



NEWSLETTER

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Open Access and Research Publication

The British government's commissioned 'Finch Report' had the brief of how to expand access, in a sustainable way, to peer review publication/journal articles. The Finch commission reported in July 2012. It included recommendation for a 'mixed economy' of both Green and Gold Open Access (OA).

UK proposals for Gold OA require the payment of Author Processing Charges (APCs) to cover publication costs. Articles are published with a license that allows free use and re-use of an article, including for commercial purposes. Advocates of Gold Open Access, notably the Wellcome Trust, have emerged from within Science, Technology and Medicine areas, where research grants tend to be of a different order of magnitude and publication costs proportionately less.

Green OA involves self-archiving of pre-review and published articles in repositories following an embargo period. No author fees are required. Green OA is effectively funded by subscriptions, and is the current practice of many society and university press journals. Green OA with a 12-month minimum embargo period will remain the realistic option for most journals in the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) with the option of a 'hybrid model' for occasional Gold OA papers to be bought out of the subscription model to meet funding bodies' conditions. Green archiving with an embargo period of a year or less meets current RCUK/AHRC/ESRC compliance.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is the most important agency in determining British research and publication policy and will issue a brief consultation in 2013. There is concern in the HSS that HEFCE may insist on full Gold OA for the REF 2020. The direction of UK public policy is in favour of Gold OA citing the 'internet' as the 'game changer' though fears are that the ultimate beneficiaries will be the internet giants. There are questions about how decisions about who gets published will be made, funding available to universities, and whether these funds will be equitably spread. There is concern in HSS about the economics of OA: high APCs may need to be levied to

maintain current levels of subscription income; rates of publication and quality of peer review may be affected; there are concerns about 'predatory OA publishers' and models for book publication.

REF 2020 requirement of 'OA compliant publications' would mean that UK academics would not be able to return non-compliant papers in the REF. Indications from US journals are that they will not follow UK policy citing concerns with a 'one-size fits all model' and the withdrawal of publishing revenue from journals/learned societies. International journals could decide not to accept papers from UK authors if full Gold OA is mandated. Many international journals get the larger proportion of their authors and revenue from overseas. Meantime, academics based in Africa may not be able to raise or justify APCs. In short, Open Access requires full attention to the realities and variation of international research publication.

Suggested actions:

- Monitor OA government/research council policy developments, and respond to HEFCE consultation.
- Monitor international developments – in continental Europe, Africa, and USA.
- Ensure collaboration between Africanist journals through the ASAUK and the British Academy.

Stephanie Kitchen, International African Institute and ASAUK Council Member

Minutes of the Forty-Ninth ASAUK Annual General Meeting, University of Leeds, 6 September 2012.

1. Members Present: Rita Abrahamsen, Ama de-Graft Aikins, Motilola Akinfemisoye, J. Akuni, Clara Arokiasamy, June Bam-Hutchison, Terry Barringer, Ray Bush, C. Coetzee, James Currey, H. Deacon, Jan Deutsch, Martin Evans, Deborah Gaitskell, N. Githuku, M. Keating, J. Kyazze, Miles Larmer, Robin Law, Benjamin Lawrance, Gabrielle Lynch, Richard May, Roy May, Kees Maxey, David Maxwell, John McCracken, H. Nankunda, Nici Nelson, Steph Newell, F. Olakuleh, F. Onusu, U. Read, Benedetta Rossi, C. Saunders, Silke Strikrodt, A. Tewodros, Marion Wallace and Emma Wild-Wood.

2. Apologies: Lynne Brydon, Simon Heap, Jon Harle, Lotte Hughes, David Killingray, Chris Low, Gabrielle Lynch, Deborah Potts and Ranka Primorac.

3. Minutes of 48th ASAUK Annual General Meeting held on 7 October 2011, University of Birmingham, were approved.

4. Matters Arising

The Honorary Secretary, Dr Nici Nelson, apologised that during the year since the Birmingham AGM, nothing has been done about the issue of creating a facility for members to leave legacies to ASAUK in their wills. Every effort will be made to ensure that next year there is a proposal to put to the membership.

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

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

The Directory of Africanists and a directory of African scholars is 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's a work in progress, with new developments planned. Delegates and members are encouraged to enter their details to this directory: www.africadesk.ac.uk.

Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture

Sadly, due to the exigencies of funding, it has become clear that the Mary Kingsley Zochonis Trust cannot afford to fund a speaker every year but only on alternative years. The Council has decided to schedule the Lecture on the year between the Biennial Conferences. Call for nominations for speakers will go out in the October newsletter.

Biennial Conference 2012

There has been a wonderful response to the call for panels and there are 130+ panels and events scheduled. 480 participants have been registered for the Conference. The range of topics addressed looks wide ranging and stimulating.

Small Conference Grants

The Council is grateful to the Royal African Society for the funding it provides to the ASAUK for the support of general conference activities, which has enabled the participation of African scholars. A number of allocations were made between December 2011 and summer 2012:

- Centre for African Studies, University of Edinburgh, to bring an African Scholar to their Conference in June 2012.
- SCOLMA (Standing Conference on Library Materials on Africa), to bring an African Librarian to their Conference in July 2012.
- A Conference at the University of Chester on 'Arms, Conflict and Peacebuilding in Africa' in March 2013.

David Kerr, Research Administrator

The work of David Kerr as the part-time Research Administrator over the past few years has been made possible through the award of the British Academy grant under its BASIS scheme. ASAUK is very grateful to the British Academy for providing additional funding to continue to employ David until March 2012.

When this grant ran out, ASAUK continued to fund David until the end of September, because his work in helping to organize the Biennial Conference was considered to be very important. ASAUK would like to express its gratitude for the invaluable contribution that David Kerr has made in his post as part-time Research Administration and wish him well in his future endeavours.

Writing Workshops

A successful workshop took place in Ghana in April. It was directed to early career academics. The feedback was very positive and there were requests to hold similar events in the Cameroon, Zambia, and Tanzania. Under consideration are workshops in Ethiopia and possibly next year in Edinburgh. The President of ASAUK reported that the Africa Panel of the British Academy indicated a great deal of interest in these workshops.

Teaching Fellowships

Sources of funding are still proving difficult to access. ASAUK decided at its May 2011 Council meeting to use some of ASAUK's reserves to fund another Teaching Fellowship. In October 2011 the Council allocated the fellowship to Cornelius Ncube to teach at Lupane State University in Zimbabwe.

Membership

Membership figures from January to August 2012:

RAS/ASAUK Joint membership		ASAUK only membership	
Joint Membership UK	796	ASAUK Individual UK	163
Joint Membership Overseas	140	ASAUK Individual Overseas	31
Joint Student UK	168	ASAUK Student UK	46
Joint Student Overseas	32	ASAUK Student Overseas	17
RAS Honorary Life UK	1		
Joint Hon Life UK	29	ASAUK Hon Life UK	5
RAS Life Overseas	10		
RAS Hon Life Overseas	12		
RAS Associate UK	3	ASAUK Associate UK	20
		ASAUK Associate Overseas	1
RAS Life	8		
High Commissioners	1		
	1,200		283

So the total combined is 1,200, of which 283 have joined specifically as ASAUK members. This compares with last year's figures which were 1,178 combined, of which 257 joined specifically as ASAUK members.

