



NEWSLETTER

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ASAUK 2012

This year's ASAUK biennial conference was organised jointly with Leeds University Centre of African Studies (LUCAS) and was held at Leeds University on 6–8th September 2012. We received a total of 550 abstracts and accepted over 450. Over 500 delegates registered for the conference which was organised into thematic 'streams' on: New Articulations in African Literature and Culture; Africa, Social Media and New Communication Technologies; Money in Africa; The Database for African Development; New Directions in Malawian Scholarship; Extractive Industries and Community Development Challenges in sub-Saharan Africa; Making New Connections: Mobilities, Roads and Rural Access in Sub-Saharan Africa; Art and Literature. Streams and panels were also organised by the journals *Africa* and *Journal of Southern African Studies*, by the Congo Research Network, SCOLMA, Royal African Society and by the Yorkshire African Studies Network.

We were honoured with a plenary lecture delivered by Ngugi wa Thiong'o on 'Africa in the Language of Scholarship' and a second plenary delivered by Binyavanga Wainana. The following publishers attended the conference: Bergahn Books, Boydell and Brewer (James Currey), Cambridge University Press, Eurospan, Hurst, Taylor and Francis, Zed Press, African Book Collective and Leeds University Press.

The conference dinner on Friday evening included the award of ASAUK Distinguished Africanist to Kenneth and Pravina King and to Lalage Bown. The Audrey Richards thesis prize was awarded to Fibian Lukalo (University of Cambridge) for her Ph.D, 'Educating Daughters, Educating Sons: Mothers and Schooling in Rural Kenya'. The runners-up were Zoe Groves (University of Keele) for 'Malawians in Colonial Salisbury: a Social History of Migration in Central Africa, c.1920-1960' and to Maxim Bolt (LSE) for 'Rooting Production: Life and Labour on the Settler Farms of the Zimbabwean-South African Border'.

The *African Affairs* African Author Prize was presented to Samson A. Bezebah for his article 'Citizenship and the Logic of Sovereignty in Djibouti'. The *Journal of Modern Africa Studies* celebrated the publication of its 50th volume and we all honoured the work of Christopher Clapham, who is stepping down as editor, with a toast. Megan Vaughan delivered a Presidential address.

We are enormously grateful to all the stream and panel organisers, and especially to Leeds University and the staff of LUCAS who worked hard to make the conference such a great success, and to the Royal African Society and to the journals for financial support enabling the attendance of a large number of Africa-based scholars at the event. Particular thanks go to David Kerr for his central role in organising the conference from start to finish.

The 49th AGM of the ASAUK took place on 6th September. Megan Vaughan stepped down as President to be replaced by Stephanie Newell. David Maxwell was elected Vice-President and Insa Nolte took over as Projects Officer. The AGM expressed its deepest gratitude to David Kerr for all his work for the Association over the past five years.

ASAUK President's Speech at ASAUK 2012

I was going to begin this talk by saying that it's a particularly interesting time to be involved in African Studies. But on reflection, it has probably always been a particularly interesting time to be involved in African Studies. It must have been interesting when the African Society was founded in London in 1901 in the name of Mary Kingsley who had famously called on her peers to "think in black" when they thought about Africa. It must have been interesting in 1903 when Edward Blyden addressed the Society, arguing that African societies needed to be understood in their own terms rather than in relation to Europe.

The period of decolonization and political independence was a particularly intense and interesting time and in academic terms (in this country) marked a new beginning for African Studies. When I first became aware of this field in the late 70s and early 80s it was an interesting time in a grim sort of way, as we grappled with what was perceived as a continent-wide 'crisis'. And for the rest of the 80s and the 90s (and to some extent into the 2000s) many in the Africanist community were involved in some way or another in trying to influence, nuance and critique, historicise, the dominant discourse of 'Africa' the dark continent needing to 'saved' (or in some views, left to die), a discourse with unmistakable continuities going back to the nineteenth century and beyond to the period of slavery and abolition.

In 2000 the *Economist* published its now infamous 'Hopeless Africa' issue. In 2011, trumpeting Africa as a land of economic sunshine, the same publication acknowledged that this earlier designation had been somewhat 'regrettable'. Certainly, in retrospect, it appears to have been peculiarly poorly timed. As we

all know, in the last five years in particular, some of the most impressive economic growth rates have been recorded for African countries and this has been accompanied by a dramatic shift (at least at one level) in the dominant representations of Africa: now this is the land of hope, it's an 'emerging continent' (a particularly meaningless and geographically misleading phrase in my view) as well as an 'emerging market'. Though there are very powerful resonances in all of this of the late nineteenth century imperialist hopes and dreams and lust for Africa's hidden wealth, there's also a marked difference of course with the necessary acknowledgement that this new era (if that is what it is) has been brought about not by the investments of former colonial powers or the USA, but by the BRIC countries and amongst them, most spectacularly by China. It's clear that with this comes, potentially, a massive geopolitical shift.

What is striking, I think, about this shift in discourse, is its Manichean quality and its quasi-religious overtones. There's nothing new about this. 'Africa' is either heading for apocalypse, or it is rising phoenix-like from the ashes of civil war, famine, disease and poverty into a new dawn. What is also striking is the fact that what is 'saving' Africa is the supposedly redemptive power of capitalism. Africa is now where it's all happening, where you can still encounter capitalism in the raw. In Dambisa Moyo's words, "Africa can remind the world of the capitalist way".

I don't think that any other part of the world is viewed in quite this 'black and white way' – the discourse on India's so-called economic 'miracle', for example, is set within a more nuanced understanding of the complexity of the sub-continent's economic and social history. In psychological terms, the inability to see anything but black and white, utter darkness or blazing light, is the mark of an infantile mindset. Ambivalence, we are told, is what marks maturity. What we need is the recognition of the complexity that Professor Ngugi referred to in his lecture last night.

Clearly what is happening to (some) African economies IS quite extraordinary, so I certainly would not want to deny that. But I don't need to tell this audience, that it's still not clear what the long-term consequences will be. On the one hand, the heavy dependence of the growth figures on natural resource extraction seems to imply continuities with the late nineteenth century 'scramble' and anxieties about sustainability (not to mention equity...); on the other hand, there can be no denying the extraordinary impact of new technologies and what their spread indicates about African capacities for innovation and eagerness to participate fully in globalisation. There is some data (always open to question of course) that seems to show the overall the number of people living in poverty on the continent has fallen. At the same time, however, there is plenty of evidence of the incidence of extreme poverty, economic and social marginalisation. Wealth disparities in Africa rank amongst the biggest in the world. Maternal mortality

rates in some countries remain stubbornly high, indicating the fragility and inadequacies of public health systems even in the midst of economic growth.

Perhaps Africa's youthful population puts it at an economic advantage globally; but what if the current patterns of economic development do NOT produce the jobs a new generation, with new aspirations requires? As the central character in Tendai Huchu's *Hairdresser of Harare* puts it – 'It's like seeing a plane high up in the sky and knowing you will never be on it.'

