



“Governance and Development: Reassessing and Reinventing Power Sharing and Decentralization in Africa” African Studies Association Workshop, Annual Meeting 2011

Hosted at American University
Founder’s Room, School of International Service
Corner of Nebraska and New Mexico Avenues, NW
Wednesday, November 16

12:00 – 12:30 Opening remarks and box lunch

- James Goldgeier, Dean, School of International Service
- Clarence Lusane, Chair, Comparative and Regional Studies
- Jeremy Meadows, USAID Bureau for Africa

12:30 – 2:00 Power-Sharing Reconsidered

Power-sharing agreements intended to bring together a broad range of political parties and stakeholders have become a familiar component of conflict resolution. New comparative research raises important questions about the efficacy and appropriateness of this inclusive governance strategy in Africa. For example, studies of Kenya and Zimbabwe suggest that power sharing might undermine democratic consolidation when adopted as a solution to flawed elections. Research from Angola, Burundi, and the DRC further suggest that power sharing agreements can lead to the resumption of conflict, depending upon elite cohesion and other internal dynamics which are little understood. What are the tradeoffs entailed in Africa’s recent power sharing agreements?

- Scott Gates, Director of the Centre for the Study of Civil War, Peace Research Institute Oslo
- Patrick Hajayandi, Lecturer, Hope Africa University, Burundi
- Imani Countess, ASA Board Member & Zimbabwe Country Director, National Democratic Institute

2:00 – 3:30 Making Decentralization Work: Comparative Lessons from Africa

During Africa’s transitions to democracy in the 1990s, reformers praised decentralization as an answer to dictatorship and an engine of the free market. Development agencies variously embraced decentralization as a means of combating corruption, or stimulating participation through community empowerment. However performance monitoring by implementers and new research by scholars reveal a mixed record. Policy makers and academics are now converging on a more cautious and holistic approach to decentralization. What are the latest lessons from Africa and beyond?

- Gina Lambricht, Asst. Professor of Political Science and Int’l Affairs, George Washington Univ.
- J. Tyler Dickovick, Associate Professor of Politics, Washington and Lee University
- Richard Asante, Research Fellow in the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana

3:30 – 5:00 Keynotes & Plenary: “Advancing Africa Policy through the Academy”

- Introduced by Carl LeVan, Assistant Professor, School of International Service
- Senator Christopher Coons, Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa (invited)
- Dr. Chloe Schwenke, USAID Africa Bureau’s Senior Advisor on Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance

5:00 – 7:00 Reception hosted by the Student Organization for African Studies

The African Studies Association (ASA) is the largest and oldest interdisciplinary professional association devoted to the study of Africa. This year nearly 1,800 people will attend its Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. As part of an effort to reach out to new constituencies and expand the dialogue with policy makers, the ASA is working with the conference’s Local Arrangements Committee to organize workshops the day before the conference formally begins.

For information: Dr. Carl LeVan (202) 885-2457 or levan@american.edu

Parking is available in the garage beneath the SIS building – for a **free permit** email crs@american.edu

Campus map: www.american.edu/aumaps/upload/campus_map.pdf