Call for Papers

The southern African region has experienced a turbulent modern history. The liberation struggle was a long one, with the region struggling to overcome lingering white rule, and countries that achieved their independence found themselves confronted with a world dominated by destabilizing and often violent Cold War politics. Beyond the liberation struggle, the region faced a number of devastating armed conflicts that resulted in millions of deaths and the destruction of livelihoods and infrastructure, perhaps most notably in Mozambique, Angola and Zaire/Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Economic development and growth also remained elusive, particularly after the oil crises of the 1970s, and declining interest from the industrialized world after the end of the Cold War. Such issues have been both causes and consequences of the lack of domestic political legitimacy (as well as stability) in many cases. Many leaders/ruling parties are seen as having overstayed their welcome, and in many of the countries in the region, democratic institutions have not performed to the expectations of the people.

In part because of such bitter experiences of the past, but also because of active efforts to deal with these issues in a positive manner, southern Africa has a wealth of experience in the area of peace and security. Countries and governments have a long history of attempts at peacemaking and mediation, have accepted numerous refugees, and their armed forces have contributed to peacekeeping operations in the region and beyond. In many ways, the region appears to be slowly emerging from its bleak past – most major armed conflicts have come to a close, and economic growth that is being witnessed throughout the region will hopefully serve as a stabilizing influence. But the issue of political legitimacy and the weakness of democratic institutions remains troubling, and pockets of armed conflict continue.

Southern African Peace and Security Studies (SAPSS) is an academic journal established in 2012 to serve as a forum for discussion on these issues. It is designed to be the flagship publication for the Southern African Centre for Collaboration on Peace and Security (SACCPS). The Centre, which began its activities in 2011 as a virtual one, will soon take on the form of an actual physical centre, to be based in Lusaka, Zambia. The journal is an open access journal published online twice a year in June and December, and includes academic articles, policy briefs and book reviews.

The deadline for the submission of manuscripts for Vol. 1 No. 2 is 1 October 2012.

Submit manuscripts to info@saccps.org, following the instructions outlined below.
Instructions for Authors

Southern African Peace and Security Studies (SAPSS) publishes rigorous theoretical and empirical research in all areas of peace and security studies in Africa, with a particular focus on practical policy-oriented research. The journal will also address evolving developments within the discipline. Each issue will normally contain a mixture of peer-reviewed research articles, policy briefs and reviews. SAPSS is an open access journal and all articles published are available online.

Articles should address critical themes or case analyses and must be contextualized within the scholarly and policy literature and existing debates on peace and security in Africa. SAPSS accepts academic articles of between 6,000 and 8,000 words (including endnotes and bibliographical references), policy briefs of between 1,500 and 2,000 words, and book reviews of up to 800 words.

SAPSS will only accept manuscripts submitted as e-mail attachments, with the text in a single Microsoft Word or OpenOffice Word Processor file (single-spaced using Times Roman font, 12pt.) and tables/figures attached separately (in a single e-mail). Submit manuscripts to info@saccps.org. The e-mail to which the manuscript is attached should serve as the cover letter, and should include the corresponding author's full address and telephone/fax numbers. The name of the the files that are the manuscript and figures/tables should begin with the first author's surname.

References

Articles should follow the Harvard system of referencing. References should be inserted into the appropriate place in the text indicating the source of a quote, data or opinion, which consists of a name and a date, and a page number where relevant, eg. “(Ngoma 2005: 24)”. In cases where there are more than two authors, only the first author’s name should be mentioned, followed by 'et al'. The details of all of the references should be organized in alphabetic order at the end of the text (see below). The accuracy of the references is the responsibility of authors. Footnotes should be used sparingly.

Examples:

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All manuscripts are reviewed by an editor and members of the Editorial Board and outside reviewers who shall have expertise on the area. The journal will endeavor to respond to prospective authors and communicate all decisions as swiftly as possible.

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