Many of these issues have been addressed in panels and papers to this conference, and will no doubt continue to occupy us for years to come. As if these were not in themselves big enough questions, there are, arguably, even bigger ones hovering behind this story – Africa, as the site of one of the world's largest land grabs and rapid commercialisation of agriculture is at the heart of global questions of sustainability, world food security and energy supply.

More parochially, what does all of this mean for African Studies? Well, first of all and self-interestedly, the good news for us is that there's plenty needing considered and in-depth study that goes beyond the dichotomies of popular discourse. We can't understand the present momentous changes in Africa without contextualising them within deeper economic, social and political histories, and most importantly, without a full appreciation of how African communities themselves understand these current developments and imagine their futures. A whole body of sensitive social anthropological work has demonstrated the complex ways in which the apparently homogenising modes of globalisation interact with local ways of being in sometimes surprising ways. Whether or not you agree with Stephen Ellis's argument (in his recent book, *Seasons of Rain*) that there is something specific about 'African' ways of seeing the modern world through a spiritual lens – it is certainly the case that the recent history of Africa poses very large question marks over standard European evolutionist accounts of modernisation. Arguably, the interest and expertise in the "invisible world" so often observed in Africa equips its populations particularly well for participation in the contemporary global financial sector.

We are bound to argue that you need Africa-specific expertise to understand all of this, and that our students need it to – that if they want to understand what is happening in Africa it's not enough for them to be educated in development, management, politics as generic subjects, that they need us to tell them about the workings of development, management and politics within the specific contexts of African histories, both long and short-term. Certainly, from my experience, student demand for Africa-specific education appears to be robust in this country and augurs well for the future of African Studies. But I think there are also some interesting questions for us too.

Firstly, if neo-colonialism isn't dead, it certainly appears to be getting there, despite the efforts of a few Robert Mugabes to administer resuscitation. Globalisation really has reconfigured the world from an African perspective. I think it's true to say that for the majority of young people in Africa (unlike their grandparents and some of their parents) the former colonial powers and the colonial histories of their countries seem increasingly irrelevant. Post-colonialism, as many early critiques pointed out, did not challenge (in fact, arguably, further entrenched) Eurocentrism by emphasising the lasting impact of colonial rule. I happen to believe that aspects of colonial rule, despite its brevity and unevenness have had lasting effects. But it's certainly increasingly difficult to argue that the legacy of colonialism should take centre stage in our analyses of the continent. To the extent to which British African Studies is still defined by its colonial inheritance (and I think that, to some considerable extent it is... but we can argue over that) – to that extent, I think we face a distinct challenge as the centres of intellectual gravity shift along with larger geo-political and economic changes. To take just one aspect of this shift: Chinese African Studies is developing fast and is beginning to include the very aspects of areas studies which in this country have suffered from neglect and decline, the study of African languages, for example. We can't assume that in the future students wanting to learn about Africa will have British universities near the top of their lists.

Perhaps more importantly, the tectonic shifts will force us to think more critically about our relationships with Africa-based intellectuals and academic institutions. In the ASAUK we are proud of our Writing Workshop programme, which aims to increase the representation of Africa-based contributors in academic journal, and many of us in our own institutions work to develop relationships with African universities and academics. But of course the very need for such programmes speaks volumes about the still uneven distribution of cultural capital. There have been a number of welcome initiatives in the UK in past few years drawing attention to this, and in particular to the challenges faced by early career academics in African institutions in maintaining and building research careers that are not over-reliant on external agencies. Those of us who have worked in African universities (including our own ASAUK postdoctoral teaching fellows) know that these challenges are very real. But there is a danger that in our historical 'helping Africa' mode we fail to catch up with the rapidly changing dynamics of the African higher education sector, which exhibits real vibrancy as well as pockets of stagnation and decline, and that, more generally, we fail to engage fully with intellectual developments on the continent.

A glaring difference between our field and that of South Asian Studies in the UK is the rarity of academics of African origin in our institutions, teaching our students. There are complicated reasons for this (as well as, arguably, some simple ones) and let's hope that the new dynamic within the African professional diaspora will produce, not a 'brain drain', but a situation of mutual benefit

between British and African institutions. That's assuming that the walls of fortress Britain erected by the immigration laws are not made completely unscalable – a huge issue for all of us.

It would not be an African Studies meeting without a whinge. So here it goes. We're all competing for a shrinking set of resources and (as noted by my predecessor, William Beinart in his address to this conference two years ago) though associations, university centres, and other myriad organisations in this country try and work together, it's clear that we need to do more in this regard, without necessarily reducing our efforts to one set of homogenising 'strategies'. Whinge number two. For those of us who work in UK universities the REF casts a deep shadow over area and interdisciplinary studies. Much has been done through constant vigilance and energetic lobbying to improve on some of the original proposals (remember that the definition of impact initially restricted it to the UK) but despite improvements, in general there's no doubt that (in addition to all the other things wrong with it) the REF produces a discouraging environment for those of us who want to work across and between traditional disciplines. It's depressing, and it's not creative.

But there's plenty to be upbeat about on the creativity front outside of the academy. There's some kind of mood around that seems to be finally accepting, even welcoming, the integral part that Africa plays in British culture. Obviously we should be wary of what Iain Sinclair calls mass Olympic hysteria. I don't know whether white *Daily Mail*-reading middle England's acknowledgement that not only can Mo Farah run but yes, he IS BRITISH, will ever translate into an appreciation of the very long-term contribution of the Somali community to this country; or whether Prince William's awkward attempts to imitate Azonto moves will translate into a new political choreography. It seems unlikely. But I don't know... something seems to be happening to nudge the image of 'Africa' in Britain from its old essentialist ghetto, perhaps, finally, breaking down those polarised representations of dark and light. So yes, it IS a particularly interesting time to be involved in African Studies.

Professor Megan Vaughan, University of Cambridge

The in-coming President of ASAUK

Stephanie Newell is Professor of English at the University of Sussex, with expertise in West African popular literature and the literary and cultural history of colonial West Africa. As the ASAUK looks towards its 50th year in 2013, she will work to support the Association's highly successful Writing Workshop programme. In addition, she has a particular interest in developing support for early career scholars in African Studies – supporting, mentoring and rewarding new researchers in African Studies in the UK and Africa through writing workshops, conferences, early career placements at African universities, the biannual Ph.D dissertation prize, and collaboration with the RAS in the biannual Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture for visiting early-career African scholars.

Report on ASAUK Conference Plenary Lecture: Ngugi wa Thiong'o: 'The Language of Scholarship'

In his plenary lecture to a packed auditorium at the University of Leeds, Professor Ngugi wa Thiong'o argued that scholars' choice of language has a major impact upon our view of reality. Some scholars at Harvard have attempted to resuscitate the word 'tribe'. 'Oh my God,' Ngugi said, 'The five-letter word has come to haunt me in Harvard!' He went on to discuss the ways in which the colonial myth of 'x tribe versus y tribe' dangerously pervades Western media representations of African politics, where millions of Yorubas, Zulus and Igbos are described as 'tribes' rather than 'nations'. In Ngugi's view, this template is repeated in scholarly work about Africa which reiterates an 'us versus them' model that erases the social and cultural complexity of African regions. Ngugi ended his lecture by calling for scholars to write in African languages and to show commitment towards African intellectual production by translating work into African languages.

