ASAUK
African Studies Association of the UK

NEWSLETTER

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ASAUK Conference 2022

The African Studies Association UK is pleased to announce that registration for this year's conference is now *OPEN*.

The conference will be a hybrid event, taking place across three countries: Nairobi (Kenya), Ibadan (Nigeria) and Liverpool (UK).

In Nairobi, the first day of the conference, we will be hosted by our colleague Ambreena Manji. The theme of the Nairobi event will be concerned, broadly, with the issue of land; land rights, access, cultures and activism.

The second day of the conference will take place in Ibadan, Nigeria, and will be hosted by our colleague and partner Vincent Hiribarren at the University of Ibadan. Both events will be available to attend online for free – though registration is required – please see our website in the coming weeks for details.

The Liverpool portion of the conference will primarily be a traditional in-person event across three days. Registration, along with fees for attendance, can be found at: https://www.asauk.net/2022-conference/registration/

For further information regarding this year's themes please visit the website: https://www.asauk.net/2022-conference/

We are happy to also announce that the call for papers' deadline for the Liverpool portion of the conference has been extended – if you wish to submit a panel or an individual paper please visit our website or send an email directly to: asaukconference22@gmail.com

We have had a tremendous amount of submissions for the Fage & Oliver book prize this year and we are excited to announce that we will reveal the shortlist, carefully chosen by our selection committee, in the coming days via our website.

The Audrey Richards Prize for the best Africa-related thesis successfully defended at a British University in 2020-21 will also be announced.

Awards for Outstanding Achievement in African Studies, formerly the Distinguished Africanist Award, will also be announced at the conference.

Finally, *Flutterwave,* our conference dinner sponsors, will also be hosting an Early Career Researcher's event at the Liverpool conference and we encourage younger scholars to sign up early to attend.

In these uncertain times of Covid it must be noted that capacity for the Liverpool conference is limited – so sign up today to ensure admittance.

We look forward to seeing you all in September.

Nathan Richards
Conference Curator
ASAUK

Conferences Future. . .

UNITED KINGDOM

'Indian Ocean Networks', Baraza: Swahili studies conference, SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Saturday 29th October 2022. Abstracts are invited for short presentations at the annual SOAS BARAZA Swahili Studies Conference addressing any aspect of the language, literature, translation, culture, philosophy or diaspora of the Swahili speaking peoples of the world. The aim of the meeting is to foster academic interaction and exchange about new or emerging research, developing ideas and interests for mutual benefit among Swahili scholars and students.

This year's Baraza main theme is '*Indian Ocean networks*' looking at the past and present realms of networks and trajectories around the ocean impacting on Swahili language, literature, culture and civilisation.

The organisers welcome papers that address issues around the cosmopolitan Swahili culture and society, changing aspects of Swahili language and linguistics; about the historical trajectories of Swahili literary and cultural writings and other forms of expression; they also welcome contributions from art practitioners and art historians. 250-300 word abstracts in English or Swahili by 15th September 2022 to: ih11@soas.ac.uk

'7th Swiss Researching Africa Days', Swiss Society for African Studies, Bern, Switzerland, 28-29th October 2022. The objective of this biannual convention is to promote the exchange among the community of researchers working on Africa in Switzerland. Panels typically integrate young and established scholars (Master, Ph.Ds, postdocs, professors).

The following panels and roundtables were selected: African Transitions to Peace and Democracy? Modifications and critiques of a persistent model; African Food Systems under Change: Institutional Transformations and its Impact on Food Resilience and Nutrition; 'Expertise' in and on African cities; Multilingualism and Health Communication in sub-Saharan Africa: Transdisciplinary approaches in research and development practice; Decolonizing Swiss-Africa research collaborations; La transcription: enjeux de la mise à l'écrit de textes oraux africains; Transdisciplinary research in Africa focusing on One Health; Decolonization of museum collections; Another way of seeing: fiction and faction from and on Africa; and Nouvelles recherches sur l'histoire contemporaine de l'Afrique: coopérations et circulations transimpériales (roundtable). 250 word abstracts by 31st July 2022 to: zasb@unibas.ch

