

A View from the Precipice: Critical Reflections on South Africa and Africa in the 21st Century

13-14 February 2017, University of the Free State, South Africa

co-hosted by the Centre for African Studies, Jawahrlal Nehru University (India), Centre for the Engagement on African Peace and Security, Department of Political Studies and Governance, University of the Free State, and Southern African Centre for Collaboration on Peace and Security and the Osaka School of International Public Policy, Osaka University (Japan)

The future of South Africa is being viewed in increasingly bleak terms by many researchers and practitioners in the fields of economics and politics. Protests over service delivery, protests over university fees, and large-scale corruption are certainly not positive signs. The first day of this two-day conference, held 13-14 February 2017, focused on the current problems faced by South Africa – reflected in the title of the conference, a view from the precipice. The second day focused on a host of issues facing the continent beyond South Africa, including India-Africa relations, and the role of the ethnicity, non-state actors and the media in issues of peace and security in Africa.

Day 1: South Africa

08h30-08h50: Welcome

Prof Corli Wittuhn, Vice-Rector: Research, University of the Free State

Prof Ajay Dubey, Centre for African Studies, Jawahrlal Nehru University, India

Prof. Virgil Hawkins, Osaka School of International Policy Studies, Osaka University, Japan

Session 1: Exploring the Challenges Confronting South Africa

Chair: Prof. Hussein Solomon, (Department of Political Studies and Governance, University of the Free State)

08h50-09h20: Civil strife against local governance: A decade of community protests in post-apartheid South Africa

Dr. Sethulego Matebesi, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, UFS

09h20-09h50: Contested theories: The connective tissue of 'uncivil' constitutionalism in South Africa

Dr. Piet Croucamp, Independent Political Analyst

09h50-10h20: The South African political environment 2017 – a strategic assessment

Prof. Andre Duvenhage, North-West University (Potch Campus)

Session 2: Further Reflections on South African Politics

Chair: Prof. Virgil Hawkins (Osaka School of International Policy Studies)

11h20-11h50: An Arendtian reading of South African politics: #Must Fall movements, decoloniality as transcendental morality, and mistrust of public institutions

Ms. Alida Kok, Department of Political Sciences, University of South Africa

11h50-12h20: When we lose patience with Democracy

Dr. Ina Gouws, Department of Political Studies and Governance, UFS

12h20-12h50: South Africa: A Race to the Bottom?

Prof. Johann Rossouw, Department of Philosophy, UFS

12h50-13h20: The future of the African National Congress with a view to the 2019 elections

Mr. Roland Henwood, Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria

Session 3: South Africa, Africa and the Foreign Policy Dimension

Chair: Professor Ajay Dubey, President of the ASA, India

14h40-15h10: The Nelson Mandela Factor: South Africa as reparative-charismatic leader of the Global South

Ms. Bianca Naude, Department of Political Studies and Governance, UFS

15h10-15h40: Did the South Africa's Government of National Unity influence transitions in other African States?

Prof. Dirk Kotze, Department of Political Sciences, University of South Africa

15h40-16h10: The South African Navy and regional maritime (in)security: Diplomatic obligations and political-economic challenges

Prof. Theo Neethling, HoD, Department of Political Studies and Governance, UFS

Day 2: Africa

Session 1: Africa: Critical Reflections

Chair: Prof. Theo Neethling (HoD: Department of Political Studies, UFS)

08h30-09h00: The Role of Non-State Actors in Africa's Peace and Security

Prof. Hussein Solomon, Department of Political Studies and Governance, University of the Free State

09h00-09h30: Africa and the International Criminal Court – The Way Forward

Dr. Yolanda Spies, University of Johannesburg

09h30-10h00: Media coverage of death tolls: The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Darfur compared

Prof. Virgil Hawkins, Osaka School of International Public Policy

10h00-10h30: How can the power of media be used to fight terrorism in Africa?

Ms. Alta Vermeulen, Department of Political Studies and Governance, UFS

Session 2: Reflecting on India-Africa Relations

Chair: Mr. Eben Coetzee (Department of Political Studies and Governance, UFS)

11h10-11h40: India-Africa Engagement: Opportunities and Challenges

Prof. AK Dubey, Centre for African Studies, Jawarhlal Nehru University, India

11h40-12h10: India-Africa Engagement for Energy Security: The Case of Mozambique

Prof. JM Moosa, Centre for African Studies, Jawarhlal Nehru University, India

12h10-12h40: Policy evaluation is the missing link of the India-Africa Forum Summit

Mr. Ambrose du Plessis, Department of Public Administration, UFS

Session 3: Reflecting on Peace and Security in Africa

Chair: Dr. Ina Gouws, Department of Political Studies and Governance, UFS

14h00-14h30: The False Promise of Democratic Peace in Africa

Mr. Eben Coetzee, Department of Political Studies and Governance, UFS

14h30-15h00: Reconsidering Border Issues in Africa: Ethnicity, apartheid and the political independence of Lesotho

Ms. Sayaka Kono, Department of Historical Studies, National University of Lesotho

15h00-15h30: Ethnic mobilization and the role of the running mate in Zambia's 2016 presidential election

Mr. Robby Kapesa, Copperbelt University, Zambia

15h50-16h00: Closing Remarks

