Abstract: Africa has emerged as a strategic location for transcontinental narcotics trade. Particularly the West African subcontinent has turned into a cocaine warehousing and trans-shipment hub along the way to the European underground markets. At this juncture, African drug networks (ADNs) began to play a momentous role in global drug trade, and pose a considerable threat to international security, as they operate in more than 80 countries. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Interpol, and Europol perceive ADNs as one of the primary issues in international counter-narcotics policy. These agencies have launched several multilateral initiatives to contain the West African threat. None of these initiatives, however, retarded the expansion of the problem. Indeed, the containment efforts turned out to be quite embryonic. The ADNs eventually entered the Turkish market by the early 2000s. West African drug networks (WADNs) in particular have begun to operate within Turkey extensively, often supplying and distributing drugs. The gravity of the threat became ever more serious by 2012. The upsurge of the new threat has compelled the Turkish drug-law enforcement agencies to adopt new policies and counter-strategies. These policies have to be based upon proper strategic analysis of the threat. This paper seeks to address the need for a threat assessment of ADNs. It investigates the dimensions of the problem, profiles the members of WADNs, their modes of operation, and the factors that compelled them to exploit the illicit Turkish drug markets. The analyses are based upon the scrutiny of 227 narcotic interdictions files and statements from the African individuals in these case files. The paper concludes by presenting policy implications and recommendations for the Turkish security and foreign-policy institutions to cope with this impending threat. Notes, ref., sum.  

Abstract: Since the 1950s, theories of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) have developed alongside the increasing power of globalised business. International stakeholders, from the United Nations to everyday consumers, have identified business ethics as a way to mitigate the destructive commercial practices that exacerbate conflict in the developing world. Ethical business initiatives have peacebuilding potential; however, the discussion should cede that poor governance constrains this private sector ability. Information communication technology (ICT) companies have perpetuated conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and its surrounding areas by purchasing minerals that finance armed groups. Ultimately, predominant lobbyists who claim that CSR policies and ethical boycotts will cut rebel funding and therefore bring an end to the turmoil in the Great Lakes region of Africa are overlooking the conflict's complex roots. The success of CSR peacebuilding in the DRC is predicated on good governance and cross-sector collaboration. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum.  

Abstract: From 14-17 November 2009 an estimated 3000 Zimbabweans were violently and forcefully displaced from their dwellings in a rural farming area, De Doorns, in the Western Cape, South Africa. This paper looks at a discourse of decency used by residents of Stofland, a shack settlement in De Doorns, to contribute, through symbolic interpretation, to an understanding of discriminatory motives behind the expulsion. Based on field research between March and July 2010 among both victims and perpetrators of displacement in De Doorns, the analysis reveals the logic behind discrimination and the ways in which discrimination manifests and is perpetuated through language and action. In Stofland, Zimbabweans are attributed the characteristics of being unclean, indecent and diseased, i.e. they represent disorder, dirt and danger. This discourse of decency is discussed in relation to findings that suggest that, far from being the result of a common identity, displacement motives are based on perceived difference and constructed
entitlement identities. The latter need to be understood in relation to desires for material emancipation in post-apartheid South Africa. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract, edited]

Abstract: Curortology - the science of natural therapy that combines the effects of climate, water and mud treatment and other forms of traditional healing practices - is enjoying a phenomenal comeback. Behind the re-emergence of curortology lies the current popular revolt against synthetic products and the demand for more natural ways of treatment. In its current form, curortology has evolved to encompass holiday spas, day spas, hotel spas, all of which are seen as European. At the same time, indigenous African approaches, though widespread, have not evolved and have largely remained underdeveloped and undocumented. This has far-reaching economic consequences, as exemplified by the traditional spa at Isinuka, 20 km from Port St. Johns, in the Transkei region of South Africa. Though in existence for hundreds of years, this spa has little infrastructure and remains very poor. This study investigates the demographic characteristics of the Isinuka traditional healing spa. The requested demographic information included age, ethnic group, marital status, level of education, gender, monthly income, occupation, frequency and type of treatment. It was found that the Isinuka site is frequented by local Africans from different walks of life. The majority of visitors are single and between the ages of 21 and 40, indicating a young population concerned about health and well-being. The current off-sales of Isinuka clay are about R7,00 per bag of approximately 2kg, while retail price of cleansing mud masks in pharmacies reaches R16,00 per 25g packet. Monthly returns from Isinuka sales range from only R350,00 to R500,00. Nevertheless, the inhabitants of Isinuka and locals from Port St. Johns, and villages and towns beyond, revere this healing system as holistic and handed down by their ancestors. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract, edited]

