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Gold cannular bracelets made at Mapungubwe (16)

MISTRA's Monthly Briefing is a newsletter from the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection. It aims to inform MISTRA's partners about the Institute's research, strategic reflections, published papers, and other news relating to the network of people and organisations committed to MISTRA's strategic engagement with the issues facing South Africa. The briefing is issued monthly.

In issue **Number#29** we report on:

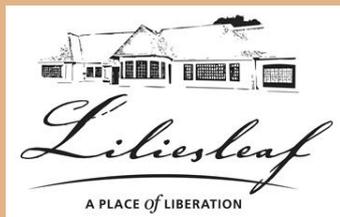
- A Roundtable on the *Role of Intellectuals in the State-Society Nexus*, scheduled to take place on 4 March 2015.
- The Workshop on Green Economy titled *Climate Change Negotiations: South Africa's Response* convened jointly by MISTRA and the Paris-based Jean Jaurès Foundation.
- A seminar by Barry Gilder at the Wits History Workshop.
- A MISTRA skafin on *Identity, Politics and Tolerance* in the wake of the attacks on Charlie Hebdo.
- A range of media articles and interviews, including "*In Lusaka, wary exiles dared to hope*" by Gaye Davis, which includes MISTRA Executive Director, Joel Netshitenzhe's memories of the reaction to the unbanning of the ANC, and "*Intrigue of Cape Town's Present*" and "*The year 2014 proved that we've lost our sense of shame*" by Mcebisi Ndletyana, Head of the Faculty of Political Economy.
- The appointment of Asanda Luwaca as MISTRA's Communications and Outreach intern.

We hope you find our Monthly Briefings informative and invite you to visit our website, where you will find more information on our research, key papers, media on MISTRA, as well as an [Expression of Interest Form](#) if you are interested in participating in any of the Institute's research projects.

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MISTRA STRATEGIC REFLECTIONS

The Roundtable on the Role of Intellectuals in the State-Society Nexus



The Mapungubwe Institute, in partnership with Liliesleaf, will host a roundtable on 'The Role of Intellectuals in the State-Society Nexus' at Liliesleaf in Rivonia, Johannesburg on **Wednesday 4th March 2015**.

The roundtable themes include:

- The intellect of power and the power of intellectuals in sub-Saharan Africa
- Theorising the South African renaissance ideal
- Humanities and social sciences in unravelling the dynamics of class, race and gender

The purpose of the roundtable is to explore the changing role of intellectuals in struggles for liberation and in the post-liberation period, with particular reference to the current South African experience. Some of the questions the roundtable will examine include:

- What is the place and role of intellectuals in the unfolding process of social change?
- Was the prominence of intellectual input into the strategic direction of society a unique character of the phase of resistance and the early period of transition to a democratic society?
- Has the role of intellectuals diminished, and is the current situation reflective of the 'normalisation' of society?
- What about the multitude of challenges that society faces which require on-going theorisation?
- What is the role of intellectuals in the nexus between the state, the market and the citizenry?

Speakers include (among others):

- Ibbo Mandaza
- Ari Sitas
- Ayanda Ntsaluba
- Ben Turok
- Tshilidzi Marwala
- Nomboniso Gasa
- Xolela Mangcu

For more information email: info@mistra.org.za

Ahmed Kathrada Foundation: Colloquium "Non-racialism at a dead end? What do the surveys say?"

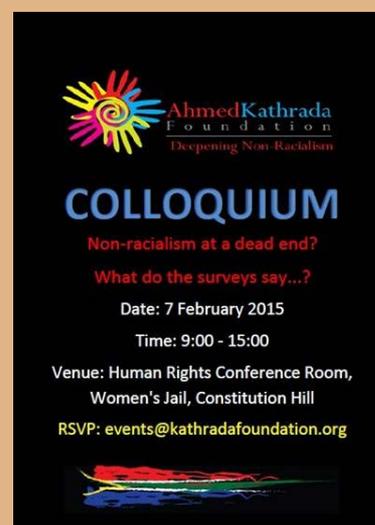
MISTRA's Director Operations, **Yacoob Abba Omar**, will present a paper on "Non-Racialism and Social Cohesion: Is ANC Failing in its Vision of a National Democratic Society?" at a colloquium on non-racialism convened by the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation.

