



African Studies Association of the UK

NEWSLETTER

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Leeds African Studies Unit under Threat of Closure

Word has just come to the *Newsletter* about the threatened closure of the Leeds University African Studies Unit. Leeds University has had a long association with African studies and African students, numbering Wole Soyinka and Eldred and Marjorie Jones among its most distinguished alumni. The University is widely known for its strengths in the study of African politics, African development, African literature and African theatre. The African Studies Unit, now thirty-four years old, has been a centre of productive activity, publishing the *Leeds African Studies Bulletin* and organizing international conferences and multidisciplinary symposia. The threatened closure follows closely on the termination of the Centre for South African Studies at York, and represents a further erosion of support for the academic study of Africa just at a time when African issues are receiving increased attention from the government, in the press and among the public at large. The future of the Unit is now under review, but the *Newsletter* understands this review is part of a broader review of several departments, and that there is no panellist with any expertise on Africa, area studies or inter-disciplinary projects. Ray Bush writes in the forthcoming issue of the *Bulletin*:

As many of you already know, the Unit has not received any University funding for more than two years. At the time of writing the University has established a committee to look into the future of the African Studies Unit but this 'review' comes after two years of university temporising and three Unit business plans. In its 34th year, the ASU has dramatically raised the profile of African Studies. The Unit has continued to convene regular interdisciplinary seminars on African topics, to publish its Newsletter and this *Bulletin*. It has also initiated the wonderfully successful Annual African Studies Lecture series with such distinguished speakers as Jack Mapanje, Femi Osofisan and Michael Barratt Brown. There will not be a 4th Lecture in 1998, and it would seem there will be no International Conference in September 1999.

At no point for many years has the time been more right for a proper detailed debate about the future of Africa. The World Bank and other international financial agencies are optimistic that average economic growth levels of 4% per annum will assist the continent in its struggle to throw off the yoke of international debt. And the G8 countries, after an initiative from UK Chancellor Gordon Brown are considering a quicker response to the needs of the most heavily indebted—albeit still with linkages to political as well as economic conditionalities and nothing that will be very effective until the year 2000.

Arguments about the intellectual merits of continuing a Unit on Africa, which has these interests and many others besides as its focus, seem incontrovertible. A hope that a University might extend a strong commitment to

the Unit's range of activities, not least of which is to support more than 300 students from Africa, now seems slim. I regret it is unlikely that you will receive this *Bulletin* next year.

Letters of support for the activities of the Unit can be addressed to Professor Alan Wilson, Vice Chancellor, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT. We would welcome a copy of anything that is sent.

The *Newsletter* urges all Africanists, especially those who have attended and benefited from the Leeds conferences, lectures and seminars to write in support of the Unit.

Meetings, Lectures and Events

18-26 July: '*Rhythm sticks*', the festival of percussion and drumming from across the globe will be taking place at the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Purcell Room on the South Bank. Workshops, performances and masterclasses will be given by some of the best musicians and percussionists from around the world including Trilok Gurtu, Jack DeJohnette, Evelyn Glennie, Phil Collins and Peter Erskine. Further information available online at: www.sbc.org.uk

ASAUK Biennial Conference

A draft programme for the 14-16 September biennial conference has been sent to all ASAUK members. The conference will be held at SOAS and is open to members and non-members. Pre-conference booking is due by 14 August. A late conference booking fee of £15.00 will be charged for bookings received after that. The All-in Conference Fee (including accommodation & meals) is £115.00 for members and paper-givers, £140.00 for non-members, and £120.00 for student or unwaged non-members. Separate rates are available for daily attendance. Contact Lindsay Allan, ASAUK, SOAS, Thornhaugh St., Russell Sq, London WC1H 0XG (tel: +44-(0)171-323-6253; fax: +44-(0)171-436-3844; email: ras@soas.ac.uk).

The provisional programme lists the following panels.

14 September:

Session 1 '*Drugs & Society*' (David Simon, convener), '*Longitudinal studies in African social science*' (Bill Kensy & Debbie Potts, convenors), '*Sierra Leone/Liberia*' (Alfred Zack-Williams, convener), '*Foreign policy in the new Southern Africa*' (Christopher Clapham, convener).

