



NEWSLETTER

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ASAUK Conference 2016

The ASAUK biennial conference will be held at the University of Cambridge (Robinson College) and will run from 14.00 on Wednesday 7 September to 15.30 on Friday 9 September 2016. It will coincide with the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Cambridge Centre for African Studies.

The deadline for the submission of panels (symposia) and streams has now passed and we have registered an unprecedented 224 panels, many of which examine issues on the cutting edge of African studies. There are panels on 'the politics and possibilities of the Anthropocene' to 'Sex and the Erotic'. We also have good number of streams, which allow for focussed and sustained discussion across a series of panels. These range from large thematic streams on Slavery and Political Economy to smaller ones on Newspapers, Periodicals and Print Cultures. There will be two linked panels to celebrate the work and legacy of J.D.Y. Peel.

The call for papers is now open. A PDF file of accepted panels (symposia) is available by clicking on the conference link on the ASAUK website – www.asauk.net – for those searching for the appropriate setting for their papers. The call for papers will close on the 2nd April 2016 and registrations will commence soon thereafter.

Given the large numbers of delegates expected it is advisable to book early. The number of places for the conference dinner will be limited and late-comers will be offered accommodation in colleges surrounding Robinson rather than in the conference venue itself.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting of ASAUK, held at the Brunei Lecture Theatre, SOAS, 15 October 2015

1. Members Present: Mohamed Ben-Madani, Anne Marie Chikema, Richard Dowden, Martin Evans, Gemma Haxby, Stacey Hynd, David Kerr, Zachary Kingdon, Janet Kirk, Stephanie Kitchen, Lucy McCann, David Maxwell, Jaqueline Mitchell, Annabel Martin-Bah, Nici Nelson, Insa Nolte, Ola Uduku, Richard Werbner.

2. Apologies: Dan Brockington, Max Bolt, Gus Casely-Hayford, Caroli Coetzee, David Currey, Toby Green, Jonathan Harle, Simon Heap, Reuben Loffman, Ambreena Manji, Claire Mercer, Richard May, George Ogola, Ranka Primorac, Phia Steyn, Wendy Williams.

3. Minutes of 51st ASAUK AGM, University of Sussex, 11 September 2014
Approved.

4. Matters arising
None.

5. Report by the Honorary Secretary (Dr Nici Nelson)

Throughout the past year, Council has continued to maintain a good close working relationship with the Royal African Society (RAS). As in the past few years progress has been made in strengthening the organizational capacity of both societies.

The Directory of Africanists and a directory of African scholars is a joint collaboration managed by the ASAUK and British Academy. The site is for all of those involved in African social sciences and humanities research; members are encouraged to enter their details to this directory, www.africadesk.ac.uk

Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture, 15 October 2015

Dr Peace Medie, a Research Fellow in International Affairs Diploma, at the University of Ghana, is to deliver the MKZ Lecture on 'Gender Security and Justice: Enforcing Gender-Based Violence Laws in Post Conflict African States.'

Biennial Conference, Cambridge University, September, 2016

Plans for the Biennial Conference on 7-9 September, 2016 at the University of Cambridge are progressing well. David Maxwell is coordinating with the Centre for African Studies, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The venue will be Robinson College. The call for Subject Streams, Panels and individual papers has gone out.

Small Conference Grants

The Council is grateful to the RAS for the amount it provides to the ASAUK for the support of general conference activities. At the time of writing 8 grants had been given:

1. 'West African Building Conservation Workshop'; Dr Ola Uduku (University of Edinburgh): £1,000.
2. Congolese Network; Dr Lys Alcayna-Stevens (Cambridge): £500.
3. 'Family Community and Livelihood'; Dr Afua Twum-Danso (University of Sheffield): £500.
4. 'Identities in Greater Senegambia and Beyond: Interdisciplinary Approaches through History and Music in Dialogue'; Dr Toby Green (Kings College London) and Dr Lucy Duran (SOAS): £592.
5. Yorkshire African Studies Network Workshop; Professor Allison Drew (University of York): £150.
6. Repairing the Past: Imagining the Future; Dr Nicola Frith (University of Edinburgh): £500.
7. Art and Collaboration Networks, Power and Play in Contemporary African Art; Dr Polly Savage (SOAS): £760.
8. Yossa Way (Cambridge Centre for Christianity): £200.

Writing Workshops

Since the last AGM, three successful Writing Workshops were organized on behalf of the ASAUK:

1. Dr Machiko Tsubura, College of Social Sciences, University of Dar es Salaam, 17-18 February 2015.
2. Professor Dick Werbner at the University of Botswana, 12-13 March 2015.
3. Dr Andrew Brooks, 'Emerging Southern African Scholars Writing workshop' at Livingstone, Zambia, 8-11 August 2015.

ASAUK would like to express gratitude to the British Academy who granted us £16,123 for our Writing Workshops.

Teaching Fellowships

Last year since we were celebrating our 50th Anniversary and it was decided that we would offer the equivalent of two £9,000 grants to support two teaching fellowships in the Social Sciences or Humanities for a UK-based academic to work in an African university. The Council awarded a 3-month teaching fellowship to Dr Stylianos Moshonas (University of Bristol) at the Faculty of Social, Political and Administrative Sciences, University of Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo from September to December 2014. The Council also awarded a 5-month teaching fellowship to Dr Machiko Tsubura (Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex) at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from October 2014 to February 2015. The fellowship was completed successfully and a thorough and detailed report has been circulated to the Council.

Fage-Oliver Monograph Prize

The Council decided to institute an award for the best monograph in African Studies published in the two year period leading up to the Biennial Conference. These monographs would be nominated by the publishers.

Membership

Figures from September 2015 compared to September last year:

	2014	2015
ASAUK Individual UK	162	172
ASAUK Individual Overseas	21	21
ASAUK Student	55	58
ASAUK Student Overseas	8	7
ASAUK Associate	26	25
<i>Total</i>	272	283

While membership numbers in some categories have gone up slightly this year, it is obvious that we must work harder to meet the challenge of bringing in younger members to replace the old guard. This is made difficult by the economic downturn and the fact that many new, young Africanists are working outside of academia. Are we doing enough to convince them that what membership in ASAUK has to offer is worth the membership fee?

Recruitment in difficult times must be the responsibility of everyone: the administration, the Council and the general Membership. The administration and officers have done much in the last couple years to update the website, making it more user-friendly and attractive as well as engaging in a number of initiatives to raise the profile of ASAUK, such as updating our branding.

