

Resistance and Transformation in Africa

A Workshop for movements & activist-scholars



ACCRA - DAR ES SALAAM - JOHANNESBURG

26
NOVEMBER
27



Society, Work & Politics Institute
'the making and unmaking of social order'

Resistance and Transformation in Africa

A Workshop for movements & activist-scholars

26 NOVEMBER 2018



DAY ONE

08:30 Registration & Coffee

09:30 SESSION 1 INTRODUCTION

Chair: **Ruth Ntlokotse** (South Africa, National Union of Metalworkers South Africa)

In addition to welcoming participants, the session will set the scene by placing this workshop within the context of the two that preceded it, held in Accra and Dar-es-Salaam. It will flag some critical problems emerging from struggles in Africa today.

OPENING

Welcome to South Africa - **Ruth Ntlokotse** (South Africa, NUMSA)

INTRODUCTION

Yao Graham (Ghana, ROAPE)

AIMS & STRUCTURE OF JOHANNESBURG WORKSHOP: Some of the key questions

Karl von Holdt (South Africa, SWOP)

10:30 Tea Break

11:00 SESSION 2 MAPPING RESISTANCE ACROSS THE CONTINENT

Chair: **Mazibuko Jara** (South Africa, Ntinga Ntamba kaNdoda Rural Movement)

The session advances an overview of protest mobilisations on the continent. How do contemporary struggles fit within the long history of political transformation in Africa? How do they relate to global crises and confrontations in other continents? What are people protesting about today and where are the hotspots? How do we envisage a gendered analysis of resistance? How does capitalism's destruction of our environment feature within class conflict?

Gyekye Tanoh (Ghana, Third World Network)

Kate Alexander (South Africa, CSC)

Naome Chakanya (Zimbabwe, Labour and Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe)

Sarah Bracking (United Kingdom, Kings College)

12:30 Lunch Break

SESSION 3

13:30

YOUTH & STUDENT MOBILISATIONS AND INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING

Chair: **Kamadji Demba Karyom** (Chad, Federation des Syndicats du Tchad)

Africa is the world's most youthful continent. What are the implications of this for struggle and political transformation? What are the divisions and overlaps between unemployed youth, young workers and students? How are new forms of communication and organising implicated in the generational divide? How can older trade unionists, workers and intellectuals be persuaded to take seriously the ideas of a new generation of fighters? Is there anything young activists can learn from history?

Beesan Kassab (Egypt)

Mohamad Traore/Didier Kiendrebeogo (Burkina Faso, Democratic Youth Organisation)

Koketso Moeti (South Africa, Amandla.mobi)

Moshibudi Motimele (South Africa, WITS University, PHD candidate)

Tea Break

15:00

SESSION 4

15:30

WORK, TRADE UNIONS AND THE WORKING CLASS

Chair: **Cleopatra Shezi** (South Africa, Soweto Electricity Crisis Committee)

How has the changing nature of work impacted on working-class organisation and the potential for worker-led revolution? How do ageing and bureaucratisation impact on conservatism? Does political partisanship reduce the capacity of unions to represent workers interests? What are the most effective forms of organization for informal and marginalized workers? What has been the experience of 'new unions'? Do mass strikes lead to lasting radicalization?

Baba Aye (Nigeria, Health Officer Public Services International)

Fatou Diouf (Senegal, Confederation des Syndicats Autonomes)

Ronald Wesso (South Africa, Casual Workers Advice Office)

Ruth Ntlokotse (South Africa, National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa)

Transport leaves for public event

17:00

PUBLIC EVENT (see last page for details)

17:30

Transport leaves for hotel

20:30

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DAY TWO

08:30 Registration & Coffee

09:00 SESSION 5 LAND STRUGGLES AND RURAL STRUGGLES

Chair: **Tasneem Essop** (South Africa, SWOP)

This session explores struggles over land and the particular dynamics of resistance in rural areas. What are the differences and similarities between demands and forms of resistance over land in urban and rural areas? Should land be nationalized? What do we mean by rural struggles? To what extent are there still peasants in Africa, and what strategic issues does this pose? Do South African socialists underestimate the significance of rural struggles?