Titled "Non-racialism at a dead end? What do the surveys say?" the colloquium stems from the findings of the **2013 Gauteng City Region Observatory (GCRO) Quality of Life survey**, which highlighted trends in the racial ruptures in South Africa today. The colloquium specifically, will address the finding that states: "Blacks and whites will never really trust each other"; a trend, which dovetails with the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation's core aim of "deepening non-racialism".

The colloquium will cover the following:

- The state of non-racialism
- Responding to the surveys
- Is a national response possible?

Colloquium date: **7 February 2015**



Venue: **Human Rights Conference Room, Women's Jail, Constitution Hill, Braamfontein**

For further information and to RSVP, please call **011 854 0082** or events@kathradafoundation.org

Workshop on the Green Economy: Climate Change Negotiations: South Africa's Response

On the 22nd January 2015 MISTRA and the Jean Jaurès Foundation (JJF) convened a workshop titled "*Climate Change Negotiations: South Africa's Response*" that explored approaches to climate change negotiations in South Africa leading up to COP21 in Paris to be held from the 30th November - 11 December 2015.



The significance of COP20 in Lima held from 1-12 December 2014 was in preparation for the conference in 2015 in Paris, which is expected to deliver a comprehensive agreement, based on the formulations of the Durban 2011 conference. The outcome and conclusions of the MISTRA/JJF workshop will be fed into the preparatory process for COP21.

As South Africa is a significant player in international climate change negotiations, the intent of this workshop was to assess the factors that impact on South Africa's elaboration of its national contribution; to analyse potential flexibilities on the various topics of the negotiations; and to understand the constraints, in particular those related to the use of coal as a source of energy, and the challenges of building a carbon market. The relationship between South Africa and other negotiating groups, such as the African Group of Negotiators and the BASIC countries, was also explored.

The conference provided an opportunity for robust debate on a range of topics, including:

- Climate change in South Africa: risks, consequences, most striking present and expected impacts in South Africa
- Challenges posed by these impacts for national development and economic activity
- Perception of these impacts and challenges by the policy-makers, the business community, the agricultural sector, and the citizens
- South Africa's response to climate change
- Mitigation - "Peak, plateau, decline" trajectory: progress and constraints in implementation; carbon tax projects: features, carbon trading system; insight from

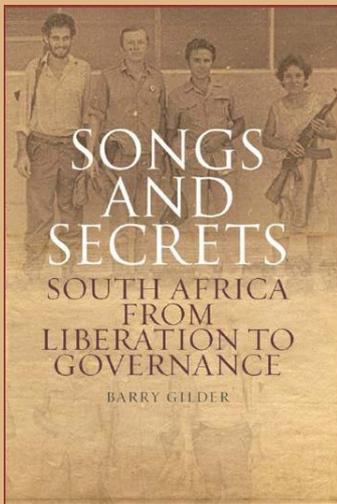
the European experience

- South Africa's position in the international negotiations
- Global goals for mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation
- South Africa's role within negotiating groups
- South Africa's ambition as a president of the G77
- South Africa's role in the African Group

Some of the attendees included:

- Gerard Fuchs, Director of the International Department, Jean Jaurès Foundation
- Richard Worthington from Project 30 by 2013
- Dominique Doyle (Energy Policy Officer at Earthlife Africa)
- Adam Simcock (Carbon Check and Designated Operational Entity - UNFCCC)
- Peta Wolpe (from Sustainable Energy Africa)
- Emily Tjale (from Land Access Movement of South Africa - LAMOSA)
- Jeffrey Barbee (Environmental Activist - The Guardian)
- Happy Khambule (Research and Policy Analyst at Project 90 by 2030)

Songs and Secrets by Barry Gilder – seminar at the History Workshop University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg



On the **18th February 2015**, Barry Gilder, MISTRA's Publication and Events Manager, will present a seminar at the Wits History Workshop on his memoir, *Songs and Secrets*.

Songs and Secrets is a frank, compelling memoir exploring the personal, political, psychological and historical realities that gave birth to the new South Africa, in particular the oft-ignored conditions in which the ANC government tried to turn apartheid around.

The History Workshop was founded in 1977, in the aftermath of the 1976 Soweto students uprising, and was granted formal recognition by the University as the History Workshop in 1984.

From the late 1990s the History Workshop broadened its activities to embrace a variety of public outreach projects all of which contained a scholarly backbone. These included published community histories, history training projects for schools, exhibitions and museums, and major public history initiatives.

