



NEWSLETTER

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President's Report

I attended the launch of the *Nairobi Report* on UK-African research links in Nairobi in March. It was a valuable meeting with representatives of a number of African universities, research organisations and networks. There were general discussions of expanding research collaboration, as well as specific presentations by some of the research groups holding British Academy research partnership grants. While there has been no single initiative on the scale of the US National Endowment for the Humanities postdoctoral fellowships, a range of British institutions are encouraging and funding joint research programmes, or research training in African institutions, including the British Academy, DFID, Royal Society, and the Leverhulme Trust. Graham Furniss, formerly president of ASAUK, and a key figure in developing what has become the *Nairobi Report*, gave an overview of the process and pointed to promising developments – not least the recognition in recent years that higher education in Africa is a priority.

Amongst the many interesting presentations, a statistical survey suggested that the proportion of articles from African-based authors in international peer-reviewed social science journals had declined in the 20 years from 1987 to less than one per cent. Over 50 per cent of articles came from South African universities and over 50 per cent of these (1995-2007) came from the top five South African institutions. There may be a number of reasons for this, including lack of investment in African higher education institutions, the movement of African scholars out of Africa, or a preference for publishing in local national journals. Queries could be raised about the validity and meaning of such figures, but delegates at the meeting accepted that they told us a good deal about recent problems in higher education in general and research in particular. However, journal editors at this meeting, and also at recent writing workshops, have reported anecdotal evidence that the scale of submissions to journals from African institutions has been increasing quite rapidly over the last few years.

This evidence concerning journal publication rates lends weight to the arguments for ASAUK's programme of writing workshops, which explicitly facilitate publication by younger scholars, especially those based in African countries. In fact, the above meeting was followed by a workshop held jointly with the British Institute in East Africa. Four journals were represented: myself for *African Affairs* and *Journal of Southern African Studies*, David Anderson for the *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, and Justin Willis for the *Journal of African History*. We read and commented in detail on fourteen papers and the presenters also received feedback from their peers in small groups. Most of the participant research students and postdocs were from Kenya and Uganda with a few from further afield. The plenary session was well attended by delegates to the research meeting, so that ASAUK's initiative received publicity and feedback. Report backs have been good and discussions are under way for further workshops in South Africa, Kenya, and possibly in Nigeria or Ghana. The British Academy has made a further grant to support the writing workshops. Linked organisations and journals are taking up the idea. As each workshop is necessarily small, there will have to be a number to make a significant difference in submissions and publication rates across the international Africanist journals as a whole.

The ASAUK biennial conference in Oxford (16-19th September) is now occupying a central part of the office-holders' activities. We received over 400 abstracts, more than we expected and a wonderfully rich range of papers. Most of them came in rather late, so that we fell behind in processing them, but final acceptances and information should be out by mid-June. We have not been able to accept all papers but it will be a bigger than usual conference with perhaps 250-300 papers (depending on withdrawals). Early registration is strongly advised, as College accommodation is limited.

Part of the conference is being organised around streams of related papers, with particularly strong themes on literature (convenor Zoe Norridge), elections and democratisation (Nic Cheeseman and Paul Nugent), land and agriculture (Robin Palmer), aspects of environmental history and politics (Karen Brown and Dan Brockington), as well as clusters of papers convened by journals. There will be six sub-plenary talks (two each evening from 6-7pm on 16th, 17th and 18th), a presidential address and presentations (Friday 17th at 8pm) and a wide range of other panels, covering everything from economic history, and colonial social history, to contemporary urban society and international relations.

ASAUK's administrator – David.Kerr@bham.ox.ac.uk – is the main point of contact and his work on the conference has been hugely valuable.

Professor William Beinart, June 2010

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'New Media – Alternative Politics: Communication Technologies and Political Change in the Middle East and Africa', Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), University of Cambridge, 14–16 October 2010. The spread of digital technologies in the Middle East and Africa has generated the view that 'new media' open up political spaces for dissent, activism and emancipation. This conference offers an opportunity to critically reassess these assumptions. The organisers, based at CRASSH and the Centre of Governance and Human Rights, welcome proposals for papers or presentations from researchers, activists, practitioners, policymakers and academics from all disciplines. The organisers are happy to consider proposals for presentations in a variety of formats in addition to the traditional format of academic conference papers: via Skype, podcasts, slideshows, short films or posters.

The following themes are intended as a guide, but are not exclusive. First, communicating dissent, mobilising change: how are new media technologies being used in the Middle East and Africa to mobilise for political change? Proposals are encouraged that report on the use of a wide variety of new media technologies to communicate political dissent and organise for political change using images, voices and text. Potential topics include the use of mobile phone cameras, blogging, text messaging, online social networking and video activism to organise demonstrations, monitor elections, make demands upon government, and connect activists.

Second, what is 'new' in new media? Are there ways in which digital media is qualitatively different to earlier waves of new media in its interactivity, immediacy and connections to global networks? The organisers are interested in examinations of how political actors have used emergent media in the past, such as printing technologies, duplicating machines and audio cassettes, and how this can inform our understanding of political activists' use of new media today. Third, new media versus old power: have those controlling political power been able to restrict the emancipatory potential of new media technologies? How have activists used new media to respond and resist? Why have some of the optimistic predictions equating the spread of new media with political liberalisation not been realised? Empirical and theoretical submissions are encouraged that examine the relationships of resistance and response between state institutions and citizens or groups using new media. Fourth, local new media and global designs on political change: how is the use of new media by political activists in the Middle East and Africa shaped by global forces? This broad theme addresses topics such as aid and diplomatic support for particular trends in new media by external powers, use of new media for 'soft power' diplomacy, how global corporations and international media networks have

shaped patterns of new media use, and whether new communication technologies have reconfigured relationships between international and local NGOs. Fifth, researching new media: what are the methodological, ethical and practical challenges of researching new media and political change in the Middle East and Africa? The organisers encourage submissions that look towards a progressive engagement between researchers, practitioners and activists to simultaneously study and support the use of new media in political engagement.

