



NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 Number 67

April 2012

Message from the ASAUK President

On the 27th February the British Academy and the Association of Commonwealth Universities launched their joint report: *Foundations for the Future: Supporting Early Careers of African Researchers*. This report arose out of the 'Nairobi process' which has identified a number of critical issues for African academics in the early career stage. The report usefully brings together and summarises these issues and examines existing programmes in UK which are aimed at 'capacity-building' in African institutions of higher education. The authors of the report find that, whilst there is much that is very positive in these programmes, they are poorly coordinated, and it challenges those of us working in this area to be more 'joined-up'. Sharing information through the *Africa Desk* [<http://www.africadesk.ac.uk/>] is one obvious way in which we can begin to address this problem, but clearly we need to go further than this to maximise the impact of our various programmes.

The ASAUK Writing Workshops are mentioned in the *Foundations for the Future Report* as one very practical form of assistance to early career academics in Africa. We plan to further develop this model and extend it. Our next Writing Workshop will take place in Accra in late April, timed to lead on from the British Academy-sponsored Early Career event taking place there from 23-24 April. By organising these two events in tandem, we hope to maximise their impact.

The closing date for papers for the ASAUK Conference to be held at the University of Leeds is fast approaching, and I urge you to consider getting involved.

Professor Megan Vaughan

ASAUK Biennial Conference, University of Leeds, 6–8 September 2012. There has been a wonderful response to the ASAUK call for panels and we have a geographically and disciplinarily diverse range of panels. It is still possible to propose papers; the deadline for abstracts is the 27th April 2012.

The organisers are grateful to all those who have submitted panels and in particular to those who have formed a series of panels running through the conference. There are a series of panels on, the data base for African economic development, the Democratic Republic of Congo, transitional justice in Africa, contemporary African cinema, culture, literature, citizenship, heritage, water governance and media. The organisers are also very pleased to have two panels on North Africa submitted by George Joffe (Cambridge) and Martin Evans (Portsmouth). Established scholars as well as the next generation of academic voices will be represented at the conference.

The Audrey Richards Prize for the best doctoral thesis in African Studies, Distinguished Africanist Award and the African Affairs author's prize will be announced at the conference. Africanist journals and publishers will have a strong presence at the conference with stalls and delegates will be able to purchase monographs and journals.

Accommodation is available for those attending the conference and can be booked when registering for the conference. ASAUK and Royal African Society members are offered preferential rates when registering for the conference. Information about the conference including guidance on submitting a paper, a full list of panels proposed for the conference and prices for registration is available on the website: <http://www.asauk.net/conferences/asauk12.shtml>

'Foundations for the Future: Supporting the Early Careers of African Researchers'. At an event at the British Academy on 27 February 2012, the Academy and the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) launched the report 'Foundations for the Future: Supporting the early careers of African researchers'. The report emerges from what Professor Paschal Mihiyo has dubbed the 'Nairobi Process', and follows from the joint British Academy/ACU 'Nairobi Report' published in 2009. As the title suggests, the latest report addresses one of the themes to have emerged most strongly from this earlier discussion: that we need to be thinking quite urgently and quite intelligently about where the next generation of African scholarship is going to come from. Given the huge need for more Ph.D scholars, much of the recent debate has understandably focused on this, but one of questions we were most concerned to address was the fate of newly minted Ph.Ds when they went home (from overseas scholarships), or moved up to new staff positions in their existing departments. Earlier conversations which led to and emerged from the Nairobi Report suggested that for many junior academics their research careers did not proceed much further than their Ph.D. Many of the brightest African scholars were accordingly lost beneath waves of administration and teaching.

The years immediately post-PhD are critical if a researcher is to establish a successful academic career, but it is exactly at this point that many lack the support and mentoring that they desperately need. Foundations for the Future

attempts to explore the immediate post-doctoral years in more detail, and also provided a vehicle to consult the UK university sector, to understand their interests in supporting African research, what they envisaged their role to be, and how this might be achieved within the contexts of – and constraints on – the UK Higher Education funding environment.

The report identifies six key areas where support is needed (there may of course be others to add to this):

1. Opportunities to stay connected to their peers
2. Guidance and support to enable the development of doctoral work into publishable form
3. Time and assistance to define a research agenda and secure funding
4. Access to modest seed funding to build on doctoral work
5. The ability to supervise future doctoral students of their own
6. A supportive institutional context, where the institution and its senior academics seek to enable their progression, encourage research and fosters collegiality and mentorship.

The last is perhaps the most critical. Several scholars consulted reported feeling ‘intellectually lost’ or facing ‘intellectual meltdown’ when they returned home after finishing their Ph.D abroad. The mentorship of senior, experienced colleagues who could point them in the right direction, advise them when they encountered difficulties, and help them to navigate the new worlds of publication and research funding was much needed and sometimes sorely lacking.

A number of suggestions emerged for ways in which further support might be offered, including Ph.D extensions, short postdoctoral fellowships, regional summer schools in Africa, collaborative research projects, distance support capitalising on the potential of online communications and platforms, and reintegration grants or seed funding for returning scholars.

Of course much is already being done to support African scholarship. Nevertheless, we identified some clear gaps. At the disciplinary level, much is oriented to subjects allied to development and poverty reduction; this is to be expected, and accounts for much valuable and essential work – and indeed greater funding is still needed in these fields. But it also suggests a need to support work which is less directly problem oriented too, and which provides space for work in other humanities and social sciences subjects. Not all African academics want to be – or ought to be – development specialists. Further, we found that where early career support exists, much is embedded within broader research funding programmes. This has advantages and disadvantages: it can make it more effective, tying research training to the doing of research, but it can also make it less visible, less deliberate and less structured, and harder for many

researchers to access. While a lot goes on, it is relatively dispersed making it hard to get a real sense of what is already out there, and meaning that opportunities to harness synergies between initiatives are often lost.

The aim of this study was not to create a series of recommendations. We came to a clutch of conclusions, however, about how to move forward. Of course, new funding commitments are needed to achieve much of what we suggest, but there's also a lot that could be done without direct financial commitments, at least in the first instance. From the UK side of things, there is a clear need not only to build the picture of what is happening, but to convene the broader community and see if new approaches can be worked out which meet early career needs more effectively – either with new funding, or by repointing existing schemes. Existing scholarship and doctoral training schemes – either wider schemes, or university level initiatives – might feasibly do more to sustain links with their alumni, and find ways of supporting them in their early years – formally valuing this activity within departments, providing small research funds to sustain links between supervisors and returned scholars in some cases, or providing virtual training and mentoring platforms, enabling access to some of the researcher development materials they have already put together for their local postdocs. More ambitiously, new residential schools might be mounted, perhaps collectively between a number of universities. These would benefit emerging researchers on both sides – from African countries and from the UK. New types of fellowship might also be built, which took to their heart the idea of longer term relationships, sustained interaction over several years, and with opportunities for regular travel and a series of shorter residencies. Finally though, and despite the emphasis on the early career throughout, we cannot escape and should not forget the intergenerational aspects. Senior academics must be involved for any of this to work – and if this is to help to strengthen the research activities of departments more broadly. The full report is available at: www.britac.ac.uk/intl/Foundations_for_the_Future_Report_Launch.cfm

Jonathan Harle: J.Harle@acu.ac.uk

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'Doing Research on and in Algeria: Methodologies, Research Agendas, Practical issues, University of Portsmouth, 2 May 2012. Registration is now open for the Postgraduate Workshop organised by the Francophone Research Group at the Centre for European and International Studies Research, University of Portsmouth. This event is free and open to all postgraduates working on any aspect of Algerian history, politics, society and culture, at all stages of their research, from masters' students considering doctoral research to final year Ph.D students preparing for their Viva. For more information, or to register for this event, contact Joanna Warson: joanna.warson@port.ac.uk

