

**POPULAR MOVEMENTS
AND
THE STRUGGLES FOR A JUST TRANSITIONS
IN THE CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL SOUTH**

Preparatory Workshop

Narrative Report
March 2023

Supported by



Project Implementer and Research Collaborators



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1.0 Introduction

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India, ActionAid Association India, the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa), and the Global Partnership Network (GPN), Kassel University (Germany) entered into a partnership to implement a project on the 2023, “**Popular movements and the struggles for a just transitions in the contemporary global south**”. The Sam Moyo African Institute for Agrarian Studies (SMAIAS) and the Agrarian South Network were brought in as research collaborators under the project. The main aims of the project are:

1. To bring together scholars and activists in order to understand the diverse perspectives on pathways to just transitions.
2. To establish a network of tri-continental scholars and activists in order to understand the contemporary challenges facing popular movements struggling towards a just transition.
3. To generate a repository of books and articles from these interactions in order to add to the contemporary debate on these questions.
4. To consider the possibilities of expansion of the network of researchers/activists on the themes outline in the project.

The specific objectives were to broaden the conceptual understanding of Popular Movements Today, amongst young scholars and civil society activists in the Global South. This report outlines the preparatory workshop undertaken to achieve the aims of the project and the results achieved.

The preparatory workshop attempted to mobilise papers that study the problem of social mobilization embedded in a larger strategy to achieve a non-capitalist alternative, seeking rural-urban unity among working people and oppressed groups, and thinking strategically on the vexing issues of state power and North-South solidarity.

As the pandemic took a twist and calming down its impacts, inter-state movement restrictions were eased up, with countries such as China that experienced the severity of the crisis, and with the toughest pandemic control policies in place, lifting Zero-Covid policy in December 2022. From this, it appeared crystal clear that it was time to revert back to the old normal of holding meetings occupying physical spaces as has been the tradition. Nonetheless, as most countries were still recovering and re-adjusting from the new normal, the organising committee had to rethink ways to convene the preparatory workshop.

To this end, implementing partners, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India, ActionAid Association India, the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) came to a common ground and agreed to organize preparatory workshop that accommodates both physical and virtual participants concurrently, which they called a hybrid event. This unique arrangement served to maintain the debates and momentum active under harsh economic conditions while also providing a platform for collective learning experience among researchers, scholars and activists situated across the world. In collaboration SMAIAS and the Agrarian South Network, the preparatory workshop was organised.

About the Preparatory Workshop

The preparatory workshop was to mobilise papers is a way to influence South-South and African-wide agrarian research and to promote relevant knowledge and collaborative scholarship in policy analyses around the question of agrarian transformation in the global South. The call for papers was directed to scholars and activists from the Asia, Africa and Latin America in order to capture new research and diverse perspectives. Popular responses to the ecological crisis have generally been led by rural-based movements for land and agrarian reform, women's movements, traditional and indigenous people's movements, and certain broader political forces spanning the rural-urban divide and struggling for racial, social, economic, and environmental justice. This diversity also spans a broad operational and ideological spectrum, from diffused, localized, low-profile struggles, to radical land movements and armed struggles with an autonomist or national liberation perspective, to social justice movements employing constitutional means in defence of alternative modes of living, social organization, production, and consumption. The historic questions concerning the social base, leadership, strategy, tactics, ideology, and international alliances of such movements remain on the table and are key to understanding the challenges and possibilities ahead.

The preparatory work was conducted by implementing partners - Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India, ActionAid Association India, the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) - to shortlist articles and have an exchange of perspective. The outcomes was the selection of researches that would add to the existing literature on the subject by generating knowledge on the questions related to pathways to just transition, within the long history of capitalism.

2.0 Activities implemented to attain project objectives

Since the crisis of the 1970s, tectonic shifts have been occurring in the world economy. On the one hand, general decolonization in the Third World entered its most advanced phase. Alongside an autonomous Soviet bloc, the emergence of the non-aligned movement forged at Bandung presented a robust challenge to monopoly capitalism. On the other hand, monopoly capitalism relaunched its global strategy by means of new forms of financialization, new leaps in technology and logistics, the generalization of global value systems, and the escalation of competition over energy resources, minerals, and agricultural land. The historic outcome of this contradiction was, in the first instance, the neutralization of the Bandung movement, followed by the integration of the Soviet bloc into the world economy and its disintegration. Most of the world's peripheral countries succumbed to new patterns of dependent integration into the world economy under the control of monopoly-finance capital. The global neoliberal policy framework that prevailed consolidated the general neocolonial transition. Profound shifts in industrial production also occurred, however, in the direction especially of China, to create a new major fault line. China rowed against the current with advanced planning mechanisms in expanding markets, to develop its productive forces at a rapid pace with substantial autonomy from imperialism, and even to eradicate absolute poverty. This experience of China renewed hopes in the South for breaking out of the neocolonial impasse.

Yet, the conditions of work in the peripheries have continued to deteriorate under the same tectonic shifts. As argued in our collective assessments published in the last decade, in *Reclaiming the Nation* and *Reclaiming Africa*, dependent integration and national disintegration have been two sides of the same coin.¹ Importantly, the rural exodus has continued to accelerate, swelling the ranks of the world's labour reserves. This fact alone will weigh heavily over the twenty-first century. Limited absorption capacity in the urban peripheries has created a floating and marginalized population on a mass scale, living and working in perpetual informality and insecurity, among them, first and foremost, historically oppressed peoples and women. Our assessment has been reaffirmed in more recent research published in *Labour Questions* in the

¹ S. Moyo & P. Yeros (eds), *Reclaiming the Nation: The Return of the National Question in Africa, Asia and Latin America* (Pluto Books, 2011), and S. Moyo, P. Jha & P. Yeros (eds.), *Reclaiming Africa: Scramble and Resistance in the 21st Century* (Springer, 2019).

Global South and Farming and Working under Contract.² The deteriorating conditions in peripheral social formations have undermined the exercise of sovereignty itself, rendering societies vulnerable to fundamentalist ideologies, whether of the Christian, Islamic, Hindu, or other traditions, as well as imperialist encroachment and intervention.

This structural transition has altered the terrain of class struggle on a world scale. Class struggle has always been multifarious. However, the massive growth of labour reserves in the peripheries, straddling town and country, has established a new reality. It is not the case that a purity of class consciousness and organizational form may be postulated a priori within linear stages of development. In the peripheries, the struggles of working people today span a wide range of trajectories, stemming from the diverse realities of work and social reproduction and the diverse forms of oppression, including patriarchy and racial and caste supremacy, that serve to divide and rule these semi-peasant, semi-proletarian social formations. Working people thus wage diverse struggles: for land and territory for production, residence, and social reproduction; for markets and credit for petty production and distribution; for dignified work, wages, and pensions; for free basic social services and public infrastructure; for healthy environment and safe and nutritious food; and for peace and protection from state violence and the supremacist and patriarchal structures.

Earlier collaborative work on social movements, published in *Reclaiming the Land*, also showed that the neoliberal assault on the peasantry had not resolved the agrarian question but had intensified the struggle for land.³ This evidently applies to the urban question as well.⁴ It was further argued that rural movements had become an organizing centre for the semi-proletariat, but that these movements were very diverse in their ideologies, tactics, strategies, and internationalism. This diversity was compounded in many cases by the defeat and/or cooptation of liberation movements and communist parties into parliamentary politics and the nefarious

² P. Jha, W. Chambati & L. Ossome (eds), *Labour Questions in the Global South* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), and P. Jha, P. Yeros, W. Chambati & F. Mazwi (eds), *Farming and Working under Contract: Peasants and Workers in Global Agricultural Value Systems* (Tulika, 2022).