The organisers are able to offer a limited amount of funding to support travel and accommodation costs for some presenters. If you wish to apply please include a 150 word statement with your abstract explaining why you need financial assistance. We will prioritise support for presenters who are unable to access other sources of funding, and are low-paid or unwaged. 300 word abstracts by 31 July 2010 to Anne Alexander: raa43@cam.ac.uk

'Global Land Grabbing' International Conference, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, Brighton, 6–8 April 2011. The Land Deal Politics Initiative (LDPI) was established by the Initiatives in Critical Agrarian Studies (ICAS) currently hosted in Saint Mary's University (Canada); the Future Agricultures Consortium whose Secretariat is based at IDS; the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) of the University of the Western Cape (South Africa); the Resources, Environments and Livelihoods (RELIVE) cluster at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague (Netherlands); and the Polson Institute of Global Development of Cornell University (USA).

The focus of the conference will be on the politics of global land grabbing and agrarian change. Papers are expected to address some of the most urgent and strategic questions around global land grab. What changes in broad agrarian structures are emerging? Are these new forms of agrarian capitalism or repeats of the past? What is the nature and extent of rural social differentiation – in terms of class, gender, ethnicity – following changes in land use and land property relations as well as organizations of production and exchange? Have land deals undermined local level and national food security – or not? How, whose and to what extent? To what extent have agrarian political struggles been provoked by the new land investment dynamics? What are the issues that unite or divide the rural poor, organized movements, and rural communities around the issue of land deals? What are the various competing policy and political narratives and discourses around the multiple crises of food, energy, climate and finance, and how have these shaped and been reshaped by the land deal politics? How have competing frameworks and views on land property been deployed by various camps around the contested meanings of 'marginal lands' (or, 'idle', 'waste', 'unoccupied' lands)? What are the emerging trends around dynamics of power, elites and corruption, and land as a source of patronage? Have global land

policies of different overseas development agencies (World Bank, FAO, EU, IFAD) contributed to facilitating/encouraging or blocking/discouraging land deals? What are the strengths and limitations of 'code of conduct', certification, regulation, information dissemination, and capacity-building strategies? What are the dynamics of international politics of land grabs in the broader context of energy, mining, forestry and conservation; and the role of big capital and powerful interests? What are some of the relevant emerging alternatives from key actors? 200 word abstracts by 31 October 2010 to: jpsworkshop@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL

'Fieldwork Matters: New Ethnography, New Perspectives', Anthropology Southern Africa Annual Conference, East London Campus, University of Fort Hare, South Africa, 20–23 September 2010. Social anthropology in southern Africa has always had a strong fieldwork tradition. In fact, the quality of our fieldwork has been one of the reasons why the work of social anthropologists in this region has been so enduring and influential. Lynn Schumaker (2001) wrote that when Max Gluckman was Director of the Rhodes Livingstone Institute in the 1950s he would often visit his colleagues at their field sites rather than in their offices to discuss their work. Monica Hunter Wilson was known to judge her students and her colleagues by their ability as fieldworkers and believed that anthropological 'truth' was firmly located 'in the field'. When asked by one of her students when it might be acceptable for her to leave the field, she was plainly told: 'when you have resolved all the social contradictions'.

These days we are less inclined to believe that all of the social contradictions we encounter can be resolved in the field and thus engage more readily with other spaces, texts and contexts. But have we gone too far? Have we left the field behind? What does or should fieldwork mean to anthropology in southern Africa today? Is it still the *sin qua non* of the discipline? What does it mean that so many others claim fieldwork and ethnography as their territory? How is the knowledge we produce in the field constructed? What new and changing concerns face fieldworkers? Who are our interpreters? How do we relate to and acknowledge field assistants and respondents? What does it mean that some of us and many of our students are now studying our own communities, conducting auto-anthropology? How does this change the nature of the discipline in the region? Does fieldwork matter? Against the backdrop of a critical reflection on our fieldwork traditions, the Association for Anthropology in Southern Africa invites papers presenting new ethnography and new perspectives, based on experiences with fieldwork. 300 word abstracts by 1 August 2010 to Professor Leslie Bank: lbank@ufh.ac.za or Dr Nolwazi Mkhwanazi: nmkhwanzai@ufh.ac.za

'Health and Governance in Africa', Stanford University, California, USA, 29–30 October 2010. What are the links between the provision and distribution of health in Africa and economic changes, political reform, and transnational connections, in contemporary and historical frames? 2009 saw the launch of the Pan-African Clinical Trials Registry, an attempt to promote transparency in the growing field of medical research in Africa. Such trials at once provide some standard of health care while posing challenging ethical and political questions. In 2006, 17 people died and over 80,000 sought medical attention in the Ivory Coast when 500 tons of toxic waste was dumped in the country by a Panamanian ship turned away from Amsterdam. In 1901, the colonial administration of Lagos adopted a policy of racial segregation in an attempt to fight malaria and in the 1940s, to the same ends, they remade the city's landscape by draining its marshes. These examples make clear the extent to which health issues in Africa are and have long been thoroughly intertwined with questions of government and the state, political economy and the environment. In order to explore this complex terrain, the organisers have four core questions. How are health and illness understood, debated, and achieved by different actors and agencies operating at local, national, and transnational scales? How are circulations of drugs and illness, doctors and aid, capital and patents managed by citizens, patients, policy makers and health practitioners? How does health become a site in which the boundaries between the state, the population, the body, NGOs, multinational corporations, and international development institutions are negotiated? How are these developments historically produced and what are their effects on the provision of health care?