Council for the year 2011-2012

Office Holders

Professor Megan Vaughan, University of Cambridge (President) retiring.

Professor Stephanie Newell, University of Sussex (Vice President) becomes President.

Dr Nici Nelson, Goldsmiths College (Honorary Secretary) standing again.

Dr Lynne Brydon, University of Birmingham (Treasurer) standing again.
Professor David Maxwell, University of Cambridge (Projects Officer) retiring.
Dr Simon Heap, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Newsletter Editor) standing again.

The Council nominates David Maxwell for Vice-President and Insa Nolte for Project Officer.

Ordinary Members

Retiring 2012:

Co-opted members: Dr Sara Dorman (*African Affairs* editor), Dr Ben Page (*African Affairs* editor), Dr Marion Wallace (SCOLMA), Jonathan Harle (Association of Commonwealth Universities), Dr Stephanie Kitchen (International African Institute), Professor Myles Wickstead (Africa Unit)

After first term: Dr Francesca Locatelli, Dr Gabrielle Lynch, Professor Saul Dubow, Dr Harri Englund, Dr Martin Evans, Dr Ama De-Graft-Aikens, Dr Hassan Arero, Dr Claire Mercer.

Retiring 2013:

After Second Term: Dr June Bam-Hutchinson, Dr Karen Brown, Professor Raymond Bush, Dr Diane Frost and Dr Lotte Hughes.

After First Term: Clara Arokiasamy, Professor David Maxwell, Dr Sada Mire and Dr Ranka Primorac.

Retiring 2014

After Second Term: Dr Insa Nolte and Dr Deborah Potts.

After First Term: Dr Toby Green and Dr Anna Mdee.

Newsletter

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

Relationship between ASUK and RAS

It is now an established rule that the ASUK Officers and the RAS officers have a joint meeting once a year. In addition, Richard May has become a co-opted member of the Council. Gemma Haxby in the ASUK/RAS office maintains the ASUK e-mail list and it provides a convenient, fast and cheap means of communicating with the bulk of the membership. Members who change their e-mail addresses or who have not yet given us their email are urged to pass them on to Gemma at: ras@soas.ac.uk Council would like to convey its sincere gratitude to Gemma Haxby and David Kerr for their constant work and consistent support for ASUK.

6. Report by the Honorary Treasurer (Dr Lynne Brydon)

The ASUK has had a good year in 2011-12 with work progressing on a number of fronts, and in particular the preparation for the 2012 conference. Although it has been usual to hold the conference where the current President is based, it was

decided to hold the 2012 conference in Leeds as Cambridge was going to prove extremely expensive, not only to the association, but to individual participants. We decided to use the same model for the conference as that in Oxford, having themes/ streams and inviting papers around those themes that we could divide into panels. We plan to use some of the RAS conference fund money to support a significant number of participants from African Universities to attend the 2012 Conference. The ASAUK committee has included a Projects Officer since 2010 and we hope to develop positive ideas so that we can use some of our current balance in the next two years.

The Association was awarded British Academy money under its BASIS scheme for 2011-12 and this came to an end in March 2012 and the scheme is now closed. This has been the money that has enabled us to employ a research administrator over the past several years, but we decided to continue to employ and fund an administrator ourselves until the end of September since this is a conference year, and we felt that administrative help was going to be important.

ASAUK has continued to receive some additional funding from the British Academy to develop its programme of writing workshops with British Africanist journals. Writing workshops were held in Osun State (Nigeria), finally after postponement for Nigerian elections, and at WISER in South Africa in early 2011. There are plans for future writing workshops in East Africa. We hope to continue the British Academy funding for these workshops, but generous support from JSAS will come to the end later this year. We hope to try to renegotiate this support and also support from other Africanist journals. ASAUK awarded a single teaching fellowship at the AGM in 2011, and the Fellow is now in post in Zimbabwe. We have remained closely involved with the British Academy in relation to their UK-Africa Partnership scheme.

ASAUK continued to work with the RAS, the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and The British Academy to pursue an action plan relating to the report on 'Frameworks for Africa-UK Research Collaboration in the Social Sciences and Humanities' which was produced by the ACU for The British Academy.

7. Subscription Fee

It was reported that there will be no change in subscription fees this year.

8. President's Report (Professor Megan Vaughan)

This has been another busy year for the ASAUK. Funding from the British Academy BASIS programme ran until April 2012, when the programme came to an end. As members will know, BASIS funding has been crucial to the Association's expansion of activities in the last few years, enabling us to employ a part-time research administrator (David Kerr). We have been aware for some time that this funding would end and have been seeking alternative sources of funding our activities. The loss of the part-time post is certainly a major one, but

our efforts have gone into a sustainable funding model for the Writing Workshop programme which has been such a great success. We continue to receive British Academy support for this programme, as well as generous support from Africanist journals. Attracting funding for the postdoctoral Teaching Fellowships has proven much more difficult, despite energetic efforts by officers and Council members. Nonetheless, we did fund one Teaching Fellowship from our reserves. We continue to strengthen our existing close relationship with the RAS and other Africanist organisations in the UK.

This year we ran writing workshops in South Africa, Nigeria and Ghana. These were all enormously successful and generated very positive publicity for us. I would like to thank Council members for their hard work in making those workshops such a success, as well as the journal editors and our funders for making them possible. New workshops are planned for next year operating with a new financial and administrative model put together by Steph Newell and David Maxwell.

This year is, of course, also the year of a biennial conference. We hope to make a healthy profit for the Association from this event which will enable us to sustain and develop our activities. We are extremely grateful to the University of Leeds, and particularly the Leeds University Centre of African Studies, for jointly hosting the conference.

It has been an honour to occupy the role of President of the ASAUK, and I have gained a huge amount from this experience. Voluntary associations like ours rely very heavily on the good will and energy of colleagues who are already often very heavily committed in their day jobs, and so I want to express sincere thanks to the officers and Council members for their hard work and their good humour. But I owe particular thanks to David Kerr whose formal position as part-time research administrator barely describes a fraction of the tasks he has performed for the ASAUK over the past five years, including the organisation of numerous writing workshops and two biennial conferences.

9. Election of Officers and Council Members

The new officers were elected by the membership.

President:	Professor Stephanie Newell
Vice-President:	Professor David Maxwell
Honorary Secretary:	Dr Nici Nelson
Honorary Treasurer:	Dr Lynne Brydon
Projects Office	Dr Insa Nolte
Newsletter Editor	Dr Simon Heap

Four current members of Council were re-elected for a second term: Dr Gabrielle Lynch, Dr Martin Evans, Dr Ama De Graft-Aikens and Dr Claire Mercer.

Four new members of Council were elected for their first term: David Kerr, Professor David Killingray, Dr George Ogola and Dr Ola Uduku.

10. Amendment to the Constitution Proposing a New Category of Membership Category of 'Associate Member'

"It is proposed that any individual may, on payment of a subscription to be determined by the General Meeting of the Association, become an Associate Member of the Association. This will entitle the member to receive the newsletter but not the journal. Associate members are not entitled to discounted fees for Conferences. Neither will they have the voting rights accorded to Ordinary Members. Exceptions will be made for Associate Members who are voted to the Council. For the duration of their term as a Member of Council they will be entitled to voting rights and discounted fees for Conferences." The amendment was discussed and passed. The fee agreed was £9.

