Welcome

We are pleased to announce details of the Africa and International Studies Working Group’s first workshop, *New Directions in IR and Africa*, to be held at the Open University, Milton Keynes on July 9th 2008. The workshop is funded jointly by POLIS (Politics and International Studies Dept at the OU) and BISA.

Please find overleaf details of the workshop programme, and details of travel, the OU campus and accommodation.

If you would like to register for the workshop, please send your name and contact details to: w.brown@open.ac.uk.

Post graduates: assistance with travel costs

Although our budget is very limited, we are hoping to be able to offer some financial assistance to postgraduate students wishing to travel to the workshop within the UK. If you would like to be considered for this, please let us know when you register.
Workshop: New Directions in IR and Africa  
July 9th 2008  
Seminar Room 1, Michael Young Building, The Open University, Milton Keynes

Workshop programme

Morning Session: Africa and the discipline of IR 10am-1pm (including coffee/tea break)

- Dr. Scarlett Cornelissen (University of Stellenbosch, SA): Migration, reterritorialisation and authority in contemporary Southern Africa: what lessons for International Relations theory?

- Emmanuel Fanta (UN University, Belgium): Politics of (non-)integration and shadow regionalism in Africa

Coffee/tea break

- Dr. Karen Smith (University of Stellenbosch, SA): African contributions to the theoretical development of IR

- Dr. Sara Dorman (University of Edinburgh): State formation and stateness in Africa: studying ‘hard’ states in a weak system

1-2 lunch

Afternoon session: Africa’s external relations (2-5pm including coffee/tea break)

2-3.15 External relations 1: China and aid

- Dr. William Brown (Open University): Social development and international relations: reconsidering the aid relationship

- Dr. Giles Mohan (Open University) and Dr Marcus Power (University of Durham): The geopolitics of China’s engagement with African development

3.15-3.30 Coffee/tea break

3.30-5.00 External Relations 2: Africa and the EU

- Dr. Stephen Hurt and Prof Magnus Ryner (Oxford Brookes University): Neoliberalism and the politics of resistance: EU-South Africa relations – another critical case?

- Stephen Buzdugan (Manchester University): SADC and the EU: contradictions of a development relationship between ‘north’ and ‘south’

- Oskar van Heerden (University of Cambridge): South Africa’s experience of the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) with the EU, 1995-present
• **Travel**

If travelling by train Milton Keynes station is well connected to London (Euston), Birmingham and Manchester. Travel between Milton Keynes station and the campus is by taxi or bus. The University operates its own shuttle bus, run by Souls, between Milton Keynes Central and the campus, departing from Bus stop no.34 outside the station. For car drivers, the OU campus is located close to junctions 13 and 14 of the M1.

For full details of travel to the Open University campus, and maps of campus, the town and region are available at:

[http://www3.open.ac.uk/contact/locations.aspx](http://www3.open.ac.uk/contact/locations.aspx)

• **Accommodation**

Should you require accommodation in Milton Keynes, the two hotels nearest to the Open University are:

The Mercure Parkside Hotel  
Woughton on the Green  
Milton Keynes  
Tel: +44 (0) 1908 662929  

The Hilton International Hotel  
Timbold Drive  
Kents Hill Park  
Milton Keynes  
MK7 6HL  
Telephone: +44 (0) 1908 694433  
Website: [http://www.hilton.co.uk/miltonkeynes](http://www.hilton.co.uk/miltonkeynes)

The OU gets preferential rates, so a booking can be made for you. For details, please contact the POLIS Department Administrator, Fran Ford: F.V.Ford@open.ac.uk