Potential panel topics include: security, conflict, and humanitarianism; ecology, land use, and urban planning; histories of colonial and postcolonial public health; informal economies of care; health as a public good; climate change, pollution, and public health; access to clean water and sanitation; migration, mobility, and displacement; mental health and psycho-social well being; gender, sexuality, and reproductive health; labour and personnel in medical infrastructure; customary law; legal struggles for the human right to health; political mobilizations around treatment; medical pluralism; privatization of health services; injuries, accidents, and occupational health; and nutrition and food security. 250 word abstracts by 1 August 2010 to: stanfordfas@gmail.com

'[Un]disciplined Encounters: Science as Terrain of Postcolonial Interaction between Africa and Europe – Past and Future', Brussels, Belgium, 5–6 November 2010. The central question is if, how, and to what extent, scientists have been assessing their stances and interventions in connection with Africa in terms of decolonisation. This represents a starting point for a combination of historical reconstruction and reflexive prognosis on science as site of collaboration and distinction, antagonism and complicity between Africa and Europe.

The conference has three themes. First, postcolonial science: beyond the many limits of Postcolonial Theory. Although Post(-)colonial Theory (or more generally 'Postcolonial Studies') has been working hard towards destabilizing received geopolitical categories, interrogating Western (epistemic) hegemonies, and the affirmative recuperation of subaltern voices, it has been accused of being an intellectual coterie in several respects. This conference suggests several avenues for decolonizing science, by exploring postcolonial studies in 'multiple engagements': in other disciplines than the humanities and social sciences, in area studies (through the reinvention of African Studies), and in disparate trajectories of intellectual decolonization within and without African and European academia.

Second, science in the postcolony: states, institutions, and networks. As far as state and state-building is concerned, the habitual concern is with the role that science, its institutions, its personnel and its expertise, have played in the building and reworking of the independent African states. Beyond that, science as a 'universal' authoritative discourse, network and institution, occupies a special place in the global knowledge economy and in transnational forms of governmentality. Universities, museums, and libraries were set up in Africa in the late colonial and early postcolonial period as hallmarks of modernity and national intellectual sovereignty. Likewise, in Europe, in the wake of decolonisation, colonial institutes or institutes with a direct colonial mission were either abolished or redirected. Through case studies and comparative investigations, this conference wishes to look into postcolonial transformations of research and teaching institutes in Europe and Africa. Throughout the postcolonial period, national and international partnerships, informal networks and formal associations formed the human infrastructure in which the processes of scientific collaboration and distinction have taken shape. The conference wishes to give special attention to issues related to field research, funding, implementation and publication.

Third, objects and subjects: processes of objectification and subjectification in heritage, conflict, and advocacy. When looking at heritage, the main focus is on 'intangible heritage', more particularly on what has been classified under indigenous knowledge, oral traditions and endangered languages. Here the conference wishes to look at processes of objectification (disciplining and commoditization) and concomitant processes of subjectification, such as identity-construction and cultural affirmation, as well as on the role and changing position of scientists and science as an authoritative discourse. The conference wishes to look into the relationship between conflict and scientific research: the way in which the Cold War situation, repression and dictatorial regimes or political instability and 'new wars' affect, hamper or otherwise inspire and refashion scientific research in/on Africa? Special attention is asked for the role of scholars, researchers and experts in the construction of testimonies of victims

and/or perpetrators. Finally, there are interrelated issues of advocacy and consultancy, activism and commercialisation of scientists and their work in Africa and Europe.

With the support of VLIR-UOS (University Cooperation for Development) and the Royal Museum for Central Africa at Tervuren, the conference can offer funding for the participation of scholars from Africa or African scholars with institutional attachments on the continent. The conference languages are English and French. 250 word abstracts in pdf format by 31 August 2010 to: secretariat@science2010-af-eu.com

'The Development Philosophy of Osigwe Anyiam-Osigwe: A Holistic Approach to Human Existence and Development', University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria, 22–24 November 2010. In furtherance of the mutual goal of the Osigwe Anyiam-Osigwe Foundation, Africa Institute for Leadership, Research and Development, South Africa and the Department of Philosophy, University of Ibadan, to employ the original thoughts of Osigwe Anyiam-Osigwe for the construction of a coherent and plausible development philosophy that would serve as a viable foundation for sustainable development in Nigeria and other developing societies, this conference is designed to have three sessions covering the three pillars of holistic life evolved by Osigwe Anyiam-Osigwe, that is, personal values and awareness; socio-political existence and order and economic existence and responsibility. The following are some of the issues for the presentation of papers: personal values and awareness; society, values and development; personal values, personal awareness and self-mastery; religion and self-realization; family values and social development; youth and national development; the mindset factor in the development process; socio-political existence and order; politics, governance and social stability; constitutionalism, citizenship and human rights; democracy, social institutions and contemporary political life; ethics and governance; traditional social institutions and governance in Africa; economic existence and responsibility; the economy and social stability; values and economic development; culture and economic development; ethics and business; Africa and the Global Economic Order; and science, technology and economic development. One page abstracts by 31 July 2010 via the website: <http://www.osigwedp.org/node/7>

'Developing Africa: Development Discourse(s) in Late Colonialism', University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria, 13–15 January 2011. 'Development' played various and at times contradicting roles in the discursive and non-discursive practices of late colonialism. It both served to legitimize European control and to underpin African endeavours for social and political emancipation. This workshop aims at exploring discourses of development during the period when development first came to play a central role in shaping

the relations between Africa and Europe between the end of World War I and decolonization (1918-1960s).