Thami Hukwe (South Africa, Abahlali baseMjondolo Freedom Park and Gauteng Civics Association)

Constance Mokgale (South Africa, Alliance for Rural Democracy)

Soraya El Kahlaoui (Morocco, Sociology at L'École des hautes études en Sciences Sociale (EHESS))

Grasian Mkodzongi (Zimbabwe, Tropical Africa-Land and Natural Resources Research Institute)

10:30 Tea Break

11:00 SESSION 6 POPULAR MOBILISATIONS, ALLIANCES AND REVOLUTION

Chair: **Beesan Kassab** (Egypt)

This session shifts attention to the relationship between popular mobilization and 'politics'. A key question is the society-wide insurgent uprisings that promise to change social relations as a whole. How can such movements respond to elections? What is the role of Left political parties and of trade unions? What are the practical problems of popular alliances, including NGOisation, and how can these be addressed? How can movements respond to reaction and repression? This session could also highlight community organising and questions of organisational strategy, alliances, engagement with authorities.

Judith Marshall (Canada, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives)

Soraya El Kahlaoui (Morocco, Sociology at L'École des hautes études en Sciences Sociale (EHESS))

Dinga Sikwebu (South Africa, Tshisimani)

Sabatho Nyamsenda (Tanzania, Jukwaa La Wajamaa)

12:30 Lunch Break

SESSION 7

13:30

BREAKOUTS: ALTERNATIVES TO CAPITALISM, FUTURE OF THE LEFT IN AFRICA, SUSTAINING THIS INITIATIVE, AND THE ROLE OF ROAPE

Chair: **Michael Akuupa** (Namibia, Labour Resource and research Institute) Reporter: **Ferrial Adam** (South Africa, CSC)

Chair: **Dineo Skosana** (South Africa, SWOP) Reporter: **Horman Chitonge** (South Africa, University of Cape Town)

Chair: **Hannah Cross** (United Kingdom, ROAPE) Reporter: **Bheki Buthelezi** (South Africa, Marikana Support Campaign)

Chair: **Simphiwe Zwane** (South Africa, Operation Khanyisa Movement). **Tina Mafange** (Tanzania, Jukwaa La Wajamaa)

The breakouts provide a chance to reflect on discussion. What were the main debates and key arguments? What was missed? What are the most important issues for research and further reflection? What ideas are emerging for alternatives to capitalism? How does this connect with existing theorisation, particularly Marxism, and dynamics and ideas developing elsewhere? What kind of networking or events could sustain or build on the Accra /Dar es Salaam/Johannesburg initiative? What role can be played by ROAPE journal and its website?

Questions:

1. Reflections on the workshop
2. The continent: Connecting, linking, solidarity
3. Radical alternatives
4. What role can Roape play?

Tea break

15:15

SESSION 8

15:45

DRAWING THREADS TOGETHER AND THE WAY AHEAD

Chair: **Prishani Naidoo** (South Africa, SWOP)

BREAKOUT REPORTS
Reporters

SUMMARY & SUGGESTIONS

Trevor Ngwane (South Africa, CSC)

OVERALL CONCLUSIONS OF THE 3 WORKSHOPS
Peter Lawrence (South Africa, Roape)

Sundowners

17:00

Dinner

18:00

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Thanks to the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung for their generous financial support.

PUBLIC EVENT

Africa Rising: Conversation across generations.

VENUE:
SciBono, Newtown

TIME:
17:30

FACILITATOR:
Sizwe Mpofu Walsh
(musician and author)

PANEL:
South African school student
Noosim Naimasiah (Kenya)
Malek Sghiri (Tunisia)
Tafadzwa Choto (Zimbabwe)
Ronnie Kasrils (Former Minister of Intelligence of South Africa)



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