11. Writing Workshops, Teaching Fellowship Funding, Applications and Evaluation (Professor David Maxwell and Dr Insa Nolte)

Their report on the Workshop Programme is in the Conference Programme. There was a successful application for £10,000 from the British Academy for two workshops in Kenya and Addis Ababa to be used before the end of 2013. ASAUK welcomed the British Academy's offer of an internship to 'analyze' evaluations.

12. Timing of the Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture

It was reported to the membership that due to the financial circumstances of the Mary Kingsley Zochonis Trust, it had been decided by the Council to hold the lecture every two years, in the year between the Biennial Conferences.

13. ASAUK Newsletter (Dr Simon Heap)

As ASAUK newsletter editor, four newsletters came out over the past year. I hope they were interesting and useful. Your newsletter relies on news on forthcoming workshops and conferences, new doctorates and publications, awards and fellowships, even deaths. I ask members to continue to send me news. I am happy to continue to be your newsletter editor for the coming year.

14. ASAUK Website

Stephanie Newell made a brief report about the necessity to redesign the ASAUK website. This is in hand and she and a couple of the Council Officers are looking to find a new person to design and manage the website.

15. SCOLMA (Dr Marion Wallace)

The SCOLMA conference in June ('Dis/connects: African Studies in the Digital Age'), was a great success, attracting over 90 participants. SCOLMA thanks ASAUK/RAS for their generous grant of £750 towards the expenses of Christine Kanyengo, Deputy Librarian of the University of Zambia Library, who gave the keynote speech at the conference. A report of the conference was circulated at the

meeting. Attached below is the slightly reworked version of this report prepared for the ASAUK newsletter.

SCOLMA is concerned about the open access issue, and is following this discussion particularly through the efforts of Terry Barringer, the editor of our journal (*African Research and Documentation*). Our concerns relate to the fact that government policy is favouring the 'gold' model of open access, under which commercial journals become open access, with the costs of publication borne by authors rather than subscribers. This may have negative consequences for researchers in the arts, humanities and social sciences, particularly those not based in the UK. We will shortly be publishing an article on this debate in our journal.

The collections of the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum, now closed, have been absorbed by the Bristol museums and archives services. SCOLMA is investigating the position of the archival material donated or loaned to the BECM, and will be meeting museum/archives staff in Bristol to discuss this.

Discussions are under way about the possibility of an ASAUK 50th anniversary event in conjunction with the Caine Prize, to be held at the British Library (July 2013).

16. Any Other Business

None.

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'Researching Africa: The Flow of Research?', 14th Annual Researching Africa Day Workshop, St Antony's College, University of Oxford, 23 February 2013. Researching Africa Day provides graduate students with the opportunity to network with fellow researchers, exchange information, discuss research strategies and develop ideas in a constructive, stimulating and engaging environment. This year's workshop interrogates the process of researching Africa, exploring how research progresses, as well as examining the issues and obstacles that confront researchers at various stages. The workshop aims to question the idea that research always follows a sequence that begins in the library and ends on the word processor. The workshop is divided into four panels that follow the accepted chronology of research, and papers are invited that either investigate these stages (from the acquisition of material to its presentation), or challenge their relationship to one another, in order to understand the 'flow' of research as it actually is.

The four panels are outlined as follows. First, accessing: how do we access material? From gaining ethical clearance, to finding our 'field sites' and negotiating 'gatekeepers', what issues and difficulties do we experience as

researchers in Africa? Second, acquiring: how do we acquire material? From archives and life histories, to images and data-sets, what choices does the researcher make in the process of collection? Third, interrogating: how do we interrogate our material? From grounding personal experience to the application of theory, how do we make sense of what we have gathered during fieldwork? Fourth, presenting: how do we present our material? From the format to the content, what dilemmas are faced and what impact do we make as researchers?

The organisers invite papers on the panels outlined above. Presentations should be 12-15 minutes, followed by a discussion between the panellists and the audience. Participation from students beyond Oxford is welcome. The organisers have limited funding and encourage speakers to pursue funding opportunities at their home institutions first. Accommodation for those who wish to stay the night may be available at certain colleges at your own expense. 200-word abstract by 25 January 2013 to Ed Teversham, Juliet Gilbert and Khumisho Moguerane: RAD.23Feb.Oxford@gmail.com

'Arms, Conflict and Peacebuilding in Africa: An Exploration of the Challenges of Establishing Peace in Areas of Conflict', Best Building, University of Chester, 6 March 2013. This is an afternoon mini-conference, led by three speakers drawn from academia and the NGO sector. The aims are to discuss the challenges of building peace in areas of Africa and to explore synergies between the perspectives of the academic and NGO communities. The three speakers have all confirmed their attendance: Bruce Baker, Professor of African Security, Coventry University: 'Has non-state policing anything to offer post-conflict states?'; Nick Roseveare, MBE, Chief Executive, Mines Advisory Group: 'Reducing vulnerability and managing risks: the role of NGOs in post-conflict reconstruction'; and Paul Jackson, Professor of African Politics, University of Birmingham: 'Governance in post-conflict environments'. The conference will be open, free of charge, to all University staff and students, ASUK members and members of the public (the latter will be drawn largely from the membership of Chester World Development Forum, who habitually support such events at the University). There will be a reception for all attendees at the end. To reserve a place, contact Dr Martin Evans: m.evans@chester.ac.uk

'Bearing the Brunt of Environmental Change: Understanding Climate Adaptation and Transformation Challenges in African Cities', Royal Holloway, University of London, 16-17 April 2013. Convened by Professor David Simon, this landmark workshop on African cities and climate/environmental change is the winning bid in the 2012 *Urban Studies* Journal Seminar Series and is endorsed by several leading international bodies, including UN-HABITAT, the Urban Climate Change Research Network, IHDP's Urbanization and Global Environmental Change core project, and the EU-funded ACC-DAR project on adapting to climate change in coastal Dar, based at

Sapienza University, Rome, and Ardhi University, Dar es Salaam. These bodies/teams will be sending their own representatives or affiliates to the conference at their expense, as will major international development agencies. It is also supported by ASAUK with a Small Conference Grant towards the cost of bringing a key participant, Dr Shuaib Lwasa, from Makerere University.

The workshop will hear papers reflecting on the state of the art in one or more African cities, identifying what research and policy work has been done and the current state of knowledge, what work is in progress, what the key gaps are and how they might be addressed. Comparative perspectives will form a particular focus within and across the major regions and linguistic communities. While rapid advances are now being made in understanding the current and likely future dynamics of urban environmental/climate change under different scenarios, the evidence base remains highly uneven. The most extensive and robust evidence exists for OECD countries and other selected hotspots, such as Rio de Janeiro, Durban and the urban areas of small island developing states. Our knowledge and understanding of the processes of change as they are already affecting many African urban areas remain seriously inadequate and patchy. Not only does this lacuna represent a major academic opportunity to learn across the diversity of Africa's 54 countries straddling very different environmental and historic-linguistic-cultural regions, but the ability to formulate and implement appropriate climate change mitigation (CCM) and adaptation (CCA) initiatives depends on appropriate evidence and understanding of the underlying drivers and processes.