The organizers also call for scientific posters (size A0, vertical orientation) on on-going or recently finished Ph.D research on a topic related to Africa at Swiss universities. There will be time slots for the presentation of the posters during the conference. The posters will also be compiled as an electronic reader to be published on the website of the Swiss Society for African Studies. Posters by 14th August 2022 to: zasb@unibas.ch

'Digitizing Performance in Africa: Politics, Aesthetics, and Historical Continuities in the Circulation of Music', International Workshop, MSH Mondes, Université Paris Nanterre, Paris, France 18–19 January 2023. The aim of this conference is to bring together anthropologists, historians, and ethnomusicologists to discuss the ways that communication devices have continued, reinforced or altered how African people are sharing sounds and images of performance.

The practice of exchanging and circulating music, dance, poetry or rituals among African societies has existed for centuries through travel or direct contact and has shifted to include use of new technologies over time. During the latter half of the twentieth century, the radio and analog audio recorder were key tools used during African self-liberation movements to disseminate information, propaganda, poetry, and music. Since the end of the 2000s, the widespread use of cell phones and media file sharing applications on the African continent has impacted not only urban areas, but also rural areas. Excerpts from ritual musical

performances, funerals, weddings or even military events and other activities are shared and circulated via SD cards, Bluetooth connections or social networks on the continent and on a transnational scale.

These communication and storage technologies have introduced into people's daily life a new object, the music file, which any person in possession of a cell phone is likely to produce, manipulate and share. The music file exists at the intersection of the material and the immaterial. Glimpses of an event are recorded, fixed as a binary code, and contained in a physical medium. The file's digital characteristics can then be modified through editing software, sometimes directly on a cell phone. These files are reproduced and exist in several places simultaneously, and the relational modes they engage do not depend on the co-presence between musical producers and an audience.

At first glance, these technologies are changing the relationship to music and, more broadly, the relationships that are built around it. The local and global music industries have had great impact on the way people circulate, listen to, and relate to music. However, the visual and sound recording of musical events is now also implemented by participants of the performance themselves, and not only by outsiders, non-african visitors, or (inter)national media. All over Africa, people have understood for some time the interest and stakes of sharing a trace of musical performances for both daily entertainment and political end. For example, in certain regions marked by inter-ethnic and inter-state conflicts, the circulation of audio and video recordings plays a key role in the construction of alliances and enmities. But are the systems of sharing, the circulation paths, and the modes of listening entirely new? The production, the manipulations and the circulation of musical files are often inscribed in historical logics engaged by direct contact, writing, radio, or cassettes.

Some of the questions this conference seeks to address include: How to describe practices of "fileization" of musical performances? What are these historical continuities and connections? How are they embedded in histories of colonialism and neocolonialism? What are the political or aesthetic stakes when these music files are used in intra or inter-community interactions? What other forms of sharing do they replace or reinforce?

The organisers invite proposals on the following themes: the political use of music files in relation between communities, urban and rural areas, or with the national governments; historical continuities in strategies of music circulation; technical and aesthetic choices in the recording and editing of music files; the influence of recorded performances on musical and ritual know-how; transnational music file sharing, connecting Africa and its diaspora; communication, the music file, and migration journeys; and viral circulation of musical files and social networks.

Abstracts up to 250 words in English or French by 25th July 2022 [special extended deadline for ASAUK members] to Raymok Ketema: raymok@ucsb.edu *and* Giordano Marmone: giordano.marmone@gmail.com *and* Katell Morand: kmorand@parisnanterre.fr

. . .Conferences Past

African Studies Association of Africa 2022, Cape Town South Africa
The African Studies Association of Africa conference took place 11th – 16th April 2022 in Cape Town, South Africa and online via video conferencing. The ASAA was launched in October 2013, its expressed aim to promote Africa's own specific contributions to the advancement of knowledge about the peoples and cultures of Africa and the Diaspora. The rise of Africa-based academic associations and conference series (the ASAA is one of a number of such flourishing associations) marks the gravitational shift of the study of Africa, with knowledge production centred on and from institutions on the African continent. Another feature of the ASAA (and this is true of many of the other Africa-based conference series and associations too) is the relatively youthful membership and strong intellectual and activist vision.

