



NEWSLETTER

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ASAUK 2014

The University of Sussex hosted a huge and successful ASAUK biennial conference, 9–11th September 2014. With 600 participants, many from African countries as well as from around the world (including Japan, India, Pakistan, the Americas and Australia), and 500 papers on a truly diverse range of topics, this was ASAUK's largest ever gathering. A great many personal/academic friendships were renewed and started. The undoubted value of such networking cannot be underestimated.

ASAUK is grateful to the individuals, journals, centres and networks who gave papers and panels and in particular for the streams (linked panels on a theme) which ran throughout the conference. The streams included: Congo Research Network (organised by Katrien Pype and Reuben Loffman); culture (Carli Coetzee/*Journal of African Cultural Studies*); African utopias/dystopias (*Critical African Studies*); Publishing (Stephanie Kitchen/International African Institute); literature (Ranka Primorac); from global crisis to Africa rising? (*Review of African Political Economy*); labour, insecurity and violence in South Africa (Maxim Bolt and Dina Rajak/*Journal of South African Studies*); Lusophone Africa (Toby Green); and Sudan (Ahmed Al-Shahi).

A reception was held on the first evening, at which the new Sussex Africa Centre was launched. Four back-to-back book launches added to the evening's positive atmosphere. With significant displays by Africanist publishers throughout the conference, and special discounts to participants, it was observed that a great deal of business took place, with many of the conference's distinctive 'dirt' bags loaded with books and journals. Many offers of future publications by prospective authors were also secured.

At the end of a full programme of panels on the second day, Walter Bgoya, the noted Tanzanian-born publisher, children's author and human rights activist, gave a provocative and entertaining keynote address.

Participants then enjoyed themselves at the ASAUK conference dinner, held at the nearby Brighton and Hove Albion Football Stadium. Preceding the dinner, announcements were made of the Distinguished Africanist Award to Gavin Williams and the Audrey Richards Prize winner and runners-up. Recipients came forward to collect their awards to great applause. Gavin was clearly very moved by the award. This newsletter includes more details below.

ASAUK held its AGM, and, amongst many items, Council officers and members were elected, and the 'baton' of the Presidency passed from Professor Steph Newell to Professor David Maxwell. The outgoing President thanked everyone for their contributions to making such an energetic period around ASAUK 50th anniversary and rounded off matters with a short talk on 'African Studies Across Disciplines'.

At various points in the conference, the tremendous hard work and always calm demeanour of conference organiser David Kerr was recognised; ASAUK wishes David every success in the future, and indeed welcomes him onto the ASAUK Council.

Though there will be many opportunities at ASAUK events for members to participate in the coming period, ASAUK 2016 in September of the year at the University of Cambridge is one for your diary!

ASAUK Distinguished Africanist Award Winner: Gavin Williams

This award recognises the signal contribution that Gavin Williams has made over four decades to research and writing on the political economy of Africa in theory and practice, as well as to teaching and research supervision on Africa, throughout his career. These complementary dimensions of his career mark him out as a well-rounded and distinguished scholar from, and of, Africa. His work has been marked by originality and rigour but, due in large part to his modesty and reluctance to engage in self-promotion on the conference circuit, it is arguably attracts less recognition than it merits.

Growing up in South Africa and coming to the UK, initially to study, at the high water mark of apartheid, Gavin Williams soon made a name for himself through his critical assessments of the impact of World Bank intervention in Nigeria on rural and national development. His penetrating analysis complemented other work emerging at that time on the political economy and deleterious effects of bi- and multilateral aid, and contributed in no small measure to the growing pressure for policy changes as well as more critical engagements with donors by national governments. This work and its sequels have also proved of enduring value to successive cohorts of African students and students of Africa alike.

Gavin also pioneered critical research into labour relations and the political economy in the South African wine industry, the field in which he has

concentrated his energies since the transition away from apartheid. Indeed, he is currently engaged in a major project on the evolution of that industry from its origin in 1658 until the present, the outputs of which promise to be definitive.

Gavin Williams lectured at Durham University in Sociology, and was Research Fellow at Sussex University, between 1967 and 1975. He was elected to an Official Fellowship at St Peter's College in 1975, jointly with a Lectureship in the Department of Politics and International Relations. St Peter's College elected him to an Emeritus Fellowship after he retired in 2010. Gavin was a long-serving founder member (in 1974) of the Editorial Working Group of the *Review of African Political Economy* and remains a member of its International Advisory Board.

His research and teaching have focused on the study of African countries, to which he has brought comparative and sociological perspectives. His primary interests are in political and social theory, and in the empirical study of politics and society, drawing in particular on the classic traditions in historical sociology and political economy. He has published widely on the politics, political economy, and rural development policies in Nigeria, and in Africa more generally; on land and agricultural policies in South Africa; on the World Bank's policies, their origins, and implications; on the political economy of structural adjustment; and on theories of development and explaining public policies.