Hosted by the Department of African Studies, the organisers invite contributions which explore how various actors – both European and African – conceptualized development in an African context. Contributors are encouraged to discuss a wide range of sources, from fictional and academic texts to political statements and administrative documents, from mass media to letters and diaries. The intended geographical scope is similarly open, including the whole of Africa and the respective colonial empires (British, French, Portuguese, Belgian, Italian, and Spanish). Both metropolitan and colonial angles on development discourses are welcome. Preferably, contributions should try to take a longer-term perspective instead of restricting themselves to a short period of time. They should map changes within development discourse and try to arrive at a preliminary periodisation. Contributors are invited to compare their findings to the widely held assumption that development in the early decades of the 20th century, probably up to the 1930s, was mainly used in a narrow economic sense, closely related to the exploitation of natural resources, whereas later, development turned into a more extensive concept enabling and justifying the profound penetration and transformation of colonial societies.

The questions that will guide our workshop are the following: how did the meaning of development change over time; how were discursive and non-discursive social, cultural, and political practices related to each other; and who were the subjects of the discourse (both in the sense of those who shaped the discourse and those who were defined by it)? The organisers hope that answering these and related questions will enable us to analyse and compare various discursive representations of development – and possibly to get a clearer idea of how closely the various discursive strands were related to each other and, in turn, whether their commonalities justify speaking of development discourse in the singular. 500-word abstract and short biodata by 31 July 2010 to Dr Gerald Hoedl: gerald.hoedl@univie.ac.at

‘Workshop on Language, Literacy, and the Social Construction of Authority in Islamic Societies’, Stanford University, California, USA, 3–4 March 2011. The workshop is a joint project of the Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies at Stanford University and the Middle East–Mediterranean Studies Program at Sciences Po in Paris. The workshop will focus on the processes underlying the social construction of authority in Islamic societies and the way those processes have been affected by issues of language and the development of literacy from 17th century and onwards in the context of peripheries as well as the core regions (specifically West Africa; the Caucasus; South, Southeast and Central Asia; and the Middle East). Particular topics of interest include but are not limited to issues concerning print, manuscript and oral tradition; rise of new media (such as

internet) and language; the ulama's retention of authority through reassertion or, in some cases, reinvention of their relationships to classical discourses; the emergence of new spheres of religious authority beyond the ulama, and how this is related to evolutions in language and literacy; the politics of languages of education in West Africa, between Arabic and vernaculars; the fate of Arabic as a universal Islamic language more generally across various regions; the rise of English and French as authoritative languages of Muslim discourse in colonial and post-colonial settings; and relationships between nationalisms, languages, and universal versus local religious communities. Travel and lodging arrangements for the workshop participants will be provided. 300 word abstracts by 1 September 2010 via www.stanford.edu/dept/islamic_studies/socconst.fb

'Africa in World Politics', 2011 Africa Conference, The University of Texas at Austin, USA, 25–27 March 2011. Africa is too often regarded as being on the periphery of the world political arena, when in fact the nations of Africa have played an important, although often tactically manipulated, role in global affairs. What was Africa's historical place in world politics? How did independence and the Cold War change this locality? What is Africa's role today and what needs to be done to ensure that international forums hear African voices in the future?

Potential paper topics include: Africa in the Ancient and Medieval Worlds (Africa in the Medieval Islamic World, Indian Ocean trade, Egypt and Carthage in the Classical World); the politics of the Atlantic Slave Trade; Pan-Africanism and its global political implications; African colonies' role in the new European nationalism of the late nineteenth century; Africa and Africans in the World Wars; Africa in the United Nations and the United Nations in Africa; Strategic political alignment during the Cold War; Africa and the Non-Aligned Nations; African nations as 'third world' or 'developing' nations; Africa's changing role in the context of North-South relations; Africa's relations with the United States, EU, and the individual countries of Europe in the post-Cold War geopolitical situation; the rise of China, India, and Japan interests in Africa and their political implications; Africa, Africans, and the politics of transnational communities; African representation in international institutions, ranging from the economic (IMF and World Bank) to those concerned with health and human services (The Red Cross/Crescent and WHO); the effectiveness and role of African political institutions such as the African Union and the previous Organization for African Unity; cultural expressions of political realities, including political protest in the forms of music, literature, film and art, both in Africa and throughout the diaspora; forms of transnational political protest; the concern over global terrorism and the instability of African nations; Africa in the international courts, addressing issues of piracy, crimes of pharmaceutical companies, genocide; and the political implications of past and present world financial crises. 250 word abstract by 30 November 2010 to Toyin Falola: toyin.falola@mail.utexas.edu and Jessica Achberger/Charles Thomas: africaconference2011@gmail.com

'African Engagements: On Whose Terms?', AEGIS 4th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS 4), Uppsala, Sweden, 15–18 June 2011. AEGIS, the African Studies in Europe Network, convenes a biennial European Conference on African Studies (ECAS); previous conferences have been held in London (2005), Leiden (2007), and Leipzig (2009). Founded in 1991, AEGIS is a network of university and non-university centres of African Studies based in Europe. It aims to create synergies between experts and institutions. With its primary emphasis on Social Sciences and Humanities, the main goal of AEGIS is to improve the understanding of contemporary African societies. AEGIS members include Barcelona, Basel, Bayreuth, Birmingham, Bologna, Bordeaux, Copenhagen, Edinburgh, Göteborg, Hamburg, Leiden, Leipzig, Leuven, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Mainz, Naples, Oxford, Paris, Porto, Trondheim and Uppsala.