³ S. Moyo & P. Yeros (eds), *Reclaiming the Land: The Resurgence of Rural Movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America* (Zed Books, 2005), republished as *Recuperando la Tierra: El Resurgimiento de Movimientos Rurales en África, Asia y América Latina* (CLACSO, 2008).

workings of neoliberalism. Rural and other social forces were thus compelled to seek an ‘autonomous’ path, but also one in which the NGOization of politics was an overwhelming force in itself. With few exceptions at the time – such as the Zapatistas in Mexico, the FARC in Colombia, the War Veterans in Zimbabwe – these organizing centres were facing cooptation. These insights of Reclaiming the Land remain relevant today.

Nonetheless, a reassessment of popular movements is in order, including social movements, trade unions, and political parties. Such a reassessment twenty years later must take into consideration the evolving structural conditions, as well as the evolving rural-urban relations and the urban-based popular movements themselves. It must also take into account the advance of fundamentalism which has found fertile terrain in the burgeoning labour reserves and which have, in a number of cases, propelled the rise of fascism under the wing of foreign and domestic monopolies. Similar organic transformations have undermined the exercise of national sovereignty everywhere. The consequences for regional cooperation and international solidarity have also been grave. In substantial swathes of Southern regions, such as the North Africa, the Sahel, the Horn, West Asia, the Caribbean, state fracture and foreign occupation under imperialist forces or their proxies have again relegated countries to a semi-colonial situation. Foreign military bases, especially of the United States and NATO forces, have retained or expanded their presence in most regions of the world, with few exceptions, while unilateral sanctions regimes and destabilization campaigns have continued to present enormous challenges to popular movements. The current conflict in Ukraine is the latest flashpoint whose dimensions are still to be measured but which has all the elements of a tipping point in these tectonic shifts, including a nuclear stand-off.

It is within this context that the project identified **Popular movements and the struggles for a just transitions in the contemporary global south** as the specific theme for the project with the support of GPN. The project sought to contribute to the above reassessment of popular movements and deepen knowledge of their trajectories and the challenges that they face today.

3.1 Preparatory Workshop: Implementation process

The Implementing partners - Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India, ActionAid Association India, the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)- identified the intellectual coordination team to lead the preparatory Workshop from amongst the key members of the Agrarian South Network (ASN). The team comprised of Praveen Jha and Archana Prasad (Jawaharlal Nehru University, India), Sandeep Chachra (ActionAid Association, India) Lyn Ossome and Devan Pillay (WITS), Paris Yeros (University of Federal do ABC, Brazil), Issa Shivji (Nyerere Resource Centre, Tanzania), and Dzodzi Tsikata (University of Ghana), and Walter Chambati (SMAIAS),. The preparatory workshop is therefore built around the partnerships leveraged within the ASN.

The preparatory workshop was structured into six major panels and 3 round table sessions over five days and involved the 6th Sam Moyo Memorial lecture by Emeritus Prof. Utsa Patnaik from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India titled *The Many Republics of Hunger: Revisiting History and Exploring Poverty Reduction in the Global South* held on the first day.

Since this year's proceedings were in a hybrid format, all the sessions were starting at 13:00 CAT ending at 17:30 CAT to accommodate virtual participants across the globe. Six major panels were convened and three roundtables held on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday focusing on Perspectives on the World Capitalist Crisis, Popular Movements and International Solidarity and Global Agriculture Value System book launch respectively. To ensure high-quality panels with broader group of participants across various continents, all the panel sessions by young scholars and civil society comprised of a discussant and a moderator (see Annex 2.1). The speakers were obliged to share their full draft papers in advance before the preparatory workshop to give ample time for reviewers. The speakers included young scholars and activists who were selected from amongst those who submitted abstracts (around 26).

3.1.1 Identification of resource persons

The implementing team, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India, ActionAid Association India, the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) identified and commissioned senior scholars/resource persons from various academic institutions and NGO's from the Global South to design and take part in the preparatory workshop. The persons were drawn from universities,

NGO's and research centres in Southern Africa, West Africa, and East Africa, as well as from leading scholars in Agrarian Studies from Asia, and Latin America in order to provide a comparative perspective across the Global South (Annex 2.1a).

3.1.2 Identification of participants

The implementing partners, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India, ActionAid Association India, the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) held a series of preparatory virtual meetings to develop the concept note. This was followed by issuing out a call for participation to the 2023 calling for abstracts on the broad theme from young scholars and civil society activists across the Global South (Annex 3.1). Through another virtual meeting, the ASN selected abstracts across geographic gender, age, and disciplinary boundaries basing on their merit as well as the need to ensure equal participation. This was followed by two more virtual meetings held to develop the preparatory workshop programme in 2023. A total of 22 presenters, in the following categories young scholars/ postgraduate students (17), civil society activists (4) and 1 senior scholar participated in the 6 panels alongside 9 senior scholars, one civil society activist and 2 young scholars in the 3 roundtables. All the participants were drawn from the three regions of the Global South, namely Africa, Asia, and Latin America (Table 3-1).

Table 3.1: 2023 Preparatory Workshop Participants

I D	Region / Country	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
	SOUTHERN AFRICA	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS				
1	Mozambique	1	1	1	1	1
2	South Africa	6	6	6	6	6
3	Zambia	1	1	1	1	1
4	Zimbabwe	5	6	6	6	6
	<i>Sub total</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>13</i>
	<i>Percent</i>	28.8	28.8	28.8	28.8	28.8
	EAST AFRICA					
5	Tanzania	2	2	2	2	2
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>4.4</i>				
	WEST AFRICA					
8	Mali	1	1	1	1	1
9	Ghana	2	2	2	2	2
	<i>Sub total</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>
	<i>Percent</i>	6.6				
	CENTRAL AFRICA					
	Angola	1	1	1	1	1
	<i>Percent</i>	2.2				
	NORTH AFRICA					

12	Tunisia	4	4	4	4	4
	Morocco	1	1	1	1	1
	<i>Sub total</i>	5	5	5	5	5
	<i>Percent</i>	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1
	ASIA					
14	India	7	7	6	6	6
15	Indonesia	1	1	1	1	1
16	Japan	1	1	1	1	1
	Kazakhstan	1	1	1	1	1
20	Philippines	1	1	1	1	1
	<i>Sub total</i>	11	11	11	11	11
	<i>Percent</i>	24.4	24.4	24.4	24.4	24.4
	LATIN AMERICA					
23	Argentina	1	1	1	1	1
24	Brazil	7	7	6	6	6
	<i>Sub total</i>	8	8	8	8	8
	<i>Percent</i>	17.7	17.7	17.7	17.7	17.7
	NORTH AMERICA					
27	USA	1	1	1	1	1
	<i>Percent</i>	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
	EUROPE					
32	Germany	1	1	1	1	1
	<i>Percent</i>	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
	GRAND TOTAL	45	45	43	43	43

Although the preparatory workshop was a hybrid proceeding, participation was not widely open to all the sessions, except for the Round table sessions and the Memorial Lecture which accommodated open access across the globe through facebook and zoom. The first round table was followed by over 900 people on Facebook whereas the second and third round table attracted 700 participants and 650 participants respectively. The Sam Moyo Memorial Lecture attracted 1800 views on Facebook and 120 participants on webinar.

As highlighted in table 3.1 above, participation representation was spanning across African countries (South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, Mali), Asia (India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines and



Kazakhstan), Latin America (Argentina, Brazil), North America (USA) and Europe (Germany,). A total of 45 people attended the workshop. Since this was a virtual, categorisation by class was difficult to capture for the general participants (Table 3.1).



3.1.3 Convening of the Preparatory Workshop

The Preparatory Workshop was convened from the 16th until the 20th of January 2023 as a hybrid proceeding which encompassed both physical and virtual platform with a total of 43 presenters, including panel sessions and roundtables. Table 3-2 shows the distribution of the papers according to the themes and class of participant. More papers were presented by young scholars (69.8%) followed by senior scholars (20.9%) and civil society activists (9.3%).

