



# NEWSLETTER

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## **ASAUK President's Update**

The ASAUK Council met at the University of Birmingham last October. The meeting was followed by the AGM and by a stimulating lecture given by Council member, Dr Ama de Graft-Aikins, on Africa's 'chronic disease' burden.

Amongst other issues, Council discussed the importance of our relationship with the Royal Africa Society and the desirability of closer ties with other organisations concerned with Africa and African Studies. To this end, I attended a board meeting of the ASA (USA) in Washington DC in November, following up initiatives started by my predecessors.

Council received a report (reproduced in this Newsletter) by Insa Nolte on the most recent Writing Workshop, held in Nigeria. Further Workshops are being planned in Ghana and in Ethiopia for 2012. We are very grateful for all the hard work and energy of members and journal editors in making these Workshops such a success.

Council also received a very interesting report from Marie Gilbert on her Teaching Fellowship in Dakar and selected a new Teaching Fellow: Cornelius Ncube who will be teaching at Lupane State University in Zimbabwe.

We elected two new Council members – Dr Toby Green and Dr Anna Mdee.

Plans for the September 2012 conference at Leeds are progressing well, and we have received a large number of panel submissions. Judging by these, 'Congo Studies' seems to be a growth area!

**Professor Megan Vaughan**

**Minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of ASAUK, held  
at  
University of Birmingham, 7 October 2011**

**Report by the ASAUK President**

Thanks to the hard work of past ASAUK Presidents William Beinart, Tunde Zack Williams and Graham Furniss, and the energies of Council members, I inherited an Association with an active and growing membership and a widening range of activities. Over the past few years ASAUK has benefitted hugely from funding granted to us by the British Academy under its BASIS (Learned Societies) Programme. This has enabled us to employ David Kerr as a researcher and part-time administrator, and this in turn has facilitated the expansion of activities to include Writing Workshops and postdoctoral Teaching Fellowships. This year we were once more successful with our application to the BASIS programme, but this will be the last year of BASIS funding as the entire programme will cease to exist in April 2012. This means that we need to plan ahead to ensure that our current activities remain sustainable. It also reminds us of the importance of attracting new members to ASAUK (particularly graduate students), since it is the membership fees that form the bedrock of our finances.

Though the BASIS funding will end, the British Academy continues to support our Writing Workshops and has just granted us another £10,000 for this purpose. This year we have held highly successful workshops in South Africa and Nigeria, and we are planning further workshops in Ethiopia, Ghana and Botswana. We are enormously grateful to the editors and editorial boards of a number of Africanist journals for their generous support of this programme. In particular, both *Africa* and *Journal of Southern African Studies* have pledged financial support in addition to air fares for their editors. The Writing Workshop model has been taken up by other organisations and is recognised as filling a real need. It also keeps UK-based academics in close contact with younger African scholars, so the benefit goes both ways. We are optimistic that this is a sustainable programme. In order to ensure that we can continue to attract funding, David Kerr and David Maxwell (our new Projects Officer) have been instituting a more systematic evaluation of the programme.

Equally successful has been a second initiative of my predecessors – the postdoctoral Teaching Fellowships. Readers of our Newsletter (energetically edited by Simon Heap) will have read the very informative reports of past Teaching Fellows in African universities. We continue to seek external funding for this programme, though this is not proving easy. We are about to select a new Teaching Fellow – this post has been funded from our own reserves.

We work closely with the Royal African Society (RAS) and share membership and some administration with them. At a recent meeting between ASAUK and RAS officers we agreed that there were a number of areas in which we could

cooperate more closely and we are moving forward with these. We also work closely with the British Academy Africa Panel and with AEGIS, the European network of African Studies. We are in conversation with ASA (US) about the possibility of shared activities.

Thanks to funding from RAS we are able to make modest contributions to the cost of conferences in the UK. We also host the Mary Zochonis Lecture and administer the Audrey Richards thesis prize and the Distinguished Africanist award. The Biennial conference is a central event. We are well into planning the 2012 conference which will take place at Leeds in September next year. We urge you all to consider proposing panels and papers.

In the course of the year I have attended (on behalf of ASA) a number of consultative meetings at the British Academy on the dreaded subject of REF and how this will operate in relation to Area Studies. The latest was last week. Though serious issues remain, I think that the message that some of us work in an interdisciplinary way is filtering through.

I'd like to end by thanking all the officers: Steph Newell, our Vice-President, Nici Nelson (our honorary Secretary), Lynne Brydon (our Treasurer), Simon Heap and David Kerr for their hard work and good humour. As a voluntary organisation we rely on the goodwill of already hardworking people. I am enormously grateful to them.

**Professor Megan Vaughan, President**

### **Report by the Honorary Secretary**

Throughout the past year, Council has continued to consolidate its current strategic working relationship with the Royal African Society (RAS), particularly in the area of consolidating new interdisciplinary networks and in building institutional and organisational capacities. New relationships are also being formed and sustained in geographical areas in the UK not reached before and also with the heritage sector (museums) and the Africa Unit.

The work of the part-time Research Administrator, David Kerr, has been made possible through the award of the British Academy grant of £23,000 for the past financial year. Mr Kerr continues to add immense operational and strategic value to the academic development and outreach work of the ASAUK and particularly in its status as a recognised Learned Society and as part of the BASIS group.

The Directory of Africanists and a directory of African scholars is up and running, as 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 and can be used to identify scholars to invite for conferences, or with scholarships and fellowships to advertise, for journals looking for peer reviewers, for researchers looking for funding and fellowships, or who want to identify new

collaborators or track down colleagues; and for anyone with an interest in African studies. It is a work in progress, with new developments planned. Delegates and members are encouraged to enter their details to this directory: [www.africadesk.ac.uk](http://www.africadesk.ac.uk)

### **Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lectures**

Unfortunately the lecture scheduled for today had to be cancelled. Due to unavoidable personal problems, Dr Hassan Sachedina was unable to come to Britain to give the lecture. At the time of writing the Council has yet to meet and to decide what will be done about the timing of the next year's Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecture, and when further nominations will be sought. The membership will be kept informed.

### **ASAUK Biennial Conference 2012**

Preparatory work is well underway for the Biennial Conference which will be held at the University of Leeds from 2pm on Thursday 6 Sept to 1pm on Saturday 8 September 2012. There has been a wonderful response to the call for panels and the conference promises to be extremely interesting. Members are asked to submit suggestions for panels promptly (called symposia on the software) via <https://asauk.conference-services.net/authorlogin.asp?conferenceID=2615&language=en-uk> The deadline for individual papers is 27 April 2012.