It would be useful if all members committed themselves to spreading the word. Those of the membership who are lecturing and supervising students are urged to make a concerted effort to recruit their post-graduate students as members to ASAUK/RAS. Academics could also ensure that any Africanist colleagues in their institutions (perhaps in non-African Studies departments) are aware of the many advantages of being a member of ASAUK/RAS. Members who have contact with Africanists outside of academia (such as working in the Third Sector or in business) might ensure that they know about the advantages of belonging to ASAUK/RAS. Copies of the new logo and advertising leaflet will be available at the AGM.

ASAUK Council for the year, 2014-15

Officers:

President: Professor David Maxwell

Vice-President: Dr Insa Nolte

Honorary Secretary: Dr Nici Nelson

Honorary Treasurer: Dr Toby Green

Projects Officer: Dr Reuben Hoffman and Dr George Ogola

Website Officer: Dr David Kerr

ASAUK Newsletter Editor: Dr Simon Heap

Co-opted Council Members:

James Currey; Dr Nic Cheeseman (*African Affairs*); Dr Stephanie Kitchen (IAI); Richard May (RAS); Clara Arokiasamy; and Lucy McCann (SCOLMA)

Elected Council Members

Retiring in 2015:

After First Term: Dr George Ogola, Dr Ola Uduku, Professor David Killingray

After Second Term: Dr Martin Evans, Dr Gabrielle Lynch, Dr Claire Mercer

Retiring in 2016

After First Term : Dr Maxim Bolt, Dr Carli Coetzee, Dr Jonathan Harle, Dr Zachary Kingdon, Dr Reuben Loffman, Dr Wendy Willems

After Second Term: Dr Ranka Primorac

Retiring in 2017

After First Term: Dr Dan Brockington, Dr Augustus Casely-Hayford, Dr David Kerr, Dr Stacey Hynd, Professor Ambreena Manji, Dr Phia Steyn

After Second Term: Dr Anna Mdee

To bring the Council up to full strength the AGM must elect 7 new Council Members at today's AGM.

Open Access

The Council would like to thank Stephanie Kitchen, co-opted member of the Council and thank her for her consistently detailed and informative updates on Open Access issues for the council and the membership through the newsletter.

Newsletter

Council would like to thank Simon for his excellent work as newsletter editor, producing three interesting and informative issues of the newsletter. He has also completed the task of up-loading all the back issues of the newsletter onto the ASAUK website.

Relationship between ASAUK and RAS

It is now an established rule that the ASAUK Officers and the RAS officers have a joint meeting once a year. In addition, Richard May has become a co-opted member of the Council. The President of ASAUK is also committed to attending RAS Council meetings and the AGM. This has continued to be a fruitful forum for the exchange of relevant information and debating issues.

Gemma Haxby in the ASAUK/RAS office maintains the ASAUK e-mail list and it provides a convenient, fast and cheap means of communicating with the bulk of the membership. Members who change their e-mail addresses or who have not yet given us their email are urged to pass them on to Gemma: ras@soas.ac.uk

The Council would like to thank Gemma and David Kerr for all their hard work directing and supervising the design and the installation of the new website and the on-going process of creating a new brand. Members are urged to experience

the new user-friendly, dynamic and vibrant website which can now be easily updated in-house: www.asauk.net

Council would like to convey its sincere gratitude to Gemma Haxby and the other RAS staff for their constant work and consistent support for ASAUK.

6. Report by the Honorary Treasurer (Dr Toby Green)

Balances as of 1st October 2015:

Current account: £37,016

COIF (June 2015): £80,381. Interest received on this is £360 per annum. This is low and will be increased by opting for a savings account at the ethical bank Triodos.

Writing Workshops

We currently have a £3,438 surplus for this year, but this needs to be carried forward to 2016 as the one at the University of Central Lancashire has not been staged yet but is funded through this year's funds.

Teaching Fellowships

At the May council meeting it was agreed that some of the ASAUK reserves will be spent on the Teaching fellowships, up to £6,000 per annum on one fellowship. The next fellowship will be advertised early in 2016, but there have been no outgoings from ASAUK on Fellowships in 2015.

Other Financial Issues

Travel claims have risen this year to an estimated £2,000, from £1,300 last year and £1,600 in 2013. This is because of the greater diversity of locations from which council members are drawn.

We have £359 left of conference support funding to use this year. A revised policy on conference support was discussed at the October Council Meeting; new Guidelines for future funding will appear on the website.

Website expenditure is £3,442 so far this year as payment for design of updated website, training for Gemma and a bill from old website developers. Future payments will be a final bill from old developers for updates made since the last bill and also branding will cost £1,200.

Newsletter expenditure is £2,205 so far this year and will total £2,600 for 2015.

At the May Council Meeting it was noted the large amount of reserves currently held by the ASAUK. It was agreed that it would be worthwhile to develop a policy on this, which might free up some money to develop new schemes.

The Treasurer's proposal is to retain reserves of around £60,000, which would cover a conference 'disaster' and core annual expenditure. This means that the ASAUK currently has a surplus of around £55,000. The ASAUK could develop a 10-year plan to spend roughly £6,000 a year beyond core receipts for a postgraduate conference prize (£2,000 per year), the financing of the new Fage &

Oliver Monograph Prize (£2,000 per year), and the small shortfall between annual receipts and outgoings. This proposal will be discussed at the October Council meeting.

The Accounts for 2014 were submitted and approved.

7. President's Report (Professor David Maxwell)

This year ASAUK has continued its core activities of supporting conferences and writing workshops and offering prizes; it has recently developed a new one, namely the Fage and Oliver Monograph Prize. It has also launched a new website. We have maintained cordial and constructive relations with the Royal African Society and are grateful for its generous support for conferences sponsored by the ASAUK. In the year of the biennial conference the RAS gives us £5,000, which we use to fund African bursaries; in the alternate year the RAS gives us £4,000, which we use to support local conferences.

ASAUK Supported Conferences

This year we made 8 grants of between £500 and £1000 totalling £3,610 to support a variety of activities from conferences on the Congo, Building Conservation, Senegambia and Contemporary African Art. ASAUK is pleased to receive bids for conference support from members and their research students.

Writing Workshops

There remains a high level of support for Writing Workshops from the publishing community, scholars and the British Academy. The British Academy renewed our grant, awarding us £16,123. In combination with our own funds we were able to support three workshops. I was fortunate enough to be able to participate in the workshop in Gaborone and subsequently wrote a report on it for our newsletter.