Table 3.2: 2023 preparatory workshop Presentations

Theme	No. and % of presentations							
	Senior Scholars		Young Scholars		Activists		Total	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Round Table 1: Perspectives on the World Capitalist Crisis	4	100	0	0	0	0	4	100
Panel 1: Challenges of working people's organisation	0	0	4	80	1		5	
Panel 2: Agrarian social movements	0		5	71.4	2		7	
Panel 3: Urban land struggles	0	0	5	100			5	
Panel 4: Race, indigeneity & gender in land struggles	0	0	4	100	0	0	4	
Round Table 2: Popular movements & international solidarity	2	40	2	40	1	20	5	100
Round Table 3: Book Launch-Global agricultural value systems	2	66.7	1	33.3	0	0	3	100
Panel 5: Rural struggles for land and secure tenure	0	0	3	100	0	0	3	100
Panel 6: Challenges of working people's organization II	1	14.3	6	85.7	0	0	7	100
Total	9	20.9	30	69.8	4	9.3	43	100

About 44.5% of the participants at the workshop were females. The continuous improvement in female participation is a result of how various channels of networking among peers and also deliberate strategies of encouraging and promoting wider applications across various regions in the global south by female scholars and activists by the key members of the ASN .

Table 3-3: Participation by gender

Region	No. (%) of participants	Gender (%)	
		Male	Female
Africa	24 (53.3)	26.6	22.2
Asia	11 (24.4)	15.5	8.8
Latin America	8 (17.8)	13.3	4.4
Europe	1 (2.2)	0	2.2
North America	1 (2.2)	0	2.2
Total	45 (100)	55.4	44.5

3.1.4 Post Preparatory Workshop

3.1.4.1 Production of Preparatory Workshop Recordings

In the quest to widely disseminate the Preparatory Workshop proceedings, was also available online. Due to limited resources, the videos could not cover the other panel sessions. All the recordings have been edited and produced, and were shared on the various media platforms such as website of the Agrarian South Network and SMAIAS, twitter and facebook to accommodate those who missed the live proceedings and also to promote continuous re-engagement of the material by the general public.

4.0 Results achieved from the Preparatory Workshop and collaborative research

The results achieved from the implementation of the project include:

4.1 Networking enhanced

In 2023, the ASN network has stretched beyond the traditional Global South regions and countries expanding into new ones such as Kazakhstan, Morocco, Angola, Argentina, Indonesia, and breaking the horizon to the European countries such as Switzerland, and Netherlands among others, thus broadening its influence and relevance. The expansion has enabled the ASN to capitalise by mobilising additional researches from amongst the new young participants. The hybrid platform which accommodated both physical participants and virtual has further improved the ASN to broaden its popularity and influence due to the flexibility nature of the arrangement giving room for easy accessibility to resource constrained participants, as was highlighted during

the evaluation feedback by some participants (see Annex 4.1) expressing enthusiasm for joining the Preparatory Workshop with much ease. However, beyond the preparatory workshop, the ASN has managed to keep afloat other critical components such as collaborative events (workshops, seminars and policy dialogues), research, and journal publishing which have remained very key in enhancing the network. Although the previous two years (2021 and 2022) did not allow the ASN key member to meet physically, the 2023 preparatory workshop allowed the better part of the team to meet physically, and also accommodating a few members who could not travel to Harare through the virtual platform. The members managed to organise and conduct a meeting to steer and shape the strategic direction of the network, including future planning for research and support to the advocacy initiatives of CSO activists. The last two years, although they came as challenges in terms of physical restrictions and network instability, resulted in innovations on alternative ways of doing things, and sharpening our skills in various areas such as information technology.

Through preparatory workshop and various engagement born out of it such as the study groups, the *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy* continue to grow. From 2023, the journal will publish a special issue with articles selected from those that was submitted during the call for papers and during the workshop.

The implementing partners - Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India, ActionAid Association India, the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)- continue to leverage on its partnerships with Universities (Dar es Salaam, Ghana, JNU-India, UFABC Brazil) and CSOs (ActionAid International, TCOE, Zimbabwe Land Network, Tanzania Land Alliance, Hakiardhi and Tshisimani Centre for Activist Education) which continue to serve as critical pillars of strength knowledge creation and sharing learning through human and financial resource mobilisation. The Agrarian Networks remains a successful platform in the Global South to improve research, exchanges of ideas, networking, and experiences as well as to promote scholarship and publishing in the Global South.

4.2 Knowledge accumulation and understanding of the agrarian question

The 2023 preparatory Workshop improved knowledge accumulation and a broader understanding of **“Popular movements and the struggles for a just transitions in the contemporary global south”** among civil society actors and young scholars. The Memorial lecture by Prof. Utsa Patnaik, the three Roundtables by senior scholars and debates at the 2023 preparatory workshop proceedings contributed to the reassessment of popular movements deepening knowledge of their trajectories and their contemporary challenges on how they shape up the agrarian question.

4.3 Broader impacts of the Preparatory Workshop

The preparatory workshop positively yielded results by the wider participation which spanned beyond just the Global South. Furthermore, participation and engagements by the senior and younger scholars and civil society actors beyond the Global South successfully impact intended audience and beyond. The programme received higher demand across the Global South and beyond by some young scholars and civil society activist willing to self-sponsor their participation and also the support being granted to some scholars by various institutions to participate reveals the relevance and recognition of the programme and its impact. An internal Monitoring and Evaluation (see annex 4.1) which is usually conducted as the last session on the final day of the preparatory workshop, but due to the nature of the hybrid programme, virtual participants attended to this post the session, were missed. Nevertheless, this remains a critical tool for measuring the impact of workshops. This evaluation highlighted how the preparatory workshop was of importance in shaping the participants activism and scholarship. Below are excerpts from some of the participants:

- Feedbacks and comments about the paper and research helped a lot to the orientation of my work.
- The introductory speeches and comments of the preparatory workshop organizers, the Chairs and moderators as well as the lecture by Prof. Utsa Patnaik were very insightful and educative. The quality of the presentations and the diversity of geographical coverage of the presented papers (covering Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Central Asia) were also on point. All comments and feedback received post my presentation are helpful,

valuable, and thought-provoking and undoubtedly help me to improve further my research paper.

- What I liked the most are the sharp, critical, and candid assessments, comments, and recommendations by the discussants and panellists on the participants' paper presentations that exhibit an appropriate mix of rigor, conceptual clarity, and theoretical commitments. I admire their unrepentant historical materialist vantage point, which in the past I have only encountered by reading the journal and recent books on the national and agrarian questions. It is another thing to see this commitment live even if only via zoom.
- I appreciate the constant reminder when talking about social movements of the dangers of imputing the author's own theoretical framework on the actual conception and practice of those struggling on the ground. I like the warnings against creating seemingly countless new notions, as is fashionable in academia, especially if they do not elucidate a social phenomenon conceptually and therefore only add to the noise. I especially like the comment on the need to view particular economic realities and collective struggles as they interlock with wider global, national, and class contexts rather than mere isolated events that happen locally otherwise, they just become "anthropological spectacles."
- The range of topics which were discussed and the pluralistic and inter-disciplinary nature of the conference topic were excellent, and also the presentations and the insights derived from them.
- Contemporary themes and global watch of comparative experiences presented were educative.
- The thematic coherence and preparation of written papers was excellent.

It is expected that the young scholars and activists will use the information shared in the preparatory workshop to advance the socio-economic struggles and organising resistance alliances in their communities.

At least four papers presented at the 2023 preparatory workshop will be selected for development into articles for a special issue of the Agrarian South Journal of Political Economy, and others channelled to the ASN Research Bulletin.

5.0 Involvement of women and youth in project activities

There has been a steady growth of women's participation. Regarding the overall composition of participants, 69.8 percent were youths drawn from postgraduate students 9.3 percent were activists. Young scholars constituted close to seventy per cent of the presentations heard at the 2023 preparatory workshop. The scholars were drawn from various universities and research centres across the Global South, Europe and North America. These included Uganda (Makerere University) Ghana (University of Ghana), Tanzania (University of Dar es salaam), Angola (University of Agostinho, Neto), South Africa (University of Western Cape; University of Witwatersrand), Malawi (University of Malawi) Zambia (University of Zambia) India (Jawaharlal Nehru University JNU), Indonesia (University of Indonesia), Kazakhstan (Nazarbayev University), Brazil (Federal University of ABC, University of Sao Paulo, University of Brasilia), Argentina (National University of Villa Maria), Netherlands (Utrecht University), Germany (Kassel University), Switzerland (Geneva Graduate Institute) and USA (City University of New York).