The theme of the 2022 conference was 'Africa and the Human: Old Questions, New Imaginaries'. The conference organisers asked: "What does it mean to be human today in Africa, African in the world today, and what can Africa contribute to thinking the human? The idea of the human is increasingly threatened by destabilising transformations as the world gradually moves to what is defined by some as the abyss of modernity and the aftershocks of the postmodern. Will prevalent ideas of being human and/or being African survive? Should the idea of the human and African be saved, and as we move into the Anthropocene/posthuman, what or who will or should count as human and/or African in the end? As the old certainties of the enlightenment are questioned and rejected and the promises of neoliberal democracy shattered – labelled as both fraudulent and farcical – what alternatives remain to imagine the human from Africa?"

The conference sessions took place over four days, with an additional day of pre-conference debates and events, and the AGM and business meeting taking place on 12 April. The first few days of the conference saw packed auditoriums and seminar rooms, and a lively set of events happening at the Baxter Theatre near the University of Cape Town. Saturday was quieter, with most people joining via the online platforms.

ASAA has long wished to have a sustainable publishing outlet for members, and this year at the AGM it was announced that selected outputs from the conference

will be published in a newly formed HUMA-ASAA "Encounters" series. Co-hosted by HUMA, Institute for Humanities in Africa at the University of Cape Town, this publication series will provide an interdisciplinary forum for discussion between scholars from social sciences and humanities (SSH) and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Significantly the focus is on the production of new knowledges about Africa and the human. This series will be published with Langaa RPCIG and other partners, and is a collaboration between HUMA and ASAA.

The ASAUK sponsored two panels organised around the work of the 2021 ASAUK Mary Kingsley Zochonis speakers, Gibson Ncube and Neo Pule. Both of them were able to attend the conference in person, and were offered the opportunity to also participate in the Journal Work Academy. Gibson Ncube's MKZ lecture was titled "Queerness is unAfrican?: The complexity of non-normative sexual and gender identities in Africa", and Neo Pule's was "Decolonising research methodologies in psychology: Social dream drawing studies of the student leadership context in South Africa". More details of their MKZ 2021 lectures, alongside recordings, can be found here: https://www.asauk.net/2021-mary-kingsley-zochonis-lecture-series-by-dr-gibson-ncube-and-dr-neo-pule/

To see the full ASAA conference programme: https://2022conference.as-aa.org/programme/

As we did at the previous ASAA conference (Nairobi 2019), the ASAUK collaborated with the ASAA on a journal article completion workshop. The collaboration is called The Journal Work Academy, and the names of participants to the 2022 edition can be found here: https://2022conference.as-aa.org/programme/pre-conference-workshops/

The Journal Work Academy involves structured sessions of practical exercises and collaborative work. The participants are divided into 'editorial teams', and each team works with one or two editors and with one or more senior scholars. Participants provide guided feedback to one another's work (following the protocols developed in the Journal Work Academy). Each author receives detailed feedback from the others in the group, as well as one-on-one feedback from senior scholars and journal editors. This has the aim of improving individual papers, but also of strengthening future scholarly networks and building intra-African networks of collaboration.

The outcome of the Journal Work Academy is to create resources that can be adapted to different contexts, enabling tailored capacity building from the ground up. Participants have the benefit of discussing their work with their peers from other institutions and thinking of their individual projects in terms of networked intellectual debates and future collaborations. The seminar-style format encourages collaborative work and understands journal publishing not

simply as a step to career advancement but as an engaged and contextual scholarly practice. Through the collaborations between journal editors and the ASAUK and ASAA, publishing cultures become a central part of a future-oriented academy.

Dr Carli Coetzee, ASAUK Vice President

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Baffour Dokyi Agyei (2022), 'The Impact of Employee Motivation on Employees' Operational Performance in the Ghanaian Large-Scale Textile Manufacturing Industry', Ph.D thesis, University of Wales Trinity Saint David. Supervisors: Dr Dababrata Chowdhury and Dr John-Paul Okeoma Okeke; https://repository.uwtsd.ac.uk/id/eprint/1903/

Jente Althuis (2022), 'Strategic Communications of the Streets: Designing and Resisting Apartheid Through the Urban Spaces of Johannesburg', Ph.D thesis, King's College London. Supervisors: Professor John Spence and Dr Neville Bolt.