ASAUK 2016 Conference

Plans are well advanced for the ASAUK Conference to be held at Robinson College, Cambridge, 7-9 September 2016. It is not easy to organise a large conference in Cambridge! The University has no dedicated conference centre and the colleges can make good money running summer schools rather than academic conferences. The 2012 conference was diverted from Cambridge to Leeds for this reason. We have been very fortunate to secure Robinson College as a venue through the good offices of Professor Christopher Forsyth, Chair of the Cambridge Centre for African Studies (CAS) and a Fellow of Robinson College. Robinson College authorities have been very accommodating and we shall make great use of their excellent resources over the days of the conference. Other buildings on the nearby Sidgwick Site will accommodate additional panels. The conference will coincide with the 50th Anniversary of CAS and this has enabled to raise extra-sponsorship locally. We have raised funds for 11 bursaries for African and post-graduate delegates, and Cambridge University Press will fund a reception on the first evening. 11 streams and over 200 panels have been

registered. Dorian Addison, former CAS Administrator, has kindly returned to oversee the conference, paid for by ASUK and CAS. We have agreed to pay the conference costs *before* the September event and future Presidents organising conferences in Oxbridge or London may well have to face this prospect. Council will have to be flexible regarding the organisation of future conferences as Universities become increasingly profit driven.

New Website

It was with great pleasure that we were able to launch the new website this summer. The new website allows new data to be uploaded quickly and has the facility for new members to join and pay fees online. It is also visually impressive. It is hoped that we can use the website to expand our activities with, for instance, a new page for postgraduates. We are enormously grateful to Gemma Haxby who worked closely with the developers to bring the new site into existence. The new website presents an opportunity for rebranding and consequently we have a small committee working on a new logo.

The Fage and Oliver Monograph Prize

The new Fage and Oliver Monograph Prize will be awarded for the first time at the 2016 ASUK Conference in Cambridge. The prize is intended to promote and celebrate the published work of Africanist scholars. There are too few awards for Africanist scholarship and the prize will go some way to filling that gap. It also provides the opportunity to reassert the value of the monograph in a time of considerable flux and uncertainty in academic publishing. The award will go to the author of an outstanding original scholarly work published on Africa during the previous two years (2014 or 2015 copyright). The judging committee represents the broad array of subjects and institutions that make up British African Studies: John Peel (Chair, SOAS), Ambreena Manji (Cardiff University), William Beinart (University of Oxford), Tunde Zack-Williams (University of Central Lancashire), Ola Uduku (University of Edinburgh) and JoAnn McGregor (University of Sussex). I am grateful to John, Ambreena and Stephanie Kitchen for their wise counsel and hard work in helping to get the prize off the ground.

The Newsletter

Simon Heap has produced another splendid set of newsletters this year. They are a vital source of information on African Studies in the UK: recent PhD theses; new publications, forthcoming conferences and obituaries. The website now contains a complete set of all the published newsletters from the ASUK starting from Volume 1 in 1995, and this constitutes a fascinating archive on the development of British African Studies over the last two decades.

Administration

Gemma Haxby of the RAS continues to do a splendid job handling much of the day-to-day administration the ASUK. Sharing her with the RAS draws the two societies closer together and creates greater efficiencies. We are enormously grateful for all of her hard work.

8. Announcement of new official posts

Two new posts of Projects Officer and Website Officer were proposed by the Council and approved by the AGM. The posts will be added to the Statutes.

9. Election of Officers and Council Members

Officers

All the officers agreed to stand again and this was approved by the AGM.

Council Members

The following new members for Council were Nominated and approved by the AGM: Dr Ola Uduku (Edinburgh) standing for a second term; Professor Paul Basu (SOAS); Dr Reg Cline Cole (Birmingham); Dr Mathew Davies (University College, London); Dr George Karekwaivanane (Edinburgh); Dr Zoe Marks (Edinburgh); and Dr Jose Lingna Nafafe (Bristol)

10. Writing Workshops and Teaching Fellowships (Dr Reuben Loffman)

The Council announced a new Teaching Fellowship for 2016. The Membership is urged to encourage any young scholars to apply. The requirements of the application can be found in the newsletter and on the website.

Four Writing Workshops were planned for the period September 2014 until October 2015, but the workshop proposed to be held in the Republic of the Congo did not take place.

The British Academy gave us £16,123, for which we are extremely grateful. I am also grateful to Ambreena Manji for helping me with liaising with the British Academy as her assistance has been invaluable.

We have one other workshop that has been scheduled and that is Dr George Ogola's workshop early in 2016 at the University of Central Lancashire. We are still seeking volunteers for further workshops. We will apply again to the British Academy for funds. Please do contact me if you are interested in setting up a writing workshop and I will let you know the procedure and give you the necessary administrative instructions. The British Academy has been generous and may in the short term continue to be so, but we need to look for additional sources of funding to complement and diversify our pool of resources. Any suggestions gladly received.

11. ASAUK Newsletter (Dr Simon Heap)

Recuperating from surgery on a torn retina means I cannot be with you today. Four quarterly newsletters came out over the past year. I hope they were interesting and useful. It is YOUR newsletter and the newsletter relies on news on forthcoming workshops and conferences, new doctorates and publications, awards and fellowships, even deaths. I ask members to continue to send me news. I am happy to continue to be your newsletter editor for the coming year.

12. Royal African Society (Richard Dowden)

There is currently a coherent framework which should make possible the linking of all the disparate activities. The RAS is going digital and upgrading the website. Hopefully there will soon be Podcasts. The website activities (African Arguments, What's On Africa), the annual cultural festivals (the Book Festival, Africa Writes Festival, and the Film Festival) are all received well and going from strength to strength. The Business Breakfasts are successful. The All Party Parliamentary Group on Africa is the biggest and most active, having 200 members.

13. SCOLMA (Lucy McCann)

SCOLMA's annual conference this year was held at the British Library's conference centre on 17th July and had the theme 'Africa, Africans and World War I'. A number of the papers will be published in SCOLMA's journal, *African Research and Documentation*. The journal is moving to two longer issues per year in order to save on costs but maintain the same overall number of pages.

SCOLMA held two seminars during the year. In February Heloise Finch-Boyer from the National Maritime Museum spoke about 'South African port towns and the shaping of Indian Ocean cosmopolitanisms in the early 19th century', drawing our attention to the Museum's rich collections for research relating to the African coast and riverways. On 10 June Steph Newell discussed 'The Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa', a collaborative project between the University of Sussex, the University of Lagos and Kenyatta University to explore popular discourses of dirt in relation to urbanisation, culture, anthropology and epidemiological research in colonial and post-colonial times.