'Genealogies of Colonial Violence', Centre of South Asian Studies and the Centre for African Studies, University of Cambridge, 1–2 June 2012. This conference seeks to move past the standard debates that continue to dominate both public discourses and much scholarly research regarding violence and colonialism. This conference aims to bring together interdisciplinary researchers to suggest alternative interpretations, theoretical approaches, and future avenues of research relating to violence and colonialism. The conference will feature a keynote address by Professor Achille Mbembe (University of Witwatersrand). For more information, check: <http://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/research/conferences/genealogies-colonial-violence>

'A Revolutionary Life: Ruth First, 1925-1982' Conference, Room 349, Senate House, University of London, Malet St, London, 7 June 2012. This event is a joint initiative between the Commonwealth Advisory Bureau and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. Ruth First was an anti-apartheid activist, investigative journalist, and scholar. She worked her entire life to end apartheid in South Africa, writing in 1969 she explained how her life was dedicated 'to the liberation of African for I count myself an African, and there is no cause I hold dearer'. Her knowledge of the continent was phenomenal and she knew many of the continent's leading political figures Nelson Mandela, Ben Bella, Oginda Odinga. First was an influential figure, who saw activism, solidarity work (for the anti-apartheid struggle) and her research and writing as inextricably linked. She was exiled from South Africa in 1964, with her husband, the prominent South African communist Joe Slovo and their children. In 1982, while working in Mozambique, Ruth First was killed by a letter bomb sent by South Africa secret service.

2012 is the thirtieth anniversary of Ruth First's murder. The Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICS) and the Commonwealth Advisory Bureau are holding a one-day celebration of Ruth First's extraordinary life and work. The event is part of year-long project that is digitizing some of Ruth First's papers and books held at the ICS. The event will include Justice Albie Sachs, Gillian Slovo, Barbara Harlow, Shula Marks and Alan Wieder. Registration form: http://commonwealth.sas.ac.uk/fileadmin/documents/Events/Registration_form_ruth_first.doc

Dis/connects: African Studies in the Digital Age', Rothermere American Institute, Oxford, 25–26 June 2012. SCOLMA: the UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa invites you to its 50th Anniversary Conference. It is an opportunity for academics, librarians and archivists from Africa, Europe and the US to debate how far the digital revolution has affected African Studies, and what have been the consequences so far. SCOLMA gratefully acknowledges the sponsorship of the Centre of African Studies, University of London; the African Studies Association (UK) and the Royal African Society; and Taylor and Francis. For further information see: www.scolma.org

'World War I in East Africa: Conference to Examine and Discuss All Aspects', National Archives, London, 14 July 2012. The campaigns during the First World War in East Africa were among the longest running of that War and yet comparatively little has been written of them and an overall view is, at best, sketchy. The various engagements could well be described as some of the most far-reaching of those grim four years, involving over 16 countries and embracing forces drawn from land, sea and air. Logistically and, as we hope this Conference will show, they can only be described as a 'nightmare'.

In recognition of the growing interest in this theatre of the War, the Great War in East Africa Association in conjunction with the British South Africa Police Association have joined to facilitate this conference which aims to bring together interested persons, both amateur and professional, to share and extend their knowledge of the War in East Africa. In particular, contributions are sought from those working on: military, political, social or cultural themes; heritage, including archival, archaeological, documentary and family history' and the impact of the campaign or aspects thereof, including representations of the campaign through time, memory studies, re-enactment, literature and film. If you are interested in delivering a paper or contributing in some way, contact Dr Anne Samson: thesamsonsed@gmail.com Further details at: <http://www.gweaa.com>

INTERNATIONAL

'Rwanda from Below', Institute of Development Policy and Management, Antwerp, Belgium, 29–30 June 2012. While research on Rwanda has in the past often adopted a macro approach, increasing numbers of (predominantly younger) scholars have studied the country from a grassroots, bottom-up perspective. This research is very demanding and often takes place in a dangerous, difficult and destabilizing environment, but it has yielded important new insights into local dynamics of power, justice, ethnicity, land, and poverty. However, much of this research is scattered, and this conference aims at bringing some of these efforts together. It will address both methodological and ethical questions on how to conduct research in these environments and substantive findings on crucial issues in the conference programme. This conference intends to add an original contribution to the celebration of Rwanda's fiftieth anniversary of independence. For the programme and registration, check: www.ua.ac.be/iob/rwandafrombelow

'Identity, Economy, Power Relations and External Interests: Old and New Challenges for Sudan and South Sudan', 9th International Sudan Studies Conference, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Bonn, Germany, 23–25 July 2012. Sudan has profoundly changed in recent years. In 2011, two Sudans emerged from Africa's longest conflict. The separation of South Sudan as the African continent's newest nation has been accompanied by many issues and

consequences affecting the entire region. Organised by the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC), Sudan Studies Association (SSA) and Sudan Studies Society of the UK (SSSUK), this conference proposes to examine the changing identities, economic and power relationships and external interests that characterize the Sudans as they enter a new era. The conference will open with an emphasis on identity, especially issues of gender, citizenship, integration, history, memory and the geographical challenges of the separation. Its second day will be devoted to economic issues, particularly economic development prospects, urbanization and social transformation in Sudan and South Sudan and issues regarding oil, water and other resources. The conference's final day will examine both internal and external power relationships including Sudan-South Sudan relations, old and new conflicts, party formation and strategic and security issues. Though the deadline has passed, late proposals will be considered if space is available. 200 word abstracts as soon as possible to Dr Douglas H. Johnson: chair@sssuk.org

'Majority Rule, Minority Rights and the National Question in Nigeria', Igbinedion University, Okada, Edo State, Nigeria, 7-9 August 2012. The Nigerian state epitomizes a central paradox of post-colonial nation building projects in Africa. The liberal democratic model to which the state aspires is founded on majority rule and the expectation that the rights of minority groups to political participation and economic resources are protected even within the framework of majority rule. How well has the Nigerian nation fared in balancing majority rule with minority rights? The emerging consensus is that the minority question remains one of the most urgent and persistent challenges to peace and socio-political stability in the Nigerian state. Political and economic control by numerical majority groups and ethnically dominated politics has created disparities, discontents and alienations that have frequently resulted in crisis and conflicts. Given this history of perceived marginalization and agitation in the Nigerian political space, this conference is organised by the Institute for Benin Studies, Benin City in collaboration with Igbinedion University, Okada. Special attention will be given to the experiences of minority groups in crisis and conflict, from the civil war to more contemporary ethno-religious militia agitation.

Papers are sought on the following themes: minority groups and the colonial state; minority groups and the political negotiations for independence; minority /majority relations in the regions before the civil war; the Midwest and the crisis before the civil war; Northern Minorities and the civil war; Eastern Minorities in Biafra; the Midwest: occupation, liberation and the civil war; the treatment of persons, properties and natural resources in occupied and liberated areas during the Nigerian Civil War; minorities and ethno-religious militias; minorities and resource allocation; minorities and political participation; and minorities and the future of the Nigerian state. 200 word abstracts by 30 April 2012 to Uyilawa Usuanlele: uyilawa.usuanlele@oswego.edu

'The Centenary of Trade Unionism in Nigeria: Lessons from the Past, Challenges of the Present, Vision for the Future', Abuja, Nigeria, 19–24 August 2012. The first trade union in Nigeria was formed on 19th August 1912 and has since then faced tremendous challenges and attained significant gains for the working people. The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) – the apex labour organization – in recognition of this will be organizing a conference to commemorate the centenary. The Congress solicits for papers from scholars, trade unionists, labour activists, and the likes from within and outside Nigeria on the following subjects: trade union development in Nigeria: formation, workers & their unions; inter and intra union politics; the conditions of the Nigerian working class: housing, health and safety; industrial relations, the cost of living & coping strategies; workers struggles: strikes and mass protest-demonstrations; state, capital and the trade union movement in Nigeria; trade unions and national politics in Nigeria: anti-colonial struggles and democratic struggles; political parties, the media, civil society and the trade union movement; trade unions and economic development in Nigeria; gender and labour; Nigerian arts, culture and literature and the representation of workers; representation of workers in the Nigerian film and video industry.