### **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, which has enabled the participation of members from Africa. A number of allocations were made between December 2010 and October, 2011: Cadbury Conference 'Women and Inequality/ies in the 21st century: African Experiences', Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham (£2,500); Conference on Language and Literature Education in Multicultural Societies', Cameroon Association for Applied Linguistics (£500); 'Education in Zimbabwe', Britain-Zimbabwe Society Annual Research Day, Oxford (£750) and 'Women's Sport in Africa', University of Oxford (£500). At the next ASAUK Council meeting, applications will be considered from the Centre for African Studies, University of Edinburgh and SCOLMA.

### **Funding for David Kerr's Post as Research Administrator**

ASAUK remains very grateful to the British Academy for providing additional funding to continue David Kerr in post until March 2012.

### **Writing Workshops**

In 2011, successful Journal Writing Workshops were held in South Africa and Nigeria, supported by ASAUK funds, the British Academy, the British Institute in Eastern Africa, the International African Institute, *Africa* and *Journal of Southern African Studies*. ASAUK had originally £14,500 to allocate to writing workshops (£10,000 from the British Academy, £3,000 from JSAS, £500 from OUP and £500

from Informa. ASAUK has received additional funding of £10,000 for the programme of writing workshops in 2011-12.

### **Teaching Fellowships**

With sources of funding proving difficult to access, ASAUK decided in the May Council meeting to use some of ASAUK's reserves to fund another Teaching Fellowship. Today's ASAUK Council meeting will consider the applications.

An excellent report was received from Dr Marie Gilbert Teaching Fellowship at Dakar Senegal completed in December 2010. David Kerr is assembling reports from the three Fellowships that have taken place plus the fourth, which is about to be appointed. A Council sub-committee will determine the themes common to the reports. These will be considered and consolidated into a report which could be circulated to relevant organisations.

### **RAS/ASAUK Combined membership, 2010**

Joint Membership UK: 769

Joint Membership Overseas: 124

Joint Student UK: 122

Joint Student Overseas: 15

Joint Honorary Life: 15

ASAUK Associate: 13

Joint Overseas (Other): 37

Grand Total: 1,137

The number of new members who joined in 2010 stood at 245, of which 43 joined specifically as ASAUK members. As always, ASAUK membership figures rise in a Biennial Conference year. Membership numbers were kindly supplied by Gemma Haxby and Pat Jensen.

### **Council for the year, 2010-2011**

#### **Office-holders**

Professor Megan Vaughan, University of Cambridge (President)

Professor Stephanie Newell, University of Sussex (Vice President)

Dr Nici Nelson, Goldsmiths College (Honorary Secretary)

Dr Lynne Brydon, University of Birmingham (Honorary Treasurer)

Professor David Maxwell, University of Cambridge (Projects Officer)

Dr Simon Heap, Oxford (Editor, ASAUK Newsletter)

Mr David Kerr, University of Birmingham (Research Administrator)

#### **Ordinary Members** (\*: Co-opted Council Members)

Dr Hassan Arero                      Nairobi

\*Clara Arokiasamy                  KALAI, London

Dr June Bam-Hutchison          University of York/Kingston University

Dr Karen Brown                      Wellcome Unit, Oxford

Professor Raymond Bush	University of Leeds
Dr Ama De-Graft Aikins	University of Ghana
*James Currey	Oxford
*Dr Sara Dorman	University of Edinburgh
Professor Saul Dubow	University of Sussex
Dr Harri Englund	University of Cambridge
Dr Martin Evans	University of Chester
Dr Diane Frost	University of Liverpool
*Jonathan Harle	Association of Commonwealth Universities
Dr Lotte Hughes	Open University
*Stephanie Kitchen	International African Institute
Dr Francesca Locatelli	University of Edinburgh
Dr Chris Low	University of London
Dr Gabrielle Lynch	University of Leeds
Dr Claire Mercer	London School of Economics
Dr Sada Mire	University College, London
Dr Insa Nolte	University of Birmingham
*Dr Ben Page	University College, London
*Rachel Paniagua	British Academy
Dr Debby Potts	King's College
Dr Ranka Primorac	University of Southampton
*Dr Marion Wallace	British Library
Professor Thandika Mkandawire	LSE Honorary Member

### **Newsletter**

Council should like to thank Simon for his work as Newsletter editor, and for maintaining its role as a major organ of communication among members.

### **Relationship between ASAUK and RAS**

On 7 Sept 2011 a most productive meeting was held between ASAUK officers and Richard Dowden, (Director of RAS) and Richard May (Assistant Director of RAS) and Robert Morley (a member of the RAS Council).

Gemma Haxby in the ASAUK/RAS office maintains the ASAUK e-mail list and it provides a fast and efficient 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 at: [ras@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ras@soas.ac.uk)

Council would like to convey its sincere gratitude to Gemma Haxby and David Kerr for their constant hard work in supporting ASAUK.

**Dr Nici Nelson, Honorary Secretary**

## **Conferences Future. . .**

UNITED KINGDOM

**'Exploring Childhood Studies in the Global South: Africa in Focus', Interdisciplinary Centre of the Social Sciences (ICOSS), The Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth (CSCY), University of Sheffield, 16 May 2012.**

Over the last twenty years or so childhood studies has grown significantly, especially within Europe and North America. However, although a number of theoretical and methodological publications have been produced situated within this field, very few of these studies focus on childhood in the Global South. Instead, the majority of studies that focus on the global south have been empirical, often situated within theoretical frameworks that have been developed in the Global North. As a result, while there are numerous empirical-based studies on the lived experiences of children's lives within this context, there remains a distinct absence of the global south in the theorizing and methodological discussions that take place about researching childhood from a range of different disciplines. Therefore, the aim of this one-day workshop is to explore ways of expanding childhood studies beyond Western Europe and North America both conceptually and methodologically in order to ensure that the priorities and perspectives of childhood studies researchers focusing on Africa and the global south more generally are taken into account in existing paradigms of childhood studies, which draw on a range of disciplinary perspectives.

The workshop will seek to initiate discussion around questions such as: what are the key theoretical and methodological issues for childhood researchers focusing on Africa; how, if at all, do theoretical, methodological and ethical issues relating to childhood research in the North transfer to various contexts in the Global South with a particular focus on Africa; and what are the overlaps between issues focused on in the North and the South and how can these be utilized to better represent priorities in the Global South within childhood studies?