The conference is open to all disciplines and methodological approaches in the social sciences and humanities. The Organising Committee strongly encourages panel proposals that look into how the world can study and engage a resurgent Africa on the basis of mutual respect. Critical questions relate to how Africans can define their own priorities and partnerships, and with which voice(s)? Who are, and can be Africa's real partners in the quest for mutually beneficial (re)engagements and on whose terms? This perspective highlights topics such as the cultural representation and misrepresentation of Africa; media, information and communication in Africa in the age of globalization; visual arts: re-creating Africa in the image(s) of the times; Africa in global sports; trade and regional integration; the changing nature of Africa's international relations; Euro-African relations; Africa and the emerging powers; Africa in the global financial crisis; the agrarian question; social policy and development in Africa; globalization and manufacturing; managing fast growing African cities; human rights and human security; democracy, peace and conflict resolution; economic growth and poverty reduction; gender relations in Africa; migration, diaspora and development, to name a few. Presentations should explore the means of expanding opportunities and spaces which can allow for multi-disciplinary knowledge production.

The official conference language is English. The organisers invite proposals for panels of four papers, with a chair and a discussant. Proposals should include panel title; names and affiliations of panel participants; a 250 word outline describing the panel topic; and sent by 15 August 2010 to: ECAS4@nai.uu.se

...Conferences Past

'Shaping the Heritage Landscape: Perspectives from East and Southern Africa' British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA), Nairobi, Kenya, 5–6 May 2010. Scholars working on heritage and memory issues in East and Southern Africa gathered at the BIEA for a stimulating workshop, which featured Professor Terence Ranger as keynote speaker on 'Contested Heritage in Zimbabwe'.

Funded by the British Academy, the workshop attracted a wide cross-section of people including political scientists, historians, anthropologists, students, archivists, museologists, writers, publishers and representatives from Kenyan human rights groups. The event was organised by Dr Lotte Hughes of the Open University (a member of ASAUK Council), with fellow researchers Professor Karega-Munene of United States International University, Nairobi, and Professor Annie Coombes of Birkbeck College, University of London. They are engaged in a three-year Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded project, 'Managing Heritage, Building Peace: Museums, Memorialisation and the Uses of Memory in Kenya', while Hughes and Munene are also involved in a British Academy-funded UK-Africa Partnership project that runs concurrently. The three presented briefly on work in progress.

A panel on 'commemorating heroes and the heroic' featured Dr Neil Carrier, who described the legacy of Giriama resistance leader Mekatilili; Professor Heike Becker, who presented on the Namibian National Heroes Acre, and Kiprof Lagat, of National Museums of Kenya, who spoke about commemoration of the August 1998 bombings in Nairobi. A second panel, on 'community, language, spirituality and politics in relation to cultural expression' featured Dr Belle Asante Tarsitani, who spoke about the regional museum boom in Ethiopia; Professor Frederick Kang'ethe Iraki, who described the importance of Sheng as a hybrid language spoken by Kenyan youth; Dr Sada Mire, who presented on the historical significance of sacred landscapes in the Horn of Africa; and Timothy Gachanga, who spoke about the history of the pacifist Akorino faith group in Kenya.

Common themes that emerged and sparked lively debate included contestation over the custodianship of heritage; problems presented by the lack of inclusive historical narratives at national and local level; the challenges of commemorating liberation struggles; official suppression of public memory and what this can lead to; and tensions between the community-driven and state-led heritage sectors. Some workshop papers will be made available on the research project website: www.open.ac.uk/Arts/ferguson-centre/memorialisation/index.html

Dr Lotte Hughes, Lecturer in African Arts and Cultures, The Ferguson Centre for African and Asian Studies, The Open University: l.hughes@open.ac.uk

'Africa Matters: Celebrating 40 Years of the Canadian Association of African Studies', Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, 5–7 May 2010. This year's CAAS conference marked the Association's 40th anniversary. The choice of venue recognised the historical role of Carleton University as scene of the first CAAS conference in 1970, and marked the recent opening of the Institute of African Studies there under the directorship of Zimbabweanist Blair Rutherford. The conference attracted some 260 delegates, mainly from Canada, but also from African countries, the US, the UK and elsewhere.

The conference theme sought to open spaces to explore current and future ways in which 'Africa matters' and this was reflected in the diversity of panels (around 50 in total) and other events, some in French or bilingual. Notable strands included conflict, human displacement and peace-building; nationalism, state formation and governance; ethnic, cultural and religious identity and politics; conservation, environment and climate change; globalisation and Africa; health and education; development and poverty; and slavery, migration, diaspora and memory. CAAS also awarded its two annual prizes at the conference. The Joel Gregory Prize for the best African Studies book by a Canadian or African who has studied in Canada went to Bob White (University of Montreal) for *Rumba Rules: The Politics of Dance Music in Mobutu's Zaire* (Duke University Press, 2008). The Fraser Taylor Prize for the best postgraduate paper presented at the previous conference went to Jesse Ovadia (York University) for 'Stepping back from the brink: a review of the 2008 Ghanaian election from the capital of the Northern Region'.