The Congress particularly invites papers that present new facts, critique previous studies and offer new trends in working class and trade union history, labour scholarship and historiographies of working peoples' struggles; papers that forcefully present and critically challenge neo-liberal policies and practices; and papers that examine and scrutinize transnational workers' and peoples' struggles for and against globalization. 300-500 word abstracts with brief CV by 20 April 2012 to: nlc100yrsconference@nlcng.org and gsec@nlcng.org

'Globalising the Local, Localising the Global: Globalisation, the Media and Popular Culture in Africa', Lagos, Nigeria, 23–25 August 2012. As a phenomenon critical to the construction of modernity/postmodernity, globalisation with its (il)logics has precipitated debates which have continued to constitute a contested and contestable site in cultural discourses. One major discursive formation seeks to present globalisation as a programme meant to democratise the world's cultural space for marginal cultures to survive and thrive without undue threats from dominant others. In radical contradistinction, an alternative perspective imagines globalisation as an imperialist strategy to re-colonise former dominated cultures and their economies through the subtle strategy of exclusion through inclusion. The latter argument resonates strongly in peripheral societies like Africa where cultural production modes and their circulation processes have been severely mediated by globalisation. This argument seems compelling because in its latest consumerist phase, globalisation has conquered all cultural spaces of the world without leaving any oppositional strongholds.

This conference seeks to appraise the place and impact of globalisation on

African media practices and popular culture and how these have also participated in globalisation as a dialectical process for the construction of identity and re-invention of nationhood in Africa. In particular, the conference is interested in ways in which globalisation has engaged African media and popular culture as mediated processes through new media technologies and how they have in turn engaged globalisation. But the conference is also concerned with problematising the issues involved in the discourse on globalisation and its antinomies in relation to African media and popular culture. For instance, is globalisation an innocent, neutral phenomenon? Has globalisation fostered the dialogue or clash of civilisations and cultures? Is it necessary for the enrichment of African media and popular culture? What has Africa brought to the marketplace of ideas and culture which is globalisation? How best can globalisation be mined by the media and popular cultural expressions on the continent? Indeed, is there one Africa or one unitary African culture or a multiplicity of Africas and cultures? This complex of issues will constitute the fulcrum of discussions during the conference.

The conference organisers, therefore, invite paper abstracts and panel proposals with the following sub-themes: theoretical issues in globalisation, media and popular culture; African media/culture policies and globalisation; globalisation and new media technologies in Africa; globalisation and the politics of media representations; African popular culture in a glocalised order; mediascapes and the discourse on globalisation; globalisation and (en)gendered spaces in African media /culture; African languages/literatures and globalisation; globalisation and African musical expressions; globalisation and the politics of sports in Africa; globalisation and African filmic/cinematic traditions; African oral/written traditions and globalisation; globalisation and the debate on cultural decolonisation; globalisation and the knowledge economy in Africa; the self/other dialectic in entertainment media and popular culture; globalisation, the media and new religious experiences in Africa; race/cultural identity in a glocalised milieu; the circulation of media/culture between Africa and its Diasporas; Pan-Africanism and the politics of media(ted) culture; and globalisation and the future of African media/popular culture. 250-word abstract or panel proposal with 'Media and Culture Conference 2012' by 25 April 2012 to Vivian Adeoti: vadeoti@smc.edu.ng *and* Tope Akintola: takintola@smc.edu.ng

'International Peacekeeping in Africa: Actors and Missions', Center for Security Studies (CSS), ETH Zurich, Switzerland, 23–24 November 2012. Over the last decades, the African continent has witnessed a proliferation of peacekeeping missions. Simultaneously, an increasing number of actors have become involved in the effort to bring peace to Africa, and this in turn has led to new and diverse types of operations. This conference seeks to analyse these developments in their entirety and comparatively in order to identify the most significant challenges and trends in international peacekeeping in Africa.

The African continent has been the scene of a great many armed conflicts since the end of the Cold War. Recent events in Congo, Sudan, Somalia, or Côte d'Ivoire remind us that violence remains endemic and continues to hamper the institutional, social, and economic development of Africa. Over the years, the international community has addressed this problem to varying degrees and tried to bring peace to Africa through a variety of means. The peacekeeping efforts were the most visible of these. With the end of the Cold War, peacekeeping was increasingly touted as a means of conflict resolution, only to be questioned after serious setbacks in the former Yugoslavia, Somalia, and Rwanda. Despite a temporary disengagement, the international community has tried to address the shortcomings of peacekeeping, which today is again considered an efficient tool for the promotion of peace. In Africa, where peace often remains a distant ideal, peacekeeping missions have proliferated as a consequence.

Simultaneously, an increasing number of actors have become involved in the effort to bring peace to Africa, and this in turn has led to new and various types of operations. The UN has been joined by regional organisations, most prominently the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU), and by sub-regional organisations like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Meanwhile, in light of what has been identified as the 'new scramble for Africa', great and regional powers have regained an interest in Africa and, as a consequence, in peacekeeping. The multiplication of actors as well as their varying interests and motivations have given rise to missions that are quite diverse with regard to their typology and composition. But despite the multitude of missions, actors, and approaches, international peacekeeping efforts in Africa continue to face many challenges and have disputable impacts.

The conference's focus is not only on the actors on the ground, the peacekeepers, but also on those powers and organisations that influence peacekeeping missions during their establishment and once they are deployed. The permanent UN Security Council members, the other BRICS countries – Brazil, India, and South Africa – and Nigeria as a regional power would be of particular interest. Furthermore, the project aims to take a closer look at the composition and the types of recent or current peacekeeping missions. Whereas the majority of operations are carried out by the UN, there are also missions under the flag of individual countries or regional and sub-regional organisations. Meanwhile, there may be pivotal states within an international or regional mission, and the multinational composition can vary according to the willingness of countries to contribute troops. Organisations and countries can also enter into partnerships, ranging from a division of labour to hybrid operations. There are different types of missions, which, according to their mandate and context, include a great variety of types ranging from traditional peacekeeping to peace enforcement.

With a focus on the actors and the missions they create, the aim of this conference is to identify the most significant challenges and trends in international peacekeeping in Africa and to publish selected papers in an edited volume with an academic publisher. The papers should not be theory-driven, but provide an informative analysis for scholars and policy-makers alike. Therefore, the CSS is seeking two types of papers. First, generic and contextual papers, with comparative analyses of the following themes are particularly welcome: actors, missions, challenges and impacts. Second, case studies that are not based on individual organisations or actors, but on 'theatres of operation' or 'conflict zones' in order to allow for the inclusion of all actors and missions that have an influence on or are part of the peacekeeping effort. Of particular interest are papers focusing on crisis regions or countries where various actors are currently involved, such as Western Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan or Somalia. Each case study should present and analyse the actors and missions and should identify the challenges and impacts. 300-500 word abstracts by 31 May 2012 to Marco Wyss: wyss@sipo.gess.ethz.ch

'Encounters of Empires: Interimperial Transfers and Imperial Manifestations, ca. 1870-1950', Morphomata Center for Advanced Studies, University of Cologne, Germany, 16-18 January 2013. For several decades empires have been a central topic of international research; the attempts to grasp both the unique character of every single empire and their functional similarities are legion. Most studies are concerned and struggle with a comprehensive definition of exercising imperial power. After all, the term empire does not only refer to the formation of hierarchical power structures but also comprises the coexistence of different practices and specific regimes of imperial rule. However, this coexistence of separate imperial formations was also significantly characterised by cooperation, in as much as for example scientific conferences, diplomatic relations and other forms of exchanging colonial practices represented fields of mutual willingness to learn from each other.