'Teaching Africa and International Studies', Workshop in Cambridge, 19 April 2013; London, 17 June 2013 and Cape Town, 5–6/26–27 September 2013. These workshops will explore aspects of teaching Africa and International Studies, including curricula, pedagogy, and ethical and political issues. The workshops are organised through the BISA 'Africa and International Studies' working group in conjunction with the Politics Departments of Cambridge University, Royal Holloway, University of London and University of Cape Town. They are funded by the Higher Education Academy.

Teaching Africa in International Studies can help combat cultural stereotypes and address issues of global inequality and justice. Whilst there is high student interest in such courses, they are often under-provided by universities. In part this arises from a historic neglect by the discipline, albeit one that new research is reversing. For teachers, it can reflect the lack of an obvious curriculum or the challenge of drawing together different strands of research, often from various disciplines. At the same time, teaching International Studies in Africa offers particular challenges, since the field has been dominated by western-centric accounts that have treated Africa as peripheral or irrelevant. Many of the resources available to African teachers and scholars reflect this bias, and help propagate the continent's marginalisation. However, there are teachers who are

producing excellent and innovative pedagogical materials and methods that seek to overcome these challenges. Others are keen to do so. These workshops will provide a space for both to share different aspects of practice.

The organisers welcomes papers on the state of teaching Africa in International Studies, and International Studies in Africa; course designs and content; interdisciplinarity and internationalisation; student-led and research-led teaching in Africa and International Studies; the use of media and visual arts in learning; and promoting global understanding through pedagogy. Broad themes that might be addressed include: undergraduate dissertations; Masters teaching; doctoral supervision; race; gender; ethics and responsibility; conflict and trauma; literature and arts; religion; Africa and International Relations theory; students and fieldwork; and preconceptions of Africa. The organisers particularly welcome contributions from teachers and scholars from African institutions. Some funding is available to cover travel and accommodation. 200-word abstracts, and indicating which workshop(s) you would be able to attend, by 31 January 2013 to Meera Sabaratnam: ms2128@cam.ac.uk and Julia Gallagher: Julia.gallagher@rhul.ac.uk and Karen Smith: Karen.smith@uct.ac.za

'Mali in Transition: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Territorial Integrity, Islamist Groups, Military Intervention and Humanitarian Actions', SOAS, University of London, 29–30 May 2013. Organised by the Centre of African Studies, SOAS, and Department of Anthropology, Goldsmiths' College, University of London, and with additional funding by ASAUK, this conference is to provide an academic, interdisciplinary, research-based platform to Africanists from Europe, Africa and the US with a view to initiate a debate about the causes of the present political and humanitarian crisis in Mali, and its impacts on the country's social, political, economic and cultural diversity. The conference aims at promoting an independent and informed discussion to counteract often partial media discourses about the political and military crisis in Mali which are not based on extended periods of field research. In this sense the conference also aims to offer a critical forum to professionals working in the media industry and international agencies whose actions in Mali are geared towards development policies, human rights investigations, conflict resolution, food and refugee emergencies, geo-political strategies, land administration, the protection of heritage sites. Parallel activities to the conference will include the screening of two documentaries and a couple of book launches, and a workshop led by a Malian Tuareg artisan, now a refugee in Burkina Faso, who was trained at the British Library in restoring the ancient manuscripts of Timbuktu. The conference is free. Some of the papers presented will be in French. The organisers envisage a large turnout of people and would therefore appreciate you register to attend. For more information, please contact the convenor of the conference: Dr Alessandra Giuffrida: giuffrida.alessandra@gmail.com To register please send an email with 'Mali in transition' in the subject line to: cas@soas.ac.uk

'Connected Histories of Empire', Centre for the Study of Colonial and Postcolonial Societies, University of Bristol, 15–16 July 2013. Over the last two decades, scholars have begun to characterise the British Empire as a complex patchwork of interacting and dynamic agencies, rather than as a homogenous monolith. As a result, the traditional spatial framework based on a stable division between the metropole and the periphery seems increasingly outmoded. Instead, historians, literary critics, scholars of globalisation, and philosophers have been writing about the webs, networks, and circuits in which people, objects, and ideas moved. This conference will interrogate the idea of an empire of connections, considering the possibilities opened up by thinking in terms of global interaction, as well as the challenges of incorporating the myriad interconnections of empire into coherent historical narratives.

The conference is the culmination of a year of events at the University of Bristol which have focused particularly on the memorialisation and commemoration of the British Empire. As scholars have begun to uncover the intricately woven interconnections of empire, a central concern of the conference will be to consider how this might influence how empire has been, and is, remembered and memorialised in Britain and elsewhere. The organisers invite proposals for papers and panels on the following broad themes: the commemoration and memorialisation of different imperial sites, events and phenomena; links between imperial port-cities/global cities; flows of people, goods (physical and cultural), and money; the movement, preservation and display of imperial artefacts and archives; imperial networks and imperial careering; imperial audiences and public spheres; links between global history and imperial history; and connections and comparisons between different modern empires. 250-word abstracts by 25 January 2013 to: connectedhistoriesofempire@yahoo.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL

'The South East in the Context of Political and Economic Development of Nigeria', Second Annual Conference of the South-East Branch of the Historical Society of Nigeria', Abia State University, Uturu, Nigeria, 26–27 February 2013. The organisers at the Department of History and International Relations welcome papers on the following sub-themes: Ndigbo and other Nigerian groups in the early colonial era to 1929; Igbo economy in the colonial era; Ndigbo in the Nigerian nationalist movement; Ndigbo in the politics of politics and economy of Nigeria in the 1950s and 1960s; the post-civil war years to 1979 ; and Ndigbo since the Second Republic. Other topics that relate to the historical and contemporary experience and challenges of the Nigerian state will be considered. 300-word abstract by 25 January 2013 to Dr OkechukwuOkeke; okeyedwardokeke@yahoo.com or Chidi E. Osuagwu: chidikeeme@gmail.com

'Yoruba Movies: Creating Indelible Authentic Identity', First International Conference of Yoruba Films, Adeleke University, Ede, Osun State, Nigeria, 12–14 March 2013. The development of the film enterprise in Nigeria cannot be complete without stating the fact that the Yoruba were among the front runners in its development. With the shifting of emphasis from the Colonial Film Unit to the Nigerian Film Corporation, the fact remains that some Yoruba, the likes of AladeAromire and Adebayo Salami broke the monopoly of film making from the celluloid stock to video technology with the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Programme. Many film artists rose after this experience, just as more opportunities were opened for young talents. This is, however, after Chief Hubert Ogunde, Ola Balogun, Moses Olaiya, AdemolaAfolayan, OjelekeAjangila (the masquerade drama guru) and a host of other leading Yoruba artists have opened up great opportunities through their ventures in celluloid films and their theatricality.