6.0 Lessons learnt and challenges encountered in project implementation

The key lessons that have been learnt from implementing the preparatory workshop are:

- The importance of investing in IT infrastructure to maintain capacity for the dissemination of knowledge through virtual communication to circumvent experiences which limit occupying physical spaces, such as the post lock-downs brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It is possible to hold hybrid events, in both physical and virtual set ups as a measure to accommodate the participants who might not be able to meet physically due to various reasons.
- The multi-disciplinary approach adopted by the agrarian preparatory workshop is critical in enhancing knowledge of new theoretical frameworks by young scholars and civil society actors from various academic backgrounds.
- The mixed approach which allows the collaboration of senior scholars with young scholars and civil society activists in writing research reports and journal articles provides a sense of ownership of the Agrarian South Network.

Challenges

- The planning phase was a challenge, since it was the first time preparing for a hybrid preparatory workshop.
- Securing resources to adequately cover the preparatory workshop was the main challenge, which however brought the need to convene a hybrid programme instead of a full physical event.
- The limited time imposed by holding the proceedings virtually resulted in limited time for discussions.

ANNEXURE

Annex 1.1:

Preparatory Workshop programme – January 2023

16–20 January, Harare & Online

“Popular movements and the struggles for a just transitions in the contemporary global south”

MONDAY 16th

Welcome: Joshua Nyoni, SMAIAS

Opening Remarks: Walter Chambati, SMAIAS & Praveen Jha, JNU

ROUNDTABLE 1

Chair: Issa Shivji, UDSM,

Perspectives on the World Capitalist Crisis

Register on Zoom: bit.ly/3WORoNM · Tune in Livestream: lnk.bio/agrariansouth · GMT: 11:00–13:00

Ciudad de Mexico 05:00–07:00 · Kingston 06:00–08:00 · La Paz 07:00–09:00 · Brasilia 08:00–10:00

Accra 11:00–13:00 · Tunis 12:00–14:00 · Harare/Joburg 13:00–15:00 · Dar es Salaam 14:00–16:00

Kabul 15:30–17:30 · New Delhi 16:30–18:30 · Hanoi 18:00–20:00 · Beijing 19:00–21:00

- Praveen Jha, JNU, India
- Immanuel Ness, City University of New York
- Sit Tsui, Southwest University, China
- Paris Yeros, UFABC, Brazil

PANEL 1

Chair: Marcelo Rosa, UFRRJ,
Brazil

Challenges of Working People's Organization I

Discussant: Freedom Mazwi, SMAIAS

Register on Zoom: bit.ly/3ij5Les · GMT: 13:30–15:30

Ciudad de Mexico 07:30–09:30 · Kingston 08:30–10:30 · La Paz 09:30–11:30 · Brasilia 10:30–

12:30 Accra 13:30–15:30 · Tunis 14:30–16:30 · Harare/Joburg 15:30–17:30 · Dar es Salaam
16:30–18:30

Kabul 18:00–20:00 · New Delhi 19:00–21:00 · Hanoi 20:30–22:30 · Beijing 21:30–23:30

- ‘Popular economy’ and the Subject of Social Change
Hugo Rodrigo Serra, National University of Villa Maria (UNVM), Argentina
- Agrarian Distress and Resistance: A Social Reproduction Reading of three Tunisian Rural Peripheries
Dhouha Djerbi, Haythem Smida-Guesmi & Aymen Amayed, Geneva Graduate Institute's Political Science and International Relations
- Landless Popular Power: The MST's New ‘Popular Agrarian Reform’ Program in Brazil
Rafael Soriano, Federal University of ABC, Brazil

**6TH SAM MOYO MEMORIAL
LECTURE**

**Bronte Hotel, Harare
18:00**

Chair: Praveen Jha, JNU

Register on Zoom: bit.ly/3EY63i8 · Tune in Livestream: lnk.bio/agrariansouth · GMT: 16:00–18:00

*Ciudad de Mexico 10–12:00 · Kingston 11–13:00 · La Paz 12–14:00 · Brasília 13–
15:00 Accra 16–18:00 · Tunis 17–19:00 · Harare/Joburg 18–20:00 · Dar es Salaam
19–21:00*

Kabul 20:30–22:30 · New Delhi 21:30–23:30 · Hanoi 23–01:00 · Beijing 24-02:00

The Many Republics of Hunger: Revisiting History and Exploring ‘Poverty Reduction’ in the Global South

Utsa Patnaik, Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

TUESDAY 17th

PANEL 2

*Chair: Walter Chambati, SMAIAS,
Zimbabwe*

Agrarian Social Movements

Discussant: Lyn Ossome, Wits University

Register on Zoom: bit.ly/3WLPEoC · GMT: 11:00–13:00

*Ciudad de Mexico 05:00–07:00 · Kingston 06:00–08:00 · La Paz 07:00–09:00 · Brasília 08:00–
10:00 Accra 11:00–13:00 · Tunis 12:00–14:00 · Harare/Joburg 13:00–15:00 · Dar es Salaam
14:00–16:00*

Kabul 15:30–17:30 · New Delhi 16:30–18:30 · Hanoi 18:00–20:00 · Beijing 19:00-21:00

- The Rural Agrarian Imaginaries and the Rural Base of Popular Movement in the Kashmir Valley
Ahmad Shaafi, CERD Foundation, Jammu and Kashmir
- Family Farming and the Struggle for Land in the Brazilian ‘Capital of Agribusiness’, Sarriso, MT
Luiz Felipe F.C. de Farias, University of São Paulo, Brazil
- Agrarian Politics, Labour and Crises of Social Reproduction: Understanding Agrarian Social Movements, Rural Politics and Resistance in Eastern and Southern
Boaventura Monjane, Nduduzo Majozi, Ashley Fischhoff & Constance Mogale, Univ. W. Cape

PANEL 3

Chair: Sandeep Chachra, ActionAid India

Urban Land Struggles

Discussant: Mazibuko Jara, Pathways Institute, South Africa

Register on Zoom: bit.ly/3GJOapl · GMT: 13:30–15:30

Ciudad de Mexico 07:30–09:30 · Kingston 08:30–10:30 · La Paz 09:30–11:30 · Brasilia 10:30–12:30
Accra 13:30–15:30 · Tunis 14:30–16:30 · Harare/Joburg 15:30–17:30 · Dar es Salaam 16:30–18:30

Kabul 18:00–20:00 · New Delhi 19:00–21:00 · Hanoi 20:30–22:30 · Beijing 21:30–23:30

- From Land Occupation to Housing Cooperatives: Direct Actions by Jakarta's Urban Poor
Bosman Batubara, Noer Fauzi Rachman, Guntoro, Joko Adianto & Herily, Utrecht University, Universitas Padjadjaran, Urban Poor Consortium, Universitas Indonesia
- Neo-nationalism and the Right to the City in Tanzania
Sabatho Nyamasenda, University of Dar es Salam

WEDNESDAY 18th

PANEL 4

Chair: Freedom Mazwi, SMAIAS

Race, Indigeneity & Gender in Land Struggles

Discussant: Paris Yeros, UFABC

Register on Zoom: bit.ly/3WSXSel · GMT: 11:00–13:00

Ciudad de Mexico 05:00–07:00 · Kingston 06:00–08:00 · La Paz 07:00–09:00 · Brasilia 08:00–10:00
Accra 11:00–13:00 · Tunis 12:00–14:00 · Harare/Joburg 13:00–15:00 · Dar es Salaam 14:00–16:00