Gavin has had an unrivalled impact on many younger academics with whom he has come into contact as undergraduate, Masters and Ph.D students. He regards his teaching and supervision as his main contribution to academic life, and the source of many of his ideas. He has taught several generations of undergraduate students, supervised 46 successful doctoral students, and also examined over 100 doctoral theses. Four former students have dedicated their books to Gavin; the *Review of African Political Economy* dedicated a special issue to him, and in 2010, colleagues and students held an international conference at the University of Oxford in his honour, 'Celebrating Gavin Williams'.

In the current climate characterised by constant (and ever increasing) pressure to publish and to earn research income, it seems timely to recognise the importance of teaching and supervision and, more specifically, the time and energy that Gavin has dedicated to the careers of a long line of Africanist scholars.

Through this award, we acknowledge Gavin's important and wide-ranging contributions to knowledge and particularly to our understanding of politics, democracy, rural development, and labour in South Africa and Nigeria.

It is therefore with great affection and high esteem that the ASUK confers Gavin Williams with the Distinguished Africanist Award, 2013/14.

Adapted from the nomination statements made by Professor David Simon (Royal Holloway, University of London; ASUK member and former Council member); and Dr Gabrielle Lynch (University of Warwick; ASUK Council Member; Chair of the *Review of African Political Economy* editorial working group; British Institute in Eastern Africa Council Member)

Audrey Richards Prize Winners

The Audrey Richards Prize is awarded biennially for the best doctoral thesis in African Studies which has been successfully examined in a British institute of higher education during the two calendar years immediately preceding the ASAUK Conference. So the 2014 prize was for theses examined between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2013.

The prize is something which enhances any graduate's CV and is accompanied by a certificate and an attractive package of book and journal vouchers from the generosity of our publisher donors. ASAUK gratefully acknowledges the support of the following publishers: Cambridge University Press (CUP), Hurst and Co., International African Institute (IAI), IB Tauris, Boydell and Brewer (James Currey), Taylor and Francis, and Zed Press.

This is the 20th Anniversary of the Audrey Richards Prize and the tenth award. We had an unprecedented 22 nominations and a welcome expansion in the pool of institutions from which the nominations came: Durham, Huddersfield, Manchester, the Open University and Sussex. The standard was remarkably high. It was both humbling and stimulating to read so much good research and gain a sense of some of the new directions in African Studies. And it is very pleasing to see that the field is in such a healthy state. Given the size of the field, we decided to have one winner and three runners up.

The runners up are as follows in alphabetical order:

1) *George Karekwaivanane, Faculty of History, Oxford University, 'Legal Encounters: Law, State and Society in Zimbabwe, c. 1950-1990'*

This is a really admirable, splendidly-researched, balanced and lucidly presented thesis on the ambivalent legacies of law – as an instrument of justice, state-maintenance and repression – in colonial and independent Zimbabwe. It explores the ways in which legal traditions instituted under settler rule were taken over by the ZANU-PF regime. The thesis examined the role of the law in constituting state power; the place of law in the creation of Africans as 'cultural others' rather than citizens; law as a means of expression for emergent political imaginaries; and the interpenetration and mutual constitution of colonial and customary law. We particularly enjoyed the chapter on courtroom dramas in which the state authorized its programmes and Africans contested their legitimacy; and the chapter on African lawyers as intermediaries and intellectuals. These were the fruit of some insightful interviews with now prominent legal figures and politicians in Zimbabwe. Overall, the thesis makes a strong case for the centrality of law in defining state power and in the creation of new subjectivities in Zimbabwean history.

2) *Zoe Marks, Department of Politics and International Relations, Oxford University, 'The Internal Dynamics of Rebel Groups. Politics of Material Viability and Organizational Capacity, RUF, Sierra Leone'*

This is an outstanding account of how the Revolutionary United Front organized and maintained itself, written to a large extent from interviews with RUF fighters. It provides an extraordinary level of detailed information about how a rebel movement – widely regarded from outside as driven by little more than greed and hatred – looked from the inside. It opens up new perspectives on the internal management of rebel groups that go well beyond the Sierra Leone case. It stands in contrast to the essentially external accounts that have largely constituted the extensive literature on the RUF – and indeed other similar movements. The detailed and original material on organization and command and control, and especially that on supply – both of food and of ammunition – gives us an extraordinary insight into how guerrilla groups actually work, and how in time they can come to look like neo-patrimonial states.