Session 2 '*Asante modernities*' (Tom McCaskie, convener), '*Adapting to socio-economic change in Southern Africa*' (Angela Browne, convener), '*Ethno-regional problems in Ethiopia*' (Paul Baxter, convener), '*Democratization*' (Roy May, convener).

15 September:

Session 3 '*Hidden livelihoods, self help: indigenous capitalism*' (Tim Allen, convener), '*Africans in diaspora*' (Shubi Ishemo, convener), '*War and regional security in East Central Africa: Uganda as a regional power broker*' (Mel McNulty, convener), '*Youth cultures*' (Paul Spencer, convener).

Session 4 '*Changing historiography of the transfer of power in Africa*' (Richard Rathbone, convener), '*Party and politics in Kenya*' (David Throup, convener),

'Cultural transitions in Africa' (Ato Quayson, convenor), 'Structural Adjustment and debt relief--a discussion panel' (Tim Allen, convenor).

Session 5 'The African state today' (Tom Young, convenor), 'Current land struggles in Southern Africa' (Robin Palmer, convenor), 'Religion and the media in Nigeria' (Louis Brenner, convenor), 'State security and human rights in Kenya' (John Lonsdale, convenor).

Session 6 'Uganda and Ghana compared' (Michael Twaddle, convenor), 'Murder in colonial Africa' (Colin Murray, convenor), 'Making and keeping the peace in Africa' (Nici Nelson, convenor), 'Conflict resolution in natural resource management' (Roger Blench, convenor).

16 September:

Session 7 'Politics of the environmental policy process in Africa' (Melissa Leach, convenor), 'Religion, post nationalism, post colonialism' (Dick Werbner, convenor), 'Human rights accountability: issues of justice, conflict resolution and reconciliation' (Martin Hill, convenor), 'Public morality and conflict in Kenya' (John Lonsdale, convenor).

Presidential Address (J D Y Peel). AGM.

Conferences Future...

Conference listings may appear twice: one short and one long, the second notice appearing in the nearest quarterly number prior to the conference date. Organisers are invited to keep the Newsletter up-to-date with any changes or additions to earlier notices.

UNITED KINGDOM

10-12 September: 'Coffee production and economic development, c1700-c1960', St Antony's College, Oxford. Contact: William G. Clarence-Smith (tel: +44(0)171-323-6061; fax +44(0)171-323-6046 or +44(0)1865-434841; email: wc2@SOAS.ac.uk).

14-18 September: 2nd European Congress on Tropical Medicine, of the Federation of European Societies for Tropical Medicine and International Health, on 'Tropical health for the 21st Century: clone, cure and control', Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Contact: M Hommel, European Congress Office, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Pembroke Place, Liverpool L3 5QA (tel: +44-(0)151-708-9393; fax: +44-(0)151-708-8733; email: eurocong@liv.ac.uk; website: <http://www.liv.ac.uk/lstm/eurocong.html>).

26 September: 'De-industrialisation in sub-Saharan Africa: myth or crisis?', at the Development and Project Planning Centre, University of Bradford will examine the question whether the shrinking of industry in the last decade and a half constitutes de-industrialisation, with the loss of accumulated industry experience in Africa, or a necessary reallocation of resources as inefficient activities contract and more efficient ones expand. The keynote speaker will be Paul Collier. Conference fee is £30 (including lunch and all conference papers), or £10 for students (excluding lunch). Contact: Lesley Knight (tel: +44-(0)1274-383872; fax: +44-(0)1274-385280; email: l.j.knight@bradford.ac.uk), Hossein Jalilian (tel: +44-01274-385261; email: h.jalilian@bradford.ac.uk), or John Weiss (tel: +44-(0)1274-385271), Development and Project Planning Centre, University of Bradford, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD7 1DP.

13-14 November: 'Sudan: 100 years after Umdurman: history, modernity and identity', to be held at SOAS, organized by the Sudan Studies Society, UK and the

Sudan Studies Centre (UK). Contributions are invited from all those interested in Sudan's history, society, politics and current affairs. A century after the battle of Umdurman Sudan still appears uncertain about its future. Apart from political instability, civil war and economic problems there are still questions about the nation's identity, the country's political system and its territorial integrity. Abstracts should be sent by the end of August to: M.K. Abdalla, Sudan Studies Centre, 27 Quernmore Road, London N4 4QT (tel: +44-(0)171-244-7362; fax: +44-(0)171-724-4996; email: ssc@karmagraphics.com), or Peter Woodward, Sudan Studies Society of the UK, Dept of Politics, University of Reading, Reading (fax: +44-(0)1189-753833; email: P.R.Woodward@reading.ac.uk).

