



Institute for African Studies
of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Newsletter

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Obituary Notice

On the 30th of May, 2015, Andrey Pokrovsky, one of the oldest staff members of the Institute for African Studies, passed away.

Pokrovsky had been working at the Institute since its establishment in December 1959, and devoted his life to research. For a long period of time he was heading the Centre for Southern Africa Studies and was one of the most prominent researchers specializing on the Republic of South Africa.

Pokrovsky was a man of inquisitive mind and extraordinary erudition. He was valued and loved sincerely by the colleagues.

Rest in Peace..

Africa Day celebration

On the 26th of May the Institute hosted the ceremonial meeting dedicated to the Africa Day. What the perspectives of the African continent are? What's the image of Russia in Africa and vice versa? At the roundtable these and other questions were discussed by: Deputy President of the Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation Europe (NIDOE), Dr. Bashir Obasekola, Borges Correira, Artur Martin, Raadriniana Antsa, Miangola Malala and others. Prof. Vladimir Shubin delivered a paper «Independent Africa: second semicentenary».



25th Anniversary of Independence of Namibia

On April 14, 2015, the extended Session of the Scientific Council of the Institute for African Studies on the occasion of 25th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Namibia took place at the conference hall of the Institute for African Studies. The event was jointly organized by the Centre for Southern Africa Studies and the Embassy of the Republic of Namibia in the Russian Federation. The opening address was made by Prof.

Dmitri M. Bondarenko, Deputy Director of the Institute. Next speech, which deeply impressed the audience, was delivered by Mr. Ndali Che Kamati, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Namibia to the Russian Federation. [Read More.](#)

Roundtable on African Migration

April 15, 2015, the Institute for African Studies hosted the roundtable «African Migration and Global Transformations in the Post-colonial World: Socio-cultural Aspects», within the project supported by the Russian Foundation for the Humanitarian Research grant №14-01-00070. [Read more](#).



Commemoration of Rwandan Genocide

April 28, 2015, in the Conference Hall of the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Rwanda to the Russian Federation Dr. Jeanne d'Arc MUJAWAMARIYA presented a lecture «Denial as one of ten stages of genocide: the case of the 1994 Genocide Against Tutsi in Rwanda».

[Read more](#) about the commemorative meeting. Also, read the [interview](#) of Prof. Bondarenko dedicated to the events in Rwanda.



Great Victory Day celebration

May 6, 2015 the Institute for African Studies hosted a solemn meeting devoted to the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Great Victory.

The meeting was moderated by Acting Director of the Institute Prof. I. Abramova. List of speakers included Honorary President of the Institute A. Vasilyev and Senior research fellow Petr Kupriyanov. The celebration was attended by veterans Maria Vedernikova, Vladimir Vigand, Petr Kupriyanov, Vasily Solodovnikov, Boris Petruk.



«Islamic radical movements» monograph

May 27, 2015 the Institute for African Studies presented the first issue of the multi-volume monograph «Islamic radical movements on the political map of modern world: Northern and North-Eastern Africa» (Eds. A. Savateev and E. Kisriev. The head of the editorial board I. Sledzevsky - M.: LENAND, 2015. – 424 p.), prepared by the Centre for Civilizational and Regional Studies of the Institute for African Studies featuring leading Russian and Arab specialists on Islam i.e. A. Malashenko, M. Al-Janabi, R. Landa, M. Vidyasova, V. Orlov, B. Dolgov, O. Karpacheva, S. Seregichev and others. The authors of the monograph set the aim to understand what is beyond the concept of Islamic radicalism, why, how and where it has originated, what is its historical and social role in the Muslim Ummah and the world in general.





Slovenian-Russian colloquium on African Studies

The first colloquium «African Studies: Perspectives from Russia and Slovenia» was held on 14-15 May 2015 at the Russian Centre of Science and Culture in Ljubljana (Slovenia). The event was organized jointly by the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, by the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, and the Russian Center of Science and Culture in Slovenia.

The Director of the Centre, Mr. Rifat Pateev, greeted Russian and Slovenian africanists, expressing the hope that this meeting will be the first in a series of joint projects of Russian and Slovenian researchers. Professor Rajko Muršič (Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana) also welcomed the participants of the event. He noted that African ethnography in Slovenia has been explored since the 1940s, and since then the interest in African studies raised significantly in Slovenian academic community.

