South Africa’s African National Congress (ANC) is in decline, its hegemony has been weakened, its legitimacy diluted. President Cyril Ramaphosa’s appointment suspended the ANC’s electoral decline, it also heightened internal tensions between those who would deepen its acquired status as corrupt and captured, and those who would remodel it as redeemable. These are the incontrovertible knowns of South African politics; what will evolve from this is less certain. In Precarious Power, renowned political scientist Susan Booysen uses in-depth research and analysis to distill that which is bound to shape South Africa’s political future. Booysen focuses on contradictory party politics and internal ANC dissent that is veiled for the sake of retaining an electoral following. Also exposed is the incongruous, populist policymaking, protest and the use of soft law to ensure it does not alienate angry citizens, fueling further discontent and protest. The ANC’s power has become exceedingly precarious. Precarious Power is the name of the political game, for the foreseeable future.

Susan Booysen (Author)
Director of Research, Mapungubwe Institute of Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) and Visiting Professor, Wits School of Governance, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Shireen Hassim (Discussant)
Canada 150 Research Chair in Gender and African Politics, Institute of African Studies, Carleton University

Bruce Montador (Moderator)
Chair of the Africa Study Group, Ottawa and former Executive Director representing Canada at the African Development Bank

JUNE 15, 2021
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

https://carleton-ca.zoom.us/j/95003923631