In addressing interimperial encounters as well as the different processing and materializations originating in these interactions, the conference focuses on the origins, circulation and manifestations of concepts of empire. We are interested in the various definitions empire had for leading imperial protagonists and how they accordingly conceived their specific imperial self-descriptions. Therefore the conference will highlight historical trajectories in tracing the ways ideas of empire originated in imperial contact zones and follow them to their materialisations and implementations within specific political, social and cultural frameworks. Encounters of empires allow investigation of three major problems and repeatedly described desiderata in current empire studies.

Firstly, interimperial fields of action quite obviously define spaces of cooperation between competing entities. Recent research hints more and more frequently at

transimperial alliances. A mainly historical focus on interimperial encounters allows to probe the paradigm of transnationality on the scale of empires. What dynamics and which processes were exactly at work when empires not only observed but interacted with each other? What genuine discourses did encounters between empires actually provoke? How can one distinguish interimperial collaborations from global entanglements?

This leads, secondly, to a different perspective on imperialism. For quite some time global history studies repeatedly tried to conceptualize the essential constitution of empires in order to enable systematic comparisons. In establishing general criteria of ideal-typed empires one risks to assume that contemporaries equally disposed of a clear-cut notion of imperial power relations. Instead, reconstructing cross-border connections between imperial protagonists helps to explain how widely accepted and applied tools of empires were continuously established and re-established in day-to-day practice. Additionally, within interimperial cooperation chosen experts could invent and practice a set of imperial rhetoric in order to communicate imperial values to colonisers and colonised. To what extent did interimperial fields of action produce a common understanding of imperialism? How constitutive were power relations defined not only through competition but also through cooperation for the self-description of single empires? And who actually took up this rhetoric, in which contexts were they adopted, by which media were they disseminated and, eventually, how where they processed? Finally, focusing on specific fields of imperial rule and their definitions as well as delimitations through interimperial exchanges helps explicate the elaboration of analytical tools of governance which were soon to characterise imperialism as such.

Possible conference topics include examples of globally applicable colonial concepts such as Edward Gibbon Wakefield's *A View of the Art of Colonization* (1849) as well as colonial manuals such as Max Beneke's *Die Ausbildung der Kolonialbeamten* (1894) written in direct comparison to other imperial powers. Of further interest are all forms of knowledge production, their interimperial transfers and manifestations in specialised areas and disciplines like colonial medicine or the cultivation of tropical plants. Papers on the institutionalisation of interimperial cooperation like the *Institut Colonial International* (Brussels 1894) are also highly welcomed. The following topics are suggested: science (anthropology, botany, medicine, hygiene) and their relationship to different scientific formats (museums, exhibitions, expeditions); administration (citizenship, statistics, demographic engineering); agriculture and labour (repartition of farm lands, questions of workforce including slavery and serfdom, commercialisation of agricultural products, irrigation); communications (material infrastructures, techniques of information exchange); and war and military (organisation, transport, disciplining of troops). 500 word abstracts and short CV by 31 May 2012 to Dr Volker Barth: volker.barth@uni-koeln.de

...Conferences Past

'Resisting Colonisation: the Northern Cape Frontier 1850–1900' Conference, McGregor Museum, Kimberley, South Africa, 14–16 September 2011, was organised by the McGregor Museum as part of its historical project on resistance to colonial rule in the Northern Cape in the 19th and 20th centuries, with financial support from the Northern Cape provincial administration. A striking feature of the conference was the active audience involvement of more than a hundred descendants of participants in the history under discussion.

The conference coincided with, and complemented, the launch of a new biography *Luka Jantjie: Resistance Hero of the South African Frontier* (Wits University Press SA, Aldridge Press UK, and Palgrave Macmillan USA) on the Thursday evening. Papers on Luka Jantjie and his historical context followed on the Friday, with sessions on the Saturday discussing ways of memorialising South Africa's past for future generations.

On the Thursday and Friday, following an opening address from MEC Pauline Williams (Northern Cape Department of Sport, Arts and Leisure), Kevin Shillington, the author of the Luka Jantjie biography, vividly recreated Luka's life as a Christian leader dispossessed by settler colonialism, culminating in his death on 30 July 1897 after a six-month long siege in the Langeberg mountains. John Aldridge gave a publisher's perspective by presenting and commenting on the use of an extraordinary collection of contemporary photographs and other illustrations of Luka's life. Chris Saunders filled in the broader perspective of the development of frontier and resistance historiography in South Africa. Brian Willan explored the complex response of Kimberley's African intelligentsia to the Langeberg rebellion. Neil Parsons examined the relationship between the histories of Luka Jantjie's Tswana and the Korana (Khoe) people of Luka's maternal ancestry. Stephen Volz described how Tswana evangelists faced tensions between Church and State in their communities – and how this led to stronger articulations of African Christianity.

On the Saturday, José Manuel de Prada-Samper related the story of Louis Anthing, a remarkable man who tried unavailingly to prevent the genocide of the /Xam San peoples of 'Bushmanland' in the Upper Karoo. Ridwan Laher discussed the trauma experienced by nation-states such as South Africa as they emerge from violent turmoil, necessitating re-interpretation of the past to heal societal wounds. Colin Fortune demonstrated with pertinent examples the perils of memorialising, and thus the need to consult sensitively. Sabine Marschall argued that the internet will have an increasingly profound influence on how we relate to and commemorate the past. Noel Solani showed the importance of song in people's survival of the brutalities of apartheid, and raised the important question of whether resistance 'heritage' might incite contemporary resorts to violence.

John Aldridge: john@aldridgepress.co.uk

‘Support models for African peacekeeping’, Uppsala, Sweden, 15-16 December 2011, was a seminar at NAI in Uppsala ‘Support models for African peacekeeping’ which brought together high level officials from the African Union and the United Nations, as well as international scholars, practitioners and military officers on 15-16 December 2011 to discuss the challenges of AU-UN support models and joint peace operations in Africa.

The seminar was co-organised by the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI), the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (DHF). It evaluated three different examples of support models, developed and utilized during the African Mission in Sudan (AMIS), the AU-UN Hybrid Mission for Darfur (UNAMID) and the African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and then discussed the way forward.

The AU Peace Support Operation Division (AU PSOD) needs to build resilience and planning capacity to overcome the ad-hoc response to conflicts on continent. In this process, support models from the UN will play a critical role. Predictable funding of the AU’s conflict management is a critical concern.

Challenges with existing models are political as much as they are operational, financial and technical. Assessments need to center on the systems, procedures, processes that should be part of the ‘toolbox’ of support models. Peace operations are politically driven and models need to be sufficiently flexible and politically possible as well as suitable to the diversity of missions and conflict situations in Africa. Funding models should be appropriate, early, timely and predictable.

AU member states and the AUPSC should clarify the AU peace and security role. This political and strategic discussion would facilitate policy-making to strengthen the strategic and planning side of the peace and security structures. AU member states need to invest in the AU’s peace and security role.

Levels of their assessed contributions to the AU and their voluntary contributions to the Peace Fund are too low. The UN Secretariat needs to review the procedures and standards of peace operations. These procedures do not meet the day to day operational needs of AU-UN joint peace operations.

The AU and the UN need to invest more in the peace and security relationship. This involves more institutionalisation, strategic discussion and exchanges.