Abstracts are invited from any of the sub-themes: theatre practice from the Alarinjo, Ajangila set up to the screen; contributions of Yoruba doyens of modern and traditional theatre to film developments in Nigeria; contributions of Yoruba movies to film development in Nigeria; Yoruba films and global identity; Yoruba films, technology, quality, distribution and marketing; unique features of Yoruba films-scripting, dialogue and production acting styles; and the ANTP and movie ethics and morality in Nigeria. 300-word abstracts by 1 February 2013 to: yorubafilms@rocketmail.com and ayansolamd@ymail.com

'Calabar through Time: Issues and Challenges', University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria, 24–27 April 2013. Having served as a major West African slave port, the colonial capital of the British Southern Protectorate, the modern regional and state capital of South-Eastern State and Cross River State accordingly, there are few metropolises in post independent Nigeria with the fame and attention of Calabar. This attraction has been attributed to its history, its strategic location as a coastal town, as well as its relative peace in a country that is becoming more violent through the tensions of sectarian and ethnic violence. Yet, some have pointed to the charm of Calabar's environment and people, while for others the burden of her pre-colonial status as a city state, a trade imperium and a colonial metropolis combine to give it its pride of place. For different people, Calabar is therefore a home, a symbol of pride, a myth, a historical hot spot and a hedonistic place. Given this historical background as well as the context of global tourism in which Calabar is ambitiously situated there is urgent need to bring this Nigerian metropolis into critical analysis for the benefit of its future inhabitants.

Organised by the Calabar Study Group of the University of Calabar, this conference therefore aims to bring together renowned scholars of Calabar studies to interrogate the contradictions in its history and its present in order to envision a better future. Proposals for paper are invited on the trans-Atlantic slave trade; the Abolitionist Movement; pawnship in the slavery and palm oil trade eras; the

hinterlands; the palm oil trade; the development of Africa's city states; the development of literacy in the pre-missionary period; Nigeria's colonial history; religious diversity; multicultural politics; the Nigerian Civil War; the post-Civil War era and the politics of reconciliation; sexuality; gender; modernity; developments in the arts: the fine arts, literature, theatre and performing arts, High Life music, and culture in Africa; dynamics of Nigerian politics; challenges of Global Tourism in Nigeria; developments of architecture in Nigeria; mysticism in Nigeria; myth making; imagined and real geographical boundaries; inter-ethnic relationships; traditional Rulership; metropolitanism; ecology; cultural influence in the Americas and Europe; and traditional institutions in the Calabar region: Ekpe, Ndem, Abang and Ekombi. 300-word abstracts by 25 January 2013 to Dr Dave Imbua: imbua@dave@yahoo.com and Idom T. Inyabri: nyabro@yahoo.com

'Greater Sudan: Cross Roads to the Future', Sudan Studies Association 32rd Annual Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA, 24–26 May 2013. Greater Sudan has been receiving an extraordinary attention for the last half century from public, scholarly and political circles. Building upon serious scholarly studies, Sudanese conversations, debates and dialogue of past events in addition to forums, and conferences, many scholars, politicians and intellectual workers continued to reflect on which ways the Sudan would go. The upcoming conference will attempt to look even deeper into this phenomenon by examining intersections between past present and future of greater Sudan.

Panellists may present only one paper or participate in one panel per conference in order to make limited participant spaces available to as many participants as possible. Thematic Conversations are extensions of on-going conversations among scholars while exploring new trends and approaches to current or old questions. The conference provides an intellectual venue for like-minded scholars to continue in their discussion, deliberations that they started before in websites or other forums and engage into a face-to-face open academic exchange in an informal structure and within an open though captured audience. Although, there might not be formal presentations, the conversations must have a session chair, participants and a topic. The roundtable format generally provides an open discussion where the chair and the participants engage themselves and the audience in active discussion. Participants might or might not prepare papers but they should not lecture to the audience. For panel proposals, thematic conversations and roundtables, an abstract of maximum 250 words should be sent together with a 250-word abstract for each paper. Please also include a proposal, names of chair and participating members of each proposed thematic conversation and roundtable. Proposed papers, panels and roundtables abstracts by 28 February 2013 to Dr Abdullahi A. Gallab: abdullahi.gallab@asu.edu

'Afro-Identity at the Crossroads: African and African Diaspora Creative Genius beyond Globalization and the 21st Century', Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, 26–30 August 2013. In recent times, the intensification of transnational dialogue between peoples of African descent in the Americas and their kin in continental Africa has been yielding high dividends on both sides of the Atlantic. On the American side, decades of Affirmative Action and Black Consciousness have produced a new generation of Afro-Americans who have not only finally come to terms with their Black identity, but are also proud to project their African heritage and deploy their African genius to wrestle the right to full citizenship of their various and respective societies from the hegemonic forces of white elites. In most Latin-American and Caribbean nations, the coming to power of different shades of leftist parties that have been the traditional allies of the Afro-descendant segments of such societies has made it possible for Afro-descendants to vie for and gain much-needed visibilities on the national scene, leading to significant overall political, social and economic advancements in the collective existence of Afro-Latin-American subjects. The diverse government-promoted initiatives like the creation of a Special Ministry for Racial Equality, the promulgation of Federal Laws that mandate the teaching of African and African Diaspora history and culture in schools and the Quota System for admission of Afro-descendants to public universities and the public service are some examples of such advancements that appeared on the Latin American horizon since 2002. On its own part, the African Union (AU), realizing the great potentials of the African Diaspora and the enormous contributions it can make to the development of Africa and African descendants in general, resolved to declare the African Diaspora as the 6th Region of Africa with all the rights and privileges derivable from such membership.

Papers are sought on the concepts and theories of African identity; African origin of civilization beyond Egyptology; the Black Man's Burden: slavery, colonialism, emancipation and independence; myths and ideologies of racial domination: stereotypes, discrimination, marginalization; policies and praxis of exclusion: whitening and the politics of racial genocide; Black agency and resistance to racial disenfranchisements; African and African descendants and international politics; African and Afro-descendant economies since the 2008 Crisis; dialogue between Africa and its Diaspora; the AU and the 6th Region; the Black Diaspora in the Middle East and East Asia; the contemporary Afro-European Economic Diaspora; migration and the Western Union politics; the politics of poverty, hunger and famine; contemporary trans-Atlantic dialogues: culture, religion, politics and ideas; music, film and video; gender and power relations; the politics of African languages and the African linguistics; legacy in the Diaspora: art, performance and creativity; festivals, myths and legends; Afro-descendant populations and the commemoration of bicentennial anniversaries of national independence in Latin America. 300-word abstracts by 28 February 2013 to Professor Dipo Salami: afroidentityoau50@gmail.com

‘Colonial and Postcolonial Urban Planning in Africa’, International Planning History Society (IPHS) and Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal, 5–6 September 2013. This conference re-examines the history of colonial urban planning in Africa and its legacies in the post-independence period, to learn from contemporary African scholarship, and to discuss how postcolonial urban planning cultures can actually address these urban challenges and contribute effectively for the development of resilient and sustainable cities in Africa.