Typically of CAAS conferences, the focus was not purely academic but also concerned with Canadian (and wider Western) policy engagement with Africa. This came out particularly strongly in two plenary sessions. First, in the roundtable 'CAAS@40 – African Studies in Canada', at which John Saul (York University), long-time supporter of liberation politics in Africa, highlighted the familiar tensions between research and a more direct, critical engagement with policy and praxis. Noting the (arguable) absence now of a clear mobilising force like the anti-apartheid struggle, the speakers called for academics still to put, and keep, Africa on the policy agenda. Second, in the panel 'Africa Matters: Two Perspectives', provided by Ian Smillie (known for his work on 'conflict diamonds') and Rita Abrahamsen (University of Ottawa; co-editor of *African Affairs*). Professor Abrahamsen argued that it is as important as ever to argue that 'Africa matters', but that this comes with the risk of feeding processes of 'securitisation' on the continent, through which conflicts and other issues are increasingly seen through a narrative of terrorism and a politics of fear.

Finally, the conference marked the maturation of recent changes in CAAS. Association membership is no longer through payment of dues but through 'service': attending CAAS conferences, writing for the *Canadian Journal of African Studies* (now published in electronic as well as print format), donation, or participation on the CAAS listserv. Defining itself as an open 'community of like-minded Africanists', rather than as a subscription body, is perhaps a bold step, but an interesting one to watch. The 2011 CAAS conference will be hosted by the Harriet Tubman Institute at York University, Toronto.

Dr Martin Evans, Lecturer in International Development Studies, University of Chester:
m.evans@chester.ac.uk

'Predictability and Unpredictability in Africa', Researching Africa Day Workshop, St Antony's College, University of Oxford, 15 May 2010. The eleventh annual Researching Africa Day workshop was organised by the students and staff of the University of Oxford's African Studies Centre. The workshop provides graduate students with the opportunity to present their original research, network with fellow researchers, and develop ideas in a constructive and engaging environment. This year's workshop attracted over 70 participants from universities across the UK, Europe, and North America and from a range of disciplines including anthropology, political science, economics, history, development studies, religious studies, literature and geography.

Following an opening address by Dr David Pratten, Director of Oxford's African Studies Centre, which highlighted the potential of studying uncertainties and contingencies, fourteen papers were presented by graduate students over the day's schedule of four panels. Drawing from research done across different parts of Africa, presenters examined the role of uncertainty in the lives of refugees and rebels; questioned the impacts of development projects and international aid; discussed the politics of representation and narrative in oral histories, media representation and popular fiction; and investigated predictability and unpredictability in governance and corruption, voting patterns, religious initiatives, and medical research. Each panel of papers stimulated broad-ranging discussions between the audience and presenters of the implications for societies within and beyond Africa.

The day closed with an address by Professor William Beinart that reflected on how this selection of contemporary research relates to previous decades of scholarship in and about Africa. Professor Beinart challenged workshop participants to continue to study the complexities readily apparent among African societies and to critically reflect upon the relationships between politics, history, ideology and culture at play in each research question and approach.

Funding from the African Studies Association of the UK and the University of Oxford's African Studies Centre made this workshop possible.

Michelle Osborn – michelle.osborn@exeter.ox.ac.uk – and
Elizabeth Cooper – elizabeth.cooper@sant.ox.ac.uk

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Andrew Kerim Arsan (2010) 'Lebanese Migrants in French West Africa, 1898-1939', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Megan Vaughan.

Veit Klemens Bachmann (2009) 'Regulating Geopolitical Space: EU Interaction with East Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Plymouth. Supervisors: Professor James Sidaway and Dr Patrick Holden.

Helen Rachel Barnes (2009) 'How Does a Democratic Deprivation Approach Compare to a Resource Poverty Approach when Measuring Child Poverty in South Africa?', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Michael Noble.

Jude Ikechukwu Eze (2009) 'Modelling HIV/AIDS epidemic in Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, University of Glasgow. Supervisor: Professor John McColl; <http://theses.gla.ac.uk/642/>

Janice Sarah Golding (2008) 'Herbarium-based Trait Studies on Plant Extinction Risk in the Flora Zambesiaca Region, South-central Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Robert Whittaker, Dr Paul Smith and Dr Terry Dawson.

Owen P. M. Horwood (2009) 'The Challenge of Change: A Study of Water Governance in the Olifants River Basin, South Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Rachael McDonnell.

Jeffrey Isima (2009) 'Demilitarisation Nigeria and South Africa Compared', Ph.D thesis, University of Cranfield. Supervisors: Dr Ann Fitz-Gerlad and Dr Robin Luckham.

Rick James (2009) 'Exploring OD and Leadership Development with NGOs in Africa', Ph.D thesis, City University, London. Supervisor: Professor Jenny Harrow.

Megan Jones (2010) 'Constructing the City: Literary Representations of Johannesburg, 1921-2006', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Christopher Warnes.

Ben Lampert (2010) 'Diaspora and Development? Nigerian Organisations in London and Their Transnational Linkages with "Home"', Ph.D thesis, University College London. Supervisors: Dr Ben Page and Dr JoAnn McGregor.

Philippa Lane (2009) "'Heroes as Ordinary People": A Social and Cultural History of Political Imprisonment in South Africa, 1960-1992', Ph.D thesis, University of Essex. Supervisor: Dr Jeremy Krikler.

Festo Mkenda (2009) 'Building National Unity in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Impact of State Policies on the Chagga Community in Northern Tanzania', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Jan-Georg Deutsch.

