of the Institute for African Studies delivered the report «New actualities of the Middle East and North Africa, consequences for Russia and Italy».

On the 26-27 of February at the forum «The Partnership with Russia in Europe» as a basis for discussion that took place at the XX meeting «Russia and EU in conditions of uncertainty» (Potsdam, Germany) Dr. Tkachenko delivered the report «Russia, EU and the Middle East: is it possible to achieve mutual understanding?».

### Galina Sidorova at the conferences

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of February under the existing agreement on academic collaboration between the Institute for African Studies and the University of Lubumbashi (DRC), Dr. Sidorova participated in University's activities with a guest lecture «The history of the Russian-Congolese relations development». She also participated in the conference «The possibilities of scientists' support of the social, cultural and public organizations».

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of February Dr. Galina Sidorova delivered a guest lecture «The history of diplomatic relations between Russia and DRC» at the Diplomatic Academy (MIA DR Congo) in Kinshasa. She also gave a speech at the press-conference on the occasion of presidential elections in Russia.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of February Dr. Sidorova spoke in Kinshasa University about «The analysis of Russian-Congolese state of relationships» and answered the questions of the faculty and students.





### Lectures at foreign universities

On the 6-8 of December 2011 Prof. Vladimir Shubin took part in the [First International Colloquium on the History of this party](#) by the invitation of the leadership of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), held in Luanda, and presented a paper on «MPLA and Liberation of Southern Africa».

In January 2012 Dr. Ekaterina B. Demintseva was invited by École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris for delivering [seminars in the Center for Sociological Analysis and Interventions](#). On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February she presented a paper «Migration Reconsidered» based on her latest research.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2012 Director of the Center of Scientific Information and International Relations of the Institute Dr. Alexandra Arkhangelskaya made a [presentation](#) on Russia's agenda at the forthcoming BRICS Summit in New Delhi at a roundtable in Rio de Janeiro. The meeting was organized by the BRICS policy center, together with the Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI).

Dr. Arkhangelskaya also presented two seminars on «Russia today» and «BRICS countries: rivals or allies in Africa?» at the BRICS policy center.



### 100 years of African National Congress

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April the Institute for African Studies together with the Center for African Studies at the Institute of World History and the Committee of the ANC held a celebration of the centennial international conference "The ANC. From liberation movement to governing party: Past, Present and Future", dedicated to the centenary of the ANC. Conference was opened by Director of the Institute, academician Alexey Vasiliev. The main speaker was academician Apollon Davidson. Leading Russian and African researches presented their reports at the conference: Prof. A.U. Urnov, Prof. V.G. Shubin, Prof. V.N. Tetekin, Prof. I.I. Filatova, Dr. L.Y. Prokopenko, V.A. Sidorov, as well as South African Embassy officials in Russia - Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador Mandisi Mpahlua and Mrs. Pumeza Moiloa, First Secretary of South African Embassy.

### Visit to Uganda

On the 29 January - 6 February 2012 Prof. Vladimir Shubin visited Uganda by the invitation of the Russian-Africa Foundation for Science, Culture and Economic Development together with the Institute's researchers Dr.



Elena Kharitonova and Albert Khamatshin. They visited the Makerere Institute of Social Research, headed by Prof. Mahmood Mamdani and delivered there a lecture on «Soviet and Russian African Studies: Past and Present».

Prof. Shubin also delivered a lecture on «Myth of a Uni-Polar World» at the Senior Command and Staff College of the Uganda People's Defense Force. The visit of the Institute [staff was highlighted in the «Russian newspaper»](#).



### International workshop on fieldwork in Halle

Prof. Dmitri Bondarenko took part in the international Workshop «Fieldwork in Africa Today» held in Halle/Saale, Germany on March 2012. At the Workshop well-established Africanists, including Prof. Dmitri Bondarenko, evaluated the results of fieldwork of graduate students from different countries and shared their own experience with them.

### Veronica Uscheva in the USA

On the 12-15 of April 2012 Dr. Veronica Usacheva presented the paper «Long Transition to Democracy: A Comparison of Media Systems of Russia and South Africa» at the [70th Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference](#), Chicago, Illinois, USA.