The day will be divided into two sessions. The morning session will consist of three presentations by Professor Allison James (Department of Sociological Studies/Co-Director of CSCY, University of Sheffield), Dr Gina Porter (Senior Research Fellow, Durham University) and Dr Yaw Ofose-Kusi (Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Studies, University of Education, Winneba, Ghana). The afternoon session will allow participants to break out into smaller groups to discuss issues arising from the morning session in greater detail and link the issues to broader perspectives emerging from the Global South more generally.

Conference fee of £35 per person includes lunch and snacks. Bookings by 30 April 2012 to Dawn Lessels, Administrator of CSCY: [d.j.lessels@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:d.j.lessels@sheffield.ac.uk) Places are limited so bookings will be accepted on a first come basis. This event is partially funded by the Royal African Society/ASAUK. For further information

about the content of the workshop, contact: Dr Afua Twum-Danso Imoh: a.twum-danso@sheffield.ac.uk

**'Africa and the Atlantic World, 1450-1850', The Maritime and Oceanic History Workshop and The Centre of African Studies Graduate Conference, University of Cambridge, 22–23 June 2012.** This conference aims to bring together interdisciplinary and international researchers whose work relates to Africa and its relationship with the Atlantic across the whole of the early modern period. The organisers welcome proposals from graduate students and early-career researchers from all disciplines within the humanities, belonging to institutions within the UK as well as abroad. The conference will present a variety of different approaches and perspectives concerning the study of Africa in the Atlantic world, and connect the most innovative and exciting new research in the field.

Subjects for papers may include historical events, processes and discourses, philosophical developments, and political issues. Topics that could be addressed include the place of Africa in the Atlantic World, overlap within Africa between the Atlantic and other spaces (e.g. the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean); deconstructing 'Africa': variety, diversity, and change; African perceptions of Europeans, the transmission of African goods/ideas/art to Europe and America; Empire and colonialism, European conflict in Africa, the fragility of the European presence; slavery and the slave trade, Africa's internal slave economies, alternatives to slavery and African agriculture, perceptions of race, agency and resistance; the creation and conceptualisation of contested spaces (e.g. the Gold Coast/Ivory Coast), hybridity and cosmopolitanism in ports and littoral spaces; and science and nature, tropical medicine and exploration. Harvard's Professor Vincent Brown will deliver the keynote lecture, and will be joined by Richard Drayton (KCL), David Abulafia (Cambridge), Francisco Bethencourt (KCL), William O'Reilly (Cambridge), Anastasia Stouraiti (Goldsmiths), Manuel Barcia (Leeds) and John McAleer (NMM) in chairing the speaking sessions. 250 word abstracts and an academic CV and stating that you are an ASAUK member [because the original deadline has passed and ASAUK has special dispensation] by 22 January 2012 to: [africaatlanticconference@gmail.com](mailto:africaatlanticconference@gmail.com).

#### INTERNATIONAL

**'Sports and Community Building in Africa and the Global South', 8th Sports in Africa Conference, The Institute of the African Child and the Center for Sports Administration, Ohio University, Athens, USA, 6–7 April 2012.** The 2010 World Cup in South Africa, the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics in Brazil, and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar confirm the global reach of elite sports and the increased participation of Africa and the Global South. Does this trend denote fuller integration of the Global South into a world system of sports where each community thrives? Or does it indicate a gradual transformation of traditional



approaches to community building and a changing definition of community itself? Building on a debate that started at the Sports in Africa Symposium at Ohio University in 2002, this conference seeks to understand and discuss the effects of mega-events and global marketing on local sports. To what degree are communities integrated into global sport and what kinds of loyalty do mega events generate locally? What roles do/can sports play in local communities in Africa and the Global South in the face of transnational sports economies? Can sports become a site for communities to reaffirm their own particularity, create new forms of solidarity and reinvent themselves?

The 2012 conference encourages presentations on themes such as sport and community health; international sponsors and the nature of local sports; elite versus community sport: which way forward?; sports and education; sports and wellness in local communities; global sports in the workplace; sport and community building; globalization: how can local sports survive?; sports and rural communities; sports in the city: new challenges, new communities; financing local sports; impact of mega events on the environment; mega-events, urban landscape and architecture; media and imagined communities; and sport and culture. For more information contact: Gerard A. Akindes: [akindesg@ohio.edu](mailto:akindesg@ohio.edu) 350 word abstracts by 4 March 2012 via: [http://www.sportinafrica.org/forms/abstract\\_sub.php](http://www.sportinafrica.org/forms/abstract_sub.php)

**'Under the Palaver Tree', 8<sup>o</sup> Congreso Ibérico de Estudios Africanos/8th Iberian Congress of African Studies, Madrid, Spain, 14–16 June 2012.** 49 panels have been set up; each panel will accept 4 or 5 papers per session (each panel may have more than one session). 400 word abstracts by 31 January 2012 via <http://www.ciea8.org/ocs/index.php?conference=CIEA2012&schedConf=index>

**'Africa's Golden Jubilee: Assessing 50 Years of Scholarship and Development in Africa', 1st International Interdisciplinary Annual Conference, Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), Langata, Nairobi, Kenya, 27–30 June 2012.** During this decade, many African countries are celebrating 50 years of independence. CUEA would like to take this opportunity to celebrate accomplishments in scholarship and development with scholars, researchers, academics, students and leaders in Africa, and other parts of the world. This is an interdisciplinary international conference that seeks to highlight achievements for the last 50 years and lessons for the future. The conference will consist of seven symposia organized by CUEA's six faculties and an interdisciplinary panel as follows: the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences in research and development in Africa: fifty years later; management of resources and development in Africa: fifty years of shifting paradigms and strategies; education: growth and development in the past fifty years"; law and development in Africa; science, technology and development in Africa: five decades of experiments, innovations and inventions; the Church and development in Africa: fifty years in African

hands; research and development in Africa; and five decades of interdisciplinary research in Africa. 300-500 word abstracts for papers and panels by 30 March 2012 to Rev Dr John Lukwata: lukwata@cuea.edu or Professor Maurice Amutabi: amutabi@gmail.com

**‘Cultures, Identities, Nationalities, and Modernities in Africa and the African Diaspora’, Second Toyin Falola Annual International Conference on Africa and the African Diaspora’, Peninsula Resort, Aja, Lagos, Nigeria, 2–4 July 2012.** The Ibadan Cultural Studies Group, University of Ibadan, in collaboration with the Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC), welcome papers that explore empirical and theoretical aspects of any or all of our four conceptual grids: cultures, identities, nationalities, and modernities. Papers may investigate and analyze the manifestation of cultural politics, identity contests, nationalist ferment, and competing modernities in specific geographic and trans-national contexts where Africans and peoples of African descent fight out their existential and ameliorative struggles. The organisers also encourage papers that interrogate and question the very categories of cultures, nationalities, identities, and modernities as they relate to the experiences of African and Africa-descended peoples and institutions instead of taking them as binding, fixed and self-evident frames of analysis. The definitional and semiotic latitude for interpreting these categories belongs to authors, as we have no bounded, restrictive definitions in mind.