We continue to maintain our website (<http://scolma.org.uk>) and to Tweet regularly (@Scolma). We now have 257 followers on Twitter. We value our close connections with ASAUK and are grateful for the input of Ranka Primorac and Stephanie Kitchen as ASAUK representatives at our committee meetings.

14. AOB

A member of the AGM enquired whether the Council had ever considered instituting a Life Membership. The Officers presiding said that they would discuss this in the coming year.

Distinguished Africanist Awards by ASAUK

The Distinguished Africanist Award was inaugurated by the ASAUK as a way of paying tribute to people who have made exceptional contributions to the field of African studies, i.e. scholars who have in one way or another expanded and disseminated knowledge of Africa, and interest in Africa. The award is not confined to academics. It is intended for people who have contributed largely to African Studies in the UK, or who have strengthened links between African Studies here and in Africa itself. Since it was first given in 2001, ASAUK has

made the following Distinguished Africanists: Basil Davidson, John Fage, Douglas Rimmer, Lionel Cliffe, Eldred and Marjorie Jones, Shula Marks, Roland Oliver, Terry Ranger, Tony Kirk-Greene, John Lonsdale, George Shepperson, John McCracken, James Currey, Robin Law, Kenneth and Pravina King, Lalage Bown, and Gavin Williams.

The next two winners of the Distinguished Africanist Award will be announced at the ASAUK Biennial conference to be held in Cambridge, 7-9 September 2016. Nominations must come from the membership. They should consist of a two page statement by the nominator, outlining the contributions of the nominee to African Studies in the UK, plus a two page CV. The nominated person should be consulted as to whether he or she is willing to accept the award.

Please send nominations to Professor David Maxwell, President of the ASAUK, by 31 March 2016, to enable the ASAUK Council to make the selections at its next Council meeting. The address is: Professor David Maxwell, Emmanuel College, St Andrew's Street, Cambridge CB2 3AP *or* djm223@cam.ac.uk

Audrey Richards Prize for the best British doctoral thesis in African Studies

Dr Audrey Richards, CBE (1899–1984) was a pioneering British social anthropologist who worked mainly in sub-Saharan Africa, notably Zambia, South Africa and Uganda. She held lectureships and directorships at LSE, Witwatersrand, Makerere, and Cambridge. She was the Second President of ASAUK.

The Audrey Richards Prize is awarded biennially for the best doctoral thesis in African Studies which has been successfully examined in a British institute of higher education during the two calendar years immediately preceding the next ASAUK Conference. So the next prize will be for theses examined between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2015.

The prize is something which will enhance any graduate's CV and is accompanied by a certificate and an attractive package of book and journal vouchers from the generosity of our publisher donors. Nominations must be made by supervisors or examiners, with the permission of the candidate, by 31 March 2016, to Dr Insa Nolte, Department of African Studies and Anthropology, Arts Building, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT.

Nominations should be accompanied by a supporting letter of up to 300 words, a copy of the thesis, and where possible a copy of the examiners' report. The recommendation for the award will be made by a committee headed by Dr Nolte, Vice-President of ASAUK, and confirmed by the ASAUK Council. The prize will be awarded at the Biennial Conference at Cambridge in September 2016.

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'African Medicine Matters: Documenting Encounters in Medical Practice and Healthcare', SCOLMA (the UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa) Annual Conference, Alison Richard Building, University of Cambridge, 6 September 2016. This conference will explore aspects of medicine and healthcare, traditional and western, historic and contemporary and their traces in the documentary and digital records in all regions of Africa. Researchers, archivists and librarians are invited to submit abstracts for consideration for this conference on the following subjects: medicine and indigenous knowledge; the revival and regulation of traditional medicine; the introduction of Western medicine; medicine and the missionary movement; the documentation of HIV and AIDS and Ebola; medical research in Africa; and access to medical information and research in and from Africa. Abstracts of up to 500 words by 30 April 2016 to Terry Barringer: tabarringe@aol.com

INTERNATIONAL

'Migration, Identity and Development: Africa and the Wider World in the Twenty-First Century, Faculty of Arts Central Language Laboratory Auditorium, Lagos State University (LASU), Ojo, Nigeria, 18–21 July 2016. Human existence in the twenty-first century has been subjected to threatening experiences in many parts of the world. Millions of people are migrating. Issues of migration have generated questions on identity and development in places of the world where owing to natural, social and terror disasters have had to force people to be internally displaced from their abodes. Such problems have forced some countries closing firmly their borders to refugees seeking safety from civil war and religious conflicts of terror in Europe, Africa and some parts of Asia. Attention has been drawn to the social, economic, political and psychological consequences of these experiences on nations of the globe. Discourses on the subjects of migration, identity and development have sprung up across the globe but none has essentially and specifically situated Africa in the wider global perspective vis-a-vis the challenges of the twenty-first century that the continent already has had to contend with.

The joint organisers, the Faculty of Arts of Lagos State University, Ojo, and the African Studies Institute of the University of Georgia, seek papers on language, migration and cultural identity within and outside Africa; Africa, economic stability and migration; migration, arts and music in and out of Africa; African migrants and the challenges of religious identity; migration within and across Africa's borders and the law; the media and the issues of migration and African identity; diasporic Africans, racism, and enslavement; migration, identity, and

technology in and out of Africa; migration, development, and the future of Africa; diasporic Africans, political consciousness, and Africa's democratic development; African consciousness in non-African worlds; and scientific advancement, education, and the challenges of migration in Africa. Abstracts up to 300 words and 5 keywords by 15 February 2016 to: Dr Danoye Oguntola-Laguda: danoyeoguntola@yahoo.com and Dr Henry Hunjo: henry.hunjo@lasu.edu.ng and Olusegun Adeyeri: jadeyeriolusegun@gmail.com

'Fifth International Conference on Afro-Hispanic, Luso-Brazilian, and Latin American Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana, 2–5 August 2016.

The purpose of this conference is to build on the success of the previous events as a continued dialogue among the various disciplines engaged in the study of issues related to Africa and the peoples of African ancestry in Brazil and the Spanish-speaking world. Initiated in 2007, the conference provides a framework for cross-disciplinary interactions and offers a forum for scholars from diverse fields of study related to the Afro-Hispanic world to share their research and scholarly endeavours.