Kabul 15:30–17:30 · New Delhi 16:30–18:30 · Hanoi 18:00–20:00 · Beijing 19:00–21:00

- Quilombos, Territories, Gender and Inequalities in Brazil
Givânia Maria da Silva, University of Brasília
- Understanding Plachimada's Rift: The Ecological Crisis that Shut Down the Cola Factory
Sneha Najeeb, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- Brazilian Amazon Rainforest as Contention Target: The Fight of Indigenous People for Autonomy and Territory
Luciana P. Benetti & Leonardo Freire, Federal University of ABC, Brazil
- Archana Prasad, JNU, India
- Sandeep Chachra, ActionAid, India
- Jemima Pierre, UCLA, USA
- Max Ajl, Univ. of Ghent & OSAE, Tunisia
- Mamadou Goïta, Mali

THURSDAY 19th

ROUNDTABLE 3 / BOOK LAUNCH

Chair: Dzodzi Tsikata, *Univ. of Ghana & SOAS*

Global Agricultural Value Systems

The Phantom of Upgrading in Agricultural Supply Chains: A Cross-Country Cross-Crop Comparison of Smallholders, Ismail Doga Karatepe & Christoph Scherrer (Eds) • Baden-Baden, Nomos (2021)

Farming and Working under Contract: Peasants and Workers in Global Agricultural Value Systems,

Praveen Jha, Paris Yeros, Walter Chambati & Freedom Mazwi (Eds) • New Delhi, Tulika Books (2022)

Register on Zoom: bit.ly/3vHlgzT · Tune in Livestream: lnk.bio/agrariansouth · GMT: 11:00–13:00

Ciudad de Mexico 05:00–07:00 · Kingston 06:00–08:00 · La Paz 07:00–09:00 · Brasília 08:00–10:00
Accra 11:00–13:00 · Tunis 12:00–14:00 · Harare/Joburg 13:00–15:00 · Dar es Salaam 14:00–16:00

Kabul 15:30–17:30 · New Delhi 16:30–18:30 · Hanoi 18:00–20:00 · Beijing 19:00–21:00

PANEL 5

Chair: Praveen Jha, *JNU*

Rural Struggles for Land and Secure Tenure Discussant: Dzifa Torvikey, *Univ. of Ghana*

Register on Zoom: bit.ly/3GkS8U6 · GMT: 13:30–15:30

Ciudad de Mexico 07:30–09:30 · Kingston 08:30–10:30 · La Paz 09:30–11:30 · Brasília 10:30–12:30
Accra 13:30–15:30 · Tunis 14:30–16:30 · Harare/Joburg 15:30–17:30 · Dar es Salaam 16:30–18:30

Kabul 18:00–20:00 · New Delhi 19:00–21:00 · Hanoi 20:30–22:30 · Beijing 21:30–23:30

- The Contentious Politics of Sugar Agro-Extractivism in Africa
Giuliano Martiniello, *Université Internationale de Rabat, Morocco*
- Land Commissions in Kazakhstan: The Problem of Civil Society Participation in Land Governance
Akbikesh Mukhtarova, *Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan*
- ‘We Don’t Have a Paper, We Have a History’: Politics of Land Tenure in South Africa
Sithandiwe Yeni, *University of Western Cape, South Africa*

FRIDAY 20th

PANEL 6

Chair: Archana Prasad, JNU

Challenges of Working People's Organization II *Discussant: Manish Kumar, Delhi Univ.*

Register on Zoom: bit.ly/3X7D6YC · GMT: 13:30–15:30

Ciudad de Mexico 07:30–09:30 · Kingston 08:30–10:30 · La Paz 09:30–11:30 · Brasilia 10:30–12:30 Accra 13:30–15:30 · Tunis 14:30–16:30 · Harare/Joburg 15:30–17:30 · Dar es Salaam 16:30–18:30

Kabul 18:00–20:00 · New Delhi 19:00–21:00 · Hanoi 20:30–22:30 · Beijing 21:30–23:30

- Agrarian Revolution and the Maoist Guerrilla Movement in Panay Island, Philippines in the Writings of Roger Felix Salditos
Karlo Mikhail Mongaya, *University of the Philippines, Dilaman*
- Heterogeneous Labour in Neoliberal Regime and Class Formation
Satyaki Roy, *Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi*
- The Farmers Protest in India: A Movement Against Corporate-Hindutva Forces
Trisha Chandra, *Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi*
- Challenges of the Communist Movement in Brazil
Luccas Gissoni (*UFABC*), **Paulo Roberto Pires** (*João Amazonas School-PCdoB*) & **Leonardo Griz Carnevalheira** (*PUC-SP*), *Brazil*

Closing Remarks: Praveen Jha, JNU & Paris Yeros, UFABC

Vote of Thanks: Walter Chambati, SMAIAS

Annex 2.1a: List of Resource Persons

Region	Country		Name	Gender	Institutional Affiliation	Designation
SOUTHERN AFRICA	Zimbabwe	1	Joshua Nyoni	M	Sam Moyo African Institute for Agrarian Studies	Chairman
		2	Walter Chambati	M	Sam Moyo African Institute for Agrarian Studies	Executive Director
EAST AFRICA	Tanzania	3	Issa Shivji	M	Tanzania Commission for Science & Technology, Nyerere Resource Centre	Professor
	Kenya	4	Lyn Ossome	F	Makerere Institute of Social Research	Senior Researcher
WEST AFRICA	Ghana	5	Dzodzi Tsikata	F	Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, University of Ghana	Professor
ASIA	India	6	Praveen Jha	M	Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU-New Delhi	Professor
		7	Archana Prasad	F	Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU-New Delhi	Professor
		8	Sandeep Chachra	M	Action Aid India	Executive Director
LATIN AMERICA	Brazil	10	Paris Yeros	M	UFABC	Professor
		11	Marcelo Rosa	M	University of Brasilia	Professor

Annex 2.1b: List of Lead Presenters

Preparatory workshop PARTICIPANTS					
		NAME	Gender	ORGANISATION	EMAIL
AFRICA	1	Boaventura Monjane,	M	University of Western Cape, South Africa	boa.monjane@gmail.com
	2	Dhouha Djerbi	F	Geneva Graduate Institute's Political Science and International Relations	dhouha.djerbi@graduateinstitute.ch
	3	Guiliano Martiniello	M	Po Rabat, Univresite International de Rabat	mjuliangrimao@gmail.com
	4	Mamadou Goita	M	Institute for Research and Promotion of Alternatives in Development	mamadou_goita@yahoo.fr
	5	Max Ajl	M	University of Ghent	max.ajl@gmail.com
	6	Sabatho Nyamasenda	M	University of Dar es Salam, Tanzania	sabatho7th@gmail.com
	7	Sithandiwe Yeni	F	University of Western Cape, South Africa	sthayeni@gmail.com
ASIA	8	Ahmad Shaafi		CERD Foundation, Jammu and Kashmir	ahmadshaafihistory@gmail.com
	9	Akbikesh Mukhtarova		Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan	akbikesh1@gmail.com
	10	Bosman Batubara	M	Utrecht University	b.batubara@uu.nl
	11	Karlo Mikhail Mongaya		University of the Philippines, Diliman	kimongaya@up.edu.ph
	12	Satyaki Roy	M	Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi	sroy@isid.org.in
	13	Sneha Najeeb	F	CISLS, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	snajeebsneha@gmail.com
	14	Trisha Chandra	F	CESP, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	trishachandra22@gmail.com
	15	Sit Tsui	F	Southwestern University	sittsui@gmail.com
LATIN AMERICA	16	Givânia Maria da Silva	F	University of Brasilia	givaniaconceicao@gmail.com
	17	Hugo Rodrigo Serra	M	National University of Villa Maria (UNVM), Argentina	hugorodrigoserra@gmail.com
	18	Leonardo Freire de Melo	M	UFABC, São Bernardo, Brazil	
	19	Leonardo Griz Carvalheira	M	PUC-SP	leo_carva@msn.com
	20	Luccas Gissoni	M	UFABC, São Bernardo, Brazil	lucas.gissoni@ufabc.edu.br
EUROPE	21	Luciana P. Benetti	F	UFABC, São Bernardo, Brazil	luciana.benetti@ufabc.edu.br
	22	Luiz Felipe F. C. de Farias	M	University of São Paulo	luiz.fcdefarias@gmail.com
	23	Rafael Soriano	M	UFABC, São Bernardo, Brazil	rafasoriano001@gmail.com
	24	Ismail Doga Karatepe	M	Kassel University, Germany	idkaratepe@gmail.com
NORTH AMERICA	25	Immanuel Ness	M	City University of New York	Iness@brooklyn.cuny.edu
	26	Jemimna Pierre	F	UCLA	pierre.jemima@gmail.com