3) Holly Porter, Department of Social Anthropology, LSE, 'After Rape: Justice and Social Harmony in Northern Uganda'

This thesis is about how people in Acholi perceive rape, especially resulting from conflict in the region, and how their ways of dealing with the aftermath differ from those of externally-derived post-conflict justice. It is a superb thesis, derived from extensive immersion in the society concerned – in this case six years – and showing a deep engagement with the people and issues involved. The writing is thoughtful wise, fabulously clear and compelling. While relating the material to the external concerns indicated by the post-conflict justice literature and the involvement of the ICC, it is most fundamentally concerned with the ways in which rape is considered and contextualized within Acholi society, especially by women. It engages with the local meaning of social harmony, punishment and forgiveness and from this perspective makes an important contribution to debates about crime, wrongdoing, justice, and sexual violence in the context of war.

The winner of the Audrey Richards prize is:

Sarah O'Neill, Anthropology, Goldsmiths, University of London, 'Defying the Law, Negotiating Change. The Futanke's Opposition to the National Ban on FGM in Senegal'.

This is a stunning examination of the issues relating to both the promotion and the opposition to programmes for banning FGM in Senegal, with a remarkably open approach to the viewpoint of the opponents. It is based on a remarkable period of fieldwork, or association with the study area, of about ten years, and an extraordinary level of incorporation into local society. It is also wonderfully un-didactic, and shows great sympathy with the numerous different elements in Futanke society, as well as an awareness of place. There is a good deal of description of local life, extending well beyond the formal subject matter of the thesis that conveys a great sense of what the area and local society are like. Nothing is simplified, but it comes in the end to an understanding of how certain

groups within local society, notably those of higher social status, have been able to capture the anti-FGM position as representing indigenous values.

What the judges particularly liked about the thesis is the way it which it incorporates the complex differences between groups within Futanke society in relation to FGM, refers to men's circumcision in terms analogous to FGM, and relates attitudes within local society to the wider world of human rights, showing how the latter are partially incorporated within local attitudes. The conceptual framework is also exceptionally wide-ranging engaging with issues such as the female body, ethnicity, caste, cultural imperialism, styles of resistance and modernity. And of course the dissertation is very timely, raising extremely pertinent and important questions about the approaches, methods and aims of international feminists' campaigns to end the practice of FGM.

**The Judges: Professor David Maxwell (Chair),
Professor Christopher Clapham and Dr Toby Green**

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'Documenting Africa: Creating Fact or Fiction through the Lens, University of Westminster, London, 8–9 November 2014. The 6th African Film Conference organised by the Africa Media Centre at the University of Westminster provides opportunities to bring together academic scholars and practitioners from around the world to discuss contemporary issues around how African's portray themselves and how they are portrayed by others. Topics will include present-day production, distribution, audiences, contested African histories, or post-colonial archives. With an explosion of new media and a further diversification of television landscapes over the last ten years, alongside a revival of documentaries for cinemas and radio documentary productions, this conference will critically engage with the realities of documentary in and about Africa. How has a form that is often criticized as a 'Western version' of re-creating reality evolved across the African continent? What are the problems and concerns of practitioners? Is the documentary form a useful and adequate format for educating the public? What are the specific themes and subject matters of African documentary? What roles have the digitisation of film and television archives played in the self-understanding of the African countries whose memories and visual histories have been frequently stored abroad? How does an up and coming generation deal with new possibilities in film and video making? To register, contact Helen Cohen, Events Administrator: journalism@westminster.ac.uk

African Archaeology Research Day 2014, on “SS Great Britain”, University of Bristol, 21–22 November 2014. The plenary and keynote papers will take place on the first afternoon. It is anticipated that this year there will be parallel sessions for papers on the second day, together with small group panels on focused themes, and posters. The organisers hope to showcase interfaces between archaeological science and African archaeology at this year’s conference, although the general focus of the conference remains, as always, African archaeology. There will be papers and posters on science in African archaeology; Africa in the wider world; Pleistocene Africa; heritage management in Africa; recent fieldwork and discoveries; technology, conservation and material culture; and climate, landscape and resource use. For more details, check: <https://www.facebook.com/AARD2014>

‘Eritrea and Rwanda: Post-Liberation Trajectories in Comparative Perspective’, Comparative Symposium, African Studies Centre, University of Oxford, 1–2 December 2014. For Eritrea and Rwanda, 2014 has special significance for the ruling elites, which have dominated politics in both countries for the last two decades. In Eritrea, it marks twenty years since the formation of the People’s Front for Democracy and Justice, the political party that succeeded the Eritrean People’s Liberation Front after it had finally won Eritrea its independence from Ethiopia. For Rwanda, it marks twenty years since the Genocide and the rise to power of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, led in particular by former Uganda based refugees. In both countries, the continued presence of liberation leaders -- Eritrea’s Isaias Afewerki and Rwanda’s Paul Kagame -- turned presidents is fuelling speculation about succession, as Rwanda’s elections approach in 2017 and since the prospect of a constitution drafting process was announced by Eritrea’s president in his independence day speech this year.