INTERNATIONAL

30-31 July: The Zimbabwe International Book Fair (1-8 August) will be preceded by a two day seminar on *'The condition of the child in contemporary Africa'*, to be held at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe. For further information contact: Dr. Alois S. Mlambo, Department of Economic History, University of Zimbabwe, MP 167, Mt. Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe, email: root@ecohist.uz.zw; or Professor Ngwabi Bhebe, History Department, University of Zimbabwe, MP 167, Mt. Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe; email: root@history.uz.zw

21-23 September 1998: International seminar on *'Globalization in the Southwest Indian Ocean: Mauritius and Neighbouring Islands'*, organized by International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, The Netherlands; Mauritian National Committee for the Celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Dutch Landing in Mauritius; University of Mauritius. Supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Conference papers in English and French. Deadline for application, registration and submission of papers, 1 July. All inquiries to International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Scientific co-ordinator of the Seminar, Drs Sandra Evers, PO BOX 9515, 2300 RA Leiden; tel/fax direct: 31 20 4705860; email: SEVERS@PSCW.UVA.NL.

10-11 October: *'Slave elites in Africa and the Middle East'*, organized by the Islamic Area Studies Project of the University of Tokyo, to consider issues relating to the study of slave elites and Islam transregionally. Contact: Toru Miura (email: miura-t@pis.bekkoame.or.jp), or John Edward Philips (email: philips@gol.com), Islamic Area Studies Project, University of Tokyo, Bungakubu, Annex, 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, 113-003, Japan (tel: +81-3-5684-3285; fax: +81-3-5684-3279)

21-23 October: International symposium on *'The development perspective of Africa toward the 21st Century'*, in Beijing. Contact: Prof. Yang Guang, Institute of West-Asian & African Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, PO Box 1120, Beijing 100007, China (tel: +86-10-6403-9163; fax: 86-10-6403-5718).

1-2 December: The fourth annual International Herald Tribune *'Southern Africa Trade & Investment Summit'* will be held in Cape Town on December 1-2, 1998. The meeting will bring together the international investor community with government and business leaders from the region for two days of discussion and networking at the Cape Sun Intercontinental. The fee for the two day conference will be £850. Contact: Fiona Cowan, International Herald Tribune, 63 Long Acre, London WC2E 9HJ; fax: +44 (0)171 836 4802.

1999: At the suggestion of the European Commission the Lisbon Centro de Estudos Africanos (CEA) proposes to organize in Mozambique in 1999, a 3-4 day colloquium on *'The reconstruction of African rural communities'*, in collaboration with other centres of the AEGIS network and, as a matter of course, with relevant African institutions. Eduardo Costa Dias (Centro de Estudos Africano-ISCTE) has agreed to develop this project and he would be pleased for you to contact him with any suggestions. The suggestions made by the European Commission specifically

emphasize the problems related to the reconstruction of rural communities under the conditions after the civil war (e.g. Angola, Mozambique, Somalia, Sudan, Chad...). However the scope of the issues to be discussed will also include those situations resulting from ethnic conflicts (e.g. the Great Lakes) and the conflicts between states (e.g. the communities at the Mauritania-Senegal border). Contact Eduardo Costa Dias, Centre de Estudos Africanos-ISCTE, Av das Forças Armadas, 1600 Lisboa, Portugal; tel: 351-1-790 30 67; fax: 351-1-795 53 61; email: costa.dias@iscte.pt.

9-11 December 1999: *'Etre étranger et migrant en Afrique au XXème Siècle: modes d'insertion et enjeux identitaires'*, sponsored by the Laboratoire 'Sociétés en Développement dans l'Espace et Dans le Temps' (S.E.D.E.T), Université de Paris, 7/Denis-Diderot, Case 7017, 2 Place Jussieu, 75251 Paris Cedex 05, France. Papers in French, English, Portuguese and Italian. Contact: Boilley Pierre ('maitre de conférence'), tel: (33) 1 44 27 36 46; fax: (33) 1 44 27 79 87; email: sedet@ccr.jussieu.fr (mention 'Migrants et Etrangers').