There is a sense of urgency to the thematic of the conference based on the uneven and unpredictable effects of globalization, development, technology, new modes of communication, wars, and migration among others. Sometimes the effects of these factors can be utterly tragic and destructive without relief or redress. Fortunately, people and communities are not always passive victims. The categories of culture, identity, nationalism and modernity allow people to make visible the multiple, overlapping and intricate forms that people's agency and creativity take in response to local, national and global forces. Papers should respond to the need to capture and illuminate the emerging texts, narratives, claims, and actions of Africans and Africa-descended peoples and communities at the interstices of simultaneously unfolding local and global events and forces.

Culture and notions of identity, nationalism, and modernity are subjective, malleable, and dynamic concepts, contested in both their theoretical and programmatic forms. These concepts should elicit lively conversations about how they are constituted, emptied, reconstituted, and put to instrumental use by Africans and Africa-descended and influenced peoples all over the world. The only advisory constant in our conceptualization is a belief that the four categories pivot, in the final analysis, on the lived experiences of the peoples and communities that are the subjects of our study, and that our inquiries into them should reflect the dynamism, indeterminacy, fluidity, and contestations of lived

experience rather than the rigidity and fixity of academic descriptions and definitions. But culture, nationalist consciousness, identification, and modernity are also significant for their realness to those who use them to make sense of their lives. For these people, the fluidity of these concepts is immaterial, since they foreground concrete, life-altering political and economic aspirations. For this reason, presentations that consider these categories as foundational concepts in analyzing African and African Diasporic communities and phenomena and refuse to question their quotidian deterministic power are also welcome.

Papers may explore one or more of the following areas: acculturation, Afrocentricity, Afropolitanism, Atlantic Africa, blackness, citizenship, commodification of culture, contested identities, contested modernities, Creolization, cultural patrimony, cultural power, cultural propriety, culture and ethnicity, culture of politics, custom and the customary, diasporic African identities, ethnic identity, ethno-nationalism, ethno-religious identity, gendered identities, global Africanity, globalizing modernities, identity conflicts, indigeneity, indigenous movements, internal displacement, material culture, migration, multiculturalism, national consciousness, nationalities and transnationalities, neo-traditionalism, Pan-Africanism, parallel modernities, politics of culture, postcolonial dysfunction, postcoloniality, race consciousness, refugees/returnees, regionalism, religious culture, ritual, secessions, sociolinguistics, symbolism, the modern in question and traditional modernities. See website: [www.ibadanculturalstudiesgroup.org/toyinfalolaconference](http://www.ibadanculturalstudiesgroup.org/toyinfalolaconference) for updates. 250 word abstracts by 30 March 2012 to Professor Ademola Dasylva: [dasylyang@yahoo.com](mailto:dasylyang@yahoo.com) or Lady Jane Acquah: [ljane26@gmail.com](mailto:ljane26@gmail.com)

**‘Commemorating the June 1962 Conference of “African Writing of English Expression”’, Makerere University, Uganda, 12–14 July 2012.** In view of the significance of the June 1962 Conference at the then Makerere College in charting the terrain of African Literature, the Department of Literature of Makerere University will host the 2012 Conference and make it an occasion for reflection on the key strands and developments in African literature since the 1962 Conference. It is planned that participants will analyse the new issues and directions, manifest or latent, in contemporary African literary scholarship. The organisers now invite submissions of abstracts and panels from writers and critics, publishers and distributors, and all who are interested in African literature.

The June 1962 ‘Conference of African Writing of English Expression’ was not only the very first major international gathering of writers and critics of African literature on the African continent; it was also held at the very cusp of political independence for most African countries. The 1962 conference especially provided platform for designating the field of African literature. The 2012 conference will provide opportunity for analysis of the constellation of the forces that called African literature into being, and provided impetus to African literary,

artistic, and cultural imaginaries. The conference also comes at a time when neoliberal regimes and dispensations have sought to undermine humanities knowledge productions sites, and to entrench commercialization of artistic creativity. All this has attracted diverse responses from artists, scholars, and the broader publics, and which merit critical attention at this opportune moment.

The conference organisers seek papers and panel proposals that address the following themes: African literature and the language question; gender, feminism, sexuality in African literature; African literature and allied arts; African and African diaspora literatures; orality, writing, and visuality and African literature; Intellectual and cultural property issues in African literary economies; prison writing, censorship and political repression and African literature; new media and the circularity of African literary and cultural forms; politics of literary prizes; African popular arts and cultures in local, national and global perspectives; African literature after Apartheid and the Cold War; literary theory and contemporary African literary scholarship; and the future of African literary societies, magazines, and journals. 300 words abstracts for papers and panels by ASAUk members by 31 January 2012 to Okello Ogwang and Sarah Namulondo: [litconference@chuss.mak.ac.ug](mailto:litconference@chuss.mak.ac.ug)

**'Democracy, Governance and Curbing Corruption in Sub-Saharan Africa', Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, USA, 10–12 August 2012.** The purpose of this conference is to bring together an international group of scholars and practitioners from diverse disciplines to collectively explore the multiple facets of the problems of democratic governance, particularly as they relate to corruption, and to suggest concrete strategies geared toward solving these problems in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Participants of the conference will be challenged to move from theoretical frameworks to practical strategies for improving democratic institutions, governance processes, and curbing corruption. Issues that scholars and practitioners could address include: problems of democracy and governance in Sub-Saharan Africa and their potential solutions; the role of civil society organizations in democracy and governance in Sub-Saharan Africa; problems of transparency and accountability in the local and national governments in Sub-Saharan Africa and in international relations; ethics and decision making in Sub-Saharan Africa; origins and definitions of corruption in the historical and cultural context of Sub-Saharan Africa, for example in pre-colonial, colonial, and, post-independence periods; corruption in public bureaucracies; corruption in business practices of international corporations operating in Sub-Saharan Africa and local business and the intersections of these with corruption in governance; evaluation of anti-corruption strategies recommended and implemented by the governments in Sub-Saharan Africa and bi-lateral and multi-lateral development agencies; the roles of international NGOs and local development organizations in

fighting corruption; the roles of information and communication technologies to track the implementation of anti-corruption strategies; challenges in coordinating anti-corruption strategies; and the role of educational institutions in advancing democratic governance and fighting corruption. One page abstracts by 31 January 2012 to: Dr Gedeon Mudacumura: gmudacumura@cheyney.edu.