Whilst critical academic engagement assessing these post-liberation states has proliferated, especially literature examining the development of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, the Eritrean and Rwandan Studies communities have both at times faced criticism for being excessively polarising and damagingly insular. Hosted by the African Studies Centre, and supported by the Department for International Development, the Horn of Africa Seminar and the Oxford Central Africa Forum, this conference thus seeks to address both critiques. In bringing together academics working on these two different countries, whose resemblance in political ideologies and history poses interesting questions for the state formations we see now, it seeks to provide a productive space for sharing theoretical approaches and empirical observations through a series of exploratory panels. These are aimed at addressing topics not based on normative models of state formation and behaviour, but observed themes concerning those features which, though distinctive for each regime, appear to have interesting degrees of comparability across the two. To register, contact: Jason Mosley: Jason.mosley@africa.ox.ac.uk or Georgia Cole: Georgia.cole@qeh.ox.ac.uk

‘Contemporary Congolese Studies’, Third Congo Research Network conference, University of Cambridge, 11–12 June 2015. Organised in collaboration with the African Studies Centre, this conference will bring together both junior and senior scholars in Congolese Studies, working at European, North American and African research institutions. The organisers seek papers, research projects and works-in-progress which address Congolese society, culture or history, with a particular interest in proposals which fall under the following themes: cultures of conflict; environment and natural resources; religious dynamics; postcolonial governance and the role of NGOs; popular and material culture; colonial and postcolonial states; gender and society; urban cultures; and methodologies and epistemologies in Congolese Studies. Abstracts by 31 October 2014 to: congoreserchnetwork@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL

‘Development, Urban Space and Human Rights in Africa’ Conference, University of Texas at Austin, USA, 3–5 April 2015. Development, which has always been intertwined with human rights, is increasingly linked to the fate of urban spaces and urban livelihoods. Questions about poverty, economic growth, quality of life, social inequality, human rights and citizenship are framed through the lens of urban planning and development policies. Whether indigenously derived or externally influenced/imposed, development strategies for Africa are based on visions of alternative futures that seek to redefine social relations and spatial organization both within the continent and abroad. The social, political, and cultural landscapes envisioned and created under the context of development highlight the historic and ongoing challenges that frame efforts to transform Africa’s development trajectory. The goal of this year’s conference is to generate interdisciplinary insights that can interrogate development paradigms and intervention practices as they relate to urban space and human rights in Africa.

What does development mean in the context of indigenous strategies of self-determination and global intervention? How do notions of development shape urban space and urban policies in Africa? In what ways have development strategies affected human rights? How is development conceptualized, and how does this advance or foreclose intervention practices? How can development related issues be conceptualized in contexts of vulnerability and crises that arise across urban, government, or individual levels? In what ways do individual voices inform collective strategies that address development, and how do these voices support or contradict dominant/external development goals? How do indigenous collectives and global activists define human rights and urban rights, and how can these definitions shift notions of development?

Potential topics may include: development debates; narratives of development; development and the aid industry; development paradigms and conceptualizations of development; urban space and development practices; intervention in development issues human rights debates; intervention in human rights; urban rights, rights to the city; African development strategies; sustainable development; gender and development; entrepreneurship and development; insurgent development practices; methodologies of development; human rights and border issues; urban informalization/informality and citizenship; social exclusion, displacement, and urban marginalization; rhetoric and culture of international human rights; Africom and intervention; NGOs, MDGs and prospects for development; sanctions for better or worse (Zimbabwe, Sudan); intellectual property and struggle over resources; urban planning and development strategies; development and land and water rights; dependency and human rights issues; intellectual property and struggle over resources; concepts of under-development, urban space, and human rights; education for development; children and youth: development strategies for/impacts, rights and life prospects; development, imagined futures, and existing social realities; and development and perceptions of futurity (state-directed conceptualizations of pathways to future progress and notions of risk-laden futures). 250 word abstracts by 30 November 2014 to africaconference2015@gmail.com and Professor Toyin Falola: toyinfalola@austin.utexas.edu

‘Islam in Africa: Historical and Contemporary Processes of Islamisation and Re-islamisations’, Joint conference of the Swiss Society Middle East and Islamic Cultures and the Swiss Society of African Studies, Berne, Switzerland, 24–25 April 2015. An estimated 500 million Africans, or roughly 45% of the total population on the African continent, is Muslim and many countries are predominantly Muslim or have significant Muslim populations. However, there is a huge diversity within Islam. The conference aims to explore the dynamics behind this diversity. It is interested in both historical and contemporary processes of islamisation and re-islamisations in Africa and their consequences. Earlier examples include economic and cultural exchanges in Northern and Eastern Africa and the Horn that were triggered by trade and frequently pre-dated contact with Europeans. These exchanges had significant impacts, among other, on the political sphere, education, science, and everyday practices. Beyond these earlier examples and their transformations, there are both transnational and domestic contemporary processes. They include adapted trade flows, investment and banking relations or development aid. Among the consequences are reform movements, but also (violent) political change. These forms of change have different social effects depending on gender, age, social class and other markers of difference. Other processes of islamisation and re-islamisation are based on migration and cultural flows based on the internet, media or popular culture, again having distinct effects on the micro, the meso and the macro level.

