



**Institute for African Studies
of the Russian Academy of Sciences**

Newsletter

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**«Society and Politics in Africa:
Traditional, Transitional, and New»:
13th International African Studies
Conference**

May 27-30, 2014, the Russian Academy of Sciences' Academic council on Africa together with the Institute for African Studies ran the 13th International African Studies Conference «Society and Politics in Africa: Traditional, Transitional, and New» in Moscow.

Among the attendees of the grand opening ceremony were representatives of

African diplomatic Corps and heads of diplomatic missions in Moscow, Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Rossotrudnichestvo senior officials, researchers from Academy of Sciences institutions. The head of the Department of Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sergey Kryukov; Dean of the African diplomatic Corps, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Madagascar Eloi Alphonse Maxim Duvu; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of the Republic of South Sudan, Barnaba Marial Benjamin – delivered welcome speeches; the keynote speaker Prof. Irina Abramova made a presentation «New role of Africa in the world economy in XXI century».



Conference working days

The Conference working sessions continued in 53 panels forming 8 blocks: economics, politics and society, environment, history and anthropology, international relations, linguistics, media and information, regional issues, culture and religion. Besides, three Free communication panels were formed for those themes going beyond the scope of the existing ones.

The Forum gathered more than 370 participants from 50 countries. Russian Federation was represented by delegates from 10 cities: Moscow, Saint-Petersburg, Yaroslavl, Kirov, Kazan, Krasnodar, Voronezh, Tambov, Nizhniy Novgorod, Ekaterinburg. Africanists from Almaty and Donetsk represented the Commonwealth of Independent States.

152 foreign researches from all the continents took part in the event: Africa, Europe, Asia, North and South America, Australia. List of participating countries: Australia, Austria, Algeria, Benin, Brazil, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Great Britain, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Syria, Switzerland, Sweden, Tanzania, Turkey, USA, Zimbabwe.



Closing ceremony

The concluding plenary session summarized the work undertaken during the previous days. The closing remarks were delivered by the director of the Institute, the organizing committee chairperson Prof. Alexey Vasiliev and vice-director, Prof. Dmitri Bondarenko. Dr. Nayla Mohamed Elhassan Khalafallah (Sudan), Dr. Jules Anicet S. Yamonche (Benin), Dr. Sehlare Makgetlaneng (South Africa), Raffaele Urselli (Italy) and Keith Gottschalk (South Africa) have made speeches of gratitude.



PhD theses defenses

June 4, Leonid Isaev successfully passed the PhD project defense with his work on «Political crisis in Arab countries: an experience of evaluation and typologization». The dissertation was submitted in order to obtain a degree in political sciences (code 23.00.04: political problems of international relations, global and regional development). Full text, supplementary documents and [more](#) about the defense.

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June 18 was Tatyana Spiridonova's turn to defend the thesis. Her work «Problems of integration of Turkey into the European Union Economic Space» submitted to the economic council (code 08.00.14: World economy) has successfully passed the academic defense.

Full text and more may be found on the [Institute's website](#).

Dr. Bekkin in Vienna

By the invitation of the [Department](#) of Law of the University of Vienna, on the 16th of June Dr. Rinat Bekkin, a senior research fellow of the Centre for Global and Strategic Studies delivered a lecture on «Islamic finance in non-Islamic countries: a case of Russia». The lecture gathered staff and students of the University of Vienna and caused an intensive discussion.

June 18, Dr. Bekkin gave a [master-class](#) «Islamic Banking and Finance» for students of the [University of Graz](#) in the framework of «Re-Visiting the Euro-Islam Debate. Legal Advances and Challenges Ahead» [roundtable](#). Several students expressed an intention to conduct a research on Islamic finance under the supervision of Dr. Bekkin.

June 19 to 22 by the invitation of the Department of Law of the University of Graz Rinat Bekkin did a research devoted to the nowadays tendencies in Islamic finance development. The results of the survey will be published on the University website.

Searches of identity in Yaroslavl

Dmitri M. Bondarenko and Tatiana S. Denisova gave papers at the roundtable «Searches of Identity in World History and Culture» organized by [Demidov Yaroslavl State University](#).