Sunday Ashua (2022), 'Impact of Climate Variability on Maize Production in the Agroclimates of Cross River State, Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, University of Sheffield. Supervisors: Professor Grant R. Bigg and Dr Manoj Menon; https://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/30107/

Roland Baimbill-Johnson (2022), 'An Examination of the Enhancement of Technological Capabilities in Global Value Chains: A Comparative Study of the Tuna Industries of Ghana and Thailand', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Machiko Nissanke; https://doi.org/10.25501/SOAS.00036610

Nicholas Barley (2022), 'British Army Military Capacity Building in Support of the UK's International Defence Engagement Policy: The Deployment of Short-term Training Teams to Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Somalia (2014-2019)', Ph.D thesis, King's College London. Supervisor: Professor Ashley Jackson.

Julian Boys (2022), 'Industrialisation through Regionalism?: Policy Space, Industrial Policy and Upgrading in the Textiles and Apparel Value Chains of the East African Community', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Antonio Andreoni; https://doi.org/10.25501/SOAS.00037125

Carolin Dieterle (2022), 'Governing Land Investments: Global Norms, Local Land Tenure Regimes, and Domestic Contingencies in Uganda and Sierra Leone', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Catherine Boone; https://doi.org/10.21953/lse.00004393

Alice Chadwick El-Ali (2022), 'Volunteering for Development: Making Selves and Building Citizenship in Sierra Leone', Ph.D thesis, University of Bath. Supervisors: Professor Joseph Devine and Dr Luisa Enria.

Jessie Ini Fubara-Manuel (20220, 'The Role of Christian Faith for Women Living with Disabilities and HIV in South-South Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Dr Emma Wild-Wood and Professor Liz Grant.

Elisa Gambino (2022), 'The Political Economy of Sino-African Infrastructural Engagement: The Internationalisation of Chinese State-owned Companies in Kenya', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Professor Paul Nugent, Dr Jose Munoz Martin and Dr Daniel Hammond; ; https://doi.org/10.7488/era/2028

Lauren D'Mello-Guyett (2022), 'Prevention and Control of Cholera in Complex Emergencies in Sub-Saharan Africa: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Interventions Used by Médecins Sans Frontières', Ph.D thesis, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Supervisors: Professor Francesco Checchi and Oliver Cumming; https://doi.org/10.17037/PUBS.04664715

Victoria Isika (2022), 'Gender Discourses and Shifting Subjectivities: Examining Women's Responses to Intimate Partner Violence in Mombasa and Nairobi, Kenya', Ph.D thesis, University of Nottingham. Supervisors: Dr Esther Bott and Dr Sam Okyere; http://eprints.nottingham.ac.uk/68422/

Roxanne Keynejad (2022), 'Adapting a Brief Psychological Intervention for Pregnant Women Experiencing Depressive Symptoms and Intimate Partner Violence in Rural Ethiopia', Ph.D thesis, King's College London. Supervisors: Professor Louise Michele Howard and Dr Charlotte Hanlon.

Richard King (2022), 'Improving Sanitary Inspections for Small Drinking Water Supplies', Ph.D thesis, University of Surrey. Supervisor: Dr Katherine Pond; https://doi.org/10.15126/thesis.900330

Brigadier Libanda (2022) 'Modelling Tree Growth Rates across Southern African Woodlands: A Hierarchical Mixed-Effects Approach', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Dr Casey Ryan, Professor Edward Mitchard and Dr Kyle Dexter; https://doi.org/10.7488/era/1943

Shannon McLaughlin (2022), 'Fostering Food and Nutrition Security in Sub-Saharan Africa: Three Case Studies from Malawi', Ph.D thesis, Queen's University Belfast. Supervisors: Dr Martina Bozzola and Professor Alberto Longo.

Patrick Mutahi (2022), 'Statehood, Sovereignty and Identities: Exploring Policing in Kenya's Informal Settlements of Mathare and Kaptembwo', Ph.D. thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Dr Thomas Molony and Dr Sarah-Jane Cooper-Knock.

