



# THE ROUNDTABLE

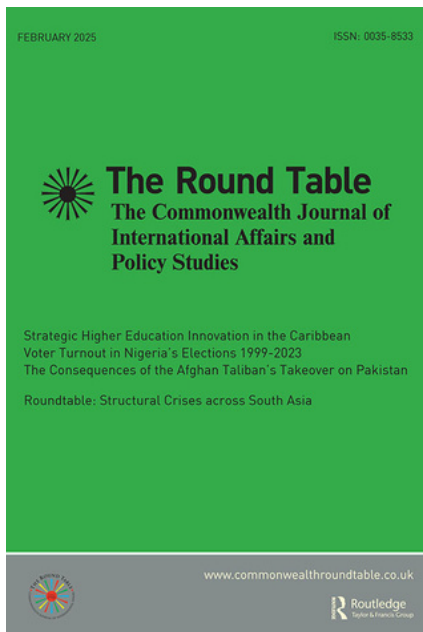
*The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*

## NEWSLETTER

March 2025

### FROM THE JOURNAL

#### PERSPECTIVES ON SOUTH ASIA'S STRUCTURAL CRISIS



In the latest issue now out:

- **A ROUND TABLE 'roundtable'** gathers eleven LEADING perspectives on structural crises across South Asia.
- **Ilam Khan and Zahid Shahab Ahmed** explore the Afghan Taliban's takeover of Pakistan's borderlands
- **Saheed Babajide Owonikoko and Kelvin Ashindorbe** analyse voter turnout in Nigeria's general elections since 1999
- **Robert W. Robertson** writes on strategic higher education innovation and leadership in the Caribbean
- **James Robbins** looks at the current UK Labour government's attitude to the Commonwealth
- **Stuart Mole** follows the mystery trail of the Commonwealth Observer Group report on Zimbabwe's 2023 elections.

### FROM THE WEBSITE

#### CRISIS, CANADA, AND COMMONWEALTH DAY

On our website:

- **Sue Onslow and Olivia Lwabukuna** consider whether the current rapidly changing geopolitical scene offers an opportunity for the Commonwealth to play a more active role in international relations.
- **Donald Wright** explains why Canadians don't want to be the 51st state 'and Americans don't really want us'
- **Debbie Ransome** reports on Commonwealth Day 2025 and its message of resilience and peace in a challenging world.



# RT AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

## THE 2024 HARRY HODSON PRIZE

The [2024 Harry Hodson prize](#), has been awarded to David R. Salmon, a Jamaican Rhodes Scholar at Oxford. The annual award is presented by The Round Table in memory of the journal's late editor, Harry Hodson, for a written piece of work by an undergraduate or postgraduate student from a Commonwealth university.

- The deadline for 2025 entries is the 31<sup>st</sup> December.



## OTHER NEWS



### FAREWELL TO VENKAT IYER

The Round Table has recently had a change of Editor, with [Venkat Iyer retiring after 16 years](#) in post. He has been replaced by [Professor Sue Onslow](#) of King's College London, who previously headed the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London, and retains an attachment there.

- Please read more about Sue and the new editorial team [here](#).

## SELECTED EVENTS

### THROUGH THE GENERATIONS: YOUTH, AGEING & AFRICAN STUDIES COLLECTIONS.



**THROUGH THE GENERATIONS:  
Youth, Ageing & African Studies Collections**

A one-day conference at the University of Oxford, U.K.  
**Monday June 30th, 2025**

Thank you to our sponsors:



The [2025 SCOLMA \(the UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa\) conference](#) will be held in person on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at the University of Oxford, with keynote speaker Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata. The conference will explore the role of library and archive materials in African Studies in understanding generational change and in meeting the opportunities and challenges that it brings.

## FROM THE ARCHIVE

### AN ORNITHOLOGY OF SECRETARIES-GENERAL

In our regular series [From The RT Archive](#) - as Shirley Botchwey takes office this month as the Commonwealth's seventh Secretary-General - enjoy [Stephen Chan's](#) extended ornithological metaphor from 20 years ago assessing leadership styles and achievements of the first four predecessors: likening them, in turn, to a Weaver, a Bird of Paradise, a Hoopoe, and a Kiwi. [More FTA articles regular on our website](#)