For more information please contact Dr Linnéa Gelot (NAI), Cedric de Coning, (ACCORD & NUPI), or Dr Henning Melber (DHF). Read more at: <http://www.nai.uu.se/press/articles/2012/01/13/133838/index.xml>

'International Workshop on Pedestrian Headloading and its Implications for Health, Well-Being and Livelihoods in Africa', Institute of Advanced Studies, Durham University, 16-18 January 2012. Of the estimated $\frac{3}{4}$ billion women and children in Sub-Saharan Africa, a majority carry heavy loads of water, fuelwood and farm produce, in the absence of affordable and reliable transport. The long-term health impacts of such heavy load-carrying for maternal health, labour productivity, quality of life, life expectancy and development policy across the continent has largely gone unrecognised in the literature.

The aim of this interdisciplinary international workshop (sponsored by Durham, Napier and Leeds Universities) was to focus on the immediate and longer-term impacts of pedestrian headloading on health and well-being, with particular reference to African women and children and its health and transport policy implications. Academic researchers from UK universities (Durham, Napier, Leeds, Newcastle, Huddersfield and Abertay) and internationally (University of Cape Coast, Ghana; Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana; and the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore), as well as representatives of key international organisations focusing on this issue (World Bank, DFID-funded Africa Community Access Programme [AFCAP], and the International Forum for Rural Transport and Development [IFRTD]) met to review the current state of knowledge about pedestrian headloading regarding long-term/degenerative biomechanical impacts; acute injury; reproductive health impacts; psycho-social wellbeing and the socio-economic and transport context. Specific objectives of the workshop were to identify significant knowledge gaps in the health arena about headloading; to examine policy implications regarding current practices and potential interventions (including Intermediate Technologies); to develop key research questions and to identify an agenda for action. The broader aim was to explore the potential for a major programme of interdisciplinary research on pedestrian headloading and its wider health and well-being implications. The meeting was organised by Gina Porter, Kate Hampshire and Chris Dunn. For further information, contact Gina Porter: r.e.porter@durham.ac.uk

Africa City Seminar Series

The Centre of African Studies (CAS) at SOAS recently hosted a series of four seminars on the African City, as part of its Africa Seminar Series. While African cities become more and more important internationally, as nodal economic centres of production and exchange, the rapid and often uncontrolled urban expansion poses many challenges. Existing urban infrastructures are usually inadequate to respond to the demographic pressure, adding precariousness to urban livelihoods. Informal settlements are growing, governments lack the resources and capacities to cope with these challenges and development interventions often prove to be inadequate to address the many socio-political and economic issues.

All these issues are increasingly addressed by academic research on Africa, across different disciplines. The African city has become the scene of extensive anthropological literature, socio-political analyses economic and cultural studies, as well as of course urban and architectural studies.

The Centre identified three broad topics – urbanisation, urban governance and the city as a centre of innovation and cultural activity – and asked the speakers to discuss the main issues within these topics. The series was opened by Dr Deborah Potts (Cities Research Group, Geography Department, King’s College) who critically looked at urbanisation data, challenging common perceptions of urbanisation rates in Africa and mainstream analysis of African urbanisation that fails to recognise the extent of these changes or their geographical differentiation. The seminar was chaired by Michael Walls (Development Planning Unit, UCL).

The following two seminars were on urban governance. Adriana Allen (Development Planning Unit, UCL) talked about ‘Urbanisation without Infrastructures in African cities: who fills in the gap?’, looking in particular at the case of Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (Ghana) and noting that interesting responses are coming from local communities who are more and more often those filling the gap in services delivery. The discussion was moderated and enriched by David Sutterthwaite (International Institute for Environment and Development, London).

The following seminar was a joint presentation by Barbara Lipietz (Development Planning Unit, UCL) and Susan Parnell (University of Cape Town and director of ‘Citylab’ at UCT’s African Centre for Cities), who discussed participatory governance. They challenged conceptual understanding of participation and discussed the case of the City of Johannesburg.

The series was closed by Lindiwe Dovey (SOAS) who presented her new research and looked at the Kenya International Film Festival as a “mediascape”. She discussed the methodological challenges and raised some important issues on the imagined urban spaces. Carli Coetzee opened the discussion and moderated the Q&A session. All seminars were successful in attracting a diverse audience and generating a lively discussion, and CAS is now evaluating possibilities for a follow-up.

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Naseem Badiey (2010), ‘The State Within: the Local Dynamics of “Post-Conflict Reconstruction” in Juba, Southern Sudan (2005-2008)’, D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Jocelyn Alexander and Dr Abdul Raufu Mustapha.

William James Berridge (2011), 'Under the Shadow of the Regime: The Contradictions of Policing in Sudan, c.1924-1989', Ph.D thesis, University of Durham. Supervisors: Dr Bill Dorman and Dr Cherry Leonardi; <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/1412/>

Marko Henry Blazekovic (2011), 'Making Partnership Work – Cross-sector Alliances between Businesses and NGOs at the Bottom of the Pyramid [Kenya and Uganda]', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Steve Rayner.

Andrew Brooks (2012), 'Riches from Rags or Persistent Poverty? The Transnational Used Clothing Trade in Mozambique', Ph.D thesis, Dept of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London. Supervisor: Professor David Simon.

Daniel J. Clarke (2011), 'Insurance Design for Developing Countries [Ethiopia]', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Sujoy Mukerji and Professor Stefan Dercon.

Jonathan Fisher (2011), 'International Perceptions and African Agency: Uganda and its donors, 1986-2010', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor David Anderson.

Matthew Graham (2011), 'The Evolution of the ANC's Foreign Policy towards Southern Africa, 1960-1999', Ph.D thesis, University of Sheffield. Supervisors: Professor Ian Phimister and Dr Miles Larmer.

Hazel Gray (2011), 'Tanzania and Vietnam: A Comparative Political Economy of Economic Transition', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Mushtaq Khan; <https://eprints.soas.ac.uk/view/divisions/T.html>

Ruth Hall (2011), 'The Politics of Land Reform in Post-Apartheid South Africa, 1990-2004: A Shifting Terrain of Power, Actors and Discourses', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Gavin Williams.

Katharine Emma Low (2011), 'Applied Theatre and Sexual Health Communication in South Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Manchester.

Ian Macqueen (2011), 'Re-imagining South Africa: Black Consciousness, Radical Christianity and the New Left, 1967-1977', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisors: Professor Saul Dubow and Professor Alan Lester; available at <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/7348/>

Adelaide Justine McConnell (2011), 'Some Postcolonial Responses to the Homeric Odyssey, With Particular Reference to Africa, 1939-2008', Ph.D thesis, University of London.

Kofi Akohene Mensah (2011), 'An Exploration of Evaluation Approaches for Community Based interventions for People living with HIV (PLHIV) with Results Applied to the 'HOPE' Programme in Ghana', Ph.D thesis, University of Glasgow. Supervisors: Professor Phil Hanlon, Dr Rebecca Shaw and Dr James Lewsey; <http://theses.gla.ac.uk/2665/01/2011mensahphd.pdf>

Lisa Mol (2011), 'Sandstone Weathering, Electrical Resistivity Tomography and the Deterioration of San Rock Art in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park, South Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Heather Viles.

James William Morrissey (2011), 'Mobility in Context: Exploring the Impact of Environmental Stress on Mobility Decisions in Northern Ethiopia', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Roger Zetter.

Lilian Nabulime (2007), 'The Role of Sculptural Forms as a Communication Tool in Relation to the Lives and Experiences of Women with HIV and AIDS in Uganda', Ph.D thesis, University of Newcastle. Supervisors: Dr Stephanie Brown and Dr Brigitte Jurack.

Rovincer Najjuma (2011), Peace Education in the Context of Post-conflict Formal Schooling: The Effectiveness of the Revitalising Education Participation and Learning in Conflict Affected Areas – Peace Education Programme in Northern Uganda', Ph. D. thesis, University of Birmingham. Supervisor: Professor Clive Harber; <http://etheses.bham.ac.uk/3083/>

Marcelle Olivier (2011), 'Geometric Rock Art along the Luangwa Valley Escarpment, Zambia, and its Relationship with the Later Stone Age in Southern and South-Central Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Peter Mitchell.