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

The Newsletter depends on supervisors and successful candidates to supply us with details of new theses.

Fatma Denton, 'Foreign Policy Making in The Gambia: Small Dependent States and their Foreign Policy Choices', Centre for West African Studies, University of Birmingham (April 1998).

Fírinne Ní Chréacháin, 'Sembene in Senegal 1963-77: Radical Art in Neocolonial Society', Centre for West African Studies, University of Birmingham (May 1998)

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Listings of recently published or forthcoming books by ASAUK/RAS members. Members are invited to send in details, including number of pages, ISBN numbers, price and publication date (where known).

Stanley B. Alpern, *Amazons of Black Sparta: the Women Warriors of Dahomey* (London: C. Hurst & NY: New York University Press), 288pp. ISBN 1-85065-361-5 (cloth) £35.00; 1-85065-362-3 (paper) £14.94 (Summer 1998).

Christopher Clapham (ed.), *African Guerrillas* (Oxford: James Currey & Bloomington: Indiana University Press), 224pp. ISBN 0-85255-816-3 (cloth) £40.00; 0-85255-815-5 (paper) £14.95 (September 1998).

Patricia Hayes, Jeremy Silvester, Marion Wallace & Wolfram Hartmann (eds), *Namibia under South African Rule: Mobility & Containment 1915-46* (Oxford: James Currey, Athens OH: Ohio University Press, Cape Town: David Philip, Windhoek: Out of Africa). 384pp. ISBN: 0-85255-748-5 (cloth) £45.00; 0-85255-747-7 (paper) £15.95 (May 1998).

Suzette Heald, *Controlling Anger: The Anthropology of Gisu Violence*, new paperback edition (Oxford: James Currey, Athens OH: Ohio University Press, Kampala: Fountain Publishers), 312pp. ISBN 0-85255-246-7, £14.95 (July 1998).

David Simon (ed.), *South Africa in Southern Africa: Reconfiguring the Region* (Oxford: James Currey, Athens OH: Ohio University Press, Cape Town: David Philip), 272pp. ISBN 0-85255-412-5 (cloth) £40.00, 0-85255-411-7 (paper) £14.95 (September 1998).

ID21: New Development Research Reporting Service

The UK Department for International Development is backing an Internet-based system which links development research and researchers directly to policymakers and development practitioners around the world through a new website. Hosted by the Institute of Development Studies, the initiative is known as ID21—or Information for Development in the 21st Century. Its key feature is a searchable online collection of short, one-page (500-word) digests of the latest social and economic research studies across 30 key topic fields. ID21 is now online and can be found at: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/id21> or <http://www.id21.org>. A separate email newsletter called *ID21NEWS* is also available. To subscribe to *ID21NEWS* send a blank email message to: id21news@ids.ac.uk. In the subject field include the words: subscribe id21news (NB: to unsubscribe, follow the same procedure but substituting the word 'unsubscribe' in place of 'subscribe').

UNRISD On-line

The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development has recently re-designed its Web site. The new site, UNRISD ON-LINE, <http://www.unrisd.org>, is intended to be a source of current in-depth information on a variety of topics, including environment, ethnic conflict, gender, globalization, illicit drugs, information technology, poverty, social policy, structural adjustment, and urban governance.

Hosting for Overseas Students

HOST (hosting for overseas students) is a charity backed by the British Council and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which introduces international students at British universities to the home life and local culture of Britain. It arranges visits to family homes for overseas undergraduate and mature students studying in Britain. It is in urgent need of more volunteer hosts. Those wishing to know more about inviting a student from Africa, or elsewhere, home for a weekend or for Christmas may contact HOST: 3 New Burlington Mews, London W1R 8LU (tel: 0171-494-2468; email: host@btinternet.com).

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

Centre of African Studies, SOAS: Patrick MacAllister, Department of Anthropology & Sociology, University of the Western Cape, is the fifteenth Oppenheimer Fellow at the Centre, beginning September. He will be researching identity and memory in musical performance in South Africa. The Centre is currently inviting applications from South African academics, working in the social sciences and humanities of African Studies, for the Spring (January-April) 1999 and Autumn (September-December) 1999 Oppenheimer Fellowships. Contact the Centre of African Studies, SOAS, Thornhaugh St., Russell Sq., London WC1H 0XG.