The seminar by Barry Gilder is part of the History Workshop's weekly seminar series attended by postgraduate students and some academic staff in the Social Sciences/Humanities.

The workshop takes place from 13:30 to 14:30 in the Postgrad Seminar Room, Basement 1, Senate House, University of the Witwatersrand.

[For more information](#)

Skaftin on Identity, Politics, Tolerance

On the 26 January 2015 MISTRA convened a 'skaftin' (brown-bag, lunchtime discussion) on "*Identity, Politics, Tolerance*" in the wake of the attacks on Charlie Hebdo in Paris.

MISTRA's 'skaftins' are part of the Institute's informal dialogues that allow for MISTRA staff to discuss current affairs in an informal environment.

The skaftin was chaired by **Jeffrey Sehume**, Senior Researcher in the Humanity Faculty, who introduced the issue of "*Identity, Politics, Tolerance*" with an overview of orientalism and Islamophobia. MISTRA Director Operations, **Yacoob Abba Omar**, then provided further context to the issues raised by the attacks in Paris in relation to the attacks in Baga, Nigeria and Peshawar, Pakistan.

The discussion that followed included an exploration of whether there could be a single meta-narrative to the discourse, and how the debates on the Paris attacks could include issues of post-colonialism and freedom of expression. There was some debate on

funding for terrorist groups, on Islam's reaction to modernity, questions raised by the Charlie Hebdo attacks around the right to free expression versus the right to dissent as well as issues of sensibility and respect in public discourse. There was also reflection on how the language of discourse around terrorist attacks had shifted from Islamic fundamentalism, to Islamic terrorism to international terrorism.

The discussion also included some debate on a South African perspective on the Paris attacks, that took into account the country's history of armed struggle and 'terrorism', some global experience after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, as well as the rise of xenophobia and attacks on foreign nationals in South Africa and the discourses on identity that arose from them.

MISTRA IN THE NEWS

In Lusaka, wary exiles dared to hope

Elation was tempered by fear and the sense that the unbanning was real came only when Mandela was released, writes **Gaye Davis**

Zambia was just one of many countries my pariah passport had stamped in it as forbidden territory, so I'd flown in with some trepidation, lugging a typewriter, duty-free bottles of whisky and KWV 10-year-old I'd been told would be appreciated, along with a creased teletext from the ANC – my "visa". Given the multiple delegations that had beaten a path to Lusaka, customs was a breeze. My passport remained unstamped, to avoid difficult questions on my return.

No one knew when that might be. It was January 1990 and my brief was to dig in, for months if need be, to make contact with as many people as possible. On a working trip to Germany in November I'd watched the Berlin Wall coming down. Officials' questions there led me to think FW de Klerk intended to wrong-foot the ANC by suddenly announcing its unbanning.



Stretched already by gearing for negotiations and Nelson Mandela's release, with Oliver Tambo unwell and Soviet Union funding run dry, the ANC would face the added pressure of hundreds of exiles wanting to get home and set up legally.

An ancient Peugeot sedan – favoured by Lusaka's taxi drivers because it could be driven on its rims when thieves stole the tyres – took me to the low tin-roofed buildings off Cairo Road, the ANC's headquarters for all its 30 years of exile. Tom Sebina, thrust into the role of official spokesperson, added my gift of whisky to the pile of bottles in the corner of his tiny office.

Ruefully, he informed me that most of the leadership was elsewhere. From others, I learned about life in exile, the layers of secrecy and clandestine structures that meant most cadres were unaware of just how far advanced "talks about talks" were.

Thabo Mbeki was still in Stockholm on February 2, when Jeremy Cronin and Joel Netshitenzhe – then known as Peter Mayibuye – remember being among those huddled around a radio in a house in the upmarket Lusaka suburb of Roma, listening to the words that would ignite hope and fear. FW de Klerk was expected to make a big announcement when he addressed Parliament.

[To read full article](#)

Xolelwa Kashe-Katiya, MISTRA's Head of Consultancy Services, speaks on the ancient civilisation of Mapungubwe and the work of the Mapungubwe Institute.

Xolelwa Kashe-Katiya, MISTRA's Head of Consultancy Services, holds a B.Sc degree in Archeology from the University of Cape Town, an Honours degree in Physical Anthropology from the University of Pretoria and a Master of Philosophy degree in Heritage and Public Culture from the University of Cape Town's Centre

for African Studies.

