

AFRICA UPRISING!

Popular Politics and Unarmed Resistance

Zachariah Mampilly is the Director of Africana Studies and an Associate Professor of Political Science at Vassar College. In 2012/2013, he was a Fulbright Visiting Professor at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He is the author of *Rebel Rulers: Insurgent Governance and Civilian Life during War* (Cornel U. Press 2011). Co-written with Adam Branch, *Africa Uprising! Popular Politics and Unarmed Resistance* is forthcoming from Zed Press.

ABSTRACT OF LECTURE: Africa has witnessed an extraordinary outbreak of popular protests over the past decade. Though protests in North Africa have garnered the most attention, more than twenty countries across the continent have witnessed unprecedented popular movements seeking to transform bleak political and economic realities. Whether the "Occupy Nigeria" movement, Sudan's "Girifna" (We are fed up) protests, Uganda's "Walk to Work" actions, and, of course, the so-called "Arab Spring" in North Africa, the outburst of protest activity has led governments across the continent to resort to repression in order to cull the energy of popular movements. Africa's contemporary protests are neither so local as to be idiosyncratic nor so global as to be without their own particular meaning. Rather, they are specifically African, and are therefore worthy of equal consideration as anti-austerity protests in Europe, anti-corruption protests in Asia or the Occupy protests elsewhere. Who are the protesters? Why now? And what do they say about the future of African countries? In this talk, Mampilly will explore the current wave of protests and examine their shared mechanics. By examining the local, national, regional and international contexts in which the protests are unfolding, the talk will examine what the current wave of protests says about popular politics in Africa today.



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EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Date: Tuesday, March 11TH

Time: 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Location: Pauling Hall 216, Sako University

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