

Yorkshire African Studies Network (YASN)

University of York Launch – Friday, 18 February 2011, 10:30-5:00*

Venue: Huntington Room, King's Manor, Exhibition Square, York City Centre

States and democracy in Africa: Expectations and contestations

This one-day conference explores the relationship between African states and democratic movements.

- Do the nature of the colonial experience and the intensity of violence that accompanied it impose barriers on the achievement of democracy in the post-colonial era?
- Are there patterns in state responses to democratic pressures across different geopolitical and regional settings and across settler and non-settler societies?
- Can the pervasive violence against women that plagues many African societies and impedes democracy be overcome?
- Do political elites occupying state positions support or act as a barrier to democratic movements?
- What is the role of intellectuals, political activists and civil society movements in democratic movements?

Speakers:

- Job Akuni (University of Bradford)
- June Bam-Hutchinson (Institute for Public Understanding of the Past, York)
- Allison Drew (Department of Politics, York)
- Paul Njoroge (Centre for Applied Human Rights, York)
- Justin Pearce (St Antony's College, Oxford)
- Lars Waldorf (Centre for Applied Human Rights, York)

*Co-convened by YASN and the *Review of African Political Economy*. Special thanks to the University of York Departments of English and Politics.

This day-long event includes coffee, lunch and a wine reception. **Space is limited.** Register early by emailing allison.drew@york.ac.uk. Train fare for graduate students from YASN institutions outside York will be reimbursed.



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