The rationale for choosing the site of this international conference has not changed. Most of the slaves that were transported to the Americas came from this part of Africa. Consequently, a historical connection exists between Ghana and the daughters and sons of Africa who ended up on the shores of the Caribbean and other slave ports in the Americas. The slave forts of Cape Coast and Elmina have, therefore, become key destinations for many from across the world. Since Ghana's political independence over fifty years ago, it has played a leading role in advocating for peace and freedom on the African continent. Holding this event in Ghana is a way of recognizing the importance of this country within the annals of world history and its current position as a genuine democratic nation in Africa. Furthermore, since its establishment, the School of Languages at the University of Ghana has been at the forefront in the promotion of Hispanic studies on the African continent. The conference continues to honour the efforts of the Spanish Department, which has produced outstanding African Hispanics, who teach in various institutions in North America and Europe.

Papers addressing matters regarding peoples of African ancestry in the Spanish-speaking as well as Portuguese-speaking worlds are welcome. Broader questions in Latin American studies related to, but not limited exclusively to, Afro-Hispanics will also be considered. 150-word abstracts and short biodata in English, Spanish, or Portuguese by 1 February 2016 to Dr Yaw Agawu-Kakraba: yxa3@psu.edu

‘Afrasian Transformations: Beyond Grand Narratives?’, Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany, 28–30 September 2016. Across various disciplines, the understanding of African-Asian interactions and their transformative potential has been significantly shaped by grand narratives and theoretical frameworks. The Global South, postcolonialism, the Indian Ocean World or China’s Scramble for Africa are routinely invoked to understand African-Asian encounters, as are different notions of development, area studies or transregionalism. These epistemological lenses have informed our perspectives and generated important insights, but they have also created significant blind spots. For instance, restricting the focus of attention to Chinese agency shifts attention away from other Asian (and African) actors. Many scholars working on the Indian Ocean emphasize connectivity but pay little attention to conflict and boundary making. Concepts such as the Global South or postcolonialism highlight a common past of oppression and resistance, but it is by no means certain whether that past can serve as secure orientation for the present and the future. The intricate small and large Afrasian stories of transformation that we encounter in our research often seem to strain against the limits imposed by the grand narratives we habitually come across in our fields of expertise. Coming to terms with Afrasian transformations in the social world may indeed involve a challenge to revise the theoretical frameworks that inform our own work.

The organisers invite contributions across four themes. First, redefining the Global South: what are the uses of the ‘Global South’ as an analytical category? How postcolonial are Afrasian interactions? South-South solidarity: a legacy of common struggles, an ideological smokescreen or a utopian vision? Do new multilateral fora, such as BRICS or IBSA change myths and realities of the Global South? Second, Reassessing the Indian Ocean: what are the benefits and limits of the ‘Indian Ocean’ as an analytical framework for African-Asian interactions? How far does the Indian Ocean World extend and how does its history and memory relate to contemporary realities? How African/Chinese is the Indian Ocean? How do old and new Asian diasporas in Africa relate to each other? Are new African diasporas in Asia part of an Indian Ocean world?

Third, Afrasian Approaches to Development: do African-Asian interactions make a difference to ideas of (world) development? Have they challenged ‘western’ notions of development? Do they translate into specific Asian (or African) policies and how do they relate to realities on the ground? Have they generated new models of – or counter-narratives to – development? Fourth, Afrasia in a Wider World: Afrasia: superfluous neologism or necessary transregional perspective? How do transnational and transregional approaches intersect, in which way do they differ? How do African-Asian interactions contribute to the emergence of a multipolar world? In what way do they transform the theory and practice of area studies more generally? 250-300 word abstract and 200 word biodata by 15 March 2016 to: afrasia2016@afraso.org

‘The First World War from Tripoli to Mogadishu (1911-1924)’, International conference, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, 30 September–1 October 2016. The idea that World War One (WWI) has been a global conflict is commonly accepted by the scholarly community and it constitutes a real *leitmotif* of the most recent literature on this topic. As a consequence of this development, a number of scholars have started investigating the impact of WWI on Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and even Latin America. Indeed, the Great War deserves to be remembered not just by the nations of Europe but also by the peoples of the rest of the world whose destinies were shaped by it or because of it. This includes the Middle Eastern countries and a number of German colonies in Africa. Historians have studied the course of the war in these parts and have established how much price was paid and what the enduring legacies were. The effects of the war on the countries of Northeast Africa have not been studied with as much depth. Nevertheless, the available documentation clearly reveals that the First World War indeed had an impact on the history of the region.

The framework of the nation state is too circumscribed and does not allow the capture of the complexity of the relations that came into being at local, national and international level. In this regard the organisers find particularly penalising the conventional approach which tends to investigate WWI in Africa and the Middle East as two separate settings. The conference chooses to focus on a territory which stretches from Libya to Somalia is an attempt to overcome this hiatus. Embracing an area rather than a war theatre allows to connect territories that maintained substantially different attitudes with regard to the war such as being belligerent, neutral and non-belligerent. Writing the history of WW1 from an African perspective remains the main ambition of this conference. The global approach challenges the traditional centre and periphery model. What we would like to suggest in this conference is the adoption of a combination of different scales of analysis: local, national and transnational. The goal of the conference is to bring together experts, academics, early-career historians and doctoral students from different disciplines to share new scholarly work and to enrich the history of WW1 in Africa and the Middle East.

The organisers – Centre français des études éthiopiennes (CFEE) in Addis Ababa, University of Addis Ababa, University of Macerata, University of Pavia, and University of Roma Tre – welcome proposals on with the following: political, diplomatic and military history; economic history of the war; social and cultural aspects of the war and its legacies; the role of civilian society in the conflict; recovery of sources and memories of the war; the war and its aftermath (anticolonial movements and nationalism); representations of the war (newspapers, literature, music, movies, arts, oral traditions); and gendered understandings of the war. 500 word abstracts and one page CV by 29 January 2016 to Thomas Guindeuil: secretariat.scientifique@cfee.cnrs.fr

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Frank Agyire-Tettey (2015), 'Adoption, Returns and Variation of Information and Communication Technology in Sub-Sahara Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Nottingham. Supervisors: Dr Simon Appleton and Dr Sarah Bridges; <http://eprints.nottingham.ac.uk/29013/>

Felix Akinwande (2015), 'US Foreign Policy towards West Africa after September 11 Attacks', Ph.D thesis, Nottingham Trent University.

Peter Brett (2015), 'The Judicialisation of Political Order in Southern Africa', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Tom Young; <http://eprints.soas.ac.uk/20390/>

Catriona Poppy Cullen (2015), '"Kenya is no Doubt a Special Case": British Policy towards Kenya, 1960-1980', Ph.D thesis, Durham University. Supervisor: Professor Justin Willis; <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/11180/>

Andrew Faull (2015), 'Personal Identity and the Police Occupation in South Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Ian Loader and Dr Jonny Steinberg.