Naohiko Omata (2011), 'The Livelihood Strategies of Liberian Refugees in Ghana: The Significance of Refugees' 'Social Worlds' for their Economic Survival', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisors: Dr Tania Kaiser and Dr Laura Hammond; http://eprints.soas.ac.uk/13126/1/Omata_3309.pdf

Mayur Patel (2011), 'Mobilizing the Periphery: African Coalition Bargaining in the WTO', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Ngaire Woods, Professor John Toye and Dr Raufu Mustapha.

Justin Pearce (2011), 'Control, Ideology and Identity in Civil War: The Angolan Central Highlands, 1965-2002', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Jocelyn Alexander and Dr Ricardo Soares de Oliveira.

Andrea Purdekova (2011), 'Political Projects of Unity in Divided Communities: Discourse and Performance of "Ubumwe" in Post-genocide Rwanda', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Roger Zetter and Dr Patricia Daley.

Ana Margarida Sousa Santos (2011) 'History, Memory and Violence: Changing Patterns of Group Relationships in Mocimboa da Praia, Mozambique' D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor David Parkin and Dr Paul Dresch.

Sharath Srinivasan (2011), 'War by Other Means: The Politics of Peace Negotiations in Sudan', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Jocelyn Alexander.

Bruno Versailles (2011), 'Essays on Aid and Regional Integration in East Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Christopher Adam.

Deborah Whelan (2011), 'Trading Lives: The Commercial, Social and Political Communities of the Zululand Trading Store', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Trevor Marchand; http://eprints.soas.ac.uk/12772/1/Whelan_3281.pdf

Jörg Wiegratz (2011) 'The Cultural Political Economy of Neoliberal Moral Restructuring: The Case of Agricultural Trade in Uganda', Ph.D thesis, University of Sheffield. Supervisor: Professor Graham Harrison.

Tingting Yuan (2011), 'Chinese Educational "Aid" to Africa: A Different "Donor Logic"?', Ph.D thesis, University of Bristol.

Recent Publications

Stanley B. Alpern (2011), *Amazons of Black Sparta: The Women Warriors of Dahomey*. C. Hurst & Co. 280 pages, 978-1-84904-108-9, £12.95.

Michael Amoah (2011), *Nationalism, Globalization, and Africa*. Palgrave Macmillan, 286 pages, 978-0-230-10284-2, £55.

John P. Cann (2012) *Counterinsurgency in Africa: The Portuguese Way of War, 1961-1974* (Helion Studies in Military History), revised edition, 240 pages, 978-1907677731, £25.

Daniel A. Gordon (2012), *Immigrants and Intellectuals: May '68 and the Rise of Anti-Racism in France*. Merlin Press, 356 pages, 978-0-85036-664-8, £18.95; available from: orders@centralbooks.com

Michael Gould (2011), *The Struggle for Modern Nigeria: The Biafran War 1967-1970*. I.B. Taurus. 272 pages, hardback, 978-1-84885-864-0, £56.

Charles Hornsby (2011), *Kenya: A History since Independence*. I.B. Tauris, 978-1848858862; £45.

Ken Keable (2012), *London Recruits: The Secret War against Apartheid*. Merlin Press, 360 pages; available from: orders@centralbooks.com Royalties go to The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund.

David Killingray and Martin Plaut (2012), *Fighting for Britain: African Soldiers in the Second World War*. James Currey, 301 pages, paperback: 978-1847010476, £14.99.

Matthew Kukah (2011), *Witness to Justice: An Insider's Account of Nigeria's Truth Commission*. Ibadan: BookCraft, 519 pages, 9789788135791; available from www.bookcraftafrica.com

Dan Large and Luke Patey (eds) (2011), *Sudan Looks East: China, India and the Politics of Asian Alternatives*. James Currey's African Issues series, 215 pages, 978-1847010377, £16.99.

Tim Murithi and Aquilina Mawadza (2012), *Zimbabwe in Transition: A View from Within*. Jacana Media, 324 pages, 9781920196356, £17.95.

Léonce Ndikumana and James K. Boyce (2011), *Africa's Odious Debts*. Zed Books, 160 pages, 978-1848134591, £12.99.

Eleanor O'Gorman (2011), *The Front Line Runs Through Every Woman: Women and Local Resistance in the Zimbabwean Liberation War*. James Currey's African Issues series, 208 pages, 978-1847010407, £17.99.

Neil Parsons (foreword by Alexander McCall Smith) (2010), *Clicko: The Wild Dancing Bushman*. University of Chicago Press, 256 pages; hardback: 978-0-226-64741-8, £35.50; paperback: 978-0-226-64742-5, £11.50.

Elisha P. Renne (2010), *The Politics of Polio in Northern Nigeria*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 176 pages; hardback: 978-0253355157, £53; paperback: 978-0253222282, £16.99.

William Reno (2011), *Warfare in Independent Africa*. Cambridge University Press, 271 pages, cloth: 978-0-521-85045-2, £55; paperback: 978-0-521-61552-5, £17.99; kindle: £17.99.

Lloyd Sachikonye (2011), *When a State Turns on its Citizens: 60 Years of Institutionalised Violence in Zimbabwe*. Jacana Media, 144 pages, 9781431401116, £9.95.

Anne Samson (2012). *World War I in Africa: The Forgotten Conflict among the European Powers* (International Library of Twentieth Century History). I.B. Tauris, 320 pages, 978-1780761190, £59.50.

Kevin Shillington (2011), *Luka Jantjie: Resistance Hero of the South African Frontier*. Aldridge Press, 320 pages; hardback: 978-0952065128, £60; paperback: 978-0952065111, £18.95.

Stephen C. Volz (2011) *African Teachers on the Colonial Frontier: Tswana Evangelists and Their Communities during the Nineteenth Century*. Peter Lang Publishing, 293 pages, hardback: 978-1-4331-0949-2, £43.50; e-Book: 978-1-4539-0156-4, £43.50.

Colin M. Waugh (2011), *Charles Taylor and Liberia: Ambition and Atrocity in Africa's Lone Star State*. Zed Books, 303 pages; hardcover: 978-1848138483, £65; paperback: 978-1848138476, £16.99.

Paul D. Williams (2011), *War and Conflict in Africa*. Cambridge: Polity, 2011. 306 pages, cloth: 978-0-7456-4544-5, £55; paperback: 978-0-7456-4545-2, £17.99.

The Great Scramble for Africa's Farmland: Colonial Echoes or Development Opportunity? The Center for Black Diaspora (DePaul University) in partnership with *African Identities: Journal of Economics, Culture and Society*, (Routledge) announce this call for papers for a special issue. Since the colonial scramble of Africa at the end of the 19th century, the continent continues to face unprecedented land grab by transnational economic actors (oil, food, mining, chemical, bioenergy), and local elites, are threatening food security, rural livelihoods, environmental sustainability and local energy needs. In the contemporary context of global neoliberalism, African farmlands face large-scale international land investments because of sharp increases in global food prices and higher demand for agro-fuels. Despite the proliferation of a considerable number of descriptive accounts of land grabbing and the political narratives around it in Africa, this phenomenon remains under theorised. The acceleration of land grabbing in Africa is undoubtedly one of the great challenges of the 21st Century and will remake the map of food production and food distribution, in the continent and in the world.