Rachel Heidi Moffat (2009) 'Perspectives on Africa in Travel Writing: Representations of Ethiopia, Kenya, Republic of Congo and South Africa, 1930-2000', Ph.D thesis, University of Glasgow. Supervisor: Dorothy McMillan; <http://theses.gla.ac.uk/1639/>

Laura Charlotte Pechey (2010) 'Colonising Creatures: Animals in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century South African Writing in English', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisors: Dr John Harvey, Professor Ato Quayson, Dr Priyamavada Gopal and Dr Christopher Warnes.

Tracey Reimann-Dawe (2009) 'Time Identity and Nation in German Travel Writing on Africa, 1848-1914', Ph.D thesis, University of Durham. Supervisor: Professor Nicholas Saul; <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/165/1/ethesis.pdf>

Ingrid Shaw (2009) 'Income Inequality and the Decision to Steal: A Series of Experimental Investigations [South Africa and UK]', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Abigail Barr and Dr Pedro Vicente.

Abigail Stone (2009) 'Multi-proxy Reconstructions of Late Quaternary Environments in Western Southern Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor David S. G. Thomas and Professor Heather Viles.

Ginette Louise Warr (2009) 'Chronology of the Western Limeworks Australopithecine Site, Makapansgat, South Africa: Magnetostratigraphy, Biochronology and Implications for Hominin Evolution', D.Phil thesis, University of Liverpool. Supervisor: Dr Alf G. Latham.

Recent Publications

Akanmu G. Adebayo, Olutayo Adesina and Rasheed Oyewole Olaniyi (2010) *Marginality and Crisis: Globalization and Identity in Contemporary Africa*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books. 294 pages, 978-0-7391-4556-2, £44.95.

Stephen Adebajji Akintoye (2010) *A History of the Yoruba People*. Dakar: Amalion Publishing. 512 pages, 978-2-35926-005-2, £40.99.

Ralph A. Austen (2010) *Trans-Saharan Africa in World History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 176 pages, 978-0195337884, £12.99.

Steve Bloomfield (2010) *Africa United: How Football Explains Africa*. Edinburgh: Canongate. 352 pages, 978-1847676580; £12.99.

Judith A. Byfield, LaRay Denzer and Anthea Morrison (eds) (2010) *Gendering the African Diaspora: Women, Culture, and Historical Change in the Caribbean and Nigerian Hinterland*. Indiana: Indiana University Press. 344 pages; hardcover: 978-0253354167, £49.00; paperback: 978-0253221537, £16.99.

Manthia Diawara (2010) *African Film: New Forms of Aesthetics and Politics*. London: Prestel. 320 pages, 978-3-7913-4342-6, £19.95.

Ulf Engel and Paul Nugent (eds) (2010) *Respacing Africa*. Leiden: Brill. 218 pages, 978-9004178335, £55.00.

Jan-Bart Gewald, Sabine Luning, and Klaas van Walraven (eds) (2009) *The Speed of Change: Motor Vehicles and People in Africa, 1890-2000*. Leiden: Brill. 300 pages, 978-9004177352, £40.00.

David Killingray (2010) *Fighting for Britain: African Soldiers in the Second World War*. Woodbridge: James Currey Publishers, 301 pages, 978-1847010155, £45.00.

Marjorie Keniston McIntosh (2009) *Yoruba Women, Work and Social Change*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. 352 pages; 978-0253352798, hardcover, £47.00; 978-02533220547, paperback, £15.99.

Obi Nwakanma (2010) *Christopher Okigbo, 1930-67: Thirsting for Sunlight*. Woodbridge: James Currey Publishers. 304 pages, 978-1847010131, £55.00.

Kenya-related theses

A new database for searching for Kenya-related theses – <http://www.researchkenya.org/> – contains more than 12,000 records of theses and dissertations undertaken in Kenya, collected together by the Kenya Information Preservation Society (KIPS).

New Journal: Settler Colonial Studies

Settler Colonial Studies is a peer reviewed academic journal, which is published twice a year. The editors have established it to respond to what is believed to be a growing demand for reflection and critical scholarship on settler colonialism as a distinct social and historical formation. The journal aims to present multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research, involving areas like history, law, genocide studies, indigenous, colonial and postcolonial studies, historical geography, economics, politics, sociology, international relations, political science, literary criticism, cultural and gender studies and philosophy. The journal is thematic, and the first theme to be addressed will be 'What is Settler Colonialism?' However, the editors will consider articles that do not align with this theme. For details: <http://ojs.lib.swin.edu.au/index.php/settlercolonialstudies>

The Social History of Alcohol and Drugs: An Interdisciplinary Journal

This is a peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to publishing high-quality original academic research, reflection essays and reviews in the field of alcohol and drug history, broadly construed. The editor-in-chief invites authors with a focus on Africa from a range of disciplines to submit papers on the wide range of topics within the journal's purview. General topics include the manufacture, prohibition, consumption and regulation of alcohol, drugs (recreational and pharmaceutical), tobacco, coffee, and so on. The disciplinary focus can be broad, from economic, business, political, social, cultural history, to sociology, anthropology and criminology. The journal remains a history journal, however, so the main focus of papers needs to be historical.

SHAD is published under the auspices of the Alcohol and Drug History Society (ADHS) twice annually, in the winter and summer of each year. To submit a paper for consideration, authors should send either three copies of a printed manuscript or one digital version in MS Word or WordPerfect format to the Editor-in-Chief. Digital copies are preferred, and will usually be evaluated much more quickly than hard copy submissions. The journal aspires to have decisions to the authors within one or two months of paper submission. For more information, contact Dan Malleck, editor-in-chief of SHAD: dmalleck@brocku.ca or view the society's website: <http://historyofalcoholanddrugs.typepad.com>

News

'Wilfred Thesiger in Africa: A Centenary Exhibition', Pitts Rivers Museum, Oxford, 4 June 2010–5 June 2011. Marking the centenary of the renowned British traveller and writer Sir Wilfred Thesiger's birth, this major new exhibition will show a wide selection of his photographs – many for the first time. They relate to his life and travels in Africa, and include images from Ethiopia, Sudan, Morocco, Tanzania and Kenya. Also on show will be a selection of objects collected by Thesiger and later donated to the Pitt Rivers Museum. The exhibition will be accompanied by a major new publication by the Pitt Rivers Museum and HarperCollins, *Wilfred Thesiger in Africa* (published May 2010).