Abstract: Oromo as a society, like many African societies, is rich in indigenous institutions of conflict resolution and justice administration. Gumaa is one of the multitude of Oromo indigenous institutions that has exclusively been used to settle blood feuds of various types. In spite of its wider utilisation and its multi-disciplinary nature, psycho-social analysis of gumaa is lacking in literature. With an aim of helping to fill this gap and of maximising gumaa's potential contributions to conflict resolution, justice administration and peacebuilding, this article offers a psycho-social perspective on gumaa. Having analysed combined data from multiple sources regarding gumaa within psychological and social frameworks, the author identifies and highlights six interrelated theses (themes) about the key roles gumaa plays in conflict resolution, justice administration and peacebuilding (in cases of homicide). Finally, based on the themes identified and highlighted and other pertinent elaborations and case material, the author theorises gumaa as a vital psycho-social method of conflict resolution, justice administration and peacebuilding and calls for its official recognition and revitalisation as per article 78(5) of the Constitution of Ethiopia. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Abstract: The maritime domain of the Gulf of Guinea presents enormous opportunities for enhancing socio-economic development and human security in the region. However, there are increasing maritime security threats that affect the exploitation of coastal resources, the peaceful use of sea lines of communication as well as the stability of littoral states along the Gulf of Guinea. Dealing with these threats requires maritime security cooperation. This article argues that recent events show deepening boundary uncertainties that have the potential of inhibiting maritime security cooperation and causing regional instability. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Abstract: The relations of post-apartheid South Africa with its neighboring states in Southern Africa have been marked by contestation and followership to the regional hegemon, shifting from the former to the latter at the beginning of this millennium. Analyzing the most important cases of regional security policy from the 1990s and 2000s, the author shows that four conditions explain whether the other regional states contest or follow South Africa: a demand for South African leadership, South Africa's general vision for distribution of power and guiding principles in international relations, the compatibility of policy-specific interests, and the interpretation of the past behavior of the hegemon. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: The eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been characterised by chaos and insecurity for a number of years, but the rise of the M23 rebellion in 2012 once again highlighted just how dire the humanitarian and security situation is. For most of 2012, the crisis was addressed through negotiations between M23 and Kinshasa, mediated by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). However, 2013 marked the signing of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework Agreement (PSC Framework), and the United Nations Security Council’s adoption of Resolution 2098, which contains the mandate of the long-awaited Intervention Brigade (IB). The PSC Framework calls on Kinshasa to implement substantial political reforms while also urging the neighbours of the DRC to stop interfering in its internal affairs. The IB is mandated to carry out targeted operations against the so-called 'negative forces' that operate in the eastern DRC. For now, hope of resolving this ongoing crisis hinges on the continuing ICGLR negotiations, the implementation of the PSC Framework and the success of the IB. However, there are critical questions about all of these processes that need to be answered and understood, as the expectations for these processes - especially in the case of the IB - are extremely high. Will the ICGLR manage to negotiate a peace agreement and will the IB succeed, or will they go down in history as yet another failure to save the eastern DRC? Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: Since 2009, a radical Islamist group in Nigeria called Boko Haram has been responsible for a string of violent attacks and bombings strategically directed at the government, security officials, churches, civilians, and the United Nations headquarters in the Nigerian capital Abuja. With the attacks getting increasingly coordinated and sophisticated, there are growing concerns, locally and globally, about not only the quickly deteriorating security situation in Nigeria but also the potential implications for Nigeria's unity. This article explores the relationship between religion as a force of mobilization as well as an identity marker in Nigeria and how its practice and perception are implicated in the current Boko Haram terrorism. The article further draws on the theory of relative deprivation to explain why Boko Haram rebels. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: Africa's wildlife is in danger. The last couple of years have been disastrous for the African elephant as poaching for ivory reached record numbers. Rhinos have been hit hard with several sub-species becoming extinct. The current anti-poaching and anti-trafficking operations lack the sophistication and determination that is found abundantly within criminal organisations immersed in this illicit trade. Terrorism, rebellious elements and corrupt officials all benefit from the destruction of Africa's eco-system and the inaction or lack of efficient action thereof by law enforcement officials. This commentary suggests new courses of action using methods from the fields of counter-terrorism and special operations. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Abstract: This paper examines the utility of the concepts of trust and honour in understanding relations among Zimbabwean remittance couriers who are popularly known as 'malayishas'. Trust and honour are explored in relation to how they produce and sustain a culture of networking and cooperation on the one hand, and competition and conflict on the other. The paper's arguments are largely informed by P. Bourdieu's ideas on social action, particularly his emphasis on the dynamism of social action and how in practice it is manifested through various forms of capital. The study, which is based on interviews with 'malayishas' conducted in Johannesburg in November and December 2008, reveals a dynamic picture when it comes to 'malayisha'- 'malayisha' relations on the one hand, and 'malayisha'-remitter relations on the other. In the various spheres of interaction, relations are inherently informed by social, cultural and economic capital. Elements of trust and honour are evident in processes surrounding the creation and strengthening of networks and ties manifest in the remittance transportation trail. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: By comparing the Somali experience of piracy with the emerging situation in the Gulf of Guinea, the author shows that increases in the enforcement aspects of state capacity in the Gulf of Guinea states are necessary but not sufficient tools to combat the emergence, growth, and institutionalisation of piracy. Such tools would require state-building measures that would minimise the incentives of individuals to join piracy organisations and they would have to effectively deal with youth unemployment, income inequality, and environmental degradation. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: Much of the current social science literature on the clinical trials industry focuses on the profit-seeking practices adopted by pharmaceutical companies and the contract research organizations they employ to enable the mass production and distribution of their products. However, what the current literature demands is further ethnographic engagement with the particularities of the diseases investigated, the local context and histories in which they are entwined and how these impact the affective relationships between clinical research organizations and their participants. On the basis of ethnographic research with a nonprofit clinical research organization specializing in tuberculosis vaccination in South Africa, the author argues that the complexities of TB mean that research into it necessitates frequent and often intimate interactions with research participants. These were perceived by researchers to yield opportunities to take an interest in the physical and psychosocial well-being of research participants which went beyond and sometimes ran into conflict with the requirements of protocol. The aim of the paper is to advocate more finely tuned attention to the challenges posed by the clinical trials industry today, an attention sensitive to the particularities of the contexts of clinical trials. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: Indigenous Knowledge (IK) has for millennia been an integral part for maintaining and strengthening sustainable livelihood opportunities within local communities, the world over. Application of this knowledge in specific areas in South Africa continues to be part of practices in these communities, albeit with challenges imposed by systems of colonial education and religion, apartheid and the emerging global knowledge economy. Therefore, the imperative to re-discover and re-store IK cannot be underestimated. This knowledge is often the main asset these communities control, and certainly one with which they are more familiar. The case studies
discussed in this article point to significant improvements in development projects when IK is utilized. These case studies also indicate that imposing the emerging global knowledge economy and Eurocentric knowledge systems on rural development will not only serve to destroy IK, but will also undermine conditions that allow this knowledge to contribute to sustainable livelihoods. The article examines the concept of indigenous knowledge and how it differs from Western knowledge; ways to strengthen sustainable livelihood opportunities within rural communities; models and case studies that demonstrate the significance of IK; challenges in the protection and preservation of IK within rural communities in Africa, and ethical considerations. Finally, it presents a discussion of limitations and possibilities of IK within rural communities of the Eastern Cape Province, as well as concluding remarks. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]

Hapanyengwi-Chemhuru, O. 2013. Reconciliation, conciliation, integration and national healing: possibilities and challenges in Zimbabwe. African Journal on Conflict Resolution: (2013), vol.13, no.1, p.79-99. Abstract: The attainment of independence by Zimbabwe in 1980 was accompanied by great hope as Mugabe enunciated a policy of National Reconciliation. Zimbabwe, in its current state is a country that, more than in 1980, is in need of reconciliation, social integration and national healing. This need arises from the colonial and post-colonial experiences of dehumanisation and brutalisation of segments of the populace in Zimbabwe. It is the intention of this paper to interrogate the need for reconciliation, social integration and national healing in Zimbabwe as well as the challenges and possibilities. The paper traces the earlier attempts at reconciliation in Zimbabwe, the successes and the challenges and what led to the present situation of extreme polarisation in Zimbabwean society. The paper further provides an assessment of current attempts at reconciliation, integration and national healing. Furthermore, the paper discusses some conceptions of reconciliation and integration and what appear to be necessary conditions for the success of any attempts at reconciliation, social integration and national healing in Zimbabwe. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Dickson, J.L. 2012. Revisiting ‘township tourism’: multiple mobilities and the re-territorialisation of township spaces in Cape Town, South Africa. Anthropology Southern Africa: (2012), vol.35, no.1/2, p.31-39. Abstract: This article explores themes of social space and mobility significant to tourism within the townships near Cape Town, South Africa. Research on the emergence of ‘township tourism’ has produced contrasting interpretations. Some authors describe essentialized notions of ‘Africanness’, ‘culture’, and poverty displayed for the consumption of European tourists as voyeurism. Others emphasize township tourism’s grassroots potential for local development, and portray it as a form of reconciliation through the political and personal narratives shared between resident-guides and tourists. By focusing primarily on one family of township tourism ‘hosts’, the findings describe how those involved with township tourism utilized new avenues of social and physical mobility across sociospatial boundaries that persist as legacies of apartheid. Flexible understandings of space and ‘multiple mobilities’ are considered, and host agency is emphasized. Finally, by tracing public discourses of criminality and ‘common sense’ directed at international visitors to townships in 2010, the author demonstrates how such narratives undermine efforts to reconfigure perceptions of township spaces. She concludes by arguing that township tourism carries the potential to map new cartographies of belonging, while also creating new exclusions. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Ogana, W. & Ojong, V.B. 2012. Sexual body ideal among Zulu women: continuity and change. Indilinga: (2012), vol.11, no.1, p.32-48. Abstract: Among the Zulu in South Africa’s KwaZulu-Natal Province, overweight and obese women are generally viewed in positive light. Favourable cultural associations of plump women range from beauty to fecundity, physical well-being, affluence and happiness, among other positive attributes. Such notions are still widely held among isiZulu-speaking women in contemporary KwaZulu-Natal, despite overweight and obesity being implicated in public health disorders like diabetes, hypertension, cancer, coronary disease and strokes. This gender-based article interrogates changes in how Zulu women in particular view their sexuality in terms of their
body weight, size and shape, against the backdrop of an individual's image and identity. These concepts are juxtaposed against the Western 'thin ideal' of a sexually alluring female body. The article is based on an ethnographic study conducted mainly among Durban-based Zulu women either studying or working at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. In South Africa the Western thin ideal has heavy racial overtones for the majority of blacks, who are still shrouded by a minority white culture that continues to dominate 17 years after the apartheid era ended. Whether for or against the contemporary Western 'thin ideal', for these women there is no escaping the cultural change currently mapping future trends. Current trends foretell an intertwined Zulu ethnicity of the past, but also contemporary aspirations spearheaded by women in the globalizing West. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]

Abstract: In 2008, many residents of what was then Van Riebeeck Street in the small city of Potchefstroom in South Africa defied the city council's renaming it Peter Mokaba Avenue by erecting replica Van Riebeeck Street signs on their private property. Interviews with these residents revealed a theme of moral, discursive and spatial straying and lostness. To explain this lostness the authors first show that Van Riebeeck and Mokaba (a prominent figure in the liberation struggle during the 1980s) are the master signifier and abject other of modern South Africa's symbolic order. Secondly, they demonstrate how this symbolic order is inexorably linked to the racialized relations of production embodied in planned urban spaces such as Potchefstroom. Preserving the spatio-symbolic coincidence forged in the 1952 Van Riebeeck festival that tied Van Riebeeck, the bringer of modernity, to Cape Town's foreshore (the founding place of white South Africa), is what motivates this privatization of toponymy. To move Mokaba from abject other to signifier of a new mythology that fails to coincide with the unaltered spatial embodiment of racialized relations of production is to stray too close to the uncomfortable message of Peter Mokaba - namely that the revolution has yet to happen. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract, edited]

Abstract: Legislative or parliamentary elections are integral to post-conflict elections and are critical to setting in motion the multidimensional process of postconflict peacebuilding. In the case of Liberia, after another civil war (which lasted from 1999-2003), the issue of choosing the new national leadership became a central matter. Accordingly, legislative elections were held in October, 2011. Against this backdrop, the purpose of this article is as follows. Firstly, it examines the electoral landscape as it serves as the crucible in which the election was held. Also theoretical issues, literature on postconflict elections, including legislative ones, are reviewed in order to situate the article within the context of scholarly literature. Secondly, the article interrogates the electoral process, from the registration of voters to the casting of ballots, within the context of the domestic Liberian political economy and security landscape, and discusses issues related to internally displaced persons and refugees. Third, the article deciphers the election results and interrogates the critical issue of electoral mechanics, and finally, the article examines the implications of the electoral outcome for postconflict peacebuilding, especially political governance. Bibliogr. [ASC Leiden abstract]

Abstract: Mali has been a battleground for more than a year now. While the armed conflict came in the aftermath of the Libyan crisis that left the regional security environment depleted, it also served as a catalyst for the collapse of state authority in Mali. This created conditions conducive for the proliferation of, and attacks by, radical religious armed groups in the northern regions of the country, including the Tuareg armed movement: the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA). But, far from being a new phenomenon, the Tuareg-led armed insurrection in the northern regions is as old as the post-colonial Malian state, and continues to pose