**'Trust and Reconciliation in Post-Conflict Societies', An AEGIS Thematic Conference, Centre for African Studies, Basel, Switzerland, 4–6 October 2012.**

Violent conflicts are often perceived as a complete break with the past, a disintegration of social ties, the destruction of ordinary economic activities, a loss of cultural creativity – in short: as an incisive and sometimes irreversible societal rupture. The rebuilding of society after conflict is an enormous task that, so it seems, cannot build on much except the presumption that all actors must have a shared interest in a reliable social order. It should allow all actors to make a living and to find a place in the post-conflict society. Violent peace and a lingering conflict would be the unattractive alternative.

The instruments to overcome the difficulties related to a post-conflict situation are many, and they have been the subject of highly controversial debates in the literature. Legal action, formal and informal processes of mediation, Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, and a wide range of other means have been used to address past injustice and the restoration of normal social relations between former belligerents. Most prominent became the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commissions set up by then President Nelson Mandela after the end of Apartheid. They served as a model for many similar institutions in other former conflict regions of Africa and beyond, for instance in Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and most recently in Côte d'Ivoire. Their uneven success conceals, however, that there are more options to rebuild society after conflict – and it also ignores the many initiatives that build on what iterated from the former social order into the post-conflict setting. Even war-torn societies do not simply disintegrate. They maintain some sort of social order – though of a different kind than a settled and regulated peaceful society.

Trust is perhaps a conceptual alternative to the conventional disintegration metaphor. Trust is generally seen as one of the major resources that is lacking in post-conflict society. But trust does not simply fade away in a violent crisis. Rather, it changes its form. While trust in institutions may diminish or even disappear, personal trust becomes more important than ever. How does this transformation of trust affect the rebuilding of society? And to what degree is it possible to foster processes of conflict transformation by building on the existing forms of trust?

This conference explores alternative views of the restructuration of social life in post-conflict societies and tries to compare different trajectories of coping with the past. It starts from the assumption that a violent crisis affects social relations

deeply but does not bring them to an end. Social relations persist, albeit in different forms, so the challenge is to conceptualize alternative trajectories of societal rebuilding. The conference invites scholars to think about alternative concepts that may be more adapted to the particularities of local societies than the Christian model of sin, confession and absolution.

Possible contributions to the conference should address one or several of the following issues: how are institutionalized processes of reconciliation perceived by the actors; what are the comparative advantages and shortcomings of the different forms of coping with a violent past; and are there conceptual or theoretical and empirical alternatives to the usual models of societal disintegration and reconciliation? 250 word abstracts by 30 March 2012 to Sandra Burri: s.burri@unibas.ch

**'Extraterritoriality of Languages, Literatures and Civilizations: Assessments and Prospects', Université Paris-Est-Marne-la-Vallée et Créteil, Paris, France, 18–20 October 2012.** As a legal concept that appeared in the 19th century and originated in international law, extraterritoriality (or exterritoriality) initially established the principle according to which a person is not necessarily subject to the laws of the territory on which he or she is located. However, as George Steiner has shown (*Extraterritorial, Papers on Literature and the Language Revolution*, 1971), the concept can be enlarged and transposed within the cultural field. Applied to languages, literatures and civilizations, it suggests that, under the effects of the political upheavals of the 20th century and of contemporary globalization, the political territory has lost its old unifying and defining powers in cultural matters.

In Europe and elsewhere, the nationalist movements of the 19th century brought the territoriality of cultures to its climax. In the wake of ideas revolving around the national 'genius' and Herder's philosophy, the equation "a nation = a language = a culture" became a model. A particular conception of historiography and philology has subsequently strongly promoted this approach, enabling it to become dominant, even hegemonic. If territoriality remains a crucial principle in the political field nowadays, the idea of an autochthony of languages, literatures and civilizations is now disputed.

History shows that actors of intellectual and cultural life have always been tempted to cross and to transgress territorial borders. In addition, wars, colonisations, decolonisations and other recent political, social and economic transformations have encouraged reconfigurations of the territorial framework, triggering off waves of migration and the rise of the phenomena of exile and diaspora. In turn, these phenomena have generated a massive displacement of cultural events and expressions, which has resulted in the weakening and destabilization of their territorial roots.

Cultural confrontations, forms of hybridization and/or métissage resulting from these displacements often create dynamism, innovation and diversification (Edouard Glissant, *Poétique de la relation*, 1990). However, one must be careful not to present an overly idyllic picture of this “deterritorialisation” (Gilles Deleuze), or of the “third space” (Homi K. Bhabha) because the transfer or export of cultural norms outside the territory also generates power struggles and leveling phenomena. From this point of view, ‘territorialisation’ can appear as a means of protection and of preservation. Thus Régis Debray has recently warned against the abandonment of the concept of border which, in his opinion, needs rehabilitating (*Eloge des frontières*, 2010).

Between a ‘(re)-territorialisation’ of nationalist type and a standardizing globalization without borders, how can the extraterritoriality of languages, literatures and civilizations be placed? What are its infra- or supranational expressions? What are the historical models, what is the genesis of this phenomenon? What are the stakes for the contemporary world? Is a cartography or a typology possible beyond or through the diversity of linguistic and cultural areas?

Papers may deal with one or more of the following topics: topicality and limits of extraterritoriality; between ‘deterritorialisation’ and ‘reterritorialisation’; identity and imaginary constructions of extraterritoriality; waves of migration and diaspora communities; literatures of exile, migrant and postcolonial literatures; multilingual societies and communities, language contact, colonial and postcolonial languages; cultural transfers, circulation of texts and knowledge, translation; cosmopolitanism, internationalism, and postnationalism; and beyond extraterritoriality: literatures, languages and cultures without territory. 250 word abstracts and short biodata by 1 March 2012 to Didier Lassalle: didier.lassalle@u-pec.fr and Dirk Weissmann: weissmann@u-pec.fr

## **. . .Conferences Past**

### **Report of the ASUK Writing Workshop for African Scholars, University of Osun State (UNIOSUN), Osogbo, Nigeria 14–16 September 2011**

In collaboration with Osun State University (UNIOSUN), Nigeria, the African Studies Association of the UK (ASUK) organised its first Writing Workshop for Young African Scholars in Nigeria. The workshop took place at UNIOSUN’s main campus near the town of Osogbo and was aimed at increasing the representation of work by scholars based in Nigeria in British and international journals; bringing together Nigeria and UK-based journal editors; and generally enhancing academic links between British and Nigerian universities.