Annex 3.1: Call for Papers – 2023

CALL FOR PAPERS
Preparatory Workshop 2023
16–20 January

Popular Movements Today: Class Struggles in Rural and Urban Peripheries

Since the crisis of the 1970s, tectonic shifts have been occurring in the world economy. On the one hand, general decolonization in the Third World entered its most advanced phase. Alongside an autonomous Soviet bloc, the emergence of the non-aligned movement forged at Bandung presented a robust challenge to monopoly capitalism. On the other hand, monopoly capitalism relaunched its global strategy by means of new forms of financialization, new leaps in technology and logistics, the generalization of global value systems, and the escalation of competition over energy resources, minerals, and agricultural land. The historic outcome of this contradiction was, in the first instance, the neutralization of the Bandung movement, followed by the integration of the Soviet bloc into the world economy and its disintegration. Most of the world's peripheral countries succumbed to new patterns of dependent integration into the world economy under the control of monopoly-finance capital. The global neoliberal policy framework that prevailed consolidated the general neocolonial transition. Profound shifts in industrial production also occurred, however, in the direction especially of China, to create a new major fault line. China rowed against the current with advanced planning mechanisms in expanding markets, to develop its productive forces at a rapid pace with substantial autonomy from imperialism, and even to eradicate absolute poverty. This experience of China renewed hopes in the South for breaking out of the neocolonial impasse.

Yet, the conditions of work in the peripheries have continued to deteriorate under the same tectonic shifts. As argued in our collective assessments published in the last decade, in *Reclaiming the Nation and Reclaiming Africa*, dependent integration and national disintegration have been two sides of the same coin.¹ Importantly, the rural exodus has continued to accelerate, swelling the ranks of the world's labour reserves. This fact alone will weigh heavily over the twenty-first century. Limited absorption capacity in the urban peripheries has created a floating and marginalized population on a mass scale, living and working in perpetual informality and insecurity, among them, first and foremost, historically oppressed peoples and women. Our assessment has been reaffirmed in more recent research published in *Labour Questions in the Global South and Farming and Working under Contract*.² The deteriorating conditions in peripheral social formations have undermined the exercise of sovereignty itself, rendering societies vulnerable to fundamentalist ideologies, whether of the Christian, Islamic, Hindu, or other traditions, as well as imperialist encroachment and intervention.

¹ S. Moyo & P. Yeros (eds), *Reclaiming the Nation: The Return of the National Question in Africa, Asia and Latin America* (Pluto Books, 2011), and S. Moyo, P. Jha & P. Yeros (eds.), *Reclaiming Africa: Scramble and Resistance in the 21st Century* (Springer, 2019).

² P. Jha, W. Chambati & L. Ossome (eds), *Labour Questions in the Global South* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), and P. Jha, P. Yeros, W. Chambati & F. Mazwi (eds), *Farming and Working under Contract: Peasants and Workers in Global Agricultural Value Systems* (Tulika, 2022).

This structural transition has altered the terrain of class struggle on a world scale. Class struggle has always been multifarious. However, the massive growth of labour reserves in the peripheries, straddling town and country, has established a new reality. It is not the case that a purity of class consciousness and organizational form may be postulated a priori within linear stages of development. In the peripheries, the struggles of working people today span a wide range of trajectories, stemming from the diverse realities of work and social reproduction and the diverse forms of oppression, including patriarchy and racial and caste supremacy, that serve to divide and rule these semi-peasant, semi-proletarian social formations. Working people thus wage diverse struggles: for land and territory for production, residence, and social reproduction; for markets and credit for petty production and distribution; for dignified work, wages, and pensions; for free basic social services and public infrastructure; for healthy environment and safe and nutritious food; and for peace and protection from state violence and the supremacist and patriarchal structures.

Our earlier collaborative work on social movements, published in *Reclaiming the Land*, also showed that the neoliberal assault on the peasantry had not resolved the agrarian question but had intensified the struggle for land.³ This evidently applies to the urban question as well.⁴ It was further argued that rural movements had become an organizing centre for the semi-proletariat, but that these movements were very diverse in their ideologies, tactics, strategies, and internationalism. This diversity was compounded in many cases by the defeat and/or cooptation of liberation movements and communist parties into parliamentary politics and the nefarious workings of neoliberalism. Rural and other social forces were thus compelled to seek an 'autonomous' path, but also one in which the NGOization of politics was an overwhelming force in itself. With few exceptions at the time – such as the Zapatistas in Mexico, the FARC in Colombia, the War Veterans in Zimbabwe – these organizing centres were facing cooptation. These insights of *Reclaiming the Land* remain relevant today.

Nonetheless, a reassessment of popular movements is in order, including social movements, trade unions, and political parties. Such a reassessment twenty years later must take into consideration the evolving structural conditions, as well as the evolving rural-urban relations and the urban-based popular movements themselves. It must also take into account the advance of fundamentalism which has found fertile terrain in the burgeoning labour reserves and which have, in a number of cases, propelled the rise of fascism under the wing of foreign and domestic monopolies. Similar organic transformations have undermined the exercise of national sovereignty everywhere. The consequences for regional cooperation and international solidarity have also been grave. In substantial swathes of Southern regions, such as the North Africa, the Sahel, the Horn, West Asia, the Caribbean, state fracture and foreign occupation under imperialist forces or their proxies have again relegated countries to a semi-colonial situation. Foreign military bases, especially of the United States and NATO forces, have retained or expanded their presence in most regions of the world, with few exceptions, while unilateral sanctions regimes and destabilization campaigns have continued to present enormous challenges to popular movements. The current conflict in Ukraine is the latest flashpoint whose dimensions are still to be measured but which has all the elements of a tipping point in these tectonic shifts, including a nuclear stand-off.

³ S. Moyo & P. Yeros (eds), *Reclaiming the Land: The Resurgence of Rural Movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America* (Zed Books, 2005), republished as *Recuperando la Tierra: El Resurgimiento de Movimientos Rurales en África, Asia y América Latina* (CLACSO, 2008).

⁴ See the special issue on 'Social Movements in the Global South', in *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, 7(2), 2018.

The 2023 preparatory workshop seeks to contribute to the above reassessment of popular movements and deepen our knowledge of their trajectories and the challenges that they face today. The workshop will focus generally on the issues raised above and more specifically on the themes below:

1. Theories and perspectives on class struggle;
2. Anti-imperialist struggles and the national question;
3. Socialist transition and internationalism;
4. Communist and national liberation movements and political parties;
5. Neoliberal hegemony and the state;
6. Land and peasant struggles;
7. Urban struggles for land and the Right to the City;
8. Movements and struggles for the rights of migrants, refugees, and stateless people;
9. Trade unions and the changing character of working classes;
10. Black movements and Pan-Africanism;
11. Indigenous and First Nations' movements in rural and urban peripheries;
12. Forms of struggle amongst oppressed castes, ethnicities and minorities;
13. Movements against patriarchy and for women's equality;
14. Environmental movements and ecological crises;
15. Struggles for autonomy and rights over commons.