Tsegai B. Ghebretেকে (2015), 'Industrial Pollution Control and Management in Ethiopia: A Case Study on Almeda Textile Factory and Sheba Leather Industry in Tigray Regional State', Ph.D thesis, University of Warwick. Supervisors: Professor John McEldowney and Dr Sam Adelman.

Jonas Fossli Gjersø (2015), 'Continuity of Moral Policy: A Reconsideration of British Motives for the Partition of East Africa in Light of Anti-Slave Trade Policy and Imperial Agency, 1878-96', LSE, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Joanna Lewis; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/3202/>

Fred Nyongesa Ikanda (2014), 'Kinship, Locality and Humanitarianism: "Locals" and "Refugees" in Northeastern Kenya', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Harri Englund.

Nyampa T. Kwabe (2015), 'Communalism and Curses/Blessings: The Kamwe of Nigeria and the Imprecatory Psalms', Ph.D thesis, University of Leeds.

Collins Adjei Mensah (2015), 'Sustaining Urban Green Spaces in Africa: A Case Study of Kumasi Metropolis, Ghana', Ph.D thesis, University of Birmingham. Supervisors: Dr Lauren Andres and Dr Mike Beazley; <http://etheses.bham.ac.uk/6122/>

Liliane Chantal Mouan (2015), 'Governing Angola's Oil Sector: The Illusion of Revenue Transparency?', Ph.D thesis, Coventry University. Supervisor: Professor Alan Hunter; <https://curve.coventry.ac.uk/open/file/44d3c08f-2d59-4d1a-8ffa-769aa18c7232/1/mouancomb.pdf>

Thomas Neumark (2014), 'Caring for Relations: An Ethnography of Unconditional Cash Transfers in a Nairobi Slum', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Harri Englund.

Kenan Okurut (2015), 'Demand-Driven Sustainable Sanitation Improvements in Low-income Informal Settlements: A Collective Approach for East African Cities', D.Phil thesis, University of Surrey. Supervisor: Dr Katrina Charles.

Mark Raphael Owor Olweny (2015), 'Investigating the Processes of Socialisation in Architectural Education: Through Experiences in East Africa', Ph.D thesis, Cardiff University. Supervisors: Dr Andrew Roberts and Professor Wayne Forster; <http://orca.cf.ac.uk/77037/>

Recent Publications

Olayiwola Abegunrin (2015), *The Political Philosophy of Chief Obafemi Awolowo*. Lexington Books, 266pp, 978-1498515894, £60.

Richard Bourne (2015), *Nigeria: A New History of a Turbulent Century*. Zed Books, 229pp, 978-1780329079, £70 (hardback), 978-1780329062, £14.99 (paperback).

Nic Cheeseman (2015), *Democracy in Africa: Successes, Failures and the Struggle for Political Reform*. Cambridge University Press, 268pp, 978-0521138420, £50 hardcover, £17.99 paperback.

Anne Hellum, Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Barbara van Koppen (eds.) (2015), *Water is Life. Women's Human Rights in National and Local Water Governance in Southern and Eastern Africa*. Weaver Press, 640pp, 9781779222633, £40. Available from African Books Collective: orders@africanbookscollective.com

John M. Mugane (2015), *Story of Swahili*. Ohio University Press, 336pp, 978-0896802933, £20.99.

Walter C. Rucker (2015), *Gold Coast Diasporas: Identity, Culture, and Power*. Indiana University Press, 342pp, 978-0253016942, £38.

Paul Schauert (2015), *Staging Ghana: Artistry and Nationalism in State Dance Ensembles*. Indiana University Press. 364pp, 978-0253017420, £55 (hardcover); £19.99 (Kindle).

Keith Somerville (2016), *Africa's Long Road Since Independence: The Many Histories of a Continent*. Hurst, 500pp, 978-1849045155, £25.

Wendy Urban-Mead (2015), *Gender of Piety: Family, Faith, and Colonial Rule in Matabeleland, Zimbabwe*. Ohio University Press, 298pp, 978-0821421581, £55 (hardcover); £21.50 (Kindle).

The African University

Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies is calling for submissions for a volume which will be released in the winter of 2017. The themes for this particular issue would be, but not limited to: the state of the African university; what is an African university; the nature of finances and strikes in the African university; the role of the African university in the 21st century; the role of the government in relation to the university; the marginalisation of the African in the African university; the role of ethnicity, gender, and race in securing promotions within the African university; the role of religion in the African university; the African student and teacher within the African university; the role of Africans outside the continent in the development of knowledge and their 'duties' to the development of the African university; and the role of sanctions on the African university. Submissions may come in all forms: opinion pieces, essays poetry, transcripts and interviews, and should be sent with the subject title of 'The African University' by 1 June 2016 to: ufahamu@gmail.com

Women Researching in Africa

It is not very often that academic writing allows you the writer, researcher or student to go outside of your disciplinary boundaries in presenting your research. Being a women researcher in Africa presents a remarkably diverse set of opportunities and challenges. We are compiling an edited volume that focuses on the lived experiences of researching as a woman in an African context, both black and white. In essence the book will be a gendered study on researching Africa—with the focus on the impact of gender on the researcher and research outcomes. But while your contribution may take the form of gender based research we are also proposing a wider focus, whether your research is politics, decoloniality, gender, development, arts, history, science, technology, or any other area. Some areas of potential focus or key questions may include: practical issues and opportunities, risks, rewards, access; methodological considerations, including the positionality of the researcher and the researched, addressing and overcoming gender sensitive research bias, breaking out of traditional methodologies; disciplinary specific foci, including but not limited to power, culture, change, patriarchy, and so on; the ways in which your life experiences influenced your writing; and the ways in which your writing influenced your life experiences. Contributions may take a variety of forms including autobiographical, ethnographic, reflective accounts grounded in theory or a combination of approaches.

The book will contribute to Research Methods, as well as African Studies. The audience for this book will be university students and researchers, academics and professionals living and working across Africa. Prospective contributors are

invited to submit an abstract of 300–350 words by 31 January 2016 to Max Kelly: max.kelly@deakin.edu.au or Ruth Jackson: r.jackson@deakin.edu.au By 31 March 2016 selected authors will be invited to submit their full-length chapter of 6,000 words for consideration by the editors.