The Conference will explore two key themes in the history of urban planning in Africa: ‘19th and 20th Century Colonial Urban Planning in Africa’, and ‘Postcolonial Urban Planning in Africa’. In both themes the organisers welcome country and cross-country approaches, studies of individual cities, and the comparison of African cities with one another. The organisers invite researchers, planners and postgraduate students to present critical analyses of the multifaceted urban planning experience in Africa, and hope the conference will also provide the opportunity for the development of an inter-disciplinary and inter-generational research network which might help to advance critical thinking about urban planning in Africa. Up to 500-word abstracts by 31 January 2012 to Carlos Nunes Silva: urbanplanningafrica@gmail.com

‘American Art in Dialogue with Africa and the African Diaspora’, 4th Terra Symposium on American Art in a Global Context, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC, USA, 4–5 October 2013. Since the beginning of the transatlantic slave trade, Africa has played an important – albeit shifting, contested, and often unseen – role in the history of art of the United States. American artists of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds with various agendas have imagined and depicted Africa and African peoples in their work or turned to African cultures and art objects for inspiration. Anthropologists and art historians have scrutinized African American visual production in search of cultural retentions, while many modern and contemporary black and Latino artists have alternately highlighted or occluded reference to Africa or African Diasporic cultures in their work. Artists from the US who have travelled to the continent or engaged first hand with international African Diasporic communities have often found themselves and their work altered by these experiences in significant and unexpected ways. More recently, globalization and the growth of international biennial exhibitions have facilitated multi-directional exchange and brought contemporary artists from Africa and the Diaspora increasingly into contact with the mainstream US art scene.

Supported by a generous grant from the Terra Foundation for American Art, and organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum in partnership with the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the conference seeks original, innovative scholarship investigating heretofore unexamined aspects of this transatlantic

dialogue, from the visual culture of slavery and abolitionism to American modernism; from the Black Arts Movement to the contemporary art world. Papers engaging with a wide range of visual art media including performance art, decorative arts, folk art, and craft are welcome. 300-500-word abstract and short CV by 30 January 2013 to Amelia Goerlitz: AmericanArtSymposium@si.edu

'Media and the Portuguese Empire, 18th to 20th Centuries', Instituto Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal, 1–2 November 2013. With an enlarged perspective of the media, which embraces the physical structures of transport, as well as all forms of symbolic communication (rumour, mail, press, cinema, radio, television, theatre, literature, and advertising), the organisers encourage the presentation of papers focusing on the articulations and tensions between these media and the establishment and maintenance of a Portuguese Empire in Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, São Tomé e Príncipe, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, India (Goa, Damão, and Diu), East Timor, and Macau. The organisers welcome multiple disciplinary approaches, as the conference encompasses studies in journalism, communication, history, literature, sociology, geography, anthropology, and art history, among other domains of the humanities and the social sciences. These studies should contribute to a better understanding of the complex interactions established between the media and Portuguese imperial policy from the 18th century until the 1970's.

The organisers welcome studies which embrace a broad perspective, comprising both centre and peripheral regions or/and emphasizing the interactions between communications, policy, economics, society, cultural and national identities. Contributions are accepted on topics such as: the connections between transport and communication in imperial dynamics; relation between exploratory missions, cartography, communication infrastructures, and the establishment of an Empire; media and public celebrations; press, propaganda, public opinion, and imperial domination; imperialism and popular culture; media in the colonies (press, radio, cinema, and literature), resistance, and the constitution of national identities. The conference languages are English and Portuguese. 600-word abstracts and short CV by 1 April 2013 to: mediaeimperio@gmail.com

'Society and Politics in Africa: Traditional, Transitional, and New', 13th International African Studies Conference, Institute for African Studies and the Institute for Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, 27–29 May 2014. Organised by the Research Council for the Problems of African Countries and the Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the conference would like to encourage the submission of three paper panels focusing on any particular topics related to the Conference's umbrella theme. The list of prospective paper-givers with their particulars is desirable. The working languages are Russian and English. 500-word panel proposals by 31 March 2013 to Natalia Bondar: conf2014@gmail.com

...Conferences Past

'ASAUK Writing Workshop', Commonwealth Youth Centre, University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia, 13 September 2012. This workshop was attended by nine advisors (present or former editors of a number of Zambia- and/or UK-based academic journals) and 19 authors whose papers had been accepted for the workshop (17 papers were accepted, two of which were by two authors). The general framework of ASAUK writing workshops was used, but adapted to fit the half-day available. As well as PhD candidates, authors included both established Zambian academics who have not yet published in international journals, and Masters' students who are some way from conducting PhD research, but who are carrying out research of potential interest to academic journals. The editors included representatives from the *Zambian Social Science Journal*, and the authors included two Europe-based scholars – this helped offset any perception of this being a 'them-and-us' event.

The workshop, chaired by Prof Bizeck Phiri of the University of Zambia's Department of History, started with the participants introducing themselves. The first plenary session explaining 'How Journals Work', with a presentation by Miles Larmer followed by a Q&A, which raised both technical issues and (in some questions) perceptions of favouritism amongst western-based academic journals. These were dealt with in a general discussion, apparently to widespread satisfaction.

The 'workshop' session, in which editors worked on a personal basis (1:1, 1:2 or 1:3) with authors, was particularly well received. Editors used different techniques to engage with authors: where papers had been pre-circulated amongst small groups, it was possible for authors to offer constructive criticism of each other's papers. Other editors utilised a 1:1 'drop-in' style, talking to each author in turn. Feedback indicates the importance of carefully matching authors to editors who are equipped to comment instructively on the content as well as the presentation of their articles.

The final plenary session was positive, and the written feedback reinforced perceptions that the event had been enthusiastically received. Most participants feel they were better equipped to submit their work to academic journals than previously. Participating authors were given a paper copy of *JSAS* at the event, and given advice on accessing international journals online.

The ASAUK logo was utilised on all advance publicity materials and prominently displayed on both the programme and the feedback questionnaire. The support of the ASAUK was highlighted twice during plenary sessions. It was not however possible to utilise ASAUK display materials because these were being used at the ASAUK biennial conference, which was still taking place when the UK-based editors departed for Zambia.

Dr Miles Larmer, University of Sheffield: m.larmer@sheffield.ac.uk

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Julia Anna Jeanne-Marie Amos (2012), 'Non-Profits of Peace: Two West African Case Studies of Mediation by Conflict-Resolution NGOs', D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Jocelyn Alexander and Professor Richard Caplan.

David Ehrhardt (2012), 'Struggling to Belong. Nativism, Identities and Urban Social Relations in Kano and Amsterdam', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Raufu Mustapha and Dr Cathie Lloyd.

MayleneShung King (2012), 'Why Child Health Policies in Post-Apartheid South Africa have Not Performed as Intended: The Case of the School Health Policy', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Rebecca Surender.

ErlendGrønerKrogstad (2012), 'Enduring Challenges of Statebuilding: British-led Police Reforms in Sierra Leone, 1945-1961 and 1998-2007', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor David Anderson and Professor Christopher Hood.

Natalie Nairi Quinn (2012), 'Measuring Poverty over Time: A Formal Analysis [Ethiopia case study]', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Stefan Dercon.

ShahanaRasool (2012), 'Help-Seeking by Abused Women in South Africa', D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Leila Patel, Professor William Beinart and Professor Michael Noble.

Recent Publications

Charles Ackah and Ernest Aryeetey (eds) (2012), *Globalization, Trade and Poverty in Ghana*. Sub-Saharan Publishers, 258pp, 978-9988647360, £22.95.