The organizers welcome papers on the following sub-themes of the conference:

Panel 1: Islam and Power (Organiser: Daniel Künzler, University of Fribourg: daniel.kuenzler@unifr.ch). The diffusion of Islam is closely related to questions of power. It is linked to diverse and ambiguous processes such as the emergence of (early) elites, social reform projects, the collaboration with or the resistance to colonial domination and postcolonial governments. Furthermore, forms of religious revitalization with its influences on popular lifestyles and institutions (re-)shape the socio-political order and its underlying power struggles and games, both in support of dominant groups or as a challenge to them. This panel welcomes papers that analyse historical and contemporary developments and transformations of the political space. Papers may focus on the (re-)negotiation of policies and politics or on politics.

Panel 2: Islam and economics (Organiser: Thomas Würtz, University of Berne: thomas.wuertz@islam.unibe.ch). Trade was a major factor for the diffusion of Islam in Africa. Especially trading across the Sahara desert was for centuries in the hand of Muslim tribes. Merchandise were spices, salt, gold and ivory as well as manuscripts and slaves. Later on Sufi communities combined Islamic forms of spirituality with economic matters. The most prominent example for this connection may be the activities of the Muridiyya community in Senegal with regard to peanuts farming. Investments are nowadays done in the primary sector (land grabbing), the secondary sector (raw materials) and the tertiary sector (tourism, Islamic Banking). All these activities taken together with development cooperation contribute at different degrees to the re-islamisation in African countries.

Panel 3: Islam and change of material and immaterial cultures (organiser: Anne Mayor, University of Geneva: anne.mayor@unige.ch). Islam has been progressively adopted in Africa in different time periods and through different modalities. This caused and continues to cause important changes in domains as different as architecture, funeral rites, art and handicraft, clothing and eating practices, not to mention music and popular culture. Historically, the diffusion of Islam accompanied the development of long-distance exchange networks and the large-scale settling-down of people, processes that structure societies until now. For the cultural heritage of African societies, islamisation signified also the abandon, consented or under constraint, of sacred places, funeral rituals and objects used for the cult of ancestors, or even the delocalisation of entire villages. All this contributed to the transformation of the cultural spheres of both converted individuals and societies. Processes of re-islamisation touch these questions even more radically and concern also societies that have been Muslim for a long time. This is exemplified by the recent destruction of manuscripts and mausoleums of Muslim saints or by the canon used for the generalised reconstruction of mosques that differs from the canons used for the ancient mosques of Sahelian Africa.

Panel 4: Imagined communities (organisers: Thomas Herzog, University of Berne: therzog@islam.unibe.ch and Elisabeth Bäschlin, University of Berne: elisabeth.baeschlin@giub.unibe.ch). The diffusion of Islamic religiosity and practices in Africa participates in the multiple processes of identity construction in the past and in the present (islamisation and “re-islamisation”). In this panel we would like to welcome all contributions which deal with the field of interaction of Islamic religiosity and the construction of identity. We understand ‘identities’ as constructions in the sense of Benedict Anderson (*Imagined Communities*, 1983), as a product of religious, ethnic, cultural and national ascriptions and self-ascriptions. Currently religion is in the focus of self- and external perception and is discussed as such. One of our concerns is to widen the perspective and to include other relevant aspects (culture, history, tradition) and processes (ethnicizing). 200 word abstracts in French or German by 30 November 2014 to the panel organisers listed above.