On the UK side, the workshop was organised with the support of the journals *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* (represented by Professor Karin Barber, Dr Paulo Farias and Dr Insa Nolte, all University of Birmingham, and Dr David Pratten, University of Oxford), *Journal of Modern African Studies* (represented by Professor Christopher Clapham, University of Cambridge), and *Review of African Political Economy* (represented by Dr Miles Larmer, University of Sheffield). Further support was also offered by Dr Simon Heap, the ASAUK Newsletter Editor, then based at the University of Ibadan. On the Nigerian side, the workshop was organized by Osun State University, whose leadership and staff supported the workshop with great enthusiasm at all levels, and who encouraged ASAUK to expand the workshop from an originally budgeted 25 Nigerian participants to roughly 80 on day one and 36 participants on day two by offering to pick up some of the additional costs of the workshop.

The workshop was advertised at the majority of Nigerian universities through the links of the relevant editors, ASAUK council members and the wider ASAUK membership, and over 120 applications were received by the organisers. On the basis of draft papers submitted, 32 applicants drawn from 22 Nigerian universities based in all six zones of the country were invited to the workshop. Four Nigeria-based editors were also invited to the workshop, including Professor Funke Adeboye (*Lagos Historical Review*, University of Lagos), Professor Olayemi Akinwumi (*Journal of the Historical Society of Nigeria*, Nassarawa State University), Mrs Sekinat Adebusola Lasisi (*Journal of History and Diplomatic Studies*, Olabisi Onabanjo University), Dr. Olukoya Ogen, (*African Nebula*, Osun State University). The international travel of the UK editors was funded privately or by the journals they represented. All Nigerian participants received ASAUK Travel Fellowships to enable them to participate in the workshop.

The first day's programme was open to the interested academic public, and it was attended by several members of staff at UNIOSUN but also by a number of applicants who could not be invited for in-depth work on their manuscripts, overall over 80 participants. The opening session began with a welcome address by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Osun State University, Professor G.O. Olatunde (representing Professor Sola Akinrinade, the Vice-Chancellor). This was followed with an introduction of the journals and their review processes, and the editors present highlighted the interest of both UK- and Nigeria-based Africanist journals in having contributions from African scholars. This formal session was followed by an open plenary in which all participants introduced themselves and contributed to a general discussion on the review and publication process. Several participants recounted negative experiences in their efforts to publish work internationally. Such negative experiences centred on the concern that individuals were rejected because they were Africans and that editors or reviewers might 'steal' ideas for articles. Such concerns were rejected by other participants and by the editors, but there was a general agreement that



information about the review process could be improved to address such fears. The day's event climaxed with a dinner and party to which all participants were invited by the co-hosts of the workshop at UNIOSUN.

On the second day of the workshop, the UNIOSUN Vice Chancellor offered a private welcome to the UK- and Nigeria-based editors and thanked ASAUk for bringing the 2011 workshop to Nigeria. He suggested that the current bond between UNIOSUN, ASAUk and the journals in question should be further strengthened so as to engender future academic collaboration. The editors in turn thanked the Vice Chancellor for his warm hospitality and the university's material and organizational support for the workshop on behalf of ASAUk. After this meeting, the workshop broke into six parallel/ thematic sessions in which individual participants could discuss their draft submissions with the editors. During workshop planning, it had been planned to discuss each paper for an hour and a half, and with the expansion of the group there was still enough time to dedicate at least an hour to each paper. This was greatly appreciated by the participants. The day ended with a plenary, in which participants and editors freely shared their experiences and suggested that the quality of future workshops could be enhanced by circulating papers among all participants, or even by organising workshops more thematically. Several participants suggested that, to address the difficulty of accessing academic texts many African countries, it would be helpful if editors provided relevant texts (where available electronically) for the improvement of the drafts under discussion. In the evening, the Vice-Chancellor of Osun State University hosted all the participants and editors to a sumptuous dinner at the University Guest House and presented the UK-based participants with a gift bag to express his institution's appreciation. In response, the editors expressed the great appreciation of their journals and ASAUk for UNIOSUN's commitment to the success of the workshop.

On the last day of the workshop, a meeting was held by all the editors to review the activities of the previous two days and chart a way forward. UNIOSUN was represented by the Director of International Linkages and Research, Professor Clement Adebayo. All Nigerian journal editors explained that they had benefited greatly from various initiatives directed at supporting them, including *African Journals Online* (AJOL), which gives them visibility and will soon allow journals published there to create an impact factor. Partly as a result, many Nigeria-based journals received increasing numbers of submissions from outside Nigeria and Africa. They welcomed this but suggested that their internationalisation should not disadvantage local authors. The editors addressed the question of available scholarly publications in Nigeria, and the Nigerian colleagues highlighted that despite free online offers, many Nigerian libraries and librarians did not have the resources or skills to make these available to all staff. It was highlighted that in order to overcome the disadvantages of low connectivity and bandwidth, free online access to scholarly journals still needed

to be complemented by electronic copies on CD and DVD, and even hard copies for libraries in Nigeria. The Africa-based editors also expressed their desire for a workshop which would introduce them to up-to-date editing software. They pointed out that this might enable them to produce more than one or two editions per year. The meeting also considered the possibility of thematic joint publications by specific UK and Nigerian journals in the future, possibly on the basis of a themed workshop (as suggested earlier by other participants). Furthermore, editors suggested that journal visibility would be raised through mutual advertisements for Africa-based journals in related UK-based journals and vice versa. Finally, the modalities for the development of split-site MA and doctoral training programmes and staff/ student exchanges between Nigerian and UK universities were also discussed.

All the editors and participants departed Osogbo between Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Since then, editors and participants have remained in touch, also with a view of keeping track of the number of drafts which are eventually accepted in international journals. In the meantime, several participants have commented on the usefulness of the workshop. Examples include:

“I write to thank you for your hard work during the ASAUK writing workshop. I specifically appreciate your dedication to duty, ensuring that the workshop was successful and carrying every one along” (Dr Nathaniel Umukoro, Delta State University).

“You not only gave your expertise, you gave yourself to the success of the workshop. I am sure your mailbox would be full of such appreciation by now” (Tunde Decker, Osun State University).

“Thanks for your incisive comments on my paper. I am sure they will always serve as a checklist to my writings in the future” (Aliyu S. Alabi, Bayero University, Kano).

“Congrats on the workshop, it was quite inspiring!” (Sekinat Adebusola Lasisi, editor of *Journal of History and Diplomatic Studies*, Olabisi Onabanjo University).