The Commission for Africa published its Report in March 2005. *Our Common Interest* contained a large number of Recommendations, which formed the basis of the G8 Gleneagles Summit Communiqué in July of that year. At a Press Conference held at the World Economic Forum meetings in Dar es Salaam in early May 2010, the Commission announced that it planned to produce a follow-up Report in advance of the UN Summit in New York in September 2010. This would focus on the extent to which the Recommendations of its earlier Report had been implemented. Further details at: www.commissionforafrica.info/

Professor Gareth Austin is moving in September from the London School of Economics to a chair at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. The annual African Economic History Workshop, which he has run at the Department of Economic History at LSE during 2005-10, will continue. Next year's will be in Geneva, probably in May.

New Book Editor of the *Journal of Modern African Studies*. Professor Rosaleen Duffy of the University of Manchester has stepped down as book reviews editor for the *Journal of Modern African Studies* after ten years' noted service. The new editor is Dr Nic Cheeseman and his contact details are: Book Reviews Editor, JMAS, African Studies Centre, 13 Bevington Road, Oxford, OX2 6LH; nicholas.cheeseman@politics.ox.ac.uk

Post-Doctoral Fellowships, Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies. Funded by the German Research Foundation as part of the Excellence Initiative, the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) offers two post-doctoral fellowship positions for two years starting 1 November 2010. The positions are designed to provide intensive training and mentoring for research leadership and faculty service. The fellow will be expected to accomplish the following: develop an independent and interdisciplinary research project in the field of African Studies as represented within BIGSAS and submit a full proposal for research funding; lead a Working Group with doctoral students of BIGSAS, attend BIGSAS colloquia and senior scholar meetings and offer one course per term; provide assistance within BIGSAS activities, including ongoing Graduate School Research Areas; and conform to standards of responsible conduct in research and comply with all applicable University and departmental policies and procedures. The appointees will hold a Ph.D or equivalent doctorate (ScD, MD, PsyD). Candidates with non-German degrees may be required to provide proof of degree equivalency. Linguistic skills/competences: fluent English; advanced oral skills in German are welcome. Full CV and an outline of the envisaged research project by 30 September 2010 to Dymitr Ibriszimow: bigsas@uni-bayreuth.de

Africa Collaborative Research Programme Visiting Research Fellowships, University of Cambridge, October 2011–March 2012. The Centre of African Studies, with the generous assistance of the Leverhulme Trust and the Isaac Newton Trust, is pleased to announce an African Collaborative Research Programme to be held at the University of Cambridge. Fellows will have access, by agreement, to the holdings of Faculty and Departmental libraries, to the library of the Centre of African Studies and to the University Library, which houses the extensive collection of materials relating to the history of the Commonwealth formerly housed in the Royal Commonwealth Society Library in London. Fellows will be affiliated to Wolfson College. Each award is worth up to £10,000, out of which travel, accommodation, maintenance costs and medical insurance will be paid by the Centre on behalf of the fellow. The Centre is not able to provide additional sums for anyone accompanying the Fellow to Cambridge. The sum is not subject to tax in the UK.

The 2011-12 Fellowships will be centred on the theme of *Citizenship, Belonging and Political Community in Africa*. As demonstrated by the battles over inclusion and exclusion which have animated recent elections in Africa, struggles over citizenship are increasingly central to African political life. Yet though engagement with the concept of citizenship often privileges its character as a legal category relating the individual to the territorial nation-state, citizenship can also be historicised as simply one prominent conceptualisation amongst others of 'belonging' to a political community, and so as part of a wider set of frameworks through which shifting and competing modes of political life have

found articulation. Thinking historically and comparatively about citizenship and belonging calls for a reconsideration of important themes in African history and politics, including nationalism and ethnic identity, vocabularies of political accountability and claim-making, the limits and possibilities of liberal thought, and the relationship between individual and community. This theme will allow scholars from a variety of disciplines to explore issues related to the nature of citizenship, belonging, and political community in Africa, both in the past and in the present.

Applicants should note that for security reasons neither applications nor references can be accepted via email and should make arrangements accordingly. The closing date for completed applications is 1 October 2010. Full information at: http://www.african.cam.ac.uk/grants_cambridge.htm

Obituary

Nick Selbie, who was Treasurer of the Royal African Society from 2003 to 2008, died suddenly and unexpectedly of a brain haemorrhage on 4th March 2010, aged 64 years. Nick had a long association with Africa and knew the continent well. He was part of the VSO programme in Malawi in the 1960s and met his wife, Joyce, while he was working there. Subsequently, during a long career in the CDC (Commonwealth Development Corporation) and Actis he was involved in many investments in Africa. For a period in the 1990s he was responsible for CDC's whole portfolio in Africa. Nick was much liked and respected and will be missed by friends and colleagues.

Innes Meek, Current RAS Treasurer

Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the next *Newsletter* by 15 September 2010 to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, Plan, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6JG, UK or simon.heap@plan-international.org or effaheap@aol.com

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

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Check the website: www.asauk.net