Distinguished Africanist Award: Professor Kenneth King and Pravina King

2012 is of course the fiftieth anniversary of the Centre of African Studies in the University of Edinburgh. The anniversary conference, *CAS@50*, took place in June. It is a highly appropriate moment to recognize the contributions of Pravina and Kenneth King to African Studies in Edinburgh, Scotland and the UK.

James Currey and Douglas Johnson coordinated significant letters of support for this joint award including from Professors Paul Nugent, Andrew Walls, John Lonsdale, Alexander McCall-Smith, Simon McGrath, as well as support from Terence Ranger, Richard Hodder-Williams and David Killingray. This citation is largely based on the words of warm support of all of them and summarised in the nominating letter of James and Douglas.

Kenneth King became the first Director of the Centre of African Studies in 1981. He took these CAS annual conferences to an exceptional level of excellence by setting out to get the very best people wherever they were in the world, always half of the speakers from Africa. He mustered funds to bring in outstanding experts from NGOs, government and business as well as universities.

In 1991 Pravina King took over as Administrator the office of the Centre of African Studies and it was her inspired planning of these international gatherings that built on their reputation. She and her team of skilled supporters managed to get people visas, and tickets from Africa, America and Asia and to make everybody feel privileged to be there.

Using the Centre as a base Pravina King also set out to get Africa better known in Scotland. She was the General Coordinator for Scotland-Africa '97 – over 100 events in a year-long celebration of Scotland's links with Africa. This touched every dimension of the relationship – historical, cultural, theatrical, musical,

political, economic and social. And it was located in every region of Scotland, from Orkney to the Borders. She also developed a Scotland Africa Directory for the Scottish Government.

Yet, on no less than three separate occasions in twenty years, the Centre of African Studies was in danger of being closed in different rounds of cuts by Edinburgh University. Kenneth and Pravina King wrote, cabled and telephoned to get people all over the world to register their horror. The reaction in Senate was that it had not been realised in the University in what high regard the Centre was held internationally.

Kenneth King's pioneering work on the informal sector is recorded in his books *The African Artisan* and *Jua-Kali Kenya*. He has also made major contributions to our understanding of colonial education in Africa, as well as focusing for forty years on the complex role of aid, education and training in Africa.

Kenneth King became Reader in 1982 and Professor of International and Comparative Education in the University of Edinburgh in 1993. He was made Emeritus Professor in September 2005 and in 2006-7 was Distinguished Visiting Professor in the University of Hong Kong. In 2007 he became International Advisor to China's largest Institute of African Studies at Zheejiang Normal University. He is just completing a book on China's soft aid and human resources cooperation with Africa. All the field research in Africa and China was carried out jointly with Pravina King.

On behalf of the African Studies Association, it gives me great pleasure to present the Distinguished Africanist Award jointly to Pravina and Kenneth King for their outstanding contributions to African studies in Edinburgh, Scotland and the UK.

Professor David Maxwell, ASAUK Vice-President

Reply of Thanks by Pravina and Kenneth King

Our early histories encouraged the spirit of interdisciplinarity we sought to nurture in the Centre of African Studies in Edinburgh later on. Pravina's exposure as a young person to Nasser's Egypt and then immediately to pre-Uhuru Kenya were important, as were Kenneth's years teaching school in Haile Selassie's Ethiopia. Our years in the University of Edinburgh as students exposed us to a vibrant Africanist community just emerging around the new Centre of African Studies, and especially to Christopher Fyfe, and to Kenneth's supervisor, Sam Shepperson, who continues to be vitally engaged with African issues today, at 90.

Kenneth's first job in the University of Nairobi introduced us to a very lively history department under Bethwell Ogot, and to next door neighbours, Ngugi wa Thiongo, and Ben Kipkorir, but also to a dynamic Institute of Development

Studies, and to an international as well as active regional Africanist community meeting in social science conferences from Dar es Salaam to Makerere.

Kenneth brought to the Centre of African Studies in 1972 long standing interests in African history, and especially the history and politics of African (and Pan-African) education, as well as concerns with development studies. From that time till now he has retained memberships in ASAUK/RAS, the Development Studies Association, and the British Association of International and Comparative Education. Cutting across these different silos has been both personally and institutionally important.

The challenge of directing the CAS from 1982 was sharpened by several university attempts to remove its administrative support. This underlined the crucial importance of the Centre of African Studies networking and making partnerships across the university, across Scotland, the UK, continental Europe and Africa. When the university finally removed administrative support in 1991, Pravina stepped in as its administrator, originally for no salary. She soon identified the crucial need to attract African students to the Centre through scholarships and supportive alliances with Africanist interests in the university, the city and Scotland.

The Centre soon saw the vital need to secure high-level ESRC quota awards for masters, doctoral and post-doctoral students, as well as Commonwealth scholars, and regular students from Japan, and other OECD countries. Soon, the tiny Centre had more of these ESRC awards than other large departments. This was vital to building a critical mass of post-graduate students studying Africa. These students brought wide-ranging interests and breadth to the Centre.

Broadening the experience of CAS students to explore Africa's cultures, the arts, literature, and drama lay behind Pravina's organisation of the year-long Scotland Africa 97 festival which celebrated Africa in no less than 115 events across the country.

The secret of African Studies in Edinburgh was to provide many, many different staff within the University and beyond with the opportunity, and the financial and institutional support to develop their African interests, through research, conferences, seminars, occasional papers, and conference volumes.

Without the dedicated support of many other core Africanists such as Alan Barnard and Paul Nugent, these initiatives would have been impossible.

Very special thanks to ASAUK for this award.

Distinguished Africanist Award: Professor Lalage Bown

It is a huge honour for me to present this award to Professor Lalage Bown who has for over 60 years been an inspiration and a role model for many British Africanists. She is nothing less than a legend.

Professor Bown first went to the Gold Coast in 1949 to teach in the Extra Mural Department of the University College of the Gold Coast. She was resident tutor in the Trans-Volta-Togoland Region.

This was hands-on stuff. In Lalage's words, "we kept our noses to the ground". Kate Skinner, who has interviewed many of Professor Bown's former students in Ghana, says that she is recalled clearly and with great affection and respect. Her classes were models of the egalitarian ethos which drove adult education.

Many British Africanists worked in adult education during this period, but quickly moved on to more conventional academic careers. Not so Professor Bown. She has lived her whole life as an educationist. From Ghana she moved to adult education and extra-mural departments at Makerere, at the University of Ibadan, University of Zambia and University of Lagos. In Nigeria, Professor Isyaku writes that she is remembered by her many "adopted children" for her positive thinking, her determination to do the utmost for her students, and for being a living model of what a woman could achieve in a male-dominated culture. He calls her both a great ambassador for Britain and, more importantly, a Great African Ambassador to the World.

In all, Professor Bown spent thirty years working in Africa before taking up a post at the University of Glasgow, where she continues to hold an Emeritus position. Her contributions to educational and advisory bodies in this country are many, including those to the Commonwealth Council for Education. Along the way, Professor Bown somehow found the time to produce nine single-authored books and many more co-authored and edited ones in the field of education.