The SMAIAS/ASN preparatory workshop values diversity and promotes dialogue between academia and political activists. It brings together young and veteran scholars and political activists from all continents, especially from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and provides for collective reflection and learning. Interested scholars and activists are invited to submit paper proposals (abstracts) of up to 300 words, in English, no later than 1 September 2022. Proposals should be submitted to agrariansouth@gmail.com, with copy to Dr. Walter Chambati at walter@aiatrust.org. Women are especially encouraged to participate.

The selection of proposals will be made public by the end of September via our social media, [@AIAS trust](#), [@Agrarian South](#), facebook.com/agrariansouthnetwork, and websites, <http://aiatrust.org/> and <http://www.agrariansouth.org/news/>. The results will not be communicated individually. Authors of selected proposals will be invited to send their full papers by 6 January 2023. Kindly note that authors of selected proposals that do not send their full papers by this date will not be included in the final programme.

The preparatory workshop is being planned in remote format for the week of 16–20 January 2023. Due to the ongoing pandemic situation, a physical meeting is not guaranteed. The papers presented at the preparatory workshop may eventually be selected for publication in *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, subject to normal peer review process.

Annex 4.1: Evaluation Report for the Preparatory Workshop

Evaluation Report of the 2023 preparatory Workshop

16-20 January 2023

Introduction

This Evaluation Survey report seeks to illuminate the various responses captured from the participants of the 2023 preparatory workshop held in a hybrid format through zoom and physical interactions from the 16th - 20th January 2023. The hybrid proceedings were prompted by the global loosening of the travel restrictions due to the slowdown in the COVID-19 pandemic cases across many countries, as well as the resource constraints to cover all participants' travel. The responses presented in this report are critical in assisting the SMAIAS and Agrarian South Network to evaluate the workshop. The evaluation is also a key initiative as a guide for continued improvement through ensuring the cooptation and implementation of recommendations proffered by participants in the future programs. The responses presented herein were from 20 participants (both virtual and physical participants), who form part of the preparatory workshop presenters from the 16th to the 20th. The survey questionnaire was divided into four subsections, with each section pausing a minimum of five questions.

Responses

1. Pre-conference preparation

a. The call for participation was made easily available on various social media platforms and also by the teaching staff at our Universities

A total of 18 students representing 90% acknowledged the call for participation was easily accessible through various platforms. Only 10% reported the call was not easily accessible, but could not cite the reasons. Failure to achieve 100% calls for continued improvement in the wider circulation of the call in the future through use of various advertisement tools outside the traditional outfits such as facebook and website.

b. I applied because the theme was in accordance with what I am currently working on in my post-graduate studies/civil society work/researching on

Eighteen participants (90%) reported they applied because the theme was in line with their studies, civil society work or research they were working on. Five percent participants highlighted this was not their reason for applying, while the other 5% did not specify any reason. This indicates the seriousness of the participants, whose applications were motivated by their areas of study, and in need of sharpening their research work through scholarship engagement and knowledge exchanges in discussions and debates with guidance from the senior scholars.

c. I have received all the necessary information about the preparatory workshop on time

Ninety percent of the participants highlighted to have received information about the preparatory workshop on time. Five percent declined this while the other five percent did not indicate anything. Comparatively, this



however shows a decline compared to the previous years where 100% is usually recorded in regards to information accessibility on time. This calls for more effort by the secretariat to retain the previous record of maintaining 100% accessibility to timely information access.

d. I have been given enough time for preparing for the preparatory workshop

Five percent failed to indicate if they were given or not given enough time to prepare, but the rest 95% cited they were given enough time to prepare for the preparatory workshop. Nonetheless, more still needs to be done to further improve and push to 100% to maintain and enhance active participation in future proceedings.

e. The feedback on the application was timely and straight forward

Eighty five percent reported that the feedback was timely and precise, whereas 10% did not cite any response, while 5% highlighted it was not timely and straightforward. This calls for an expedited application process feedback by the secretariate in the future.

2. Evaluation of the preparatory workshop

a. Overall organization and quality of the preparatory workshop

A rating satisfaction measure of Poor, Fair, Good and Excellent was used under this section. Regarding overall organization, 50% confirmed that the preparatory workshop was good and 45% reported it was excellent while 5% did not indicate any rating for this category. This calls for continued improvement to enhance the quality and achieve more excellent ratings.

b. Quality of the presentations

Twelve participants representing 60% reported the quality of presentations was good, and 30% highlighted it was excellent, while only 10% cited it was fair. Although these findings show the need for more room for perfection to enhance quality presentations, the discussions indicate how the students had prepared for their presentations thoroughly.

c. Quality of the discussions during the preparatory workshop

Sixty five percent of the students reported the quality of discussions was excellent, and 35% cited it was good. Only 10 % reported it was fair, mainly due to the limited time allocations particularly for the virtual participants. The findings although presents generally good responses, they call for continued improvement to ensure more improvement in the quality of discussions to boost the overall organization of the proceedings and benefit to the participants.

e. Relevance of topics covered during the preparatory workshop to current work

Seventy five percent of the participants highlighted that relevance of topics to current work was excellent, and 25% reported it was good. These findings of 75% indicate the competitiveness of the selection criteria by the Committee in ensuring that students participating are derived from relevant backgrounds that are in line with course material.

f. Adequacy of time slots for presentations



Fifty five percent of the participants reported that time allocated for presentations was adequate, and 30% cited it was good, while 10% indicated it was fair. Only 5% reported it was poor, a response which we believe was prompted by the limited time allocations due to some online sessions. This calls for the need by the Committee to further adjust the time table to accommodate more time slots for the students' presentations.

g. Adequacy of time slots for discussants

For the discussants time slots, 60% acknowledged it was excellent, while an equal representation of 40% reported it was good and fair respectively. These reported findings, although not bad, inform some room for improvement in future planning of the sessions. Nonetheless, also the fact that this was a hybrid event, partly explains the limited times afforded for the discussants.

h. Adequacy of time slots for discussions

Regarding adequacy of time for discussions, 50% indicated it was excellent, 40% reported it was good, and 10% noted it was fair. These findings show that time management is a critical element for the successful hosting of the workshop, particularly when managing a hybrid program of this nature.

3. Score Questions

	Score (Mean/Ave)
a. Overall organisation and quality of preparatory workshop	8.475
b. Learning experience in terms of improving your skills for making presentations and engaging in academic debates.	8.45
c. Opportunity to network with peers/one another	8.3
d. Opportunity for future collaboration and partnerships for research projects and other academic activities	7.9
e. Opportunity to improve human capital in terms of furthering your studies/skills development	8.2

The above mean/average scores inform on how the 2023 preparatory workshop was relevant to the participants as highlighted by high average scores ranging from 7.9 to 8.5. However, there is more room for improvement to keep up the standards beyond the current ratings.

4. Some Extra Questions

a. What aspects of the preparatory workshop did you like most and why?

Participants highlighted the following:

- Feedbacks and comments about the paper and research helped a lot to the orientation of my work.
- The diversity of nationalities and institutions of the participants
- The themes and the debates after the presentations.
- I liked the most introductory speeches and comments of the preparatory workshop organizers and the Memorial lecture by honorable guest Prof. Utsa Patnaik. I also very much liked the quality of the presentations and the diversity of geographical coverage of the presented papers (covering Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Central Asia). All comments and feedback I received after my presentation are helpful, valuable, and thought-provoking and undoubtedly help me to improve further my research paper.