### **Summary of Issues Raised**

- More information and openness regarding the journal review processes may address fears of discrimination or exploitation by (some) Africa-based scholars.
- Writing workshops should make good use of participants’ own ability to review and critique scholarly texts.
- In order to help address the difficulty of access in many African universities, reviewers of texts by scholars based in Africa should consider attaching significant texts for revision to their reviews.
- A future writing workshop could be themed, leading to a joint or multiply edited issue of UK- and Africa-based journals.

- An internationalization of Africa-based journals is currently taking place, but this should not come at an expense for Africa-based academics.
- Useful cooperation between Africa- and UK-based journals can include mutual advertisements to raise visibility.
- Support of Africa-based academics includes support for libraries and librarians, which should organize access to relevant literature.
- Support for publishing in Africa includes technical support, such as editing software and training.
- The drive to create access to international publication in Africa should not focus exclusively on the internet but also include data storage (CD, DVD) and print copies.

Dr Insa Nolte (University of Birmingham), ASAUK Council Member and Co-Facilitator of the 2011 ASAUK Writing Workshop for African Scholars, 20 October 2011

### **Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities**

Christine Cheng (2011), 'Extralegal Groups, Natural Resources and Statebuilding in Post-conflict Liberia', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor David Anderson.

Piotr A. Cieplak (2011), 'The Rwandan Genocide and Its Aftermath in Photography and Documentary Film', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Emma Wilson.

Ian D. Craigie (2011), 'An Assessment of the Performance of Africa's Protected Areas', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Andrew Balmford, Dr Chris Carbone, Dr Jonathan Baillie.

Sheila Boniface Davies (2011), 'History in the Literary Imagination: The Telling of Nongqawuse and the Xhosa Cattle-Killing in South African Literature and Culture (1891-1937)', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Sarah Meer.

Alex de Costa (2009), 'International Causes of African Underdevelopment, 1960-2007', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Ngaire Woods.

Alexandra Gillies (2011), 'Oil Sector Reform in Africa: The Case of Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Devon Curtis.

Whitney Haring-Smith (2011), "'All Conflict is Local": An Empirical Analysis of Local Factors in Violent Civil Conflict [uses African examples]', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Raymond Duch.

Adam Higazi (2011), 'Political Histories of Conflict: Power, Authority and Collective Violence in Plateau State, Nigeria', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Abdul Raufu Mustapha.

E. Iskander (2011), 'Coptic Media Discourses of Belonging: Negotiating Egyptian Citizenship and Religious Difference in the Press and Online', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Glen Rangwala.

Chan Do Jung (2011), 'Institutions for the Production and Marketing of African Coffee Growing in Central Kenya, 1930s to 1960s', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Megan Vaughan.

Sorayya Khan (2011), 'Malaria Management in the Decentralized Health System of Mali: A Case Study of Three Rural Communities in the Mopti Region', Ph.D thesis, Royal Holloway, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Katie Willis.

Elizabeth J. Kistin (2011), 'Critiquing Cooperation: The Dynamic Effects of Transboundary Water Regimes', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Laura Rival and Professor W. Mike Edmunds.

Yuya Kudo (2011), 'Essays on Rural-to-Urban Migration and Urban Industrial Performance in Sub-Saharan Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Francis Teal.

Sue Lautze (2011), 'Militarised Livelihoods in Uganda', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor David Anderson.

Noel Lobley (2010), 'The Social Biography of Ethnomusicological Field Recordings: Eliciting Responses to Hugh Tracey's The Sound of Africa Series', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Christopher Morton and Dr Martin Stokes.

Reuben Loffman (2011), 'Christianity, Colonialism, and Custom from the Congo Free State to the Belgian Congo: A History of Kongolo, Katanga, 1885-1960', Ph.D thesis, Keele University. Supervisor: Professor David Maxwell.

Fibian Kavulani Lukalo (2010), 'Educating Daughters, Educating Sons: Mothers and Schooling in Rural Kenya', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisors: Professor Madeleine Arnot and Dr Shailaja Fennell.

Alois Maderspacher (2011), 'European Colonialism in Sub-Saharan Africa: the Germans, French, and British in Cameroon, 1884-1939', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Richard J. Evans.

Lungowe Matakala (2010), 'Inheritance and Disinheritance of Widows and Orphans in Zambia: Getting the Best Out of Zambian Laws', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor David Feldman.

E. Nikita (2011), 'The Garamantes of Fazzan: Bioarchaeological Evaluation of Desert-induced Stress and Late Holocene Human Migrations Through the Sahara', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Marta Mirazón Lahr.

I. Peano (2011), 'Ambiguous Bonds: A Contextual Study of Nigerian Sex Labour in Italy', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern.

Lisa Frost Ramsay (2010), 'Power and Perception: A Political Ecology of Air Pollution in Umlazi and Lamontville, South Africa', Ph. D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Emma Mawdsley.

Justin Sandefur (2008), 'Essays on Labour and Credit Markets in Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Francis Teal.

Radha R. Upadhyaya (2011), 'Analyzing the Sources and Impact of Segmentation in the Banking Sector: A Case Study of Kenya', Ph.D. thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Machiko Nissanke. Contact: radha@njora.com

Royd Vinya (2011), 'Stem Hydraulic Architecture and Xylem Vulnerability to Cavitation for Miombo Woodlands Canopy Tree Species', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Yadvinder Malhi and Dr Nick Brown.

Matthew Wilhelm-Solomon (2011), 'Displacing AIDS. Therapeutic Transitions in Northern Uganda', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Jocelyn Alexander and Dr Patricia Daley.

### **Recent Publications**

Ginette Ba-Curry (2011), *In Search of Maba: A 19th Century Epic from Senegambia, West Africa*. Phoenix Press International, 196 pages, 978-1937444006, £12.00. <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2011/8/prweb8752356.htm>

Henry Glassie (2010), *Prince Twins Seven-Seven: His Art, His Life in Nigeria, His Exile in America*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 474 pages, ISBN 978-0253354396; £26.99, from Combined Academic Publishers.

Kempe Ronald Hope, Sr. (2011), *The Political Economy of Development in Kenya*. Continuum Books, 282 pages, 978-1441191212, \$130; available from [www.continuumbooks.com](http://www.continuumbooks.com)

G. Ugo Nwokeji (2010), *The Slave Trade and Culture in the Bight of Biafra: An African Society in the Atlantic World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 279 pages, 978-0521883474, £55.

Funmi Olonisakin and Awino Okech (eds) (2011), *Women and Security Governance in Africa*. Pambazuka Press, 184 pages; 978-1906387891, £16.95.

