

Chasing the Night Owl

Faculty Development Grant Award Report 2022/23 Research Conducted by Dr. Wayne Edge during Summer 2022 in Southern Africa

Overview

The key research hypothesis tested was 1) 'as the nations of Southern Africa are being transformed into Development States, are we witnessing the emergence of an alternative civilization, in part sparked by Youth?'

In noting, that the founding fathers of Southern Africa all too frequently emulated or assimilated the cultural, economic, and political values of the colonialist, we argued that while the elder statesmen of Southern Africa fought for and won independence for their countries, they were forced to make compromises with the former colonial masters, in order to gain that same independence. The elders never agreed to "White Superiority, or Minority Rule", in fact they fought it with every fiber of their being. Yet, the compromises were important. Land, the most precious of natural resources, the Real Estate, was in all Southern African cases, kept in the hands of those who possessed it on Independence Day. The founders had to essentially do more with less, while the prevailing Southern African international economy remains dominated from outside of Africa.

The answer to having a great desire to improve the quality of life for the masses of the population, with limited control over external affairs, and the international political economy, was to create a state that focused basically on one feature "Development". The state was forced to take command over the economy (i.e. create a planned economy), because throughout Southern Africa, there basically was a very weak private sector. As state control over national resources grew, in power and efficiency, the entire country benefited. As noted by most social economic indicators, the new states, which came to be called "Development States", grew rapidly; with improvements in health, education, roads, clean water, energy, physical infrastructure, and many other areas. These improvements, raised the quality of life for Southern Africans, and are measurable, and frequently cited, by international observers, such as the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program (i.e. UNDP), and the World Health Organization (i.e. WHO), etc. Yet this state led development push, by what came to be called the Development States, comes at a price, and with many unexpected and unforeseen consequences, both positive and negative.

The current report is not the research paper itself, it merely notes a few of the events that took place while I was engaged in research funded by Lincoln University this summer.

Time Frame

From **April to June 2022**, I prepared a **qualitative research questionnaire**, intended to be used, to survey Youth Influencers, in the southern African region. It's noted that the surveys went relatively smoothly after the initial participants.

Travel

I flew from Philadelphia PA, to Newark New Jersey, then flew to **Johannesburg South Africa, on June 25, 2022**. Unfortunately, United Airline misplaced all of my luggage. While in South Africa I rented a vehicle to keep for the entire 2 month journey. The initial rental agency 'Green

Motion', who we had made reservations with and paid (US\$1000), prior to departing the USA, was not at the airport, and nowhere to be seen, so I ended up going to Avis and renting a car from there. Once behind the wheel of the vehicle I left Johannesburg and traveled to Pretoria, the capital of South Africa. I spent a couple of days in Pretoria then **traveled to Botswana, on June 28, 2023.**

I stayed in Botswana from June 29th through August 17 2023, when I was scheduled to return to the Johannesburg, and fly back to the USA. Unfortunately, I missed the flight and got stuck in South Africa for a couple of days, at tremendous expense

Research Findings

Research always has a funny way of unfolding, primarily because ones optimistic predictions, are normally confronted with realism. For example, the idea that I was going to be able to recruit, in five countries, at least 1 research assistant, who would operate as an unpaid survey enumerator, on a YouTube station, was whimsical at best. If you are going to go into Southern Africa these days, and conduct research, you are going to have to pay the researchers, a reasonable amount of money, for their efforts. By reasonable, I estimate that you would have at least \$1000 available for each researcher, per month. In addition, to the financial enumeration you should be prepared to provide equipment if needed. Obviously, I had no money and no equipment for additional researchers.

Research Process Conducted:

There is absolutely no replacement for interpersonal contact with the respondents. But, that interpersonal contact need not be in person. In total, I conducted 10 interviews. Four in person interviews took place, and six were carried out online, via Zoom meetings, with Youth Influencers. Trying to go into five different Southern African nations, with the hope of being able to work with one researcher, who would conduct 20 interviews, takes far more than a month and a half. The entire process can be done in a year, as part of a Sabbatical, but it would have to be well planned and coordinated, with resident scholars, who had a vested interest in the process.

As it stands however, being able to return to Southern Africa, after not being in the region for 9 years, was of tremendous benefit professionally, as a both researcher and senior scholar. Now I know what is realistically required for the project. In addition, I understand that with the right financial support, students here at Lincoln University, can carry out some of the research while gaining invaluable experience and coming into contact with Youth Influencers, who may act as role models.