Young scholars regular seminar series

On the 29th of April the session of the regular seminar series of the Young Scholars Council gathered audience to listen to the presentation «Ethnographic Research: Canons and Practical Experience» by junior research fellows of the Center for History and Cultural Anthropology Oxana Ivanchenko and Petr Popov.

Vladislav Kruchinsky, junior research fellow of the Centre for Southern Africa Studies was the discussant of the seminar.

[Abstract](#) of the presentation.

Book presentation

June 24, the presentation of the book «The memoirs of the veterans of military aid to Algeria (1960s – 2000s)» took place in the Institute.

The welcome address by the director of the Institute, Prof. Alexey Vasiliev was followed by the speeches of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Smail Allahua, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia to Algeria in 1995-1999 Valeriy Egoshkin, head of the «Whole World» publishing house Oleg Zimarín.

Dr. Andrey Tokarev, the editor of the book, gave a talk on the book presented.

[Read more](#) about the presentation.



Ethiopia – Russia diplomatic relations

May 13, the conference hall hosted the roundtable «Diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Russia» confined to the 115th anniversary of establishing of diplomatic relations between two countries.

The researchers from the Institute and other academic and educational institutions, Russian and Ethiopian diplomats, non-governmental organizations and commercial firms representatives were among the speakers and participants of the event.

[Read more](#) about the roundtable.

A. Panov's trip to the Great African Lakes region

5th April – 5th May the trip of J.R.F. of The Centre for History and Cultural Anthropology Alexander Panov to the states of Great African Lakes region was performed.

The main purpose of the trip was the participation in events of the «Kwibuka 20» cycle, dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Tutsi genocide in 1994 in Rwanda. A. Panov took part in the session of International Forum «After the Genocide: Examining Legacy, Taking Responsibility» which was held in the Rwandan Parliament's building in Kigali, 4th – 6th April. Beyond of Rwanda, A. Panov has also visited Goma (North Kivu, DRC) and Republic of Burundi, two other countries suffered from the prolonged armed conflict in the Great Lakes region

[Read more](#).

Cinema Club: «Africa Paradis»

On June 17th the cinema session of the «Africa Shows!» cinema club introduced the fiction by Beninese director Sylvestre Amoussou «Africa Paradis» (2007). 2033, the United States of Africa, powerful and prosperous superstate attracts thousands of illegal migrants and refugees from Europe suffering from economic depression, unemployment and protracted armed conflict between Switzerland and Democratic Republic of Monaco...

50th anniversary of Tanzanian statehood

April 22, the Academic council solemn meeting devoted to the 50th anniversary of independency of the United Republic of Tanzania took place in the Institute.

Prof. Alexey Vasiliev and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Tanzania Julius A. Mjema delivered the welcome words at the opening ceremony.

During the plenary the attendees got an opportunity to hear Dr. S. Shlenskay's (a research fellow at the [Centre](#) for Tropical African Studies) speech on «The United Republic of Tanzania: half a century of socio-economic and political development» and Dr. K. Turyinskaya's presentation «Political system of Tanzania: from Union to Federation».

The speech of deputy chief editor of the «Asia and Africa today» journal Oleg Teterin «Zanzibar: the first year after the association with Tanganyika» was also doubled in Swahili language.

[Read more](#).

«RSA: 20 years of democratic way»

May 20, a roundtable devoted to the 20th anniversary of the democratic elections in South Africa, organized by the [Centre](#) for Southern Africa Studies together with South African [Embassy](#), took place in the Conference hall.

The speeches were delivered by Prof. A. Vasiliev, RSA Ambassador M. Mpahlwa, Prof. A. Davidson, Prof. V. Shubin, Prof. L. Fituni, Dr. A. Arkhangelskaya, Dr. Y. Skubko, Dr. L. Prokopenko. The screening of «Invictus» movie closed the evening.

[Read more](#).

9th of May celebration

On the 7th of May the Institute's Conference hall hosted the solemn meeting devoted to the Victory Day of the 9th of May. The World War II veteran Petr Kupriyanov was the master of the ceremony.

Alexey Vasiliev, Andrey Tokarev and Evgeny Korendyasov were awarded a medal for International Aid by the Union of veterans of armed conflicts in Syria. [Read more](#).