**‘Celebrating Tragedy: Art and Theatre in African and Diasporan Funerals and Burial Practices’.** Funeral in Africa has never been a mere act of interment marked by rites of passage, but an important performance on the social stage conditioned by the incident and social perception of death. Like much art, a funeral aims to solve a social problem. It is a creative exercise that complements the incident of death and mediates the physical and spiritual realms. As African communities (both at home and in the Diaspora) become more sophisticated and ‘developed’, so also have funerals and burial practices become more complicated. The attempt by churches, chiefs, and communities to curtail funerary excesses have yielded very little, as animist and Christian funerals and material burial practices continue to be marked by great vitality as against the usual “concealment and modesty” common in purely Western societies.

Throughout history, what has distinguished burials and funerals in Africa is their heightened artistry and theatricality. There is art in every death and funeral/burial in so far as they involve a renegotiation of reality and the re-invention of being on transcendental terms. In Africa, these factors are not merely suggested in the component performances and actions of funerals, but are also enacted and affirmed in concrete terms through objects and practices of burial as part of cultural visuality. In other words, death is the spin-off of a chain artistic performance/activity that is consummated in the rituals associated with funerals and burials. It is the initiator of a sombre theatre and artistic performance/creation whose principal goal is a denial of death itself, what Grainger (1998) has aptly described as “the refusal to die”.

Contributions may address but are not limited to the following broad areas: art and performance in African funeral; poetry and minstrelsy in African funerals; introduction and evolution of technology in African funerals; the politics of African funerals; music and dance as creative metaphors in African funerals, the art and politics of crying in African funerals; the poetics of wailing and ululations in African/Diaspora funerals; the theatricals of rituals in African funerals; material ritual objects as art in the burial arena; the graveyard as exhibition arena; graves as installations; the role of graphics in funerals/burials; the symbolisms of acts, actions and material objects in the funeral/burial arena; tradition versus modernity in African and Diasporan funerals/burials; the influence of Christianity, Islam and Westernization on African funerals; and transition and change in African funerals. 200-word abstract by 30 March 2012 to C. Krydz Ikwuemes: [chukrydz@gmail.com](mailto:chukrydz@gmail.com) Full papers up to 7,000 words will be due by 30 July 2012.

## **News**

### ***African Affairs***

*African Affairs* had a busy year in 2011, having received more submissions than in any previous year of our 110 year history! We hope you enjoyed reading the journal in 2011, and welcome new subscribers in 2012. At this point, we'd particularly like to thank Ben Page for his five years as Reviews Editor, in which he has brought many new names and thoughts to the journal. We are sad to see him go, but very happy to welcome Dr Lotte Hughes, of the Open University and an ASAUK council member, to the job. All correspondence concerning book reviews should be directed to her at: The Ferguson Centre for African and Asian Studies, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA; l.hughes@open.ac.uk

### **Exploring Everyday Religious Encounters, Social Identities and Tolerance**

The way in which people engage with, and the knowledge they have about, the religion of others plays an important role not only in political but also in private life, including marriage, family and associational life. In many parts of Africa, encounters with religious difference are a significant part of everyday life, and they contribute to the constitution of important social identities. The European Research Council has awarded Dr Insa Nolte, a Senior Lecturer at the Centre of West African Studies at the University of Birmingham, a five-year Starting Independent Researcher Grant to explore the central links between everyday life, social identity and religious tolerance among the Yoruba of South-west Nigeria. This will enable Insa to carry out an ethnographic survey on the everyday lives of Yoruba Muslims, Christians and traditionalists, and to do field and archival work on the way in which religious differences and encounters structure the experiences, perceptions and behaviours of Yoruba individuals in their everyday social identities as men and women as well as members of different generations, and through life and family histories. Insa hopes that this work will help to map out the field of study of 'everyday religious encounter', both in Africa and beyond. For those seeking more information and possible collaboration, contact Insa Nolte: m.i.nolte@bham.ac.uk

### **The British Academy's International Partnership and Mobility Scheme (Africa)**

In an initiative developed by the British Academy's Area Panels, one-year awards of £10,000 and three-year awards of up to £30,000 are available to support the development of research partnerships between UK scholars and scholars in Africa. Awards cover any branch of the humanities and social sciences, and are intended to focus on collaborative research on a specific theme of mutual interest, rather than purely on establishing networks. Partnerships can include a range of related activities, and mobility (in the form of visits in both directions or exchanges) should form an integral part of proposals.

The scheme aims to support the development of partnerships between the UK and other areas of the world where research excellence would be strengthened by new, innovative initiatives and links, with an emphasis on helping scholars in the UK and overseas to develop research skills and to produce joint research outcomes.

Applicants must be of postdoctoral or equivalent status (i.e. academic staff with at least one or two years of teaching/ research experience) and should be based within a research active institution for the duration of the award. Grants are offered up to a maximum of £10,000 per year for a period of one year or three years. Applications by 8 February 2012 via the Academy's electronic grant application system: <https://egap.britac.ac.uk/> Decisions will be announced in late July. For further information please visit the Academy's website: [http://www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/International\\_Partnership\\_and\\_Mobility.cfm](http://www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/International_Partnership_and_Mobility.cfm)

### **2012 UPEACE-IDRC PhD Fellowships and Doctoral Research Awards**

The Africa Programme of the University for Peace (UPEACE) has secured funding from the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to offer 15 Ph.D Grants in two categories: Ph.D Fellowships and Doctoral Research Awards. Both grants are specifically for African students pursuing their doctorates in Governance and Security Studies in a university in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In the category of Ph.D fellowship, four grants will be offered with a maximum award of \$45,000 over a period of three years. This grant is intended for freshly enrolled candidates and will cover expenses including tuition, living expenses and a semester abroad at a Canadian university.

In the category of Doctoral Research Awards, 11 grants will be offered with a maximum award of \$10,000 over a period of two years. This award is intended to support Ph.D candidates, who are at the final stage of their doctoral studies to cover expenses like field research, data analysis, associated travel, and production costs. Applications for awards by 28 February 2012 via [www.upeace.org](http://www.upeace.org) or [www.africa.upeace.org](http://www.africa.upeace.org)

#### **Note to Contributors**

Send items for inclusion in the next *Newsletter* by 15 March 2012 to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, 76 Waynflete Road, Oxford, OX3 8BL or [effaheap@aol.com](mailto:effaheap@aol.com)

Any opinions expressed are those of contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK.

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Check the website: [www.asauk.net](http://www.asauk.net)