Nerea Amisi Okong'o (2022), 'Progress, Politics and the Place of Elite Black African Women in Kenyan Extractive Sector', Ph.D thesis, University of Sheffield. Supervisors: Professor Jenny Pickerill and Dr Charis Enns; https://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/30480/

Femi Owolade (2022), 'Legal Pluralism as a Colonial Project in Africa: British Colonial Rule and the Creation of a Plural Legal System in Kano Province, Northern Nigeria (1903-1960)', Ph.D thesis, King's College London. Supervisor: Dr Vincent Hiribarren.

Jürgen Schwettmann (2022), 'Cooperatives in the Social and Solidarity Economy: Sustainable Development and Decent Work in Africa's Informal Economy', Ph.D thesis, Manchester Metropolitan University. Supervisors: Dr Mike Bull and Dr Helen Wadham; https://e-space.mmu.ac.uk/629185/

Dorcas Oluwafikunayo Taiwo (2022), 'Incremental Development of a Legal Framework for Arbitration in Emerging Markets: A Case Study of Construction Arbitration in Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, University of Essex; http://repository.essex.ac.uk/32297/

Thibault Uytterhaegen (2022), '"Hands in the Village Pot": Young Men Seeking Adulthood through Mobile Money Transactions in Senegal', Ph.D thesis, University of Bath. Supervisors: Dr Mathilde Maitrot and Dr Ben Radley.

Jacobus Marthinus Van Rooyen (2022), 'Persistent Segregation: Spatial Patterns and Dynamics of Residential Segregation in Cape Town', Ph.D thesis, Birkbeck, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Joana Barros; https://eprints.bbk.ac.uk/id/eprint/47926/

Patrick Wahome (2022), 'Statehood, Sovereignty and Identities: Exploring Policing in Kenya's Informal Settlements of Mathare and Kaptembwo', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Dr Thomas Molony and Dr Sarah Jane Cooper-Knock; https://doi.org/10.7488/era/2045

Louise Wetheridge (2022), 'Negotiated Realities: Adolescent Girls, Formal Schooling, and Early Marriage in Kaduna State, North West Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, University College London. Supervisors: Professor Elaine Unterhalter, Professor Oona Campbell and Professor Judith Glynn; https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10142595/

Recent Publications

Abimbola Adelakun (2021), *Performing Power in Nigeria: Identity, Politics, and Pentecostalism*. Cambridge University Press, 290pp, 9781108831079, **£75.**

Chigbo Arthur Anyaduba (2021), *The Postcolonial African Genocide Novel: Quests for Meaningfulness*. Liverpool University Press, 280pp, 9781800856875, **£95.**

Leslie Bank and Nelly Sharpley (2022), *Covid and Custom in Rural South Africa: Culture, Healthcare and the State*. Hurst, 320pp, 9781787385733, £22.

Willow Berridge, Justin Lynch, Raga Makawi and Alex de Waal (2022), *Sudan's Unfinished Democracy: The Promise and Betrayal of a People's Revolution*. Hurst, 280pp, 9781787385351, £22.

Mathew H. Brown (2021), *Indirect Subjects: Nollywood's Local Address*. Duke University Press, 336pp, 978-1478014195, £22.

Judith Byfield, (2021), *The Great Upheaval: Women and Nation in Postwar Nigeria*. Ohio University Press, 276pp, 978-0821423981, £26.

Cajetan Iheka (2021), *African Ecomedia: Network Forms, Planetary Politics*. Duke University Press, 336pp, 978-1478014744, £22.

Tim Kelsall (ed) (2022), *Charlatans, Spirits and Rebels in Africa: The Stephen Ellis Reader*. Hurst, 368pp, 9781787383302, £25.

Ian Martin (2022), *All Necessary Measures? The United Nations and International Intervention in Libya*. Hurst, 224pp, 9781787385849, £30.

David B. Moore (2022), *Mugabe's Legacy: Coups, Conspiracies, and the Conceits of Power in Zimbabwe*. Hurst, 304pp, 9781787387713, £22.

Malyn Newitt (2022), *The Zambezi: A History*. Hurst, 424pp, 9781787387003, £25.

News

Film Africa

In 2022, for the 10th edition of Film Africa, the organisers will further our mission of amplifying African voices and interests in the arts by screening and promoting African films across the UK, as well as online with the BFI. Film Africa makes African films more accessible by creating a hybrid festival, introducing audiences to African filmmakers through online and in-person events. The hybrid program

makes the festival accessible for people who live outside of London or are unable to attend physically.