The Guest Editor is interested in papers that address the following broad topics and themes: the political economy of land grabbing; the discourse and contested meaning of 'empty lands', 'unoccupied lands' or 'underused lands'; the role of multinational corporations, sovereign wealth funds (notably from Europe and the Gulf States), private equity funds as well as financial institutions in land grabbing; the role of transnational institutions such as World Bank, USAID, FAO, EU, and African Development Bank in shaping the discourse of land deal politics; the role of 'south-south' land grabbing particularly by China, Brazil, India and South Africa; the role of domestic capital, government investment corporations and local elites in land grabbing; the presumed delivery of jobs,

technological transfer and local development that arise from large-scale land deals; the impact of land grabbing on poverty, local food security, landlessness and environmental degradation; and the multitude of ways in which social movements contest land grabbing for the right to life and livelihoods, local resources, and sustainable development. 500 word abstracts by 30 May 2012 to the Guest Editor, Dr Fasil Demissie: fdemissi@depaul.edu

News

Leventis Fellowship

The Centre of African Studies of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, invites applications from Nigerian academics to take part in a scheme of collaborative research funded by the Leventis Foundation.

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. The scheme might be particularly appropriate for scholars working up a PhD thesis into publishable form. Last year, the fellowship was awarded to Ozioma Onuzulike, Department of Fine Arts, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, whose topic was 'Creative individualist and innovation in Ceramic Art: a study of the works of Benjo Igwilo and Chris Echeta' and Oladoku Taiwo Olaniyi, Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization, whose topic was 'Mainstreaming Ifa worship through television in South-Western Nigeria: a search for understanding'.

The Leventis Research Co-operation Programme is devised to assist younger scholars develop their research interests in collaboration with their counterparts in London. Applicants will be expected to submit a complete curriculum vitae and a statement of their current research interests up to 1,000 words specifying the aims to be achieved during the research period in London. Applications by letter by 31 May 2012 should be addressed to: The Chair, Centre of African Studies, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG, UK

Development Planning Unit /SOAS/Mekelle University

The upcoming months will see development of an exciting new partnership between the Development Planning Unit (DPU) at the University College London, the Centre of African Studies at SOAS, and Mekelle University (MU), located in Mek'ele, Ethiopia. This tripartite collaboration draws upon the strong linkages already established between the DPU and partners within Mek'ele, where MSc students have previously undertaken field research focused on the intersection of poverty reduction strategies and diverse topics ranging from the urban informal economy, decentralised health and education, tourism, information and communication technologies, and the Millennium Villages.

In March the London partners hosted four representatives from MU: Dr Abdelkader Kedir, Vice President of Research and Community Service, Dr Fetien Abay, Director of the Institute of Environment, Gender and Development, Dr Girmay Tesfay, Dean of the College of Dryland Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Ato Girma Tegene, Dean of College of Business and Economics. These partners bring considerable practical and academic experience working within the Ethiopian context in the areas of urban agriculture, development economics, and natural resource management, and have contributed to a number of international and national publications, research projects, and policy debates. They joined five multi-disciplinary staff members from the DPU and others from SOAS to develop joint research interests. That work highlighted issues involving urban livelihoods, co-operatives, and the economic and cultural contribution of the Ethiopian Diaspora. This is to be followed and further shaped by additional field research undertaken by DPU staff and students in May 2012 in Mek'ele. In addition to developing a broad research framework, the guests from MU will present sessions at DPU and SOAS. As a follow-up to discussions initiated over the course of 2010, this visit is expected to further strengthen and broaden linkages between the participating universities, highlighting the potential for a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach to issues of critical concern within Mek'ele and Ethiopia more generally. For more details, contact Dr Michael Walls: m.walls@ucl.ac.uk

Architecture Sans Frontières-UK

'Change by Design' documents a two-week action research workshop undertaken in Nairobi, Kenya from 19 June–1 July 2011. The workshop was developed and coordinated under the banner of Architecture Sans Frontières – United Kingdom (ASF-UK), in partnership with the Pamoja Trust, a Kenyan NGO, and the Housing Policy Section of UN-HABITAT with support from the Development Planning Unit of UCL, the Royal Institute of British Architects, and the Scarcity and Creativity in the Built Environment Research Project. For more information go to <http://www.asf-uk.co.uk/archives/482>

'Measuring Impact: Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation ASF-UK Workshop in Cameroon, August 2012' is a workshop which will be implemented in partnership with Cameroon Catalyst, a UK based charity started by two engineering graduates in 2009 and the Mosame Trust, a Cameroon based charity working in Eastern Cameroon. So far the two organisations have successfully fundraised for and built the January Hope Centre and a mechanics and carpenters workshop in a small village called Bambouti, in Eastern Cameroon. They are currently working on the new school which is due for completion prior to the workshop. For more information go to <http://www.asf-uk.co.uk/archives/1070>

African Studies from a Visegrád Perspective

2010 was an exceptional year for Hungary, in particular, for the City of Pécs, and in many other parts of Africa, too. That year Pécs, a middle-sized historic European town was European Capital of Culture, and that year it celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Year of Africa in 1960. After a number of years of hard work, in 2010 Hungary's first Africa Research Centre – an interdisciplinary venture was established at the country's first university.

The centre set up a number of aims, including a biannual conference organised in co-operation with partners from other Central European universities. The conference is planned to provide a forum for scholars to discuss a selected circle of inter- and multidisciplinary issues in social sciences and humanities on Africa in the 21st century. The event intends to strengthen the active involvement of the young Africa Research Centre of Pécs to the network of European Centres of African Studies – in particular within the Visegrad community in Central Europe – and to provide fresh thoughts/approaches to international and Hungarian think tanks of different fields.

It is not new for the Visegrád Group to play a role in African development because during communism they used to give substantial support to African states, under the cloak of solidarity and ideology. In the course of political transformations these relationships were immediately curtailed, it often came to precipitated setbacks which have even caused long-term disadvantages to the former “friendly supporters” in every Visegrád country. What we see today is the reduction of the diplomatic presence and the lack to promote other kinds of presence. However, there has been a renewed interest about Africa in the academic sector. A new network is about to be formed, trying to ‘unite’ the African studies’ research centres of the region. In 2012 the co-operating parties will launch a new scientific e-journal entitled *Central European Africa Studies Review* (CESAR). The next meeting of the network will be organised parallel with the “Emerging Africa” international Africa-conference at the University of Pécs on 14-16 June 2012. For more information, see www.africa.pte.hu or contact Dr István Tarrósy, University of Pécs, Department of Political Studies, Africa Research Centre: tarrosy@publikon.hu

Nollywood Posters Project

Phoenix Fry, a freelance film programmer and events manager, is working on an exhibition of Nigerian film posters 1992-2012, hopefully to coincide with London's FILM AFRICA festival in November 2012. Can members recommend sources of old film posters, suggest curators who could work on the project and help him access sponsorship or funding for the project? In 2010 he organised Nollywood Now, London's Festival of Nigerian Film. He is currently completing his Master's in Creative & Cultural Entrepreneurship at Goldsmiths. Contact: phoenix.fry@gmail.com

Emerging Leaders – shaping the leadership conversation in sub-Saharan Africa

There is no sustainable change without leadership development. One of the common criticisms we hear is that ‘Africa lacks good leadership’ for the challenges it faces. So the question is ‘who is investing top class leadership development into the grassroots communities of sub Saharan Africa?’ This is the question that shaped the formation and work of *Emerging Leaders*. (www.emerging-leaders.net). In 2005 experienced leadership developer Trevor Waldock visited the challenged communities around Chawama in Lusaka, Zambia. This led to phase one of their work, primarily in Uganda, Zambia and Rwanda, testing out what happened when you taught the timeless principles of leadership in these communities. The result was generally an instant shift in mindsets which liberated change in personal, relational, income generation and community challenges.