- What I liked the most are the sharp, critical, and candid assessments, comments, and recommendations by the discussants and panellists on the participants' paper presentations that exhibit an appropriate mix of rigor, conceptual clarity, and theoretical commitments. I admire their unrepentant historical materialist vantage point, which in the past I have only encountered by reading the journal and recent books on the national and agrarian questions. It is another thing to see this commitment live even if only via zoom.
- I appreciate the constant reminder when talking about social movements of the dangers of imputing the author's own theoretical framework on the actual conception and practice of those struggling on the ground. I like the warnings against creating seemingly countless new notions, as is fashionable in academia, especially if they do not elucidate a social phenomenon conceptually and therefore only add to the noise. I especially like the comment on the need to view particular economic realities and collective struggles as they interlock with wider global, national, and class contexts rather than mere isolated events that happen locally otherwise, they just become "anthropological spectacles."
- The range of topics which were discussed and the pluralistic and inter-disciplinary nature of the conference topic. I also loved the presentations and the insights derived from them.
- Reduced number of sessions during the preparatory workshop allowing for more side meetings.
- The Sam Moyo Memorial Lecture delivered by Prof. Patnaik Utsa was well organized and educative.
- Contemporary themes and global watch of comparative experiences presented.
- The thematic coherence and preparation of written paper.

b. What aspects of the preparatory workshop you did not appreciate and why?

Participants noted the following:

- The virtual format does not contribute to the correct development of the tables and panels
- I didn't see any aspect in that regard. My issue is not mastering the language and having no translation. But I always count on the support of my English-speaking colleagues like Paris Yeros and Marcelo Rosa.
- The only problem was technical, related to objective reasons (the Internet connection quality). First few sessions, the speaker's microphone didn't work well, and partially, it was difficult to hear some presenter's work. Also, I couldn't connect to the last day of preparatory workshop, since it was canceled. Except for this issue, everything was perfect.
- The sessions seem to always start late, but I understand it's due to the technical problems.
- The conference being in hybrid mode, the scope to interact with other researchers was limited. However, since it was in a hybrid mode, I could also present my paper despite lack of funds to travel.
- Few online participants beyond the presenters.
- This was like a "distinction school" whereby the local issues (Zimbabwe and regional as well as Africa-wide) were very minimal.
- The last day should have started at 13:30 instead of 15:30 since it was the only session for the day.
- Presentations slots were far too short. Many of the participants haven't had the chance to read the papers which I expected.
- Hostile discussion of papers.
- The technological challenges were substantial as technical glitches were recurrent with the IT equipment

c. Did the preparatory workshop promote equity on gender issues and relations?

The participants had mixed feelings in regards to the gender equity issues, as some were relating to the theoretical and analytical frameworks, whereas others were more concerned to the physical gender differentiation in terms of participation. The following was highlighted by participants:

- The virtual experience is too limited to be able to form an opinion about gender relations.
- I believe, yes, it did promote gender equity. For instance, in my case, being a female researcher from the Central Asian region who just recently graduated from the Ph.D. program participation in preparatory workshop is a great opportunity and chance to enhance my knowledge in the field, learn from peer colleagues and to present my research work to the broader audience.
- The preparatory workshop promoted equity on gender issues and relations. There is a more or less even distribution of genders among the commentators, moderators, panelists, and discussants. Perhaps there should be a more conscious effort to raise the gender question in the open forum and reactor's discussion in every panel even if the papers do not directly discuss them?
- The physical participation by women was a bit limited, hence need for more improvement
- Theoretical and conceptually, yes, the gender equity was promoted. However, the gender distribution of the participants was very lopsided.

d. From your own experience, is there anything that you would like to be done differently in future workshops?

The following was noted:

- Maybe the divulgation through social media so we can share easily the information and our participation.
- The participants should be communicated to in time to enable them to source for traveling funding from various scholarships.
- There should be simultaneous translation for all languages.
- There is need to solve some technical issues, although everything else was organized well.
- Probably a bit increase the time slots for discussion of presented papers.
- Face-to-face experience will be more productive for intellectual sharing and discussion beyond the formal panels and I hope to be able to participate in person in the future. But I also understand that the online component can also help scholars still share their insights even if they cannot be present in person due to financial or other constraints.
- It would be great if funding for in-person attendance is possible.
- Need to acquire a 360 degree camera that will allow for better interaction between online participants and those in person.
- Invite local universities by direct contact with departments and other local research institutes to bring both students and lecturers.
- There is need for adequate testing of the IT equipment in advance to avoid disruptions.
- Encourage more women participants to be in person.
- Attention span decreases after three days therefore need to be innovative if you want real engagements from day 4 onwards.
- Better ways to promote discussion in response to papers, and limit the senior professors.

- Different activities can be incorporated beyond the presentations, such as field work to the farmlands.
- Perhaps a visit to the countryside of Zimbabwe will be great as part of the programme.

e. Is there any other information or activity that you think would be helpful or interesting to the preparatory workshop Coordinating Committee and/or its members

Participants highlighted the following:

- The use of other tools to ease the interactions, as a form for collecting feedback.
- Perhaps next time it would help if details on how the books can be ordered is also shared during the book launch. I do know they are available online in Bookdepository.com, Amazon.com, and the likes but perhaps for the benefit of other online participants.
- Need to announce the programme early to allow the participants more time to prepare.
- Do sensitization of the possibility of the next preparatory workshop in good time, like in two/three months ahead for potential attendees to begin fundraising and prepare.
- More workshop format to get to know one another.

f. How will the participation in preparatory workshop help to advance your work?

It was noted that:

- Getting to know new realities through the work and research shared at the School.
- After my presentation, I received highly valuable comments, which help me to improve my paper and to submit it to the Agrarian South Journal soon.
- My academic training leans heavily on the humanities, especially literary and cultural studies. While I relate my research having to do with cultural histories and social movements to the imperatives of national and social liberation, I am interested into infusing more serious social science approaches. To further refine my work and make it more interdisciplinary by incorporating insights from a critique of political economy and critical insights on the intersections of the agrarian and national questions.
- I received extremely useful feedback which will help me modify and advance my work.
- Improve analytical and theoretical frameworks and connections of the struggles across the Global South.
- Further understanding of agrarian and related issues.
- Avenues towards publications.
- Comments provided on the work and enhanced networking.
- Learning of new concepts and frameworks of thinking that will be useful analytically.
- Building a network and getting feedback on work.
- It helps with theoretical grounding.

g. In your own experience, is there anything that you think would enrich the experience of future preparatory workshop participants?

Participants highlighted the following:

- I wish I could had been there physically, so maybe more time to try some support from the university would be great.



- The chat was disabled for online participants. Opening the chat communication for online participants during the preparatory workshop might be an excellent opportunity to communicate and present themselves. Also, in my view, might be helpful to assign one person to respond to online participants' (technical) inquiries. Since online participants were not physically present at the conference, and the start of the sessions sometimes was delayed, it was not clear whether this was due to the Internet connection problem of the preparatory workshop or because of my own Internet connection. Thus, if one person will be assigned to assist online participants and announce if the sessions will be delayed or canceled or provide some technical guidance, this will be wonderful. In such cases, the online participants can stay updated. Also, I think in terms of future networking probably, it will be possible to create LinkedIn or another group so that participants can stay connected and exchange their ideas or news (if necessary).
- The incisive and frank feedback can help the participants further develop their research not just in terms of scholarly quality and expertise but also in terms of their emancipatory potential.
- A peer group or research group formation where students can discuss their research throughout the year
- Circulation of papers well in advance. Draft papers and presentations would prepare participants better to contribute effectively.
- The senior scholars should please read our papers.
- Evening activities to allow participants to network informally.
- Attending in person or having very professional and well facilitated hybrid arrangement.
- The summers school is very enriching due to the academically, scholarly, ideologically, and theoretical plurality which it encompasses.
- Enable the physical participation of more participants.

h. Would you recommend the preparatory workshop to other postgraduate students and researchers?

All students strongly agreed that they would recommend other post graduate students to attend the preparatory workshop. Some had this to say.

- Absolutely yes, because of its relevance, whenever I have the opportunity, I talk about the school and the importance of the school to socialize, to exchange experiences between the three continents: African, Latin American and Latin Asian, generating opportunity to break the imposed vision of a single history.
- I definitely will recommend participation in the preparatory workshop to colleagues from Kazakhstan and abroad. I thank you for giving me such a wonderful chance to be part of the Agrarian South network. With best wishes!
- Yes, it is an interesting space with a lot of scope to learn and enrich their literature and knowledge of research issues in other parts of the Global South.

