



WINNERS AND LOSERS OF TRANSITION IN POST-APARTHEID COUNTRIES

THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF
NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND ZIMBABWE





ABOUT THE PROJECT

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The truth is that we are not yet free; we have merely achieved the freedom to be free, the right not to be oppressed. We have not taken the final step of our journey, but the first step on a longer and even more difficult road. For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. The true test of our devotion to freedom is just beginning.

NELSON MANDELA

The apartheid system in Southern Africa, which enforced racial segregation and white-minority rule collapsed more than quarter of a century ago. Yet, the region remains one of the most unequal parts of the world as 10% of the (mostly white) population controls over 65% of the wealth.

Although the apartheid system has ended, the economic changes have hardly materialised. Most of the blacks in Southern Africa remains either excluded or confined to the margins of the country's mainstream economy. The issue of unequal opportunities for white and blacks has been a hot-topic for public debates in Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe - the three post-apartheid states in Southern Africa.

Governments of the Southern African countries have tried introducing various socio-economic strategies aimed at increasing economic activity and drawing out of poverty the mem-

bers of previously disadvantaged groups. Two of them, namely the affirmative action plans (Black Economic Empowerment) and land reform - due to their scale, impact and controversies - seem to be of particular importance.

The major objective of this research project is to present and analyse comparatively the strategies which were supposed to economically integrate the excluded societal groups, implemented by post-apartheid Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. We will also determine the winners and losers of the transformation processes in each country, assessing the effectiveness of affirmative actions and land reforms in redressing the injustices of the past.

WORK PLAN

1.

PRELIMINARY RESEARCH

Q2-Q4 2018

We will fine-tune the final thematic scope and theoretical framework of the project. Towards this end, we will carry out extensive desktop research, consultations with other academics and prepare a series of draft papers to aggregate the existing knowledge on black economic empowerment strategies in Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

2.

FIELD STUDY VISITS TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

Q1-Q4 2019

We will conduct several research visits to South Africa and Namibia to verify preliminary hypotheses, contextualise and refine our knowledge on affirmative action plans implemented in those countries. We will gather quantitative data (from surveys) and conduct semi-structured interviews with selected stakeholders.

3.

PUBLICATIONS

Q1-Q3 2020

Based on findings from the study visits and desk research, we will prepare several scientific papers and publish them in top peer-reviewed African Studies academic journals. Additionally, we will present and discuss our results at two international scientific conferences.

RESEARCH TEAM



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Andrzej Polus holds a PhD and habilitation in Political Science. He works as an assistant professor in the Institute of International Studies at the University of Wrocław. Andrzej is the acting president of the Polish Centre for African Studies and an author of over 50 scientific publications. His current research focuses on theories of International Relations, the political economy of Sub-Saharan Africa and the effectiveness of economic empowerment strategies in Southern Africa. Contact: andrzej.polus@uwr.edu.pl

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Dominik Kopiński holds PhD and habilitation degrees in Economics and currently works as an assistant professor in the Institute of Economics, University of Wrocław. Dominik was a Fulbright Fellow at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University and now serves as vice-president of the Polish Centre for African Studies. His current research focuses on China-Africa ties, global public goods and economic empowerment policies in Southern Africa. Contact: dominik.kopinski@uwr.edu.pl



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graduated from the Wrocław University of Economics (with an MA in International Trade) in 2011 and the University of Wrocław (with an MA in International Affairs) in 2008. Currently, he is a PhD candidate at the Wrocław University of Economics. In his research work, he focuses on capital flows to Africa, international trade and natural resource revenue management. Contact: wojciech.tycholiz@uwr.edu.pl

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