

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

22 – 24 OCTOBER 2018 | JOHANNESBURG

#AfterCapture

STATE CAPTURE

AND ITS AFTERMATH

Building Responsiveness
through State Reform

CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline for submission of abstract: 30 July 2018

The Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI) is pleased to invite paper proposals for its upcoming International Conference on State Capture and its Aftermath. The conference will not only enable the presentation of new and original research, but also will serve as a platform to identify elements of a state reform agenda in South Africa, focusing on public institutions and on public administration.

You are hereby invited to send your abstract (no more than 250 words) and a short biography (no more than 250 words) to florenciab@pari.org.za. Please indicate in your abstract which panel or theme your work speaks to, in line with the themes below.

SUMMARY

South Africa has reached a defining moment. The democratic dispensation has been severely weakened by an insurgent elite populism (that spoke in the language of subaltern and postcolonial studies) to justify violating the constitution and democratic procedures. In the name of radical change, the Jacob Zuma government broke and looted key state institutions – either for purposes of enrichment or to finance its anti-democratic politics. ‘State capture’, as this phenomenon has come to be known in South Africa, occurred at all levels of government and across the state. The last ten years of ANC rule have torn away at the basic unity of South Africa’s post-1994 promise: democracy, equality, justice.

The election of President Cyril Ramaphosa, in December 2017, has been widely celebrated as a ‘new dawn’, that is, as an opportunity to restore the constitutional project and programmatic government on the basis of sound policies. Drawing on the lessons of 2017 of the power and the importance of civil-society in South Africa to defend and drive democracy, there is a historic opportunity for a civil-society led initiative to reform government, professionalise public administration and to build a responsive and capable state.

STATE CAPTURE AND ITS AFTERMATH

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

22–24 OCTOBER 2018 | JOHANNESBURG

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

In the spirit of this potential democratic renewal, the Public Affairs Research Institute is hosting a major conference on reconstructing public institutions in South Africa in the aftermath of state capture. The conference will bring together scholars and practitioners from South Africa and from around the world to discuss and share their views and experiences of state reform initiatives in countries struggling with the legacies of colonialism, fragmentation, poverty and inequality. PARI welcomes papers on each of the following themes:

I. THEORETICAL ANALYSES ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THEMES:

1. Constitutions and Political Ideas

Works under this theme should aim to explore any of the following:

- Postcolonial constitutions and state structure
- Socialism, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Third World
- Post-independence party-state bureaucracy relations in Africa;
- Indirect rule, fragmentation and bifurcation; and/or
- The politics of Blackness and practices of government.

2. Bureaucracy and Rationalisation

Works under this theme should aim to explore any of the following:

- Bureaucracy and rationalisation in post-independence countries;
- Taxation systems and reforms in African countries; and
- The role of, or co-existence with, traditional systems of rule and authorities

3. Cultures of Government

Works under this theme should aim to explore any of the following:

- Practices in the appointment of civil servants;
- Bureaucratic practices and local resistance;
- Power and organizational cultures;
- Economic incentives, compliance and performance; and/or
- Women, gender and sex in the state.

4. Capitalism and Bureaucracy

Works under this theme should focus broadly on the political economy of the state and explore any of the following:

- Extractive industries and the organisation of government;
- Concessions, Concessionaries and the limits of the state
- Outsourcing of government (business and procurement in the running of government); and/or
- Race, class, and power in government

STATE CAPTURE AND ITS AFTERMATH

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

22–24 OCTOBER 2018 | JOHANNESBURG

II. APPLIED POLICY ANALYSES IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA FOCUSING ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Experiments and national administrative reforms

- Reconstructing the State: The RDP Office and the State
- The building of a Unitary State
- The Rise of New Public Management and Bureaucratic Reform
- Practices of 'Transformation' since 1996

2. Local Government Development

- Metropolitan Government and the idea of the UniCity
- Community-driven democratisation and service delivery practices
- Financing Government: The politics of transfers and resource mobilisation
- The social contract at municipal level

3. Resistance, protest and social movements

- State capture and the struggle for service delivery in South Africa
- Forms of organisation and public participation
- The politics of organising – the demand for internal and external accountability; new organisations, alliances and collaborations

4. The Politics of Government

- Political Overreach - Negotiating the political-administrative interface
- Sites of power within the state
- Political Barons and provincial administrations

5. Recruitment and Appointments in Government

- The Executive Authority and the fight for control of Human Resource processes
- The Constitution fights back: Developments in Public Law
- Delegations and Authorities: who holds power in departments

6. The State of Capture

- The State of Key State Institutions
- The Fortunes of the Public Protector and other Chapter 9 Institutions
- The State of State Owned Enterprises
- The State of the Criminal Justice System
- Anti-Corruption Strategies: what works and what doesn't
- Apartheid and Post-Apartheid Corruption: Continuities and Discontinuities
- The Shadow State (Intelligence and Government: Securocrats and the State: Who Governs? Continuities and Discontinuities);
- Media, Reporting and Government: More than a story on corruption?
- The effectiveness of the state's oversight institutions: A case of overseeing the overseers?

DATES TO REMEMBER

Submission of abstract and biography
(250 words each max): 30 July 2018

Notification of acceptance: 15 August 2018

Deadline for final paper submission: 24
September 2018