News

Founders Fund Award

Doctoral student Kerstin Tomiack (Cardiff School of Law and Politics) has been awarded the Founders Fund Award from the British International Studies Association (BISA). This grant is designed to assist Ph.D students undertaking research in the field of international relations, and is awarded to outstanding candidates.

This is a very competitive award and Kerstin is one of only seven doctoral students chosen to receive this funding in 2015. Under the supervision of Dr Christian Bueger she examines the effects of media in peace-building missions, and focuses also on methodological approaches to research in conflict countries. Kerstin just recently came back from her field work in South Sudan, and has started her writing up phase. The prestigious award shall help her in preparing her thesis for publication.

Martin Lynn Scholarship

The Royal Historical Society (RHS) makes an annual Martin Lynn Scholarship award of up to £1,000 to assist a postgraduate researcher of African history. Thanks to the generosity of the family of the late Martin Lynn, the RHS has established an annual award in his memory. Martin Lynn was Professor of African History in the Queen's University, Belfast, the first scholar to hold a chair in African history in Ireland. His scholarly career was devoted to the history of West Africa and he published most extensively and importantly on the 19th and 20th century history of Nigeria. His scholarly achievements were matched by the reputation he enjoyed as an exciting and concerned teacher and a delightful, generous colleague and friend. This award reflects the interests of the man it commemorates.

In 2014 the Martin Lynn Scholarship was awarded to George Roberts for his research on the Cold War in Dar es Salaam c.1964-1979. In 2013 it was awarded jointly to John Nott for his research on malnutrition in post-colonial Ghana and Sarah Marriott for her research on development narratives in South Sudan since 1945. To apply for 2016's scholarship, visit: <http://royalhistsoc.org/grants/grant-awards/martin-lynn-scholarship-guidelines/> The closing date for applications is 13 June 2016.

The Leventis Research Co-operation Programme

The Centre of African Studies of the University of London invites applications from Nigerian academics to take part in a scheme of collaborative research funded by the Leventis Foundation. The Leventis Research Co-operation Programme is devised to assist younger scholars develop their research interests in collaboration with their counterparts in London. Applicants are invited to apply to spend three months as visitors of the Centre of African Studies in order to pursue their research in libraries and archives and to participate in the intellectual life of the Centre. For further information contact: cas@soas.ac.uk Deadline for applications is 31 March 2016.

Obituary

Professor JDY Peel, FBA, Professor of Anthropology and Sociology with reference to Africa in the University of London, has died after a long battle with melanoma shortly before his 74th birthday.

Born in November 1941 in Dumfries, he was educated at King Edward's School, Birmingham, and Balliol (1959-63) where he won first class honours in finals of Literae Humaniores, and LSE (1963-66) where he wrote his doctorate on Nigerian independent churches. His first academic post was at the University of Nottingham, and then he held positions at LSE, Ife (Nigeria), Liverpool, before moving to SOAS in 1989, retiring in 2007.

He published widely, in development studies, sociological theory, and diverse aspects of African religion, including religious change, conversion and gender. His strength was to combine history, social anthropology and sociology. He was a beautiful stylist, and incapable of writing an unintelligible sentence. His thrust was generally Weberian, insisting that religion could not be reduced to material or class interests.

The jewel in his crown will undoubtedly be judged his trilogy on Yoruba religious change. The first was *Aladura: a Religious Movement among the Yoruba* (OUP 1968), virtually the first study to take African independent (or non-mission) churches seriously and thus creating considerable debate; indeed, it was in reviewing this book that his friend Robin Horton first formulated his 'intellectualist theory' of African religion (that religion in Africa is concerned with explanation, prediction and control of this-worldly events, a worldview which tends to persist even after 'conversion' to a world religion like Christianity or Islam).

In the second, *Religious Encounter and the Making of the Yoruba* (Indiana UP, 2000), he argued that it was through the encounter between evangelical Protestant missionaries and the Yoruba, at a time when the great majority were still 'pagan', that modern Yoruba identity was first formed. The book was based on

missionary archives of the period 1845-1912, although giving primary agency to the African pastors and teachers who became the founders of the modern Yoruba intelligentsia. The unique religious dynamics there, since Islam and Christianity reached the Yoruba about the same time and have had almost equal success and coexist remarkably amicably, enabled him to plot the diverse appeal of each of the world religions. This influential study deservedly won both the Amaury Talbot Prize for African Anthropology of the Royal Anthropological Institute, and the Herskovits Award of the African Studies Association of the USA.

The third of the trilogy was completed just before his death: *Christianity, Islam and the Orisa: Comparative Studies of Three Religions in Interaction and Transformation* (University of California, 2015). Here, as the title indicates, he traces the interaction and mutual transformation of the three religions, right up to the present day with its proliferation of Pentecostal churches and the arrival of *salafism*. This book has a markedly more theoretical component, developing a notion of tradition that allows the recognition of the distinctiveness of each great religion (in contrast to others), without committing oneself to the idea that any particular element or component of it, even if widespread or seen as peculiarly central to it, is actually essential to it. This allows for the full 'fuzziness' of religious traditions, and the diverse ways in which people recognize themselves as belonging to them. Nevertheless, religions do not develop in just any old direction. No, the tradition provides a heavy 'steer' in a religion's constant interplay with contemporary issues.

In all these works, his love of Nigeria was palpable and recognized by Nigerians; it gave him great satisfaction to be invited in May 2014 to deliver the key lecture at the celebration of the 85th birthday of his friend Professor Ade Ajayi, doyen of Nigerian historians and former Vice Chancellor of Ibadan, an occasion graced by so many Nigerian luminaries.

Besides his own many books, articles and reviews, he edited *The Journal of Development Studies* (1972-73), *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* (1979-86) and from 1986 until his death the IAI's monograph series, the International African Library. Editorial duties he took very seriously, and manuscripts submitted to the Library received pages of encouraging suggestions to give the series the quality it enjoys.

He received numerous distinctions; election to the British Academy (1991), external assessor for professorial appointments in numerous universities, prizes (not least both the Herskovits and Amaury Talbot awards twice, the other winner being his *Ijeshas and Nigerians: the Incorporation of a Yoruba Kingdom 1890s-1970s* in 1984), and numerous university lectureships (the Marrett, Frazer and Winchester lectures at Oxford alone). He readily accepted the duties that went with honours, serving as President of the African Studies Association (1996-98), a vice President of the British Academy (1999-2000), on HEFCE and ESRC committees, chairman

of the IAI Trustees (2005 till his death) and as a member of the panel of judges of the Herskovits Award (2005-08).

