The scholarship on state formation has argued strongly for the significance of bureaucratic structures in the development and creation of functional states. This conference thus examines state formation through the lens of bureaucracy. Focusing primarily on Africa, we pose the question ‘what is the relationship between bureaucracies and state formation’ from a number of angles, and seek to develop comparative perspectives on the issue.

PANEL DISCUSSION, 16 SEPTEMBER 5.30 FOR 6.00PM
Venue: Donald Gordon Auditorium at P&DM, WITS, 2 St David’s Place, Parktown Campus

To inaugurate the conference, the Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI), Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) are bringing together a panel of major African and Asian scholars and thought leaders to share their views and experiences on the fortunes of post-independence governments. Ferial Haffajee, editor of the City Press, will chair the panel discussion titled ‘When Governments Work’. The panel will comprise Professor Eun-Jeung Lee (Freie Universität), Joel Netshitenzhe (MISTRA), Ketso Gordon (CEO PPC) and Professor Eghosa Osaghae (Igbinedion University).

DAY 1, 17 SEPTEMBER
Venue: Professional Development Hub, WITS

1. Welcome and introduction, 8:30 – 9:30
Welcome and introduction to the conference by Axel Schmidt (FES) and Professor Ivor Chipkin (PARI).

2. Transnational histories of bureaucracy, 9:30 – 11:15
This panel will offer three cases of transnational state formation and the cross fertilisation of ideas about the state.
- Professor Eun-Jeung Lee (Freie Universität, Germany)
- Dr Keith Breckenridge (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of the Witwatersrand (WITS), South Africa)
- Professor Dilip Menon (Centre for Indian Studies in Africa (CISA), WITS, South Africa)

Discussant: Professor Ivor Chipkin (PARI)

TEA

3. State formation paradigms in Africa, 11.30 – 1.00
This panel explores different patterns of state formation on the African continent, examining ways of conceptualising the development of the state and the pushes and pulls in its formation.
- Professor Ebenezer Obadare (University of Kansas, USA)
- Dr Horman Chitonge (University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa)

Discussant: Yacoob Abba Omar (MISTRA)

LUNCH

4. The bureaucracies of pre-colonial Africa, 2:00 – 3:45
Speakers here will discuss the function and form of bureaucracies in pre-colonial Africa and show what this meant for state formations.
- Dr Mauro Nobili and Dr Shahid Mathee (UCT, Cape Town and University of Johannesburg, South Africa)
- Professor John Wright (WITS, South Africa)

Discussant: Professor Jeff Peires (University of Fort Hare (UFH))

TEA

5. Ethnicity and bureaucratizing indirect rule, 4:00 – 5:30
This panel seeks to look at the connections between chieftainship, ethnic groupings and the creation of bureaucratic structures. The case studies are the bureaucratization of the chieftainship in South Africa and forms of indirect rule in Nigeria’s sultanate.
- Professor Lungisile Ntebeza (UCT, South Africa)
- Professor Toure Kazah-Toure (Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria)

Discussant: Dr Mbongiseni Buthelezi (Centre for Law and Society, UCT)
DAY 2, 18 SEPTEMBER

Venue: Professional Development Hub, WITS

6. Colonial Bureaucracies and state formation, 9:00 -10:45
This session takes a close focus on colonial bureaucratic structures and the nature of the colonial state.
- Dr Andrew MacDonald (CISA, WITS, South Africa)
- Ryan Brunette (PARI, South Africa)
Discussant: Dr Mcebisi Ndletyana (MISTRA)

TEA

7. The postcolonial African state in historical context 11:00 – 12:30
This panel puts the postcolonial African state – and its future - in historical context.
- Professor Jide Balogun (DRM Associates, Canada)
- Professor Eghosa E Osaghae (Igbinedion University, Nigeria)
Discussant: Lwazi Lushaba (PARI)

LUNCH

8. Continuities and disruptions in statehood, 1:30 – 3:15
What happens to bureaucracies when states make fundamental shifts? This panel seeks to explore the management of state formation through a focus on administrative and bureaucratic structures.
- Professor Herta Däubler-Gmelin (Germany, Former National Minister of Justice, Germany)
- Professor Ivor Chipkin (PARI, South Africa)
- Professor Jeff Peires (UFH)
Discussant: Dr Bongani Ngqulunga (The Presidency)

TEA

9. Sociologies of state formation, 3:30 – 5:00
This panel will consider a range of questions about the types and forms of social relations that are reflected in the development of state institutions and which in turn develop social and economic relations.
- Dr Joel Quirk (WITS, South Africa)
- Lisa Vetten (MISTRA, South Africa)
Discussant: Dr Melanie Samson (PARI)