Lalage, on behalf of the African Studies Association, it gives me great pleasure to present the Distinguished Africanist Award to you as a token of our thanks for and recognition of your outstanding contributions to our field.

Professor Megan Vaughan, President, ASAUK

Reply of Thanks by Professor Lalage Bown

Madam President, Madam President-Elect, friends, colleagues, fellow-members of the ASAUK, thank you!

Thank you, ASAUK, very much for inviting me to this exciting and extraordinarily successful conference and also for this recognition, which I value the more because at my age you don't expect honours. I'm so old that I undertook my first research on an African topic in 1948-49, under the supervision of the great philosopher, nationalist scholar and activist, Thomas Hodgkin of

Balliol College. My first published field report was in Ghana in 1954, where my department head was David Kimble. By a happy coincidence he will be remembered later today when we celebrate the 50th birthday of the *Journal of Modern African Studies*, which was founded by David and his wife Helen. Slightly later, in the 1960s, I had the fun of organising the first and second International Congresses of Africanists and was fortified in that and later work by the liveliness of Michael Crowder, who worked in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Botswana.

Being so ancient, I fear I have a lurking suspicion that the honour is not so much for a Distinguished, but for an Extinguished Africanist! Let me assure you, I don't plan to be extinguished just yet. Apart from other work, I hope that I have a use for younger scholars as a first-hand source of knowledge about: events, such as the arrival of independence in Nigeria, the nationalisation of the mines in Zambia and all too many coups in various countries; institutional change, especially in many of the Anglophone universities; and people whom I met or knew, including politicians such as Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Julius Nyerere of Tanganyika/Tanzania and Abeid Karume of Zanzibar, and writers, media workers, artists and intellectuals – too many to name.

While I'm happy to be here at my age, I am affected by this award for two special reasons: the recognition comes from people with whom I share both *work* and *field of study*. Our *work* is scholarship, mainly in universities or research institutes; and we share common values of thoroughness, discipline of mind and fidelity to truth. Having spent my life in such places, several times experiencing attacks on campuses by armed soldiers and having seen colleagues hauled off to prison or to death, I have a strong consciousness of the importance of keeping faith with those values.

At the present time, we are all challenged by misunderstanding of the worth of universities and by having to deal with antipathetic discourses of “impact” and “unique selling-point” and even “nudge”. In difficult moments, let us remind ourselves that universities as institutions have out-lived all governments and most power structures; the University of Al Azhar in Egypt has been there for over 1,200 years. So think of that when struggling with justifying our value for money. Our scholarly inheritance is one worth defending – though without being defensive.

The second thing we share is of course our *field of study*. Our context is the African continent, its environment, its people and their cultures. Therefore, nowadays, we all acknowledge the debt we owe to ordinary Africans from whom we have gained information and ideas and who have offered us kindness, hospitality and friendship. The old classic example of someone dependent on informants was David Livingstone, who was guided by local people to the falls of Mosi – a – Tunya, which he was then said to have “discovered”; and a second,

of someone whose life depended on entirely unsolicited friendship, was another explorer, Mungo Park, pursuing the source of the Niger, who was tended in sickness by an unknown woman.

In particular, in our time, besides lay people we have the privilege of working with, supporting, being helped by and collaborating with African academics, many of whom work in extraordinarily difficult conditions. This award today is not for me as an individual, but an acknowledgement of all fellow- scholars with whom I have worked. I don't want to turn this response into something like a book of the Old Testament with tedious lists of names who begat other names; but I would be dishonest and ungrateful if I didn't acknowledge a few of those who have been my academic ancestors or brothers and sisters.

In recalling my early years in Ghana, I recall the influence on me of J. C. de Graft Johnson (known as Jocky), who on his own initiative in the 1950s tackled the history of Africa. His book, *African Glory* changed my perspective on the development of the continent, even though much of it might be derided today, as too romantic. But his romanticism was muscular and powerful, in contrast to the sentimentalism about Africa which we have had to face from some European scholars, such as, say, Jan Heinz Jahn.

Later, I learnt more profoundly about African history from Jacob Ade Ajayi, doyen of the Ibadan history school, and a lifelong friend. On the other side of Africa, I admired and tried to emulate the scientific dedication of the zoologist, Lameck Goma, who even when he was Vice-chancellor of the University of Zambia, kept doggedly on with his research. In my own particular area of adult education, I salute friends and collaborators, Olu Tomori, Taiye Okedara and Michael Omolewa, all of Ibadan, David Macharia of Nairobi, Daudi Mwakawago of Tanzania and Meshack Matshazi of Zimbabwe. We had wonderful arguments and some wild ideas.

Finally, I want to honour separately and very specially, the women scholars of Africa. Women academics have a hard row to hoe in this country (one indicator being that their average salary is 15% less than their male counterparts), but in African institutions they confront even more challenges, sometimes lack of respect, more of a struggle to gain access to grants and scholarships, often trying to reconcile roles as wife and mother. So, with you, I praise and thank: Adetowun Ogunsheye, the first Nigerian woman to be given a chair – in library sciences at Ibadan; Ama Atta Aidoo, writer and literary critic, of the University of Ghana; Bolanle Awe, director of African Studies at Ibadan, Joy Kwesiga, head of women's studies at Makerere University and now vice-chancellor of the Kabale University; also one person whom I don't know personally, but whose work I enjoy - the powerful economist and polemicist, Dambisa Moyo, for a time with the World Bank, originally from Zimbabwe.

I hope therefore that you will associate this award not just with me, but also with these and other figures of my Africanist genealogy; and in thanking the ASAUK and all present, I wish younger generations around the world as entrancing and fruitful a time in the field as I have been lucky to have had; and I wish continued success to the ASAUK and a very happy 50th birthday in 2013.

The Audrey Richards Dissertation Prize 2012

The Audrey Richards Dissertation Prize is awarded every two years at the ASAUK Biennial Conference for the best thesis on Africa. The prize recognises and encourages new researchers in African Studies, thanks to the generosity of the Royal African Society and the following publishers who kindly donate books, journal subscriptions and cash: Brill, Boydell and Brewer (James Currey), Cambridge University Press, the Eurospan Group, Oxford University Press, and Zed Books.

This year's prize was awarded to a thesis completed between January 2010 and December 2011, and the panel saw several publishable theses among the twelve entries. Two theses were highly commended: Julie Archambault's (SOAS) *Cruising Through Uncertainty: Mobile Phone Practices, Occulted Economies and the Politics of Respect in Southern Mozambique*, and Gillian Mann's (LSE) *Being, Becoming and Unbecoming a Refugee: The Lives of Congolese Children in Dar es Salaam*.

The panel selected two runners-up from the twelve: Zoe Groves (University of Keele), *Malawians in Colonial Salisbury: A Social History of Migration in Central Africa, c.1920s-1960s* and Maxim Bolt (LSE), *Rooting Production: Life and Labour on the Settler Farms of the Zimbabwean-South African Border*. Zoe Groves' thesis is a meticulously researched study of a population hitherto neglected in studies of African migration histories: men and women from Nyasaland who stayed in the racially segregated city of colonial Salisbury, now Harare, in Southern Rhodesia. They formed associations and, along with other migrants like the Shona, shaped urban identities, politics and popular culture between the 1920s and the 1960s. Maxim Bolt's thesis carefully explores the tensions between the state's view of the study area as a border zone requiring policing, its existence as a hub of capitalist production, and its status as an inhabited socio-economic space.

The 2012 Audrey Richards Dissertation prizewinner was Fibian Lukalo (University of Cambridge) for *Educating Daughters, Educating Sons: Mothers and Schooling in Rural Kenya*. This thesis offers a subtle ethnography of women's lives and their roles and duties as mothers in rural Kenya, showing how women are shaped by the gender structures around them, but also highlighting the ways in which individuality matters in such intimate, personal relations. Fibian offers an understanding of how mothers want the best (and sometimes not) for their children, showing how cruel some mothers can be to the children over whom they have responsibility. The thesis offers an understanding of the multiple

factors that influence people's attitudes to education, including events in their own childhoods and marriages. The ASAUK would like to congratulate Fibian Lukalo on this well-deserved prize.

Professor Steph Newell, President, ASAUK

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'Religion, Media and Marginality in Africa since 1800', SOAS, University of London, one day sometime between 15 March and 15 April 2013. The workshop is inspired by recent scholarship that examines the intersection between forms of communication and the growth of new religious constituencies. It seeks to further pursue these insights in the context of nineteenth and twentieth century Africa. The organisers are particularly interested in how media practices enabled, shaped, and limited forms of claims-making by relatively marginal individuals and groups in religious contexts. The media focus covers both 'old' (including handwriting and print technologies) and 'new' (including the internet) forms. The organisers expect papers to focus on exploring media history and practice with reference to religious contexts or content, but will consider studies where the religious aspect of media use is one among several.

Relevant themes include, but are not be limited to: the creation of publics – religious and otherwise – in interaction with various forms of old and new media; making and contesting sacred texts; literacy as a 'bundle of traits' with varying social and religious implications; an attention to genre, and narrative conventions; text and healing – the materiality of media; the uses of 'secondary' literacy in post-colonial Africa; media and performance – especially the performance of violence; official/authorised (rather than subversive) media performances and the establishment of religious orthodoxies; orality and 'authenticity', for example, invoking nativism; preaching and the public sphere; women in the media; women's media practices; institutional and financial contexts shaping media practices; and media use and new/emergent subjectivities, including religious disciplines of the self.

Participants' travel and accommodation costs will be covered. Researchers based in Africa are particularly encouraged to apply. 300 word abstracts and short CV by 31 October 2012 to Joel Cabrita: jc80@soas.ac.uk and Felicitas Becker: fmb26@cam.ac.uk

'Space and Childhood in History', Sixth Biennial Conference of the Society for the History of Children and Youth, University of Nottingham, 25–27 June 2013. The organisers seek proposals for panels, roundtable discussions, and research-in-progress workshops on any aspect of the histories of children and youth, from

any place and in any era. The organisers are especially interested in sessions that examine and compare how space and childhood are mutually constitutive in historically and geographically specific settings. The call, inspired by the French political philosopher Henri Lefebvre, posits that for any person, including children and youth, there is a dynamic rather than a static relationship between a physical place, its social make-up, and childhood as an ideal or imagined condition. The production of space, as Lefebvre famously insisted, happens in the physical world, the social world, and the imagined world. So scholars should investigate space not just as a backdrop for the lived experiences of children but as a tangible, social, and discursive construction, which shapes and is shaped by the lives and experiences of children. Although the organisers prefer proposals for complete 90 minute sessions and panels that incorporate international representation and global perspectives, individual papers will also be considered. 250 word abstracts and short CV for each paper by 31 October 2012 to Professor James Marten: james.marten@marquette.edu

INTERNATIONAL

'Literature, Liberation, and the Law', 39th Annual Conference of the African Literature Association (ALA), Charleston, South Carolina, 20–24 March 2013. In the midst of Charleston's four-year arc of commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, and coincident with the 50th anniversaries of the Civil Rights movement and the era of African decolonization, the conference seeks papers that explore the manner and extent to which writing – whether in statute books or in literature – can bring about liberation. The organisers anticipate investigations into how liberation is inscribed in constitutions and declarations of human rights; whether mental liberation depends on one's own linguistic or legal framework; what literature has come out of, or has influenced, African and African diaspora emancipation movements from the Age of Revolution to today; what relationships exist among literature, the law, and education, and to what extent literacy has empowered different groups at critical junctures; how different narrative forms have grappled with the problem of freedom, the experiences of immigrants, the struggle for representation; whether the language of liberation is equally effective for all Africans irrespective of gender, class, ethnicity or sexual orientation; how effective writing can be in securing freedom from economic domination; to what extent literature or the law can provide security from environmental racism and/or the threat of ecocide; what the historical conflicts between liberty and equality are; how statutes attempt to amend and/or reconcile such conflict; and to what extent new media and technology enable liberation. 500 word abstracts for individual papers or four-person panels by 30 November 2012 to Simon Lewis: lewiss@cofc.edu

'African Dynamics in a Multipolar World', Fifth European Conference on African Studies (ECAS) 2013, Lisbon, 26–28 June 2013. This conference is organised by Centro de Estudos Africanos – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (Centre for African Studies, Lisbon University Institute) on behalf of Africa-Europe Group of Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS), the Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies. The 2010s have witnessed the consolidation of most African states and institutions. However, fifty years after the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity in 1963, the international panorama and Africa's position in it have changed considerably. The world's geopolitical and economic configuration has evolved, with new actors appearing on an increasingly globalised scene. Under these conditions and given its own trajectory, the current challenges that Africa faces include the promotion of peace and security, human rights, democratic institutions and particularly the integration and socioeconomic development of Africans, as stated by the OAU's successor, the African Union. ECAS 2013 will discuss aspects of this new configuration and its effects on African societies: political challenges, economic and development changes and social creativity. The conference's main focus will be the contemporary period, while taking in account the historical dimension of these issues. The new international political configuration has to consider the fall of the old dictatorships in northern Africa, the role played by new political actors and unconventional forms of involvement such those made possible by information and communication technology. From an economic perspective, the increasing importance of emerging markets such as Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, with their own cooperation agendas, limited resources and growth and far-reaching effects on climate change and food security have a strong impact on African economies and societies and their position in global forums.

In social and cultural terms, the dynamism of African societies and their diasporas is evident in the ability of both individuals and groups to combine endogenous and exogenous elements and develop strategies to overcome the all too well-known odds. Such creativity is found in diverse areas such as cultural forums and academic debate and also in migration, trade, information and communication technology, health, social protection, the problems of youth and urbanisation, and the reconfigurations of the socio-political and religious spheres. It is thus of the greatest importance to look into Africa's possibilities of becoming a major player in the formation of the emerging overall order.

Panels will consist of four papers, with a chair and a discussant. Larger panels may be accommodated over more than one session. The conference language is English, though papers in other languages are possible on the condition that the panel organisers provide for interpreting facilities. Panel proposals by 19 October 2012 via the online form available at <http://cea.iscte.pt/ecas2013/panels.shtml> Individual paper-givers can submit 250 word abstracts between 19 November 2012 and 18 January 2013.

'Colonial Education in Africa: Connecting Histories of Education through Text, Image, Voice, Memory and Word', The School of Education, University of Cape Town, South Africa, 4–5 July 2013. Co-sponsored by the Southern African Comparative and History of Education Society (SACHES), the International Standing Conference for the History of Education (ISCHE), and the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research, this workshop is designed to invite a research conversation on the history of African colonial education and its legacies through the application of innovative historical methods and approaches (oral history, photographic analysis, media, memory work and representation). Proposals are invited that address the travel, reception and adaptation of educational ideas and practices in the colonial and post-colonial educational experience in Africa. Of particular interest is the use of different forms of educational media, textbooks, museums, memorials, films, photographs, oral traditions and others, and their representation of society and of the process of learning and teaching in and under colonial societies. 500 word abstracts and short CV by 31 October 2012 to: Professor Peter Kallaway peter.kallaway@uct.ac.za or Dr Eckhardt Fuchs: fuchs@gei.de or Professor Kate Rousmaniere: rousmak@muohio.edu

...Conferences Past

Report on SCOLMA 50th Anniversary Conference, 'Dis/connects: African Studies in the Digital Age', Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford, 25–26 June 2012. SCOLMA (the UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa) recently held its 50th Anniversary Conference over two days, which looked analytically and critically at the impact of and response to the digital revolution on African Studies, drawing together over ninety librarians, archivists, academics and NGO staff from the UK, Europe, Africa and the United States. Presentations at the conference ranged over many digital formats and techniques, including digitised archives, published material, photographs and maps; born-digital materials; digital scholarship; and social media. Access to, and the effects of, digital resources in Africa were considered, as was the impact of digitisation for scholars in African Studies generally.

The conference welcomed Christine Kanyengo, the Deputy Librarian of the University of Zambia Library, who gave the keynote speech on 'The digital age and Africa's scholarship: Promoting access and visibility of information resources'. Christine focused on the challenges faced by African academic libraries, making the case that they were ill-prepared for the digital challenge and the questions of preservation, funding, copyright and technical capacity which it raised. The way forward was to engage in national and Africa-wide strategy work to build digital policy frameworks covering issues such as archiving policies, increased access, better preservation and technical training. The future, she said, was bright, if access was ensured and the integrity of scholarship

maintained. Christine's visit was extended with a post-conference programme of visits to a number of UK libraries, and she was also interviewed by the BBC World Service. SCOLMA is grateful for funding for the visit from ASAUK and the Royal African Society, and the Centre of African Studies at SOAS (as well as to Taylor and Francis for conference sponsorship).

Other highlights of the conference included papers analysing the opportunities and challenges offered by digital newspaper resources for historical research, by Stephanie Newell (University of Sussex) and John Pinfold (formerly the Librarian of the Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies at Rhodes House); the impact of the digital shift within Africa by Jonathan Harle (Association of Commonwealth Universities); various digitisation projects from librarians from the University of Cape Town, Michigan State University and the Melville J Herskovits Library at Northwestern University; and the potential of digitising historical maps by Lucia Lovison-Golob of the Afriterrra Foundation. Speakers came from libraries and archives services across Africa, Europe and the United States as well as academic researchers who provided a valuable perspective on the use of digital resources and more critical, theoretical approaches to thinking about digital worlds.

Some important issues and challenges raised at the conference concerned 'digital gaps' and the mass of material that remains unavailable in digital form, and risks that digital resources will be overly privileged by researchers. There was also discussion of the importance of information literacy skills; the need for co-ordination and collaboration among digital projects; and the preservation and sustainability of digital resources.

Concerns were raised about access to digital content, not only from within Africa, but also by non-governmental organisations more widely, as well as about meeting the changing expectations of researchers while being constrained by the cost of digitisation, copyright restrictions and the lack of metadata. Rebecca Khan, a Ph.D student at Kings College London (in a joint paper with Simon Tanner), took the debate further by discussing the impact on national identity of digital collections and the potential uses of digitisation to legitimise certain identities and views of history. She urged the audience to think beyond processes and consider issues of representation and use more closely.

It was also noted that digital access to mainstream journals may perpetuate the view that regional publications are of lesser value. However, developing open access journal models has potential for overcoming this problem.

SCOLMA will be publishing selected papers from the conference in a special monograph, and further papers in the SCOLMA journal, *African Research and Documentation*. SCOLMA's website is at: www.scolma.org and we also Tweet news of African Studies sources, resources and events (@SCOLMA).

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Emmanuel Ashiedu Codjoe (2012), 'Foreign Direct Investment in Ghanaian Manufacturing: Exploring the Extent of Technology Transfer and Exporting Behaviour by FDI Firms', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Jane Harrigan. Available at: <http://eprints.soas.ac.uk/13597/>

Elizabeth Cooper (2012), 'Who Cares for Orphans? Challenges to Kinship and Morality in a Luo village in Western Kenya', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr David Pratten.

Rachael Diprose (2012), 'A Comparison of Communal Conflict Dynamics and Sub-national Patterns of Violence in Indonesia and Nigeria: Central Sulawesi Province and Kaduna State', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Frances Stewart and Dr Raufu Mustapha.

Hazel Sophia Gray (2012), 'Tanzania and Vietnam: A Comparative Political Economy of Economic Transition', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Mushtaq Khan. Available at: <http://eprints.soas.ac.uk/13610/>

Kofi Hope (2011), 'In Search of Solidarity: International Solidarity Work between Canada and South Africa, 1975-2010', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Nic Cheeseman and Gavin Williams.

Washington Karumazondo (2012), 'A Case Study of the Experiences of Newly Qualified Teachers During their First Year of Teaching in Secondary Schools in Zimbabwe', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Ann Childs and Professor Richard Pring.

Andrew Kerr (2011), 'Human Capital, Informality and Labour Market Outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Francis Teal.

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

Sofya Krutikova (2012), 'Schooling and Beyond: Essays on Skill Formation and Learning in Deprived Contexts [Tanzania and India]', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Stefan Dercon.

Hayley Leck (2012), 'Rising to the Adaptation Challenge? Responding to Global Environmental Change in eThekweni and Ugu Municipalities, South Africa', Ph.D thesis, Royal Holloway, University of London. Supervisor: Professor David Simon.

Victoria Leitch (2010), 'Production and Trade of Roman and Late Roman African Cookwares', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Andrew Wilson.

Latang T. Sechele (2011), 'Youth Unemployment and Self-Employment in Contemporary Botswana', Ph.D thesis, University of Essex. Supervisor: Professor Diane Elson.

Lucrezia Stella Tincani (2012), 'Resilient Livelihoods: Adaptation, Food Security and Wild Foods in Rural Burkina Faso', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Nigel Poole. Available at: <http://eprints.soas.ac.uk/13609/>

Georgios Tsopanakis (2011), 'Different Aid Paradigm or Familiar Pattern? A Critical Study of Two Technical Cooperation Projects of JICA in Ghana', Ph.D thesis, University of Manchester. Supervisors: Dr Hulya Ulku and Dr Sarah Bracking.