His contribution to SOAS life was wide-ranging, as Richard Rathbone recounts below. But listing his achievements does not capture his human qualities. He will be remembered for his personal warmth. I can personally attest to this. I first came to SOAS as a research fellow in a project of John's. This meant not only guidance but friendship. During that fellowship, every week that I was in London, we would have lunch at a restaurant near Russell Square, occasions that were not only great fun but an education in themselves. It also meant support. Later in an early round of cuts, my post was actually abolished; John wasn't having that, and waded in on my behalf (he could play rough when he wanted to) and had the decision reversed.

He will be remembered for his enjoyment of all aspects of academic life. (That remains true although he made no secret that he was never reconciled to the restructuring of SOAS from departments into three faculties, views he was prepared to share with anyone.) In a recent email sending me a draft chapter from his new book, he remarked: 'I enjoyed writing this chapter the most. Particularly I enjoyed the polemical pedantry of refuting [name suppressed: PG] in the long footnote on page ten. You're too nice to enjoy this sort of point scoring'. That was typical: facetiously gratuitous compliment (which he well knew was not true), gleeful chuckle at his own mischievousness, and a self-deprecating self-presentation as a kind of academic street-fighter. Needless to say, his disagreement was expressed in totally appropriate language; the scholar in question could only be flattered by the close reading and serious attention he had been given.

Even in his most scholarly writing his sense of humour was evident. For example, in one most important work, he explained that when Yoruba claimed their god was 'unique', this did not mean they were monotheists. Such claims had the same logical status as those of 'some deluded Manchester United fan chanting his club was the one and only'. (John's sympathies were with Liverpool.)

His friendships were wide. It was not only on weekends that students, colleagues and friends were invited to his home where his cooking rivalled his warm, inclusive, stimulating conversation. He was something of an authority on the natural history of Britain, and till very near the end his preferred weekend activity was to take a train to some rather remote spot, to embark on a long walk, lunching at a pub, often visiting parish churches. He was a regular attender at Evensong at St Michael's, Highgate, from which he drew considerable strength (in one email he remarked: 'I think Evensong is the best and most characteristic Anglican service'). His interests were wide: on one visit, I couldn't help noticing that the reading matter in the bathroom was *The Histories of Herodotus*. For many

years he had been quietly working away on a guide to French cathedrals (alas unfinished), highlighting the artistic, architectural and historical features of most interest to British visitors. He was devoted to his wife Anne, and in his retirement spent lengthy stays in Liberia, even throughout the Ebola crisis, where Anne was working for the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). He circulated to friends delightful 'Letters from Liberia' in which he recounted their activities, with a sharp eye comparing and contrasting what he had experienced elsewhere in Africa.

The end came suddenly. At the news of the failure of treatment, he was (as he remarked in his last note to me), 'not over-unhappy or even distressed, more with a sense of divine acceptance'. He died at peace, surrounded by wife and sons Tim, David and Franko, who meant so much to him, along with his six grandchildren. A wonderful human being, and an academic of the first rank, whose studies of religious change in Africa are unlikely to be surpassed.

Emeritus Professor Paul Gifford

J.D.Y (John) Peel; a personal memoir

John Peel was already widely known and an admired figure in the world-wide African Studies community well before he left Liverpool in 1989. Thus his arrival in Bloomsbury was widely welcomed not only in SOAS but also by the extensive membership of the University of London's inter-collegiate Centre for African Studies. Many of us already knew him well not least because of his lively involvement in the ASAUK, IAI and other 'learned societies'; even more of us knew his scholarly work. While that London community was already stuffed to the rafters with big names, pioneers in the field, John was an internationally respected rising star, a big-hitter of a new generation. Accordingly his acceptance of a chair in social anthropology at SOAS felt a bit like a coup. It was a brilliant appointment.

Although John always had a very clear notion of where his ideas were leading him and a lifelong commitment to the regular publication of highly original, imaginatively researched and beautifully written work, he had an equally clear notion of what collegiality and scholarly leadership involved. He never used research and writing as an excuse for avoiding the other necessary elements of academic life. He took teaching extremely seriously, preparing every class with time-consuming care and ensuring that what he shared in class was always up-to-date and exciting. He regarded his teaching timetable as sacrosanct, always resisting any temptation to postpone classes or re-schedule supervisions. His respect as well as affection for those he taught was always apparent to his colleagues as well as his students. His outstanding scholarship attracted outstanding students and he gave them time and understanding as well as the benefit of his considerable learning.

John was driven by a powerful, somewhat old-fashioned sense of duty derived in part from his faith, in part from his upbringing. Lesser people might have ducked administrative burdens in the first couple of years of a new appointment but John felt strongly that academic leadership, the protection of good scholars and their scholarship and the nurturing of new talent, required something more than the occasional bouts of unavoidable grudging effort. John accepted the role of Dean of undergraduate studies very early in his SOAS career. It was for SOAS a financially terrifying time and he, and I as Dean of postgraduate studies, took on the urgent task of rationalising a higgledy-piggledy degree system and its hydra-headed administrative structure which had both evolved in gentler times but which were uneconomic and vulnerable to criticism in a new age of external scrutiny.

As we worked long hours together on all of this, even surviving the potentially divisive situation of sharing a (unusually tolerant) secretary, we got to know one another very well. This experience taught me that John's sense of duty arose out of a perceived need to serve others; for him SOAS was not just an institution but, rather, a collection of creative human beings who he chose to serve. This and his enviable capacity to allot time so accurately as to be able to pursue, in parallel, most of his research and teaching agendas, made him a remarkably effective administrator. But I also learnt that little of this could be managed without toughness. John did not suffer fools gladly, did not smile at irrational opposition and often followed the dictum of Jowett, the 19th century master of his old Oxford college "get it done and let them howl." While humour and a delight in absurdity leavened so much of John's conversation, beneath it all was not just a fine mind but also a rather stern sense of rectitude which he shared with some of those pioneers of Christianity in Africa his work brought to life. He was a lovely man and that very rare thing, a thoroughly decent man.

Emeritus Professor Richard Rathbone

The above obituary and appreciation first appeared on the SOAS website: <https://www.soas.ac.uk/news/newsitem107075.html>

Oliver Furley of Coventry University has died – obituary in the next *newsletter*.

Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the April 2016 *Newsletter* by 15 March 2016 to Dr Simon Heap: effaheap@aol.com

Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUk. For all matters relating to membership of ASAUk/RAS contact: Melmarie Laccay, 36 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PD; telephone: +44 (0)20-3073-8336; email: rasmembership@soas.ac.uk

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