

Workshop on Zimbabwe's 2018 Elections



Friday, 17 August 2018

CSSR seminar room, Leslie Social Science 4.29

2 to 5 pm

The results of Zimbabwe's election are no less controversial than the results of previous elections. Officially, the incumbent president Emmerson Mnangagwa was re-elected with 50,8% of the vote, meaning that he narrowly avoided a run-off against runner-up Nelson Chamisa (of the Movement for Democratic Change, MDC). Chamisa won 44,3% of the vote, which was substantially more than his predecessor as MDC leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, won in 2013. In the parliamentary election, Mnangagwa's ZANU-PF won 144 seats (down from 160 in 2013) to 64 for the MDC Alliance and a single seat for the National Patriotic Front led by loyalists of ousted former president Robert Mugabe. Chamisa and the MDC have rejected the results. Several people were killed by the army or riot police during protests immediately following the elections. This workshop provides an opportunity to reflect on the elections, the choices made by Zimbabwean voters, and the implications for Zimbabwe.



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Sessions:

2 – 3:20pm: The pre-election opinion polls and focus groups

voters: Lessons from

with Mr Stephen Ndoma, Principal Researcher, Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI), Harare

The Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI), together with Afrobarometer and the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR), collaborated on two pre-election polls in Zimbabwe, in April/May and June/July respectively. This session will discuss the Afrobarometer [Policy Paper](#) on the first poll (see also a [summary of the April/May results](#)) and [Dispatch](#) on the second poll (see also a [summary of the June/July results](#)). MPOI also ran a series of [pre-election focus groups](#), in March.

3:40 – 5pm: The campaigns, the results and the future

with Professor Brian Raftopoulos, Zimbabwean scholar and activist.

The second session will cover electoral strategies and the messaging of the major political parties, the election results and some of the reasons underlying the voting outcome, the parties' responses to the results, and the challenges that regional and international players confront in the face of another contested election.



Brian, formally a Professor of Development Studies at the University of Zimbabwe from 1990-2006, moved to Cape Town at the end of March 2006 and since 2007 has been the Director of Research and Advocacy in the Solidarity Peace Trust, an NGO dealing with human rights issues in Zimbabwe. He has published widely on Zimbabwean history, labour history, historiography, and politics and is a regular contributor to public debates in Zimbabwe. Brian was a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Humanities Research at the University of the Western Cape from 2009-2016, and is currently a Research Fellow in the International Studies Group, University of the Free State. He is also on the Advisory Editorial Board of the Journal of Southern African Studies. As an activist he was a founder member of the National Constitutional Assembly in 1998, and the first Chair of a broad civic coalition called the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition from 2001-2003. He continues to work closely with the labour movement in Zimbabwe as a board member of the Labour and Development Institute of Zimbabwe (Ledriz).