

Humanities Research Seminar

9.30-10.30am Friday 29 March 2019

Anita Wanki presents



Image 1: Former Ghana president JJ Rawlings, <https://www.pri.org/stories/2016-01-05/ghana-s-market-women-were-once-so-powerful-they-were-targeted-coup>
Courtesy of the J.J Rawlings Archival Library and Image 2: Papa J directs traffic, 2019 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j89s7cPTReQ>

The impact of leadership on governance and security in Ghana and the Central African Republic from 1993 - 2013

The actions and policy choices of African leaders shape security, governance and sustainable development outcomes. As a multi-causal social process, political leadership is characterised by interactions between the political leader (head of state) and followers (groups, institutions, state structures) which influence the security of persons. Ghana and the Central African Republic (CAR) present similar, yet different, processes and outcomes of political leadership. On the one hand is Ghana, hailed as the beacon of effective leadership, good governance and democracy in Africa. Yet the CAR has suffered greatly from failures of governance and internecine violent conflict which are further exacerbated by deficits in the quality of leadership. This paper compares political leadership in both cases, to establish critical nexuses with the social causation of conflict and insecurity. It analyses how leaders get things done (process), what they achieve (results), as well as what they fail to get done and the implications for security. A requisite quality of leadership is to respond to human needs and address threats to security. The paper examines how the pattern of interaction between the political leader and governance processes shapes the peace and security narrative, and what criteria are needed for the political leadership that will yield security outcomes.

Anita Lum Amaanwi Wanki is a PhD candidate in Peace Studies at UNE. She holds a BSc (Hons) in Political Science from the University of Buea, Cameroon, and an MA (with Distinction) in International Politics from the Free University of Brussels, Belgium. In addition, she has undertaken four courses in peace, security governance and development in Africa. She served as a research analyst at the Brussels Center for African Studies, the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), Addis Ababa and as a research fellow at the Governance and Public Administration Division (GPAD) at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa. Her research interests include peace, human security, democratic governance and leadership in Africa.

Oorala lecture theatre, Oorala centre
Followed by morning tea - all welcome
Enquiries to: Karin von Strokirch - kvonstro@une.edu.au