

Research / Publications

Dr Sishuwa Sishuwa

I am a historian of southern Africa during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries with a particular interest in political history. I work on decolonisation, nationalism, political leadership, elections, ethnicity, historical biography, populism, civil society, and the challenges of state sovereignty and political sustainability in national and regional contexts.

A common thread that runs through my research is the location of contemporary political developments in a historical context, showing that the roots of contemporary democratic politics lie in the early post-colonial and even late colonial periods. Using historical biography as a methodological approach, my work has explored a number of understudied themes in southern African political history such as the roots of the strategies that political actors employ to mobilise electoral support in recent times, the interaction between racial nationalism, domestic politics and regional security concerns during the liberation struggle, the competitiveness of parliamentary elections in single party regimes and the role of patronage politics within this theme, and the importance of individual political leadership to the success of opposition parties in electoral campaigns.

Publications

Articles in refereed journals

'Defamation of the President, Racial Nationalism, and the Roy Clarke Affair in Zambia' [co-authored with D. Money] *African Affairs* (2023)

'Roots of Contemporary Political Strategies: Ethno-Populism in Zambia during the Late Colonial Era and Early 2000s', *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 47 (6), 2021:1061-1081.

'African Studies Keyword: Democracy' [co-authored with N. Cheeseman], *African Studies Review*, 64 (3), 2021: 704-732.

'Patronage Politics and Parliamentary Elections in Zambia's One-party State c. 1983-1988', *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, 14 (4), 2020: 591-612.

'Surviving on Borrowed Power: Rethinking the Role of Civil Society in Zambia's Third-term Debate', *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 46 (3), 2020: 471-490.

''A White Man Will Never Be a Zambian': Racialised Nationalism, the Rule of Law, and Competing Visions of Independent Zambia in the Case of Justice James Skinner, 1964-1969'', *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 45 (3), 2019: 503-523.

Chapters in books

'Charismatic Leadership in African Politics' in Jose Pedro Zuquete (ed.), *Routledge International Handbook of Charisma* (London: Routledge, 2020), 101-114.

"'Join Me to Get Rid of this President': The Opposition, Civil Society and Zambia's 2011 Election" in Tinenenji Banda, O'Brien Kaaba, Marja Hinfelaar and Muna Ndulo (eds.), *Democracy and Electoral Politics in Zambia* (Leiden: Brill, 2020), 11-33

Book reviews

'Review of Chin Kwang Lee, *The Specter of Global China: Politics, Labour and Foreign Investment in Africa* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017) *Zambia Social Science Journal*, 7 (1), 2018: 77-79

'Review of Miles Larmer, *Rethinking African Politics: A History of Opposition in Zambia* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2011)", *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 50 (3), 2012: 363-365.