



Costs and benefits of mining

Mining in Africa is seen as creating jobs and increasing incomes for local people. However, there are also problems. NAI researcher George Adu explores how mining affects the environment, the economy and the health of those living nearby.

[Read interview.](#)

In search of political ideology



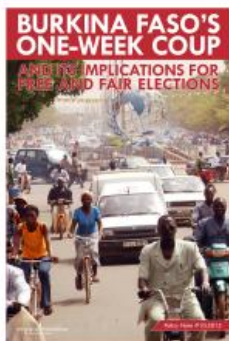
There are game-changing influences from the world's new economic powers on one hand, and growing fundamentalism and terrorism on the other.

New NAI researcher Sirkku Hellsten is seeking to

identify the ideologies in play in a changing Africa.

[Read interview.](#)

Burkina Faso's one-week coup



In the upcoming elections in Burkina Faso, there's a need for a clear democratic break with the three decades of de facto one-party rule. At the same time, a moderate approach is needed in dealing with the controversial legacy of the former regime, to avoid further polarisation in an already fraught political situation. These are the recommendations of NAI researchers Jesper Bjarnesen and Cristiano Lanzano in a policy note on Burkina Faso's one-week coup and its implications for free and fair elections.

[Download Policy Note.](#)

Read also interview with Jeser Bjarnesen. He rejects reports of "popular" uprisings every time people in undemocratic countries gather in the streets to protest.

[Read interview.](#)

AGRICULTURAL WATER REFORMS

Climate change is making rainfall more uncertain in Africa. Since the continent's food-production systems are dominantly rain-fed, these changes are placing food security at even higher risk. Reforming agricultural water institutions has therefore become a priority, and this new report, edited by NAI researcher Atakilte Beyene, examines such reforms in East Africa.

[Download Current African Issues here.](#)

CONCEPTS ARE NOT NEUTRAL

In research and development work, concepts are used to describe processes and events. However, they also largely frame these processes. Thus, the concepts by which we structure the world also provide premises for policies and practice – they limit some and favour other interpretations of contexts. This book discusses and challenges the concepts that are widely used in research into and policy on development issues in Africa.

[Order Framing African Development.](#)

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

Many countries in sub-Saharan Africa have recently experienced remarkable growth. Afro-optimists claim that economic transformation is imminent, while critics point out that growth is mainly in the extractive sectors, with little improvement being noted among the rural and urban poor. In this volume, the authors review the varied challenges agricultural producers have faced in the past and may well face today and tomorrow. Several contributions focus on the drive for large-scale land acquisitions, their potential and shortcomings, as well as on the policy alternative – investment in small-scale farming.

[Download the Festschrift to Kjell Havnevik.](#)

ISLANDS IN EBB AND FLOW

The four sovereign Indian Ocean states of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles, the two French overseas departments of Mayotte and Reunion, as well as the British colony of BIOT (Chagos), all form part of Africa. They are commonly overlooked in African and international studies, and this text seeks to correct this situation by tracing the islands' histories and exploring their diverse social, political and economic trajectories.

[Order Africa in the Indian Ocean by Tor Sellström](#)

Boko Haram is pushed back



Since President Buhari came to power in Nigeria, the Boko Haram insurgency, which has been spreading terror in the country in recent years, has been pushed back.

There are two main explanations for this, argues NAI guest researcher Adebunsi Adeniran. Sufficient resources have been provided to the military and Boko Haram insurgents are being offered an amnesty if they lay down their arms. [Read interview.](#)

REMORSE AND FORGIVENESS

This series of seminars, presented by the 2015 [Claude Ake Professor, Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela](#), will draw on stories of remorse and forgiveness and reflect on the practices of the last two decades in dealing with the past as exemplified by truth commissions in countries such as South Africa and Rwanda. [Read more about the seminars.](#)

MOZAMBIQUE 40 YEARS ON

NAI will host a cultural programme linked to the celebration of Mozambique's 40 years of independence. Work by [Mozambican photographer Sérgio Santimano](#) will be on exhibition in the NAI library and Stefan Helgesson, professor of English at Stockholm University, will lead a talk on Mozambican literature on 2 December, 18.30 - 20.00 hrs, at NAI.

AFRICA IN THE AGE OF MOBILITY

What are the social and economic consequences of increasing migration in Africa? What will the implications of the expanding middle class in Africa be for democracy and governance? These two questions will be addressed at a round table discussion on physical and social mobility on 6 November, organised by the Nordic Africa Institute at [the Nordic Conference on Development Research](#) in Gothenburg.

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