Institute of Development Studies: Nangana Simwinji and George Eiseb took up Visiting Fellowships on 14 June and will be working with Stephen Devereux on 'Social safety nets in southern Africa'.

Bayreuth University, Germany: The following African Visiting Scholars will be based at Bayreuth University for part or all of the year 1998. Contacts may be made through Professor Eckhard Breitingger (email: eckhard.breitingger@uni-bayreuth.de). Dr. Charles A. Bodunde (University of Ilorin, Nigeria) African Literature (July 98—June 99); Prof. Dr. Koffi Anyinefa (Haverford College, USA) Romance Literature (Jan—Dec 98); Prof. Dr. Justin Kalulu Bisanswa (Institute Supérieur Pédagogique, Bukavu, Zaire) Romance Literature (Sept 97—Aug 98); Dr. Fidelis U. Okafor (University of

Nigeria) Philosophy (Sept 97—Sept 98); Dr. Godfrey Tangwa (University of Yaounde, Cameroon) Philosophy (July—Nov 98); Dr. Earnest Beyaraza (Makerere University, Uganda) Philosophy (July—Dec 98); Dr. J. Badima (Cameroun / Paris) Francophone Literature (March—Sept 98); Dr. Boureima Alpha Gado (Universite de Niamey, Niger) Sociology (March—Sept 98); Dr. Mary Esther Kropp-Dakubu (University of Ghana, Legon) African Linguistics (May—July 98).

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

Oxford University: Ann Haour has been awarded the ORISHA studentship from Michaelmas term 1998. She will be at St Cross College, doing research on long distance Hausa trading networks in the Western Sahara.

St Antony's College, Oxford University: Sara Rich (D.Phil student in politics) won the Archibald Callaway Essay Prize in African Studies. Mike McGovern (M.Phil student in social anthropology) was the runner up for the Callaway Prize and the winner of the Ranger Essay Prize in Ethnic Studies.

St Antony's is inviting applications for the Kirk-Greene Junior Research Fellowship in Tropical Africa, working in the field of 20th Century History, Politics or International Relations of Tropical Africa, to be tenable for Hilary and Trinity Terms 1999. The Fellowship is primarily intended to allow the successful candidate to write up his/her thesis for publication. Applicants must have successfully completed a doctorate or should have done so before taking up the appointment. The basic stipend of the Fellowship will be £7,500 plus research expenses and College benefits. Further particulars may be obtained from the Bursar, St Antony's College, Oxford, OX2 6JF, to whom applications should be sent not later than 15 September 1998. The College exists to promote excellence in education and research, and is an equal opportunities employer.

Return and Reintegration of Qualified African Nationals: Ethiopia

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been advised of a number of vacancies presently available to *Ethiopians* considering return to their country. In Education there are a number of vacancies for lecturers in higher education establishments outside the capital, in the Arbaminch Water Technology Institute, Bahir Dar Polytechnic Institute, Mekelle University College, and the Dilla College of Teacher Education and Health Science. In Commerce Coca Cola Ltd has vacancies for Finance Manager, Engineers, Human Resource Manager, Marketing Managers and Transport Manager. All these posts are at a high level and would require both education and work experience. IOM would be happy to advise anyone who would like further information about any of them. Ring or write to: International Organization for Migration, London Office, 26 Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RR (tel: +44-(0)171-233-0001; fax: +44-(0)171-233-3001).

Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports (of around 2-300 words) on recent conferences, announcements of forthcoming conferences, symposia and workshops (giving topic, date, venue, and contact address), announcements of the awarding of grants, fellowships and prizes, news of appointments and visiting fellowships, publication announcements of books by members, and brief articles or notices on matters of importance to Africanists in the UK. All items for inclusion in the *Newsletter* should be sent to Douglas H. Johnson, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, James Currey Publishers, 73 Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0BS (fax: (+44) (0)1865-246454), or e-mail: 106155.3441@compuserve.com. *Deadlines* are 31 December (for the January Newsletter), 25 March (for April), 25 June (for July), and 30 September (for October). Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK.