



NEWSLETTER

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WWW.ASAUK.NET

The ASAUK website has been remodelled and revived. It now carries the up-to-date list of council members, information on how to join, preliminary programmes of forthcoming ASAUK-sponsored meetings, and reciprocal links to other Africanist pages. We invite comments from all ASAUK members on the content of the website, its usefulness, and indeed, feedback on what is the website for? All thanks to Webmeister, Frau Dr. Insa Nolte, who can be contacted via the website, or at m.i.nolte@bhm.ac.uk.

DEBATING AFRICA, 13-15 SEPTEMBER, 2004 GOLDSMITHS COLLEGE LONDON

This is an important event on the UK African Studies calendar, providing a congenial venue for the presentation a large range of stimulating multi-disciplinary panels in a congenial atmosphere. Ring fence these dates in your 2004 calendar and join us, as a panel organiser, a paper giver or participant. This year the theme is 'Debating Africa', which the Council hopes will encourage thoughtful examinations of debates in a wide variety of fields.

Volunteers to organise panels or to give papers are still being solicited. Panel organisers are expected to organise 2-3 speakers on a given topic. All proposed papers and panels should be submitted to Nici Nelson, President of ASAUK (see address below) by 30 March 2004 at the latest. Naturally, the earlier the better to ensure that your proposal can be fitted in the programme.

Those panel organisers who wish to invite an African scholar can apply to ASAUK/RAS for travel funds. However these funds are limited and organisers would be well advised to also seek alternative sources of funding, such as the British Council or Ford Foundation.

The conference will also feature a Post Graduate Workshop (for details, see below).

The conference costs have yet to be calculated, though the Association makes every effort to keep the costs reasonable. There is an attractive subsidised conference rate for Post Graduates. To qualify for this rate students must be nominated by their supervisor. A short letter or email to Nici Nelson is all that is required.

Contact: Dr. Nici Nelson, Anthropology Department, Goldsmiths College, London SE14 6NW; email: n.nelson@gold.ac.uk; tel: 0207-91 9-7804.

Post Graduate Workshop

A separate Post Graduate Workshop will take place at the September 2004 Biennial Conference. This was instituted at the Birmingham Biennial and proved highly satisfactory. It will be organised and run by Patrick Shanahan. Please encourage your post graduate students who have completed fieldwork to submit papers. Contact: Patrick Shanahan, email: streetchildafrica@hotmail.com.

Audrey Richards Dissertation Prize 2004

Any dissertation successfully passed in the time period 1 January 2002 and 31 December 2004, is eligible for nomination. Supervisors must nominate the candidates. Each supervisor is asked to nominate only one candidate, please. A copy of the dissertation (which will be returned in September 2004, after the winner is announced) must be sent to Lindsay Allen, Secretary of ASAUK, accompanied by a short nomination letter from the supervisor) before 15 June, 2004. Contact: Mrs. Lindsay Allan, ASAUK, SOAS, Thornhaugh St. Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG.

Distinguished Africanist Award

The ASAUK Council has decided that in 2004 it will award 3 Distinguished Africanist awards to Africanists who have made a notable contribution to African Studies in the UK. These awards will be announced at the 2004 Biennial Conference at Goldsmiths College. Nominations must come from the membership. They should consist of a concise statement by the nominator, outlining the contributions of the nominee to African Studies in the UK, plus a *selective* CV and publication list. Nominations to Nici Nelson by the beginning of May 2004, please, to enable the Council to make the selection before the May Council meeting.

Contact: Dr. Nici Nelson, Anthropology Department, Goldsmiths College, London SE14 6NW; email: n. nelson@gold.ac.uk; tel: 0207-91 9-7804.

ASAUK 2004 Subscription Rates Council Holds the Line on Student Rates

ASAUK subscription rates will be going up for 2004. Joint ASAUK/RAS membership will be increased from £34 to £37. Existing single memberships will go up from £29 to £32 (but no new single memberships are being accepted). Student memberships remain unchanged.

Meetings, Lectures and Events

21, 22, 28, 29 Oct, 4 & 5 Nov: David Zeitlyn will give the Evans-Pritchard Lectures 2003-2004. *'Sample of one: Diko Madeleine, a senior Mambila woman's life in the 20th century'*, 5 pm in the Examination Schools, Oxford University.

24 Oct: *'Eastern African visual "traditions": new perspectives'*, a one day colloquium to be held at the New Education Centre of the Horniman Museum, 100 London

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. Organizers are invited to keep the Newsletter up-to-date with any changes or additions to earlier notices.

UNITED KINGDOM

28-29 Nov: 'Postcolonialism: the new comparatism?', Society for Francophone Postcolonial Studies. Contact Dr David Murphy, French Section, School of Modern Languages, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA; e-mail: d.f.Murphy@stir.ac.uk.

14-16 Dec: 4th International Association for Languages and Intercultural Communication (IALIC) conference, 'The intercultural narrative', proposes to investigate the various forms of this emerging genre, its theoretical foundations and its sociopolitical implications. In the context of the conference, narrative may be interpreted in the widest sense as encompassing art, film, music, photography, literature and documentary as well as the various media through which it is expressed. We understand its object to be that of capturing the state of being 'between cultures' as a consequence of physical or psychological displacement, a principle which may be reflected in the content and structure of the narrative and in the combination of media employed. It raises questions of identity: how identity is constructed through narrative, whether the ideal of coherence is attainable... and also the ethical implications of attempting to 'narrate the other', at the level of the individual or, between communities, through ethnographic study. It also raises questions of genre: what generic forms does the intercultural narrative take and how do its different discourses interact? Inally, it will consider the processes of articulation between intercultural narratives and their social contexts. The conference is interdisciplinary and is intended to appeal to researchers in the Arts and Humanities as much as to historians, social scientists and cultural theoreticians. It is being organised jointly by IALIC and the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) at Lancaster University with sponsorship from The British Academy, the *Institut Français* and the *Goethe Institut*. Contact: website: www.ialic.org; email: conference@ialic.org; or Robert Crawshaw for the Conference Organising Committee, Department of European Languages and Cultures (DELIC), Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YN, UK; tel: +44 (0)1524 592663; email: r.crawshaw@lancs.ac.uk

15-17 May 2004: 'Performing Africa: politics, development and practice'. The Leeds University Centre for African Studies (LUCAS) Biennial Conference, will centre on the crucial role of performance in contemporary Africa as a vehicle for political debate, development and cultural identity. Papers and Workshops will explore the nature of performance created to make theatre and related arts a major source of information and change throughout the continent. Keynote speakers will include leading African theatre practitioners. Professional, community and student theatre productions and workshops will illustrate aspects of African theatre today. Conference seminar groups will be devoted to the following specific themes in the conference: Arts and Development, Arts and

Gender, Theatre and Politics, Youth Arts. The Conference will be held at Weetwood Hall, Leeds. To register an interest in receiving further details relating to the conference email: african-studies@leeds.ac.uk.

30 June – 2 July 2005: AEGIS European Conference on African Studies, 1st call for panels. AEGIS was founded in 1991 as a network of European Centres of African Studies. Its current membership is Barcelona, Basel, Bayreuth, Bordeaux, Brussels, Copenhagen, Edinburgh, Hamburg, Leiden, Lisbon, London, Naples and Uppsala. For further details see <http://www.aegis-eu.org>.

The members of AEGIS propose to organise a large-scale European Conference on African Studies in 2005. The conference will be hosted by the Centre of African Studies and Institute of Commonwealth Studies of the University of London.

Scholars and graduate students interested in Africa are encouraged by the Steering Committee to submit proposals for panels on subjects across the gamut of the humanities and social sciences applied to Africa.

Panels are expected to consist of four to five papers, with a chair and a discussant. Larger panels may be accommodated over more than one session. At this stage the Steering Committee invites potential panel organisers to provide a title and some of the names of participants to be considered for inclusion in the programme. Proposals need not be in final form at this stage, since there will be a further call for papers. Panels may be organised in any EU language, however, plenary contributions will be in English or French.

The first call for panels closes 1 November 2003. Panel proposals should be submitted to the Centre of African Studies (e-mail: cas@soas.ac.uk), Centre of African Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG. Email enquiries for further information sent to the Centre of African Studies will be forwarded to the appropriate member of the AEGIS Steering Committee.

INTERNATIONAL

10-14 Nov: *'Literary manifestations of the African diaspora'*, the University of the Cape Coast, Ghana, sponsored by the University of Cape Coast and Harriet Tuhman Resource Centre on the African Diaspora, York University, in collaboration with the UNESCO Slave Route Project. Contact: Dr J. Opoku Agyemang/e-mail: diaspora@africaonline.com.gh.

2-10 Dec: Mega Chad Conference 2003, *'Man and the Lake'*, Maiduguri, Nigeria. Contact: mega.tchad@mae.u-paris10.fr; or Gisela Seidensticker-Brikay, Centre for Trans-Saharan Studies, University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria; e-mail: gilliam22002@yahoo.co.uk.

4 March 2004: Call for papers for the 2004 Breslauer Graduate Student Symposium on *'Natural resource issues in Africa'*, University of California, Berkeley. Submission deadline 15 November 2003. The 2004 Breslauer Symposium will be held at International House on the UC Berkeley campus. This symposium will provide a forum to discuss the many socio-political and biophysical dimensions of natural resources management and conservation in Africa. Graduate students from diverse fields will have the opportunity to present their research plans, experiences, and results in an interdisciplinary setting to obtain feedback and foster future collaborative efforts. Paper sessions will be chaired by faculty members with relevant expertise, and all symposium papers will be published online as a working papers series hosted by the

International and Area Studies Digital Collection. The keynote speaker for the symposium will be Marshall Murphree, Professor Emeritus from the Centre for Applied Social Sciences at the University of Zimbabwe.

All presenters at the symposium must be graduate students whose research is focused on some aspect of natural resources in Africa. The scope of working papers may include anything from well-developed research proposals, draft dissertation chapters, papers in preparation, to independent research projects. An important goal of the symposium is to stimulate cross-disciplinary dialogue, hence papers should be accessible and relevant to scholars from a variety of fields. PROPOSALS FROM GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM OTHER UNIVERSITIES ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED, although unfortunately there are no funds available for honoraria for non-Berkeley students.

Paper abstracts will be accepted on the symposium website from September 15 – November 15, 2003, and accepted authors will be notified by December 15. Abstracts should be 2-3 pages in length and a final working draft of the paper will be expected three weeks before the symposium, February 13, 2004. Authors will have six weeks after the symposium to submit the final version of their paper, which will be published online as part of the International and Area Studies working papers series. Final papers may also be eligible for online publication in the peer-reviewed UCAS Digital Collection. For additional information, please visit <http://www.ias.berkeley.edu/africa/events/breslauer>. Contact: Arielle Levine, alevine@nature.berkeley.edu; or Andy Lyons, alyons@nature.berkeley.edu.

23-24 Sept 2004: *'Le rôle du chemin de fer en Afrique: Privatisation des chemins de fer, aide au développement et sauvegarde de l'environnement'*. Université Paris 7. L'objectif de ce colloque est de réaliser un état des connaissances sur le thème 'Privatisation des chemins de fer, aide au développement et sauvegarde de l'environnement en Afrique', de présenter, de confronter et de discuter des recherches en cours ou réalisées depuis moins de dix ans sur le chemin de fer. Ce thème est pluridisciplinaire. Mots clés: chemin de fer, route, privatisation, aménagement du territoire, relation ville-campagne, disparités sociales et spatiales, exclusion, agriculture, commerce, tourisme, environnement, protection de la faune et de la flore, population pauvre, indice de développement humain, public, privé, développement durable, couloir de développement, effet structurant des marchés, de la route, du chemin de fer. Contact: email: chantal.beranger@free.fr; tel: 01 64 90 93 34; 13 rue du Bois Gaudron 91340 Ollainville, France.

2-5 June 2005: The 13th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women to be held at Scripps College, Claremont, CA. The Berkshire Conference is the largest and most influential women's history conference in the world. The last conference in 2002 attracted well over one thousand submissions for panel and paper proposals, along with participants from over thirty nations. The 'big Berks' is now one of the largest historical conferences on any topic held in the United States. The theme for the 2005 conference is *'Sin fronteras: women's histories, global conversations.'* The program committee welcomes proposals that cross geographical, cultural, and disciplinary borders, and especially those which address the plurality of histories of transnational encounters and empires. Visit the Berkshire Conference website at www.berksconference.org.

...Conferences Past

The third annual conference of the *African Studies Association of Ireland* was held on December 7th 2003 at University College, Dublin. Some 80 scholars were present. The keynote lecture was given by Prof Richard Rathbone (SOAS) on 'Great Expectations: 45 years of Ghanaian independence'. Papers were presented on a variety of subjects ranging from the environment, Structural adjustment, HIV/Aids, Islam and Christianity, South African military history, aid programmes, migrant street labour in Ghana, missionaries, the Christ Apostolic Church and Roger Casement. Further details from the Secretary of the ASAI, Dr Martin Lynn, m.lynn@qub.ac.uk.

'*Zimbabwe diasporas*', 14 June 2003, St Antony's College, Oxford, organized by the Britain Zimbabwe Society. This was attended by some eighty people, coming from the United States, Sweden, Germany and other countries, about half of the participants were Zimbabweans. The day began with a discussion of the late Masipula Sithole's 'Public Eye' columns on the Zimbabwean Diaspora. This was followed by panels on past Zimbabwe diasporas, aspects of the contemporary diaspora, the internet in the contemporary diaspora, Zimbabwe asylum seekers, and a comparison between Eritrean and Zimbabwean diasporas. A collection was taken for the Zimbabwe Association, a support network for Zimbabwean asylum seekers and refugees, particularly for those in detention.

'*African development and diaspora day*' (AD3) July 5 2003. Over 300 representatives from African diaspora groups met in Birkbeck College, London, to debate and celebrate UK-based Africans' contributions to the development of their continent. AD3 was organised by africa 21, an umbrella group of 9 London-based African organisations. The day included special workshops on issues as diverse as the role of information, communication technologies in development, challenging images of development, trade in primary commodities, fundraising and donor policy, as well as the brain drain and remittances. AD3's theme for 2003 was African youth, with new research and debate focussing on young UK-based Africans' attitudes to the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). AD3's sponsors included Birkbeck, the Community Fund, the RAS and The Centre of African Studies, University of London. For more information on africa21 and AD3 2004, contact: Onyekachi Wambu at [AFFORD - onyekachi@afford-uk.org](mailto:AFFORD-onyekachi@afford-uk.org).

The African Studies Companion, 3rd Edition

Hans Zell brought out his third edition of *The African Studies Companion: A Guide to Information Sources* in August (Hans Zell Publishing, 570pp. ISBN 0-9541029-1-6, £98.50/€158.00/\$170.00). The unique feature of the new edition of this indispensable guide is access to the online version with purchase of the print edition (they are not available separately). Purchase of the print edition entitles purchasers to free access to the companion's website for updates throughout the lifetime of the edition. Available from Hans Zell Publishing, Glais Bheinn, Lochcarron, Rosh-shire IV54 8YB, Scotland, UK. Web: www.hanszell.co.uk or www.africanstudiescompanion.com.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

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

Cathy Campbell, *'Letting them Die': Why HIV/AIDS Prevention Programmes Fail*, Oxford, James Currey (in association with the International African Institute) 192pp. ISBN 0-85-255-867-8 (cloth) £40.00; 0-85255-868-6 (paper) £12.95 (September 2003).

Drylands Research Publications

A set of forty working papers on drylands research in Africa is available from the Drylands Research website, www.drylandsresearch.org.uk. Abstracts of the papers, written either in English or French, are listed on the website. Papers can be downloaded free from the website, or ordered in hard copy for the price of postage. Address for written communications: Drylands Research, 17 Market Square, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7LG, UK

CD-ROM on Somali Women in UK

Black Women's Health And Family Support (BWHAFS), have recently produced a CD-ROM. It has been developed as a valuable resource for educators, social services, community groups, health workers, and anyone with an interest in Somali issues or international development. The CD-ROM costs £15 and is organised in five sections:

1. The history, approach, and vision of BWHAFS. In-depth interviews, oral testimonies and case studies. Details of BWHAFS international projects.

2. Female genital mutilation. Background information and practice. Work done by BWHAFS to combat this custom. National and international initiatives. Progress and obstacles.

3. Comprehensive database of Somali organisations in the UK. Printed and audiovisual resources. Websites, and places of interest.

4. Details of projects, workshops, and conferences run by BWHAFS, with reasons and background information, and lessons learned. Speeches by Shamis Dirir at external conferences on the practice of FGM and the problems faced by the Somali community.

5. Historical background to Somali immigration from 1945 onwards. History of Tower Hamlets, Somali culture, traditions, and the media.

Further information can be obtained from BWHAFS, 1st Floor, 82 Russia Lane, London E2 9LU; tel: 020 8980 3503; email: bwhafs@btconnect.com.

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

Simon Heap, a former Kirk-Green Junior Research Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford, has started a new job as Senior Policy Researcher for Plan International, one of the largest NGOs in the world.

Lancaster University: Mark Duffield, formerly of Leeds University, is taking up a Professorship in International Security at Lancaster University.

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, recently completed theses, publication announcements of books by members, and brief articles or notices on matters of importance to Africanists in the UK. **Please do not send review copies of books.** 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 (preferably as text, not as attachments). **Deadlines** are *15 December* (for the January Newsletter), *15 March* (for April), *15 June* (for July), and *15 September* (for October). Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK.

For all matters relating to membership of either the ASAUK or RAS contact Lindsay Allan, RAS/ASAUK, SOAS, Thornhaugh St., Russell Sq, London WC1H 0XG; tel: +44 (0)20 7898 4390; fax: +44 (0)20 7898 4389; email: asa@soas.ac.uk, or ras@soas.ac.uk.

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www.asauk.net