‘African Renaissance and Pan-Africanism: Epistemologies of the South, New Leadership Paradigms, and African Futures’, Toyin Falola Annual Conference (TOFAC) Conference, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa, 2–4 July 2015. Africa is at once an invention, an idea, and a reality. Its geo-political cartography is linked to the global cartography of power. It has a long and proud pre-colonial existence including being the cradle of human civilization and an experience of a traumatic insertion into the evolving modern/imperial/colonial system. Mercantilism, the slave trade, imperialism, Islamisation, Christianisation, colonialism, apartheid, neo-colonialism, underdevelopment and structural adjustment programmes – collectively constituted the colonial global power structure in place since Conquest. Africa has also experienced epic forms of African resistance and de-colonial struggles, demonstrating beyond doubt its agency and initiative in shaping and creating its own futures

In the realm of knowledge, although various impartial historical, scientific, and anthropological studies have confirmed that the continent is the cradle of human civilisation, Euro-North American-centric epistemology privileges Hellenocentrism, Eurocentrism and Westernization and continues to contest African endogenous and indigenous epistemologies. Consequently, a series of violent encounters with the West and Arabs in form of the Trans-Saharan and Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, colonialism, neo-colonialism and globalisation have left the continent with scars and debilitating psychological traumas that have continued to shape her existential realities to this day. Africa has also suffered from epistemic violence as racist, anthropological and Euro-centric historical studies have denied or distorted the history of Africa, dismissed her indigenous knowledge base and emasculated any attempt at developing context specific knowledge production.

Pan-Africanism was the rallying point for African unity as well as struggles against imperial domination and control. It was a movement and cultural-cum-political consciousness among Africans on the mainland and their kith and kin in the Diaspora. Protagonists of Pan-Africanism believe in the rediscovery of the African person as a complete human being who is capable of making scientific discovery, innovation, and contributing to human development. They believe that despite the challenges that the continent has faced over several centuries of exploitation and domination, it can rise again. The hope of the Pan-Africanists is that the progress and the realisation of Africa's huge potential lie in her unity and integration.

In view of the complicated trajectory of Africa marked by failures and successes, defeats and triumphs, trials and tribulations, as well as hopes and despairs, questions continue to arise about the future of Africa and its agency. This conference therefore calls for papers that focus on the following broad themes and questions: genealogies, trajectories, and horizons of Pan-Africanism; the current state of the Africa's Renaissance; what is the appropriate framework for uniting the African Continent; what kind of leadership is needed to turn the current tide of captured development; which epistemologies are relevant in driving the change that the continent needs; what is the impact of colonialism on power, being, and knowledge in Africa; how can we develop a beneficial form of engagement with other parts of the world; and what strategies can be used to resolve conflicts currently afflicting Africa?

The organisers welcome papers that address the following interrelated thematic issues. History: African pre-colonial governance structures and processes; African political economies in pre-colonial times; African relations with the outside world in pre-colonial times; African indigenous knowledge systems; African dispute settlement mechanisms; and patterns of migration in pre-colonial Africa. Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance: Pan-Africanism: utopia or reality; identity crisis in Post-colonial Africa; Pan-Africanism and regional integration in Africa; nationalism and Pan-Africanism; political citizens and society in Africa; and the African Renaissance. Epistemology of Change and Knowledge Production for Africa Development: rethinking African Studies; African historiography and institutions of learning; African literature and development; Afrocentric education and development; African cultural studies and philosophy; context specific curriculum and education; gender studies and feminism; communication studies and development; social science studies and development; language and visual arts; and science, innovation and technology for development in Africa. Leadership, Followership and Governance in Africa: African agency in development; transformational leadership; progressive forces-civil society, labour unions and student movements; youth and governance in Africa; corruption and challenges of development in Africa; democracy; and peacebuilding and security in Africa. The State and the Economy in Africa:

rethinking the state in Africa; the state and the market; industrial policy and development in Africa; public policy and African development; the state and social policies in Africa; informal economy; and cross-border trades. Africa's geo-political relations in critical perspectives: Afro-Asian Relations; Africa-EU Relations; Afro-American Relations; Afro-Latin America Relations; and Africa and the BRICS. 250 word abstracts by 30 November 2014 to: tmali@unisa.ac.za and oloruso@unisa.ac.za

...Conferences Past

1994-2014: 20 years of South African Democracy proved a very successful conference and after over a year of planning, it was pleasing to see all the hours of organisation pay off at St. Antony's College over the three days between 24th and 26th April. Whilst the Conference sessions would take place on the 25th and 26th, these would be preceded by a day-long Roundtable Session on Provincial Government organised by the African Studies Centre and the Gauteng Legislature Core Business Division. Focusing on administration, oversight and the running of Provincial Government(s) since 1994, this proved a very interesting opening ahead of the Conference proper the following day. Following its panels, there were book launches for a number of new books from Jacana: Busani Ngcaweni's *Liberation Diaries* and Hugh MacMillan's *Lusaka Years*, as well Colin Bundy's *Short-Changed?* The Thursday evening was finished off with a performance of Matthew Hahn's *The Robben Island Bible* hosted in conjunction with Brand South Africa, along with a post-performance reception afterwards.

Over the course of Friday and Saturday, over 32 panels took place on topics ranging from the ANC as an Organisation, Violence, South African Environmental policy and Culture. On the Friday afternoon, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe delivered the Keynote Address entitled 'Building a Democratic and Inclusive Society': the Journey of 20 years of Freedom'. Following the Deputy President's Address, Kgalema Motlanthe was probed on the content of his address by Professors Anthony Butler, Ruth Hall and Xolela Mangcu. This element of the Keynote session led to a fascinating to and fro between the Deputy President and the respondents and made for an excellent insight into the then Deputy President's views on the successes and failings of the ANC as an organisation and party of Government (recordings of this shall be going up online shortly). The Deputy President followed his address by meeting members of the African Studies Centre and come the day's end, he had been at St Antony's College for almost eight hours, having arrived early in the morning to attend some sessions prior to his afternoon address. Later in the evening a Plenary Session took place involving Professor Adam Habib, (former Ambassador) Tony Leon and Professor Xolela Mangcu, with Dr. Jonny Steinberg chairing proceedings (recordings of this session will also go online shortly). Once more, another fascinating to and fro emerged between participants.

The second and final day of the Conference would see a further 16 panels, along with book launches for new texts from authors such as Tim Gibbs, Adam Habib, Roger Southall and Prisahni Naidoo and John Saul. The Conference finished with a fascinating discussion on the ANC, Capital and Labour involving Goldman Sachs SA Division Head Colin Coleman, Professor Adam Habib, Professor Jeremy Seekings, with Professor William Beinart chairing. It was clear that many new friendships and collaborations had emerged over the few days and the significant media coverage and discussions in the aftermath of the Conference.

The Conference steering committee were extremely thankful for all our kind sponsors and partners, including ASAUK who very kindly contributed to the air fare of one of our young academic participants, Aghogho Akpome, a Ph.D student from the University of Johannesburg. With limited funds to assist South African-based academics to attend the Conference, we were extremely thankful to ASAUK and others who helped assist some of the Conference's young participants in attending and contributing over the few days.

Jason Robinson: jason.robinson@sant.ox.ac.uk

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Elizabeth Afari-Owusu (2014), 'Participation in Global Horticulture Value Chains: Implications for Poverty Alleviation in the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region', D.B.A. thesis, University of Manchester. Supervisors: Dr Ronald Ramlogan and Professor Philip Shapira; <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/escholar/uk-ac-man-scw:217527>

Michelle Afrifah (2014), 'Exploring the Socio-economic Impact of African American Tourists on Southern Ghana ', Ph.D thesis, King's College London. Supervisor: Dr Deborah Potts.

Raphael Aidoo (2013), 'The Impact of Individual Philanthropy on Rural Development in Ghana', Ph.D thesis, King's College London. Supervisor: Dr Deborah Potts.

Alicia N. Altorfer-Ong (2014), 'Old Comrades and New Brothers: A Historical Re-examination of the Sino-Zanzibari and Sino-Tanzanian Bilateral Relationships in the 1960s', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Joanna Lewis; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/811/>

Peter Arthur (2014), 'The Textuality of Contemporary Hiplife Lyrics', Ph.D thesis, University of Birmingham. Supervisors: Professor Karin Barber and Dr Kate Skinner; <http://etheses.bham.ac.uk/4889/>

Olusoyi Olatokunbo Richard Ashaye (2014), 'Evaluating the Implementation of E-Government in Developing Countries: The Case of Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, Brunel University. Supervisors: Professor Zahir Irani and Professor Vishanth Weerakkody; <http://bura.brunel.ac.uk/handle/2438/8751>

Jamal Bahmad (2014), 'Casablanca Belongs to us: Globalisation, Everyday Life and Postcolonial Subjectivity in Moroccan Cinema since the 1990s', Ph.D thesis, University of Stirling. Supervisor: Professor David Murphy; <http://hdl.handle.net/1893/19847>

Roman Yiseni Belete (2014), 'The Contest of Representation: Photographic Images of Ethiopian women in national print media, development aid organisations and galleries', Ph.D thesis, University of Durham. Supervisors: Professor Marcus Power and Professor Cheryl McEwan; <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/10631/>

Brian Chama (2014), 'Press Freedom in Zambia: A Study of 'The Post' Newspaper and Professional Practice in Political Context', Ph.D thesis, Roehampton University. Supervisors: Dr Anita Biressi and Professor Heather Nunn; <http://hdl.handle.net/10142/315689>

Sadia Zulfiqar Chaudhry (2014), 'African Women Writers and the Politics of Gender', Ph.D thesis, University of Glasgow. Supervisor: Professor Willy Maley.

Nikia R. Clarke (2014), 'Of People, Politics and Profit: The Political Economy of Chinese Industrial Zone Development in Nigeria', D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Abdul Raufu Mustapha.