Martin Banham, James Gibbs and Femi Osofisan (eds) (2012), *African Theatre: Festivals*. James Currey, 172pp, 978-1847010575, £18.99.

Maddalena Campioni and Patrick Noack (eds) (2012), *Rwanda Fast Forward: Social, Economic, Military and Reconciliation Prospects*. Palgrave Macmillan, 296pp, hardback: 978-0230360488, £57.50; £36.24 (Kindle).

Peter Clegg and David Killingray (eds) (2012) *The Non-Independent Territories of the Caribbean and Pacific: Continuity and Change*. Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, 228pp, 978-0956954602, £25.

Patricia Crisafulli and Andrea Redmond (2012), *Rwanda Inc.: How a Devastated Nation Became an Economic Model for the Developing World*. Palgrave, 256pp, 978-0230340220, £16.99.

Stephen Ellis (2012), *External Mission: The ANC in Exile, 1960-1990*. Hurst, 88pp, 978-1849042628, £20.

Elizabeth Gunner, Dina Ligaga and Dumisani Moyo (eds) (2012) *Radio in Africa: Publics, Cultures, Communities*. James Currey, 336pp, 978-1847010612, £45.

Hand Peter Hahn and Kristin Kastner (eds) (2012), *Urban Life-Worlds in Motion: African Perspectives*. Transcript Verlag, 228 pp, 978-3-8376-2022-1, £29.95.

Alcinda Honwana (2012), *The Time of Youth: Work, Social Change and Politics in Africa*. Kumarian Press, 240pp, 978-156594725, £25.50.

David Killingray (2012) *Fighting for Britain: African Soldiers in the Second World War*. James Currey reprint edition, 301pp, 978-1847010476, £14.99.

Mark McQuinn (2012) *Civil Society as a Conflictual Sphere in Post-Liberalization Tanzania: The Roles of NGOs and Trade Unions*. Saarbrücken: LAP Lambert, 444pp, 978-3848429660, £64.

Eric Morier-Genoud (ed) (2012), *Sure Road? Nationalisms in Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique*. Brill, 270pp, 978-9004222618, £59.76.

Eric Morier-Genoud and Michel Cahen (eds) (2012) *Imperial Migrations. Colonial Communities and Diaspora in the Portuguese World*. Palgrave, 368pp, 978-0230353695, £60.

Laurie Nathan (2012), *Community of Insecurity: SADC's Struggle for Peace and Security in Southern Africa*. Ashgate, 186pp, 978-1-40943-044-5, £55.

Andree S. Natsios (2012), *Sudan, South Sudan, and Darfur: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford University Press, 250pp, 978-0-19976-419-8, £10.99.

Chris Saunders, Gwinyayi A. Dzinesa and Dawn Nagara (eds) (2012), *Region-Building in Southern Africa: Progress, Problems and Prospects*. Zed, 350pp, 978-1-78032-178-3, £21.99.

Lorrelle D. Semley (2011) *Mother is Gold, Father is Glass: Gender and Colonialism in a Yoruba Town*. Indiana University Press, 235pp, hardback: 978-0-253-35545-4, £50; paperback: 978-0253-22253-4, £16.99; Kindle edition: £14.53.

Andrew van der Viies (ed) (2012), *Print, Text and Book Cultures in South Africa*. Wits University Press, 416pp, 978-1868145669, £29.50.

Robert Voeks and John Rashford (eds) (2012), *African Ethnobotany in the Americas*. New York: Springer, 429pp, 978-1461408352, £44.99.

Crawford Young (2012) *The Postcolonial State in Africa: Fifty Years of Independence, 1960-2010*. University of Wisconsin Press, 468pp, 978-0299291440, £27.50.

Journal of West African History

Published semi-annually, the *Journal of West African History* (JWAH) is a new interdisciplinary peer-reviewed research journal that will publish the highest quality articles on West African history. Located at the cutting edge of new scholarship on the social, cultural, economic, and political history of West Africa, JWAH will fill a representational gap by providing a forum for serious scholarship and debate on women and gender, sexuality, slavery, oral history, popular and public culture, and religion. The editorial board encourages authors to explore a wide range of topical, theoretical, methodological, and empirical perspectives in new and exciting ways. The journal is committed to rigorous thinking and analysis; is international in scope; and offers a critical intervention about knowledge production. The publication will be in both English and French; an abstract in the other language will be provided of each. Michigan State University Press publishes the JWAH in collaboration with the MSU African Studies Center, and the History Department.

The debut issue of JWAH will appear in Spring 2014. To this end, the editorial board invites scholars to submit original article-length manuscripts accompanied by an 150-word abstract. See http://jwah.msu.edu/?page_id=81 for submission guidelines. Manuscripts to the *Journal of West African History* should be submitted online at <http://jwah.msu.edu/> or jwahsubs@msu.edu The deadline for first submissions is 15 March 2013.

News

ENI Scholarships

St Antony's College, Oxford in partnership with the international integrated energy company ENI, is offering three students from African universities the opportunity of fully funded scholarships, including fees and living expenses, to undertake postgraduate study at Master's level at the University of Oxford commencing in October 2013. The scholarships are open to applicants of the MSc in African Studies who are ordinarily resident in Angola, Ghana or Nigeria. The scholarships will be awarded on the basis of both academic merit and potential, and financial need. Preference will be given to applicants whose first degree is from an African university and who have clear ambitions to use their accumulated learning to benefit their home country after graduation.

In order to be considered for this scholarship, you must submit your application for the MSc in African Studies by 8 March 2013 and have secured a conditional or unconditional place by the expected final decision date. It would help if you select St Antony's College in the college choice section of the application form. You must also complete an ENI Scholarships application form, available at <http://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/study/scholarships/eni.html> by 22 March 2013 to Kirsty Norton, Assistant College Registrar at assistant.registrar@sant.ox.ac.uk

Africa Desk

The new version of the Africa Desk – the joint ASAUK/British Academy site that David Kerr and I have been working on – is now live. The directories are much improved, and news and updates are now much more visible. If you have not already, please do add your profile to the UK Africanist directory or update your current record by logging in the top bar (if you've forgotten passwords you can re-set it here <http://www.africadesk.ac.uk/accounts/forgotpassword/>).

Most importantly, please circulate details to your doctoral students and encourage them to add their own profiles – we hope that the site will be of particular value to those at the early stage of their careers as they begin to build their networks. We hope that this will grow to become a genuinely valuable resource for the African studies community, here and in African universities, but to do this we need colleagues to share relevant information, and to encourage others to add their profiles.

At present we have around 280 UK Africanists registered, and a similar number of African scholars. To better reflect the geography of African studies we've also now broadened the scope of the 'African studies centres' directory to include details of other research networks and clusters. If you or colleagues coordinate such a group please do add this to the site - again the links are in the lower left, or you go directly to: <http://www.africadesk.ac.uk/directory/addeditcentre/0/>

Jon Harle (Programmes Manager (Research Capacity))

The Association of Commonwealth Universities: Jonathan.Harle@acu.ac.uk

Obituaries

Margaret Mary Feeny, MBE (1917–2012)

Margaret did not want much said of herself. She was always personally modest, and unattached to the things of this world. The only matters to stir her passions were ideals of Justice and Kindness. She was completely un-stuffy. She was straight-forward in her dealings with people, unaffected by rank or wealth, but well able to use them as tools to get things done.

Margaret was born during the First World War, the eleventh of twelve children. In 1919 her family moved into a fine house overlooking the Thames, where, as she remembered it, most of the social action surrounded tennis and music. Her father was a successful businessman who was frequently away in the Far East, and would return with exotic items, cloth and artefacts, which were the stuff of his trades. Far-away places and distant cultures were thus a part of the Feeny household. At the time of her birth, older siblings were already living abroad, showing a pattern for the Feeny family which still pertains today. Margaret followed her sisters to school with *Les Oiseaux*, the French nuns who had been in exile in Kent since the French Revolution. She strongly identified with the French pupils, in their language and culture, and objected to being offered tea, because

she was English, rather than coffee which was reserved for the French. After school she returned to *Les Oiseaux* to teach French for a while. But her father's health and wealth were waning; so Margaret gave up thoughts of further education, did a course at St James's Secretarial College, and was living at home again, caring for her parents, when the Second World War broke out.

During the war, early gyro-compasses, Sperry compasses, were quietly provided by the Americans to the Admiralty. They were distributed in a secret operation by the Admiralty Compass Observatory at Ditton Park. The head of this operation knew Margaret from church, which gave him confidence that she could not be a spy. He recruited Margaret to instruct naval officers on how to use the compasses, and very importantly, how to destroy them if their vessel was in danger of falling into enemy hands. Margaret delivered the compasses, heavy boxes she found difficult to manage, to ships around the country. She told me that the security arrangement was that she was so small and unprepossessing, no one would ever suppose she could have anything important about her.

After the war Margaret first worked for a couple of horticultural businesses, then for a British-Yugoslav trading company, negotiating contracts and keeping books. But it was as PA to Douglas Woodruff at *The Tablet* that she came to the attention of Archbishop Bernard Griffin. He wanted to restart a wartime operation which examined international relations in the light of Catholic values. This was "Sword of the Spirit", which Barbara Ward started as a prayerful reaction to the policies of Hitler and the Nazi party. Margaret assisted Ronald Breck in running the Sword of the Spirit. The Sword became the Catholic Institute for International Relations, and continues today under the name 'Progressio'.

Margaret was one of those fuelling the energy, optimism and tumultuous expectation of the 1950s. Perhaps people were surprised that they and the world had survived the war. They had won, but they were not stopping at the finishing line! Margaret was at the centre of a British culture in which young people were going to fix what was wrong with the world. As General Secretary to the CIIR, Margaret began by explaining development work to Sixth-Formers, then to teachers, church officials, MPs, to foreign dignitaries and diplomats, to government ministers and Heads of State. Her remit, and her travels, covered South America and Asia. But it was Africa, packed full of nascent independent states, which called most urgently to her. She founded or played mid-wife or nurse to a plethora of aid agencies which the war and its aftermath had thrown up. Among them, were: Catholic Overseas Appointments (sending teachers to Africa); the ecumenical, Christians Abroad; the British Volunteer Programme; and the UK Council for Overseas Students. She was a founding member of the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development, CAFOD. She was on the UK Committee of the United Nations Freedom from Hunger campaign, which closely involved her with the growth of Oxfam. Margaret may have been

working officially for the CIIR, but Christian Aid, VSO and War on Want were all in her immediate circle. She just wanted to help.

She was a governor of Farnham Castle Centre for International Briefing, and she kept in personal contact with African Heads of Mission in London, and ministers for Overseas Development and at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

I am sorry about the long (though incomplete) list, but I wanted to mention these things now, because they might never be mentioned again. The idea of remembering oneself, of making a mark, was quite irrelevant to Margaret and her fellow travellers at the time. They just got on with it; they achieved what they set out to do, and they quietly moved on. By the end of the 1950s, with a growing African diaspora displaying self-confidence in African cultures, Margaret identified the need for an African cultural and social centre in London. Prakash Ramgulam says Margaret closed her eyes and stuck a pin in a map to choose a place. It is a large property in Covent Garden which, almost uniquely in the area, could be bought freehold. Then single-handedly, and against all advice, Margaret set out to raise the funds to buy it. So it was that in November 1964, President Kenneth Kaunda and Cardinal Lauean Rugambwa opened the Africa Centre in a half renovated tomato warehouse, where Margaret was its first Director, and London's first ever African restaurant, The Calabash, was in the basement. The Centre immediately became the London focus for African writers and artists, exiles and dissidents, the spiritually ambitious and the politically displaced. Margaret's PA was Sally Mugabe, the quiet and devout former wife of Robert. After fourteen years in the role, Margaret withdrew from the Centre. In 1979 she retired to Bath, to get out of the way of her successor, Alastair Niven.

For a while, she picked up a few of the old threads, sitting on local committees of some of the national charities she had known ten or twenty years earlier. But her urge was always to work with the people she was helping. She found greater satisfaction door-knocking for the Lib-Dems. She was elected for Abbey Ward, and set about, as she always had, putting things right that she felt were wrong. For decades, the Empire Hotel had been an abandoned black hole in the centre of Bath. She told me she would get that sorted. And the rubbish-strewn York Hotel in George Street. I don't know how these things get done, but Margaret, in her great experience, found the starter levers.

It was while she was Mayor of Bath in 1996, that she suffered that terrible stroke, after delivering a speech in Aix-en-Provence. I was given the news that she would probably not recover her movement or speech. But with typical disregard for expertise, she was back in her flat in two months. And with kind help from the Mayoral office, she was even able to take up some official engagements again before her term expired. Everything Margaret did, she did for other people. She never planned for her own comfort or wellbeing. She had absolute faith that God would provide for her as necessary. If you said, "God bless you", she would say,

with a sort of pride, "He always does!" Her faith was unquestioning, and utterly beyond doubt. But her spiritual devotions were almost always private, and I was seldom able to share them with her. Margaret served this church with devotion. She had a flat across the road, over-looking the river. When you leave the church, if you peer over the railings at the end of the road, you will look down upon the river garden she kept so that other people could use it and see it. In her last years, while Margaret seemed to be forgetful and confused, her conversation sometimes came directly from the spirit. She told me on many occasions where she was going, and what the future held for her. And when she talked of her "husband" waiting for her "upstairs", she was probably quoting the French sisters, *Les Oiseaux*, of her school years. She was not innocent: she was profound. Having not had a sensible conversation for months, when Father David anointed her, she responded actively, and was emotional with gratitude. Rejoice for her at her passing. She was as determined as anyone could possibly be. She had done the job; she has achieved what she set out to do, and has quietly moved on.

Eulogy by Margaret's godson, Tom Craigmyle, delivered at her funeral at St John's, South Parade, Bath, 18 January 2012, and reproduced with his kind permission.

Barbara Kimenye (

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Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the next *Newsletter* by 15 March 2013 to Dr Simon Heap, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), 30 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6NN 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: MelmarieLaccay, 36 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PD; telephone: +44 (0)20-3073-8336; email: rasmembership@soas.ac.uk

Check the website: www.asauk.net