Leo Versteynen (2012), 'Improvement of Global Access to Life-saving Medicines: Facing the Future [Brazil, South Africa and Thailand]', DBA thesis, University of Bradford. Supervisor: Professor Donald Huisingh. Available at: <http://bradscholars.brad.ac.uk/handle/10454/5328>

Recent Publications

Saheed Aderinto and Paul Osifodunrin (eds) (2012), *The Third Wave of Historical Scholarship on Nigeria: Essays in Honor of Ayodeji Olukoju*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 430 pages, 978-1443839945, £54.99.

Chloe Campbell (2012), *Race and Empire: Eugenics in Colonial Kenya*. Manchester University Press, 224 pages, 978-0719071614, £14.99.

Daniel Conway (2012), *Masculinities, Militarisation and the End Conscription Campaign: War Resistance in Apartheid South Africa*. Manchester University Press and University of the Witwatersrand Press, 176 pages, 978-0-7190-8320-4, £65.

C. Brad Faught (2011), *Into Africa: The Imperial Life of Margery Perham*. I. B. Tauris, 288 pages, 978-1848854901, £35.

Linnéa Gelot (2012), *Legitimacy, Peace Operations and Global-Regional Security: The African Union-United Nations Partnership in Darfur*. Routledge, 186 pages, 978-0-415-52653-1, £80.

Hiroyuki Hino, John Lonsdale, Gustav Ranis and Frances Stewart (eds) (2012), *Ethnic Diversity and Economic Instability in Africa: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Cambridge University Press, 360 pages, 9781107025998, £60.

Robert Home (2011), *Essays in African Land Law*. Pretoria University Law Press, 207 pages, 978-1-920538-00-2, funded by the World Bank's 'Rule of Law in Africa', free to download at http://www.pulp.up.ac.za/cat_2011_15.html

Robert Home (2011), *Local Case Studies in African Land Law*. Pretoria University Law Press, 207 pages, 978-1-920538-01-9, free at http://www.pulp.up.ac.za/cat_2011_16.html

Afua Twum-Danso Imoh, and Robert Ame (eds) (2012), *Childhoods at the Intersection of the Local and Global*. Palgrave. 208 pages, 978-0230342323, £55.

Miles Larmer, Peter Dwyer and Leo Zeilig (2012), *African Struggles Today: Social Movements Since Independence*. Haymarket Books, 260 pages, 978-1608461202, £12.99.

John McCracken (2012), *A History of Malawi, 1855-1966*. James Currey, 503 pages, 978-1847010506, £60.

Emma Mawsdley and Gerard McCann (eds) (2011), *India in Africa: Changing Geographies of Power*. Pambazuka Press, paperback: 978-1-906387-65-5 £16.95; pdf: 978-1-906387-66-2, £13.95.

Fraser G. McNeill (2012), *AIDS, Politics, and Music in South Africa*. Cambridge University Press, 306 pages, 978-1107009912, £55.

Olatunji Ojo and Nadine Hunt (2012), *Slavery in Africa and the Caribbean: A History of Enslavement and Identity since the 18th Century*. I. B. Tauris, 320 pages, 978-1780761152, £59.50.

David Phillipson (2012), *Foundations of an African Civilisation: Aksum and the Northern Horn, 1000 BC-AD 1300*. James Currey, 304 pages, 978-1847010414, £40.

Richard Reid (2012), *Warfare in African History*. Cambridge University Press, 212 pages, 978-0521123976, £17.99.

Chris Saunders, Gwinyayi A. Dzinesa and Dawn Nagar (eds) (2012), *Region-building in Southern Africa: Progress, Problems and Prospects*. Zed Books, 368 pages, 978-1780321783, £21.99.

Jason Stearns (2012), *Dancing in the Glory of Monsters: The Collapse of the Congo and the Great War of Africa*. Public Affairs, 417 pages, 978-1-61039-107-8, £16.99.

Randolph Vigne (2012), *Thomas Pringle: South African Pioneer, Poet and Abolitionist*. James Currey, 288 pages, 978-1847010520, £45.

Richard Vokes (ed) (2012) *Photography in Africa: Ethnographic Perspectives*. James Currey, 978-1847010452, £40.

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

Royal Society–DFID Africa Initiative

This programme is for scientists who want to develop collaborative research consortia between scientists in sub-Saharan Africa and a research institution in the UK. The overall aim of the scheme is to strengthen the research capacity of universities and research institution in sub-Saharan Africa by supporting the development of sustainable research networks.

The objectives are to facilitate sustainable multidisciplinary partnerships between research groups in sub-Saharan Africa and the UK; strengthen research and training capacity in sub-Saharan African Institutions of Higher Education through the skill transfer between partner organisations of the research consortia; and produce a cadre of young, talented researchers through integrated Ph.D scholarships and shared supervision of postgraduate students between the UK-based and African consortia members.

The scheme is funded by the UK's Department for International Development and provides funding towards research expenses, travel and subsistence costs, (Ph.D) training, and limited funds for equipment.

Applicants must be based in one of the eligible sub-Saharan African countries or the UK. In order to act as a Principal Investigator (PI), applicants must have a Ph.D or have extensive research experience at an equivalent level, a proven track record of training students at Master's and Doctoral level, a proven track record of publishing in both national and international journals, and be based in the respective countries at the time of the application. Applications will be accepted in three research priority areas: water and sanitation, renewable energy, and soil-related research.

The programme consists of two awards and will be delivered in two stages. Stage 1: Scientific Network Awards are small start-up grants, of up to £25,000 to assist the formation of research consortia and the preparation of applications for the subsequent Programme Grants. The Royal Society will organise a workshop for successful applicants to facilitate development of applications for the second phase of the programme. The Scientific Network awards programme will open for applications on 1 November 2012. Stage 2: Programme Grants will provide support for Research Consortia, consisting of three African groups and one UK-based laboratory. Applicants do not need to have held a Scientific Networking award to apply for a Programme Grant. The Programme Grant may provide support of up to £1,243,000 over a five year period. For more details: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/R4D/Project/60936/Default.aspx>

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

African Affairs awards African Author Prize

The African Author Prize is awarded for the best article published in the journal by an author based in an African institution, or an African Ph.D student based in an overseas university. The prize is in recognition of excellent African scholarship, which often does not reach audiences outside the African continent. To the extent possible, the prize committee will prioritize scholars at the beginning of their career. The winner received a cash prize of £500, one year's free subscription to *African Affairs*, an economy airfare to London, and £500 for expenses to attend the ASAUK Conference in Oxford. The runner-up received one year's free subscription to the journal.

The prize is awarded every second year, for the best article published in the previous two year period. Thus, the first winning article was chosen from those articles published in the calendar years 2008-2009, and was conferred at the ASAUK conference in 2010. The awarding committee included Richard Dowden (Director of Royal African Society), Megan Vaughan (President of ASAUK), Nicoli Natrass (Member of the Editorial Board), and the editors of *African Affairs*.

