



The Challenge of Institutional Transformation in Africa: Historical Perspectives and Policy Implications

Presented by Dr. Michael Kpessa, post-doctoral fellow at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan campus

February 11, 2010
1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Please note: This lecture will take place in Saskatoon and will be video-conferenced to a Regina audience.

Saskatoon Location:

Theatre (101 Diefenbaker Place), Diefenbaker Building
University of Saskatchewan Campus

Regina Location:

JS Window Room, 2nd Floor, Gallery Building
University of Regina College Ave. Campus

Canada and other industrialized nations as well as international development agencies have in various ways encouraged many African countries to support the market economy and competitive, multi-party political institutions as the path to building strong and viable states. But after four decades of economic liberalization and two decades of democratization in Sub-Saharan Africa, the consensus among scholars is that (a) there are more Africans now living in abject poverty than in the years immediately following independence and that (b) African states are not only experiencing quiet regression to semi-democracies, their institutions of governance and market economy have been enfeebled by a combination of factors. This presentation shows that the nature of institutional development in African has created parallel public spheres with competing and conflicting institutional norms in ways that undermine sound public policy and the operations of state bureaucracies.

Michael Kpessa recently completed his PhD in political science at McMaster University. His current research projects focus on development, institutional change, pension reform, and the role of transnational actors in sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. He has published articles in journals like *Canadian Public Policy*, *Canadian Public Administration*, and *Poverty and Public Policy*. Michael has also been granted several research scholarships to investigate globalization and its effects on the human conditions, as well as social and economic effects of an ageing population.

Registration:

Those interested in attending are encouraged to register online at www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca (please select **News and Events**, then **Events Calendar** and the appropriate calendar date).

For more information contact us at 306.585.5869 or js_outreach@uregina.ca.