In this podcast of Karibu, which is an Africa-focused weekly show on Kaya FM, she discusses the historical significance of the Kingdom of Mapungubwe and the work of the Mapungubwe Institute.

[To listen to the podcast click here.](#)



Last chance for redemption by Mcebisi Ndletyana

Unlike the calendar, social reality doesn't lend itself to being compartmentalised. The year is new in date alone. Challenges and anxieties remain unchanged.

The newness of the time, however, does offer new opportunities to try different ways of solving old problems. President Jacob Zuma talks to residents of Mandela Street in Philippi Village during a visit on January 6, 2015 in Cape Town, South Africa. Zuma visited the area as part of the run-up to the ANC's 103rd birthday celebrations which will be held in Cape Town tomorrow.

This year is effectively a second chance – before change becomes irreversible.

Just as in 2013, we're now back to a pre-election year. That was the toughest ever pre-election season for the ruling party. It just couldn't shake off the ignominy that continues to follow its scandal-prone president Jacob Zuma.

Unable to remove nor rein in his scandalous behaviour, the party directed its efforts at the institutions of state.

It sought to subvert the pillars of our democratic society in the hope that the public would believe that these institutions, not their president, had become toxic to the health of our democracy.

But, election results showed a disapproving public. Voters punished the ruling party for unethical conduct. The party's reduced majority affirmed that moral consciousness is just as valued as attending to voters' physical wants.

And, not much has changed since then.

[To read more click here](#)

Published in Dispatch Live on 9 January 2015

Sectoral approach will aid small business by Thami Mazwai

Those who blame regulations for the failure of small businesses to survive and grow are driven more by ideology than reality. It is the broader dynamics, including external factors, that matter.

All in all, regulations may or may not be part of the problem, and situations will differ. For instance, the takeover by foreigners of black businesses in rural communities and townships is, arguably, due to a lack of regulations. So the Department of Trade and Industry is rightfully talking of licensing. Obviously there are other factors, but regulations are a short-term palliative. The Free Market Foundation and its fellow travellers, without any empirical reference to the local economy or specifics, maintain that an absence of regulation is the better option.

Late last year, Nazmeera Moola of the Financial Mail also asserted that "the fundamental problem for the failure of our small business sector to take off is increasing government bureaucracy". She went on to quote the World Bank 2015 Doing Business index, showing SA slipped from 37th to 43rd out of 189 economies. Her views are baffling, because this index refers to all business, big and small.

There is plenty of research-driven evidence that shows small business is distinct from big business and often reacts differently to various dynamics. A pragmatic approach based on the reality of the environment is more likely to reverse the lamentations around small business.

Last year, Joel Netshitenzhe's Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection released a publication, *Essays on the Evolution of the Post-Apartheid State: Legacies, Reforms and Prospects*. One of the essays, "SA's embedded environmental dynamics and their impact on entrepreneurship and small business development — A critical appraisal", argues that newer strategies for small businesses will come to naught unless we take stock of the variables in the environment. It lists six variables, which is not an exhaustive list.

[To read more click here](#)

Published in Business Day Live on 28 January 2015.

MISTRA PEOPLE

Asanda Luwaca joins MISTRA as an Intern: Communications and Outreach



Asanda Luwaca has been appointed as an Intern: Communications and Outreach with effect from 5 January 2015. She is a Political Science graduate from the University of Johannesburg, majoring in Politics and Philosophy. Her student life, as well as her postgraduate endeavours, are characterised by her active participation in various organisations and community programmes like the Youth Crime Prevention Desk and the South African Youth Council, of which she has served at various levels in the leadership structures. She recently completed a short entrepreneurial course where she has acquired crucial business skills which she one day wishes to put into practice.

Asanda is a young, vibrant, ambitious person who is passionate about advancing gender equality and social justice for all. In her spare time she enjoys getting lost in the world of literature and is an avid scribe, writing about life, current affairs and everything in between.

She is currently exploring furthering her studies in politics and feels that her passion and need to do this is derived from the premise that, as a young women, an advanced education would not only benefit her community and political structures in which she serves, but would also give her an opportunity to contribute in the academic and political discourse.

Working for MISTRA would allow her to implement everything she has learned in her undergraduate studies by contributing towards the growth and betterment of the Institute. It will also enable her to learn from the MISTRA "highly-skilled" team. She is eager to learn and develop herself as an academic in this environment and is optimistic about her potential growth and opportunities within MISTRA.

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