### Seminars «Culture and Society»

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of April the seminar «Culture and Society» was held at the Center for History and Cultural Anthropology. The report «Nigerian literature: in search of identity» was delivered by Prof. Tatiana Gavristova, the Head of the Laboratory of African and Eastern Studies of the Yaroslavl State University named after P.G. Demidov.

### Young Scholars Forum in Germany

On the 17-19<sup>th</sup> of April, Halle hosted the Russian-German Forum of Young Scholars, attended by Dr. Alexandra Arkhangelskaya.

The purpose of the event was the expansion of scientific ties and the development of collaboration in various fields of science. The discussions were devoted to the matters of innovations in education systems, the rules of registration of publications, the possibility of obtaining grants and many other issues. The parties agreed to sign an agreement on further cooperation. The third forum will be held in November in Russia.

## Exhibitions

From March 1 to April 1 the State art gallery «Na Kashirke» hosted the photo exhibition «[Far countries](#) [Alina Lapushkina](#), the fellow of the Centre for Information and International Relations of the Institute, took part in the project exposing the pictures from Ghana. «Far Countries» is a project of the photographers of the Russian Creative Union of the Workers of the Cultural Sphere and Research and Information Magazine «My Moscow» devoted to the life in Moscow. The photos from Ecuador, Ghana, Togo and Benin were presented.

## Young Scholars Council column

The Young Scholars' Council of the Institute proudly announces that Olga Kulkova and Daria Zelenova received their PhD diplomas.

The Council announces the end of the course of lectures by Prof. Dmitri Bondarenko on Political anthropology. Young Scientists Council expresses gratitude to Prof. Bondarenko for his work and patience. The lectures were recorded, the publication will also include the course «Africa: Tradition and Modernity», delivered by Prof. Bondarenko in 2011.

We are also pleased to announce that we have our logo that can be downloaded [here](#).



We congratulate the veterans of the Institute and all the staff on a great holiday - the Victory Day!

On the 14-15<sup>th</sup> November, 2012, XI Russian School of Young Africanists «The Study of Africa in Russia and Abroad» will be held in Kazan. The conference preparation is the responsibility of the Council of Young Scholars of the Institute in cooperation with the Scientific Council on African Problems of the Academy of Sciences, Department of Area Studies and Islamic Studies, Department of Indo-Iranian and African Languages Institute of Oriental Studies and International Relations, Kazan (Volga) Federal University. [Here](#) you can download the first announcement of the conference.

## Lecture by Kirill Babaev

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of April PhD on Philology Kirill Babaev from the Institute of Oriental Studies delivered a lecture «Wizards of the XXI century: syncretism of traditional cults and world religions in West Africa» at the Institute. The lecture was dedicated to the magical cults in Benin, Ghana and Togo, - the countries the author has visited during the ethnographic expedition in January - February 2012.

## Internships

In April the students of the Moscow State University of Psychology and Education undertook an internship at the Institute for African Studies.

## Ph.D. thesis defence



March 21<sup>st</sup>, Vyacheslav Tetekin has successfully defended his thesis for the degree of Doctor of History at the Dissertation Council of Historical Sciences of the Institute for African Studies. [«The mass democratic organizations in South Africa in their struggle against the apartheid regime \(1976 - 1991\)»](#) on «World History» specialization.

## Cinema club

On the 15<sup>th</sup> March the documentary «Phakathi. Soweto middle class», shot by a South African researcher Mosa Phadi (Research Fellow at the University of Johannesburg) with the support of Rosa Luxemburg Foundation was shown at the Institute. The film examines the issue of understanding of the term «middle class» by people from Soweto. The author took an active part in the discussion after the show.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> April two films devoted to Rwanda were shown: a documentary by Lawrence Blankenbyl «Rwanda Again» (2009), dedicated to the memories of the days of the Rwandan genocide of 1994, as well as the movie by Debs Paterson «We Are All Rwandans» (2008), based on a true story. The film narrates the tragedy of the refugee camps in Nyanga in 1997, actually turned into paramilitary forces to restore the stamina of the revanchists Hutu. Film screening has been concluded by the discussion undermoderation of Prof. Dmitri Bondarenko and a special guest, N. Lulakova, who worked in Rwanda in 2001 as an interpreter.