The second phase was to look at whether this idea is scalable which *Emerging Leaders* tried out in Malawi. One of the main pilots in Malawi was called The Mara Project (www.youtube.com/watch?v=3B-yvhriYTU) where they took a local role model of good leadership (Mara) and worked with her to create a strategy that would invest in young people across central Malawi’s Lilongwe District. After an initial meeting with Traditional Authority Chiefs 108 young people (50/50 male-female split) were selected and invested in over two modules. Each of the 108 had to then go and practice leadership by running a project that would benefit their community. They had to come up with an idea, influence key stakeholders, build and envision a team, create a strategy, in some cases create income generating projects and deliver results – all of the key components of leadership. The result can be seen in a person like Mphaso, a 25 year old who is now running 29 reforestation projects in 29 villages in Western Malawi or Godfray, 28 years old, who is now running 8 early child development centres in 8 villages. *Emerging Leaders* spent time in Phase two mainly in Malawi, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda and in the past two years have invested in around 2500 people with a direct and indirect impact on over 10,000.

Emerging Leaders are now agreeing strategies at national levels in Rwanda and Uganda to bring great leadership development to a whole countries youth. To learn more about *Emerging Leaders* ‘big idea’ and a glimpse of its impact look at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=37oCBeHtLpw and www.youtube.com/watch?v=tW3KPxC_3jQ

African Politics Conference Group’s Best Graduate Student Paper Award

African Affairs is delighted to announce that it will sponsor the African Politics Conference Group’s Best Graduate Student Paper Award. The winner of the Award will receive \$200 and will be encouraged to submit his/her paper to *African Affairs* for review. The Award is presented every academic year and nominations are still open for 2011-2012. Eligible papers must be nominated by a

member of the African Politics Conference Group (self-nominations not allowed), written by a graduate student, and presented at the 2011 APSA, 2011 ASA, 2012 ISA, or 2012 MPSA annual meetings. The paper cannot have a co-author who holds a Ph.D. This year's committee consists of Jennifer Brass (Indiana University), Deborah Brautigam (American University) and Nahomi Ichino (Harvard University). To nominate a paper, please send an email with the paper's author, title, and the conference name to the committee chair, Nahomi Ichino, at: nichino@gov.harvard.edu The deadline for nominations is April 30, 2012. For more information about the African Politics Conference Group and how to join go to: <http://africanpoliticsgroup.org/>

This year *African Affairs* will also be awarding the African Author Prize for the best article published in the journal in the two-year period 2010-2011. The prize is awarded in recognition of excellent African scholarship and to the extent possible the committee privileges authors at the beginning of their academic career or African Ph.D students based in an overseas university. This year's prize will be awarded at the ASAUK conference in Leeds in September 2012.

New Website on Zimbabwe's Land Reform

Research on Zimbabwe's land reform is discussed in the new website, www.zimbabweland.net This includes information on the book *Zimbabwe's Land Reform: Myths and Realities*, access to a series of journal articles published by the research team, 8 videos exploring the experience of farmers, media coverage, including recent BBC *Crossing Continents* and *From our Own Correspondent* programmes, and a regular blog on land and livelihoods in Zimbabwe written by Ian Scoones of the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex.

Two Research Projects on African Politics

Dr Stefan Andreasson, Senior Lecturer in Comparative Politics in the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy at Queen's University Belfast is currently engaged in two research projects on African politics.

'Anglo-American Conservatism and African Development' is funded during 2011-12 by the British Academy Small Research Grants programme. This project is a comparative case study of British and American conservatism and conservative party politics, charting its evolution over time from the Thatcher and Reagan governments in the 1980s to the Bush government and Cameron's Conservative Party opposition in the 2000s. How has conservative political thought influenced government thinking on international development, and what has been the concrete impact of conservative parties and actors on development policies towards Africa? How does an 'Anglo-American' conservatism more generally contrast with an emerging EU policy approach towards Africa? Analysis of international and developmental aspects of

conservative politics provides a typology of Anglo-American conservatism on which the case studies are based. Elite interviews with key actors in conservative politics and policy-making in the UK and US, and key actors in the EU's relations with Africa in Brussels, form the empirical basis for understanding how post-Cold War conservatism in Britain and America has been transformed and conservative political party approaches to Africa reshaped.

'Representing Africa: South Africa's quest for emerging market status and its implications for African development' is funded during 2012-13 by the Nuffield Foundation Social Science Small Grant Scheme. This project investigates South Africa's aspirations to become recognised as a major emerging market and a leading nation in Africa able to shape perceptions of the continent and its prospects for development. In an 'emerging markets century' where major powers of the developing world play an increasingly important role in global affairs – signifying a shift in the 'gravity' of the global system away from the West – this project produces a better understanding of how Africa will be shaped by ongoing changes and what new opportunities and challenges South Africa and the continent face in the new international order. Challenges to achieving sustainable and broad-based development as envisioned in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the New Economic Plan for Africa's Recovery (NEPAD) remain great and complex. An examination of how South Africa can play a constructive role in Africa's and its own development brings much needed focus to this key question of global development. Interviews and related empirical research will be conducted at the OECD and its Africa Partnership Forum headquarters in Paris and at the WTO and World Economic Forum and its Centre for Global Competitiveness and Performance headquarters in Geneva. Stefan can be contacted at: s.andreasson@qub.ac.uk

Africa Research Institute (ARI)

The ARI celebrated its fifth anniversary in February 2012. In the past year it has published *Counterpoints* by three members of the ASUK Council: 'Whatever happened to Africa's rapid urbanisation?' by Debby Potts, 'Whodunnit in Southern Africa' by Ranka Primorac, and 'Voices of disquiet on the Malawian airwaves' by Harri Englund. These, and all of ARI's publications, can be downloaded for free from its website www.africaresearchinstitute.org – and hard copies can be supplied on request.

ARI is an independent, non-partisan think-tank based in Westminster. Its aim is to draw attention to ideas and initiatives with a record of success in Africa, and to suggest where new ideas might be needed. Its publications are distributed widely in Africa. Megan Vaughan, ASUK President, and Edward Paice, Director of ARI, met in December 2011 to discuss ways in which ARI might support the work of ASUK and its members.

Ben Page, Book Reviews Editor, *African Affairs*, 2006-2011

When I began as Reviews Editor at African Affairs five years ago I can remember the then vice-president of the ASAUK telling me it was a good job for a young academic. Apart from being flattered that he thought I was still young I can see now that he was right in a number of ways: it's a great way to get to get to know a wide range of colleagues from a variety of disciplines and countries, it's a great way to get to understand the business of editing academic journals, and it's a great way to get a measure of the broad swathe of Africanist publishing. On bad days it's depressing to see the number of books other people manage to find time to write, but actually our field is very lucky to have a range of dynamic publishing houses willing to pursue minority as well as mainstream interests. Even better an increasing number of African studies books are being produced by African publishers. Youthfulness is also a handy attribute when it comes to mobilizing tolerance for errors (of which I have made a fair share) and I would like to thank Tim Kelsall for getting me out of a couple of difficult situations over the years.

Editing reviews also requires you to develop a fairly thick skin when it comes to being ignored by the people you contact and ask to do a book review. (How long does it take to write an email to say "thanks, but no thanks"?) There seems to be no correlation between an individual's importance and rudeness in this respect – some of the most respected and senior academics are some of the most willing to be helpful, whilst at the other end of the hierarchy the reverse can also be true. To those who have received books and never delivered reviews can I say I hope you are at least using and enjoying them rather than allowing them to gather dust out of guilt. Since I can no longer convincingly pretend to be young I'm delighted to hand the role of Reviews Editor on to Dr Lotte Hughes, who has already started and is doing an excellent job. One merit of doing this job has been that my spelling and grammar has been improved (as long as you are willing to idealize the OUP's version of English) and I have even been convinced by our copy-editor of the merits of the Oxford comma. On which note can I say "thank you" to my colleagues at the RAS, Sara, and Rita.

Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the next *Newsletter* by 15 June 2012 to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, 76 Waynflete Road, Oxford, OX3 8BL or 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

Check the website: www.asauk.net