



## Invitation | Uitnodiging

Book Launch  
Boekbekendstelling

The rise of Africa's middle class: Myths, realities and critical engagements

10/08/2017



### **Book title: *The rise of Africa's middle class: Myths, realities and critical engagements***

The Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship invites you to the book launch and panel discussion. The editor of the book, Henning Melber, is extraordinary professor at the University of Pretoria's Department of Political Sciences and at the University of the Free State's Centre for Africa Studies, as well as senior research associate at the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala/Sweden. He will present a short introduction to the volume.

#### **Book summary**

Featuring a wide array of case studies from across sub-Saharan Africa and covering highly topical issues, including black middle-class support for the ANC in South Africa and anti-government activism in Nigeria, this collection looks at the realities behind the idea of Africa rising. Across the continent, the narrative of 'Africa rising' has taken root in a burgeoning middle class.

Ambitious and increasingly affluent, this group symbolises the values and hopes of the new Africa, and they are regarded as important agents of both economic development and democratic change. The book argues that this narrative obscures the complex and often ambiguous role that this group actually plays in African societies.

*The rise of Africa's middle class* brings together a diverse range of economists, political scientists and development experts to provide a much-needed corrective, overturning the received wisdom within development circles and providing a fresh new perspective on social transformations in contemporary Africa.

**Date** 10 August 2017  
**Time** 15:00 to 17:00  
**Venue** Seminar Room 1-09, Old College House, Hatfield Campus, University of Pretoria

**Moderator:** Prof Maxi Schoeman (Deputy Dean, Faculty of Humanities, University of Pretoria)

#### **Panel Discussants:**

Prof Barney Pityana (former Vice Chancellor, University of South Africa)  
Prof Grace Khunou (Department of Sociology, University of Johannesburg)  
Max Boqwana (CEO, Thabo Mbeki Foundation)  
Dr Jason Musyoka (Centre for Advancement of Scholarship, University of Pretoria)

**NB: The book will be available for sale in cash and credit card facilities at a discounted rate (less 20% off the retail price).**

The event ends with a social mingling with refreshments served.

RSVP: Mrs Cecelia Samson, Cecelia.Samson@up.ac.za before 31st July 2017

### **Boektitel: *The rise of Africa's middle class: Myths, realities and critical engagements***

Die Sentrum vir die Bevordering van Vakkundigheid nooi u na die boekloodsing en paneelbespreking. Die redakteur van die boek, Henning Melber, is 'n buitengewone professor by die Universiteit van Pretoria se Departement Politieke Wetenskappe en die Universiteit van die Vrystaat se Sentrum vir Afrika-studies. Hy sal 'n kort inleiding tot die bundel aanbied.

#### **Boekopsomming**

Hierdie versameling bring 'n wye verskeidenheid gevallestudies van oor sub-Sahara Afrika byeen en dek hoogs tersaaklike kwessies, waaronder ANC-ondersteuning onder die swart middelklas in Suid-Afrika en antiregeringsaktivisme in Nigerië, om na die werklikhede agter die konsep van Afrika se opgang te kyk. Die narratief van 'Afrika se opgang' het reg oor die kontinent wortel geskiet in 'n opkomende middelklas.

Hierdie groep is ambisieus en al hoe meer welgestel en hulle simboliseer die waardes en hoop van die nuwe Afrika. Hulle word verder beskou as belangrike agente van sowel ekonomiese ontwikkeling as demokratiese verandering. Die boek voer aan dat die komplekse en dikwels ambisieuse rol wat hierdie groep werklik in Afrika-samelewings speel, deur hierdie narratief verskuil word.

*The rise of Africa's middle class* bring 'n wye verskeidenheid ekonome, politieke wetenskaplikes en ontwikkelingskenners byeen om 'n baie belangrike regstelling te maak wat 'n aanvaarde waarheid in ontwikkelingskringe omkeer en 'n vars perspektief op sosiale verandering in die hedendaagse Afrika bied.

**Datum** 10 Augustus 2017  
**Tyd** 15:00 tot 17:00  
**Plek** Seminaarkamer 1-09, Ou Kollegehuis, Hatfieldkampus, Universiteit van Pretoria

**Moderator:** Prof Maxi Schoeman (Adjunkdekaan, Fakulteit van Geesteswetenskappe, Universiteit van Pretoria)

#### **Paneelbespreking:**

Prof Barney Pityana (vorige Visekanselier, Universiteit van Suid-Afrika)  
Prof Grace Khunou (Departement Sosiologie, Universiteit van Johannesburg)  
Max Boqwana (HUB, Thabo Mbeki Foundation)  
Dr Jason Musyoka (Sentrum vir die Bevordering van Vakkundigheid, Universiteit van Pretoria)

**LW: Die boek sal teen 'n afslagprys (20% minder as die kleinhandelprys) beskikbaar wees en kan kontant of per kredietkaart aangekoop word.**

Die geleentheid eindig met sosiale verkeer en verversings word bedien.

RSVP: Cecelia Samson, Cecelia.Samson@up.ac.za voor 31 Julie 2017