The 2012 African Author Prize was awarded to Samson A. Bezabeh for 'Citizenship and the Logic of Sovereignty in Djibouti'. Samson is from Ethiopia and is currently completing his doctorate at Bergen University in Norway. The prize runner-up was J. Shola Omotola for 'Elections and democratic transition in Nigeria under the Fourth Republic'. Shola is a doctoral student and lecturer at Redeemers University in Nigeria. Links to both articles at: http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/afrafj/authorprize.html

Caine Prize for African Writing, 2012

Rotimi Babatunde won the 2012 Caine Prize for African Writing, Africa's leading literary award, in July for his short story, *Bombay's Republic*. Rotimi, from Ibadan, Nigeria, was announced as the winner by Chair of Judges Bernardine Evaristo MBE at a dinner held at the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

Bombay's Republic was published in the Nigerian online magazine *Mirabilia Review*. It tells the story of Colour Sergeant Bombay and his experiences fighting in the Burma campaign of World War Two before returning home to Nigeria to set up his own one-man republic. Evaristo said of the winning story: "It is ambitious, darkly humorous and in soaring, scorching prose exposes the exploitative nature of the colonial project and the psychology of Independence".

Rotimi explained the journey of his main character: "when he left Nigeria to fight with the British Army, he encountered narratives about himself, which he never believed were possible....that got him thinking about how his being has been distorted by the orders".

Rotimi Babatunde's poems and fiction have been published in Africa, America and Europe while his plays have been staged and presented by institutions which include the Halcyon Theatre, Chicago and the Institute for Contemporary Arts.

The Caine Prize, awarded annually for African creative writing, is named after the late Sir Michael Caine, former Chairman of Booker plc and Chairman of the Booker Prize management committee for nearly 25 years. The Prize is awarded for a short story by an African writer published in English. Stories written at Caine Prize workshops are published annually alongside the Prize's shortlisted stories. This year's anthology, *African Violet*, has been published in seven countries: UK, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, South Africa and Ghana.

New JICA-UK Awards for Short Doctoral Study Tours in Africa

The UK office of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is inaugurating a prize fund for up to five doctoral students studying at British universities to conduct a concentrated piece of primary fieldwork sometime in January 2013 in a Sub-Saharan African country where JICA operates [<http://www.jica.go.jp/English/>]. JICA-UK would be very interested in receiving proposals from students conducting research on development activities in Sub-Saharan Africa, those with a specific focus on Japanese or Asian development work in Africa, and those who would benefit from having a case study of JICA's work in their overall thesis.

JICA's development work in Africa includes all kinds of projects. JICA funds a geo-thermal power station in Kenya, which will eventually supply half of the country's energy needs. In Niger, 10,000 schools carry out a JICA initiative called 'School for All'. In Malawi, JICA's 'One Village One Product' empowers local communities by adding value to locally available resources. Across the continent, JICA has a major project on 'Strengthening of Mathematics and Science Education – Western, Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (SMASE-WECSA)', as well as a Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) aimed at doubling Africa's rice production within a decade.

Each award includes: a prize certificate; return air ticket from the UK to the proposed country; transport within the country; up to ten days' accommodation and per diems; and logistical support from JICA. The winners would conduct fieldwork, write a short report on their experiences for the JICA-UK newsletter and hold a seminar at the JICA-UK office. Complete the application form available at <http://www.jica.go.jp/uk/english/office/others/studytour.html> and send by 12 November 2012 to Kimiaki Jin, Chief Representative, JICA UK office: jicauk@jica.co.uk

Nominations for Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecturer, 2013

ASAUK seeks nominations for the Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecturer. The Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecture will be delivered at an ASAUK event in the autumn of 2013. The lectureship award's purpose is to encourage and support a young African scholar at an African university. The candidate should be at the beginning of their career, and the content of the lecture should be non-scientific, non-technical and on an African subject. Zimbabwean, Ugandan, South African, Ethiopian, Nigerian and Kenyan academics have delivered a diverse series of lectures in recent years. The allowances include an economy return air fare to London, a prize of £500, accommodation and food expenses up to £500 and additionally, up to £250 for travel expenses to allow the lecturer to travel to other centres of African studies in the UK. The proposed lecturer should be nominated by a colleague; no self-nominations please. CV and a short statement on the topic of the proposed lecture by 7 December 2012 to the Honorary Secretary of ASAUK, Nici Nelson: n.nelson@gold.ac.uk

Call for Applications for Small Grants for Conferences

ASAUK administers a fund provided by the Royal African Society for Conferences to be held in the UK in 2013. The grants are normally in the range of £500. Past awards have contributed towards an African participant's travel costs or allowed the subsidized participation of a number of UK-based postgraduate students at an event. Applications should include a short description of the intended conference, the amount requested, details of what the funds would be used for. All that ASAUK requires in return is that the Conference organisers acknowledge ASAUK/RAS support in all their advertising and conference material and that they send the Council a short summary of the Conference afterwards for inclusion in the newsletter. There is no closing date; applications will be discussed at the next ASAUK Council meeting following the receipt of the application. As the next meeting of the Council will be on 14 December 2012, applications should be submitted by 7 December 2012 to Nici Nelson, Honorary Secretary, ASAUK: n.nelson@gold.ac.uk

Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa: Critical Perspectives in Peace, Security, and Development Issues. Funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York, this programme features three distinct competitive fellowship opportunities for early-career social science faculty who hold positions in accredited colleges and universities. First, doctoral dissertation proposal fellowship: supporting short-term research costs of up to US\$3,000 to develop a doctoral dissertation proposal. Applicants must be admitted to a Ph.D programme by the start date of the fellowship program and working to develop a dissertation proposal. Second, doctoral dissertation research fellowship: Supporting 9-12 months of dissertation research costs of up to US\$15,000 on a topic related to peace, security, and development. Applicants must have an approved dissertation proposal but will not yet have undertaken substantial

research (typically six or more months). Third, doctoral dissertation completion fellowship: Supporting a one-year leave from teaching responsibilities with a stipend of up to US\$15,000 to permit the completion of a dissertation that advances research on peace, security, and development topics. Applicants must be in the final year of writing and will have completed at least one chapter.

All applicants must be citizens of a sub-Saharan African country while holding a current faculty position at an accredited college or university in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania or Uganda. Applicants must have a master's degree and be working toward completion of a doctoral degree. The programme encourages innovative research on peace, security, and development topics. Some projects will examine large-scale phenomena and others small-scale social processes, so that some applicants, for example, might propose projects exploring global flows of refugees across country borders and continents while others might look at street theatre in refugee camps. Similarly, some fellows might test the proposition that global financial markets contribute to peace and stability, while others might examine the role of local market culture in unstable regions. Up to 45 fellowships can be awarded each year. Applications by 1 December 2012 using the online application portal: <http://soap.ssrc.org/>

Obituary

Campbell Whalley

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Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the next *Newsletter* by 15 December 2012 to Dr Simon Heap, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), 30 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6NN or effaheap@aol.com

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

For all matters relating to membership of ASAUK/RAS contact: Melmarie Laccay, 36 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PD; telephone: +44 (0)20-3073-8336; email: rasmembership@soas.ac.uk

Check the website: www.asauk.net