Prof. Muršič kindly noted that the idea of the first joint colloquium was born in discussions with Prof. Dmitry Bondarenko, Deputy Director of the Institute for African Studies. Then Prof. Vladimir Shubin, Senior Research Fellow of the Institute, greeted the guests and outlined the directions of African Studies in Russia in the past and present within Russian academic institutions engaged in African studies.

Assist. Prof. Sarah Lunaček (Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana), one of the main organizers and inspirers of the colloquium, gave details about the history of Slovenian-African relations, African studies in Slovenia today. She expressed hope that cooperation of Russian and Slovenian africanists would continue in various forms (e.g. joint publications, further academic meetings).

As a part of the colloquium, participants watched the documentary «Eyes and Ears of God: Video Surveillance of Sudan», shot by the Slovenian activist Tomo Križnar. The film evoked passionate discussion with the director himself and Bojana Pivk, who shared information from their last visit to Sudan.

The colloquium, which was a great success, gave Russian and Slovenian africanists an opportunity to get acquainted with the works of each other, to establish academic and personal contacts. All the participants expressed their sincere gratitude to the Director of the Russian Center of Science and Culture Mr. Pateev, who provided an invaluable assistance in carrying out such an important event. [Read more.](#)

Russian-Nigerian relations roundtable

April 29, 2016 Institute for African Studies with the Nigerians in Diaspora Organization Europe (NIDOE) hosted a roundtable «Prospects of the Russian-Nigerian Relations in the Light of the 2015 Presidential Elections in Nigeria».

[Read more.](#)

Alina Lapushkina's lecture for kids

April 24, 2015, Alina Lapushkina, Junior research fellow of the Institute, gave a lecture «Once upon a time in Africa. Diary of a traveler» for kids and their parents at the Russian State Children's Library.

AFROFEST-2015

The Second International Festival of African culture «Afrofest-2015», organized by «House of Africa», the non-commercial partnership for development of cultural, educational, business and public relations, took place on 6-7 June, 2015 in Park Fili, Moscow. The Institute for African Studies was one of the partners of the festival for the second time. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Madagascar, Dr. Eloi Alphonse Maxime DOVO, Ambassador



Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Benin Dr. Anicet Gabriel KOTCHOFA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kenya Dr. Paul Kibiwott KURGAT, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Rwanda, Dr. Jeanne d'Arc MUJAWAMARIYA, President of the «House of Africa» Serge Fokas ODUNLAMI were among the participants of the Festival. [More details.](#)

Roundtable «African migration»

Roundtable «African migration: the problem of influence on international relations», organized by the Centre for the Study of the Russian-African Relations and African States' Foreign Policy, was held on June 9, 2015. The purpose of the roundtable was declared as follows: to identify the extent and mechanisms of African diaspora's influence on the system of international relations, on the internal and external policies of their countries of origin and host countries in the context of the formation of a polycentric world order.

The roundtable was attended by representatives of the Federal Government agencies, academic research institutes, Federal universities, NGOs, the African diaspora in Russia. [Read more.](#)

Presentation of Vladimir Churov's monograph

June 30, 2015, the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences presented a book written by the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Russian Federation Vladimir Churov «Journey to



Morocco with Anastas Mikoyan». The book is a part of series «Travelling in XX century» started with «Traveling with Brigadier General Vladimir Brezhnev from Budapest to Vienna». Many documents were previously classified and published for the first time. For example, the records of conversations of Leonid Brezhnev and Anastas Mikoyan with the Kings of Morocco.



A. Zhukov on the situation in Kenya and Somalia

30th of June, 2015, in the conference hall of the Institute for African Studies, the Research fellow of the Centre for the Studies of the Russian-African Relations and African States' Foreign Policy Dr. Alexander E. Zhukov gave a speech on the current political and humanitarian situation in Kenya and Somalia. He also spoke on the activities of «Al-Shabaab», the Somalia-based militant Islamist group aligned with Al-Qaeda, on the terror attack committed at the University of Garissa (Kenya) at the beginning of April 2015. He also discussed how Kenyan population and the authorities respond to the threats posed by the militants. Dr. Zhukov's presentation generated much feedback from the audience and provoked a lively discussion.