tremendous challenges in West Africa and the Sahel region for both regional and extra-regional actors. The recent crisis in the Sahel region is seen as one of the most serious since the end of the Cold War, with anticipated dire long-term impacts on the security of the region and beyond. While attention is predominantly focused on defeating the jihadist groups that have threatened the survival of the Malian state, one must not lose sight of the fact that the 'Tuareg Factor', as represented by the rebellion launched by MNLA, remains critical both in terms of appreciating the deterioration of the situation and attempting to frame long-lasting solutions. The paper argues that the Tuareg's persistent recourse to rebellion against Bamako needs to be understood within a historical trajectory that takes into consideration three key parameters: firstly, the post-colonial state in Mali and its African leadership's relations with the descendants of the Tuareg communities; secondly, the amalgamation created by the so-called war on terror; and, finally, the contradictions of the democratisation process of the 1990s. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Abstract: This article presents qualitative data on the reintegrating role that can be played by a traditional conflict-resolving mechanism in the eastern Hararghe zone of Oromiya regional state. The study was conducted in one of the districts of the eastern Hararghe zone where resource-based inter- and intragroup conflicts are widely observed. The data used in the study were generated from one-on-one interviews, focus group discussions, and document analysis during field work in the selected district. The study revealed that conflicts in the research site emanate from stiff competition among parties over scarce resources. Individuals' avaricious behaviour, dilemmas, and uncertainty over their subjective and objective interests create competing goals, polarised groups and tensions, which in turn lead the parties to the conflicts. The conflicts become complex and cyclical due to unaddressed animosity, fear, frustration, and anger developed among parties in conflict. The study indicated that in spite of its declining power and sphere of influence, a community-based traditional conflict resolution mechanism called 'Gumaa' plays a great role in constructively resolving the inter- and intragroup conflicts and reintegrating the conflicting parties - revitalising the socio-psychological factors which contribute to peace. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Abstract: A prevalent feature of political competition in postcolonial Africa has been the occurrence of coups and the threat of politically powerful militaries. Yet as scholars of civil-military relations on the African continent have attempted to make sense of military coups, perhaps their most obvious component - the military - has received little critical attention. Indeed, most analyses characterize the military as a dependent factor in explaining coups. This article examines Joseph Mobutu's rise to power in the Congo during the Congo Crisis by analyzing the history of the Congolese military, first from its inception as the Force Publique in 1888 then as the Armée National Congolais (ANC) between independence and Mobutu's seizure of power in 1965. By examining the Congolese military through Huntington's definition of military professionalism, this article argues that Mobutu ascended to power by exploiting his leadership position within a fragmented, ill-disciplined military. It shows that the structure, functions, and behavior of the military are key factors in understanding the development of conditions that allow for military seizures of power. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Abstract: Post-conflict elections have become an important tool of international conflict resolution over the last decades. Theoretical studies usually point out that in war-to-democracy transitions, military logics of territorial control are transformed into electoral logics of peaceful political contestation. Empirical reality, however, shows that the election process is often accompanied by various forms of violence. This paper analyses post-conflict elections in war-to-democracy
transitions by comparing support structures for conflict parties as well as their coercive mobilisation strategies in times of violent conflict and post-conflict elections. It does so through a single case study of KwaZulu-Natal. This South African province faced a civil war-scale political conflict in the 80s and early 90s in which the two fighting parties - the African National Congress (ANC) and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) - used large-scale violence to establish and protect no-go areas of territorial control. This study finds that in the first decade after South Africa's miraculous transition, these spatial structures of violence and control persisted at local levels. Violent forms of mobilisation and territorial control thus seem to be able to survive even a successful transition to democracy by many years. Measures to open up the political landscape, deescalate heated-up party antagonisms and overcome geopolitical borders of support structures seem to be crucial elements for post-conflict elections that introduce a pluralist democracy beyond the voting process. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: This article seeks to show that the emotive reconciliation project in Zimbabwe, which is currently spearheaded by the Organ on National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration (ONHRI), is not new in the Zimbabwe polity. Its incarnation under the Government of National Unity clearly indicates the inadequacies and ineffectiveness of the initial reconciliation project, which was enunciated immediately after independence in 1980. In this article the authors argue that while the notion of resuscitating reconciliation is an important step towards durable peace, this institutionalised, state-centric and state-propelled project is haunted by the very same challenges that undermined and shattered its predecessor. The authors further assert that the reconciliation and healing project, which is politically engineered and institutionally driven without being inclusive and community driven, is a mere token that comes at the expense of durable peace and the actual victims of violence and impunity. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]