Measureable Goals and Objectives for the Project

My plan was to go to southern Africa in June 2022, and travel into five states: South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zambia. In each of these states, I was to gather historical information from the national archives, including photographs, of key areas: paying particular attention to social infrastructure, as it was before independence, matched with current photos comparing the infrastructures radical transformation into what it is today. In each country I was to hire a researcher to conduct a qualitative research survey interviewing 20 participants so there were to be 100 interviews in total.

Having excellent contacts in South Africa, and having lived in Botswana for more than 20 years, and worked at the University of Botswana for 6 years, I utilized its excellent research source, the library of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the Botswana Collection, to gather data. Furthermore, I asked assistance from colleagues at the University of Botswana, to locate researchers in the neighboring countries. Botswana's research base is one of the broadest in Southern African, but I also utilized the Thabo Mbeki Institute, led by Lincoln Faculty member Dr. Sibusiso Nkgomo, as a research source in South Africa.

Projects Teaching and Research Applicability at Lincoln.

My research findings are currently being utilized to teach Political Science courses, including POL 460 International Relation Workshop, and POL 102, the Introduction to Political Science. I will continue to utilize this research in future to lecture and teach courses in International Relations, African Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, Political Economy, and Public Administration.

Dissemination of Research Findings

On October 27th 2022, the research findings were presented to the Lincoln University community, as part of the Faculty Development Grant series. A two page handout was distributed online to the Faculty members prior to the session. I spoke from the basis of the information in faculty hands, and answered the questions asked by those faculty members in attendance.

As the representative from Lincoln University, I presented the original research, on the theoretical foundations of my paper, at the last International Political Science Association (IPSA) 26th Congress, held July 2021, in session #40, which Covid 19 forced online. The additional data, in the form of information derived from the surveys, during the research process this summer, will support the theoretical foundation and economic data, presented previously. If accepted, this research paper will be presented, at the International Political Science Association's, 27th World Congress, to be held July 15-19, 2023, in Buenos Aires Argentina (see Abstract submitted to IPSA below). It's noted that, as a result of the university sponsored research, which is continuing, two third year Political Science students Doodoo Yahaya, and Mikayla McCray, will serve as Co-Authors, and we will present our findings at the 27th World Congress of the IPSA.

IPSA 2023 World Congress Paper Proposal

Paper Proposal Presented for review, to the International Political Science Association (IPSA), at the 27th World Congress, noting requested session, and Lincoln University student Co-Authors

Defining Five Development States of Southern Africa and Delineating Some of the Unexpected Consequences of Development By Interviewing Southern African Youth Influencer [Edit](#)

Author: [Dr. Wayne Edge](#)

Language
English

Co-Authors

[Mr. Dodoo B Yahaya](#) [Remove](#)

[Miss Mikayla McCray](#) [Remove](#)

[Add a co-author](#)

Abstract

The key to understanding Development States, is the role of the government as the leader in the development process, which supersedes the political ideology of the government of the day. Capitalist countries, like Botswana, are just as prone towards becoming Development States, as Socialist nations like Tanzania. Amilcar Cabral profoundly noted “Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone’s head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children.” As the dominance of apartheid, and racially discriminatory minority regimes, fades into the distant past, a new civilization: based on majority rule and democracy, is emerging throughout Southern Africa. This paper explores the development process in five (5) southern African nations, who are closely identified as Development States. Utilizing data derived from the United Nations Human Development Index and other sources, we identify the five Development States as Tanzania, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, and Zambia.

Significantly, our current research goes beyond the statistical, state-based, economic, and social indicators, by interviewing Southern African youth, who are influencers of a new society. One suspects that many of the youth influencers are operating under the radar of national government, which simply cannot keep track of the myriad of activities being conducted and discussed via the internet and the world wide web. By exploring how youth are emerging as development partners, and shaping society in extraordinary ways, the interviews demonstrate that there are numerous unexpected consequences of development. Continuing to date, the interviews show in part, that the goals, aspirations, and dreams, of the southern African youth, are different from those of their elders. The interviews further show that the role of government has dramatically changed in the consciousness of the youth influencers, fore the youth, interviewed, are much more inclined to reject government assistance, citing its limitations and political strings. Moreover, there is a dramatic increase in the utilization of information technology, to break down national, regional, and global boundaries; creating new networks of interaction based on interest.

Requested Session

[RC37 Rethinking Political Development](#)

Conference Proceedings Library Inclusion

Yes, include my full paper in the IPSA permanent conference proceedings library.

Format

In Person