Through an exciting programme of music events, debate-driven panels and Q&As that cover contemporary issues and events, Film Africa creates a space that will connect the African community intergenerationally, with a selection of family screenings and special events catered to young people. Audiences are presented with the opportunity to see under-represented groups of people of African heritage in a rich diversity of forms, styles and storylines across the festival programme. This year, Film Africa will strengthen the educational element of the festival by providing space for networking to encourage collaboration between filmmakers in the UK, and filmmakers from the African content

Film Africa's focus remains the same: delivering a range of stories about Africa and its diaspora to diverse UK audiences, and so prioritising people of African heritage is core to our festival programme and organisational mission as the Royal African Society. The structure of the programme strands (along regions, topical themes, anniversary celebrations, etc) highlights a range of creative work and gives audiences a thematic entry-point into the programme.

As film submissions have not ended and we are yet to finalise our programme, examples of 2020 strands include:

1. 'Story for the Gods': from an exploration of digital love to the loss of religion, this selection of short narratives presented a vibrant West African perspective on the human experience.
2. 'BEYOND NOLLYWOOD': describes new wave audiovisual content from Nigeria such as short films, art house, animation, documentary, experimental and music videos.
3. It included the Film Africa Audience Award Winner 2020 'For Maria Ebun Pataki' (2020) with the bold approach to confronting the realities of postpartum depression.

Film Africa is a festival of discovery which aims to identify and highlight new African filmmaking talent, especially through our general submissions and the shorts programme. The programmed films in each edition of Film Africa directly challenge tropes and stereotypes that associate the continent with conflict, famine and poverty.

To submit your entry to Film Africa head over to the filmfreeway page.

Obituaries/Appreciations

Robert Molteno, 11th January 1943–31st January 2022

I met Robert in 1960 when we were first-year students at the University of Cape Town (UCT). From the outset it was clear to all that Robert was – by a street – the most brilliant student in that first-year cohort, possessed of a focused and analytical intelligence in contrast to the rest of us floundering around trying to find our feet at university. Just how impressive that intelligence was was brought home to me when he lent me some of his lecture notes. A motor accident had prevented me from taking notes in a course in which the lectures were unique and there were no textbooks to cover the material. Robert's notes were remarkable: not only full and detailed but written in four different colours! Not for aesthetic reasons either – each colour signalled a different aspect of the lectures: headings, subheads, key points, supplementary observations, references and Latin terms for legal concepts, and so on. So, incredibly, here was this guy, with a fistful of pens, able not only to concentrate and record what was being said but also to give structure to the lecturer's rather rambling delivery as he went along.

In South Africa, the early 1960s was a time of considerable political ferment. The shadow of the Sharpeville massacre hung over the country and its aftermath brought political repression, the banning of opposition parties, the imprisonment of protesters and the expansion of the apparatus of a police state. Legislation had ended the right of universities to admit students regardless of race: in response, the English-language universities came out strongly with commitments to academic freedom and assertions of liberal, non-racial values. The national student union, NUSAS, became a prominent opponent of anti-apartheid values, and campus politics took on the issues of national politics. Robert was prominent among the student voices critical of apartheid. From the start, he was articulate in asserting a clear rejection of racism and a commitment to democracy, values that he held all his life. That clarity of thought – and the respect in which he was held – made him an important figure in campus politics and led to a leadership role in NUSAS, until serious illness brought that to a halt in 1964.

I left Cape Town in 1965 to return to Zambia and lost contact with Robert for the next three years. Our friendship had been warm but rather casual up to that point, based on overlapping course programmes and student activism, but not extending to social life. Then, in 1968, we met again when Robert and Marion arrived in Lusaka, the start of a closer, more frequent interaction. Robert was there to undertake research. There was a housing shortage and they spent much of their first year in a bedsit that belonged to my mother.

Robert was offered a lectureship at the new University of Zambia (UNZA) in 1968, and a year later I joined him in the same department. Zambia had become independent just a few years earlier. It was said that there had been only twelve

Zambian graduates at the time – so initially the university had to be staffed almost entirely by expatriates. If anything, the political climate was even more intense than it had been at UCT. The new state faced the crippling effects of sanctions ostensibly imposed on the illegal settler government in neighbouring Rhodesia, but because all of Zambia was dependent on imports coming through Rhodesia, sanctions in fact damaged Zambia far more than Rhodesia. Anti-colonial wars were being waged against Portuguese colonialism in two of Zambia's other neighbours – Mozambique to the east and Angola to the west. Security concerns promoted increasing government intolerance of debate. On the campus, unsurprisingly, student activism was consumed by questions of development, revolution and socialism. Much the same could be said for much of the staff as well.

Robert threw himself wholeheartedly into this ferment. He identified passionately with the project of Zambian development and African liberation. His lectures were inspiring and students were clearly inspired by them. He was co-chair of an ambitious interdisciplinary teaching experiment called the Social Science Foundation course, aimed at introducing first-year students in three faculties to issues of development and giving them the study skills needed for university work. The course involved half the faculty, many working under protest, and took up half of each student's workload. Robert managed to hold it all together in that cheerful way that so many of us came to know. For years, one would meet Zambians who had been students on that course who would volunteer that it was the most important formative influence in their lives.

He saw his work as requiring a practical contribution to Zambia's development, not just talking about it, and he took his teaching beyond the formal classroom to various outreach efforts. In his first year there he participated in a university study of the 1968 elections (complete with television coverage of the count) – and afterwards found himself giving evidence in court about electoral malpractice in one constituency. (When the court ordered a rerun of the election, the disqualified victor hurried to assure Robert: 'I'm not a dirty politician, Mr Molteno, I'm really not.') The university ran a staff development programme to equip early graduates to become members of staff, and no one promoted this more forcefully than Robert. He wrote mountains of lectures for correspondence courses, which provided on-the-job training for those who had missed out on the chance of higher education. He co-authored a civics textbook for schools, working alongside an experienced head teacher in a rural school. He wrote several papers – some published, some not – analysing the Southern African conflict and the crises confronting Zambia. He contributed a chapter to an important volume on politics in Zambia edited by Bill Tordoff (a lifelong friend and mentor) on the situational nature of 'sectionalism' and ethno-regional factionalism; this became a wellspring for later work in the region on this issue.

His time in Lusaka came to an abrupt, tragic end in 1975 when he was arrested, detained without trial, and eventually deported. The circumstances reflected the political tensions of the time. Angola's struggle against the Portuguese had become a civil war in which the big powers were much involved. The Zambian government, in supporting one of the movements, found itself in league with South Africa and the USA. The students took great exception to this, organizing a major demonstration, condemning many of the Zambian lecturers known to be government supporters, and provoking the government to close the university and place it under army occupation. More than thirty student leaders were detained, followed by half a dozen members of staff (the government view was that 'foreigners' must have corrupted the students). One of them was Robert; he had circulated an open letter defending the students and arguing that a developing country needed free and independent argument. Eventually, international protests helped free the detainees, the staff members being issued with notices of deportation. I don't want to labour this episode beyond noting that detention affected Robert very badly for some years. But I would like to mention something that perhaps illustrates just how much of a contribution he made during his time there. A week before his release, a friend who had also been detained was released and flew out. The airport concourse was thronged with well-wishers there to see him off. The vast majority of the crowd were expatriate university staff and the atmosphere was joyous and defiant. A week later, Robert flew out. Again the airport concourse was thronged with well-wishers seeing him off. But this time, a large section of the crowd, perhaps the majority, were Zambians – and many of them were in tears.

A few years later I too moved to England and we resumed our friendship. Since I lived in Leeds and he in London, much of it was pursued on the phone in regular long conversations. Our conversations amounted to a forty-year seminar on climate change, the hollowing out of democracy, the spread of fascism, the enduring power of racism, the resurgence of antisemitism, the corruption and hypocrisy of incompetent leaders, and on and on. Always, the serious issues were laced with much laughter. The interaction enriched my life – and I would hope his too.

To the end, Robert's intellectual curiosity never waned in the slightest. Nor did his intellectual humility – he was as much concerned with his own mistakes as with those of others. Nor did his love of people, of his friends, of the family of which he was so proud (we both agreed that our grandchildren were evidence of a higher stage of human evolution). It was my privilege to be his friend. He leaves an enormous hole in my life and the lives of many others.

Morris Sheftel

Robert Molteno, 11th January 1943–31st January 2022

Robert Molteno worked part-time as the publications officer of the International African Institute (IAI) from 2005 to 2008. The Institute, now approaching its centenary, publishes a few academic books annually as well as the leading quarterly journal *Africa*. Robert maintained and strengthened its operations for a few years before retiring, after which he continued to serve on the Institute's Board of Trustees. One of his most important contributions to the Institute's work was the African Arguments book series, co-published by Zed Books and the IAI, which is still a vibrant series, promoting books on Africa of topical interest to broad international audiences.

Before his employment at the IAI, Robert was the chief editor at Zed Books for more than twenty-five years. Robert was asked by Zed's founder, Roger van Zwanenberg, to read a manuscript that Zed was considering. Roger's colleague Mike Pallis travelled to Sussex, where the Moltenos were living after they had left Zambia precipitately. His wife Marion was teaching in Eastbourne, and Robert stayed at home with the children, who were very young. On his return, Mike told Roger that not only had the task been performed with aplomb, but also that he might have found a candidate to become the press's editor whom they had been seeking. I suppose that what had impressed Mike was the quality of Robert's engagement with the manuscript and with the task he had been asked to do.

The Moltenos moved to London and Robert indeed became Zed's editor. The company was very small, and in those early days each person had to learn all aspects of publishing: book production, financing, marketing, publicity – there were a lot of tasks to get on top of. An important task was seeking co-publishing arrangements, perhaps in the country, or at least the continent, with which the book was concerned. That was another task at which Robert became adept.

I met Robert in autumn 1978. I had typeset a book for Zed and he brought me the proofs for correction. Some years later, I was looking for work and approached Zed. We remembered each other well. By then the company had grown to ten or a dozen people, with finance, marketing, publicity and production departments in addition to Robert and another editor.

For my first task, he sat me down at his own desk with some proofs that needed urgent checking, a job that was likely to take some time. There was no one else there, and he settled himself on the other side of the room and started talking. I turned round in some surprise: he was chatting warmly, directly, highly communicatively, economically, to the point, to a Dictaphone. He was writing letters. Some were short – 'Your letter arrived. Thank you. My warm regards' – but most were substantial, responsive, moving a conversation on. He might suggest modifying a line of argument; splitting a chapter into two; or that the

author should write an overarching introduction or concluding summary. In a couple of hours, he had written sixty letters.

He had lively contact with a vast network of people, each of whom came vividly to my mind's eye as I was eavesdropping, which convinced me that each was vividly in his mind's eye as he addressed the machine in front of him. As I got to know the company better and saw the correspondence in the files, it was clear that those authors and others with whom Robert kept in such assiduous contact had felt the same: they were looked after, kept in touch with. Writing is a solitary business, and it was palpable in so many authors' correspondence that they knew that someone was, as it were, holding the other end of the rope. Robert was midwife in these ways, I once calculated, to about a thousand books.

Now I turn to Robert as a colleague. Zed functioned as a workers' co-op. It was owned and run, together, by the people who worked there. Decisions on what to publish were taken by consensus. Robert, as chief editor, convened the editorial meetings, in which he was always articulate, clear, fluent. And that includes when he was undecided and didn't know what to think; he would step back and explore contrary arguments. It clarified everyone's thinking and kept matters on the move. His concentration, his focus and his intelligence were always an enormous gift – and that gift was given by him to us, his colleagues. That is the principal quality that I valued in Robert and will remember him for: his articulacy. He sought to explain, including to himself, just what was before us; with authors in their work, and with his colleagues regarding decisions that we needed to take, he always sought explicitness.

I think of those years of our shared working life with huge gratitude, and I mean gratitude to Robert.

I was thunderstruck when I heard that Robert had died. He went out like a light. Deeply shocking but perhaps fitting – because he lived like a light.

Ralph Smith

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Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the October *Newsletter* by 18th September 2022 to Dr Simon Heap: effaheap@aol.com

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