Neal Dando (2014), 'The Impact of Terrain on British Operations and Doctrine in North Africa, 1940-1943', Ph.D thesis, University of Plymouth. Supervisor: Dr Harry Bennett; <http://hdl.handle.net/10026.1/3035>

Simon Duphey (2014), 'The Impacts of HIV/AIDS Pandemic on Rural Livelihoods: The Case of the Ghana-Togo Border Region', Ph.D thesis, University of Sheffield. Supervisors: Dr Deborah Sporton and Dr Jan Rigby; <http://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/6283/>

N. F. Filippi, (2014), 'Deviances and the Construction of a 'Healthy Nation' in South Africa: A Study of Pollsmoor Prison and Valkenberg Psychiatric Hospital, c. 1964-1994', D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Jan-Georg Deutsch.

Nthabiseng Anna Faku-Juqula (2014), 'Fourteen Years On: The Legacy of Giving Testimony to the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Survivors of Human Rights Violations', Ph.D thesis, Brunel University. Supervisors: Dr Frances Reynolds, Lindsey Nicholls and Dr Cathy Aymer; <http://bura.brunel.ac.uk/handle/2438/8749>

Mulugeta Lolamo Handino (2014), ‘“Green famine” in Ethiopia: Understanding the Causes of Increasing Vulnerability to Food Insecurity and Policy Responses in the Southern Ethiopian Highlands’, Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisors: Dr Stephen Devereux, Dr Jeremy Lind and Dr Rachel Sabates-Wheeler; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/48738/>

Kalle Hirvonen (2014), ‘Three Essays on Internal Migration and Nutrition in Tanzania’, D.Phil thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisors: Professor Barry Reilly, Professor Andy McKay and Dr Alex Moradi; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/48884/>

Hannah Hoechner (2014), ‘Ambiguous Adventures: ‘Traditional’ Qur’anic Students in Kano, Nigeria’, D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Abdul Raufu Mustapha and Dr Laura Camfield.

Rachel Anne James (2014), ‘Implications for Global Warming for African Climate’, D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Richard Washington.

Rebecca Katherine Jones (2014), ‘Writing Domestic Travel in Yoruba and English Print Culture, Southwestern Nigeria, 1914-2014’, Ph.D thesis, University of Birmingham. Supervisors: Professor Karin Barber and Dr Stewart Brown; <http://etheses.bham.ac.uk/5249/>

Amina Nasibu Kamando (2014), ‘Government-Community Partnership in the Provision of Education in Rural Tanzania’, Ph.D thesis, University of Glasgow. Supervisors: Dr Lesley Doyle and Rod Purcell; <http://theses.gla.ac.uk/5294>

George Karekwaivanane (2013), ‘Legal Encounters: Law, State and Society in Zimbabwe, c. 1950-1990’, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Jocelyn Alexander.

Christopher Letcher (2014), ‘Composing South Africa on Screen: A Film Composer's Perspective on Representation and Aesthetics in the Production of Post-Apartheid Cinema’, D.Mus. thesis, Royal College of Music, London. Supervisor: Dr Miguel Mera.

Zoe Marks (2013), ‘The Internal Dynamics of Rebel Groups: Politics of Material Viability and Organizational Capacity, RUF, Sierra Leone’, D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor David Anderson.

Takeshi Miyazaki (2014), ‘Is Changing Teaching Practice the Mission Impossible?: A Case Study of Continuing Professional Development for Primary School Teachers in Senegal’, D.Ed thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisor: Dr John Pryor; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/47874/>

Everette Ndlovu (2014), 'The Role of Diasporic Media in Facilitating Citizen Journalism and Political Awareness in Zimbabwe', Ph.D thesis, University of Salford; <http://usir.salford.ac.uk/31005/>

Levi Onyeisi Wilson Odoe (2014), 'Party Autonomy and Enforceability of Arbitration Agreements and Awards as the Basis of Arbitration [Nigeria]', Ph.D thesis, University of Leicester. Supervisors: Masood Ahmed and Francois du Bois; <http://hdl.handle.net/2381/28773>

Marjoke Anika Oosterom (2014), 'The Effects of Violent Conflict and Displacement on Citizen Engagement: A Case Study from Northern Uganda', D.Phil thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisors: Dr Rosemary McGee and Professor John Gaventa; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/48910/>

Michael Picardie (2014), 'Towards a Philosophy of Theatre Inspired by Aristotle's Poetics and Post-Structuralist Aesthetics in Relation to Three South African Plays', Ph.D thesis, University of South Wales. Supervisors: Professor Stephen Lacey and Michael Carlin; <http://hdl.handle.net/10265/749>

Holly Porter (2013), 'After Rape: Justice and Social Harmony in Northern Uganda', Ph.D thesis, LES, University of London. Supervisors: Professor Tim Allen and Professor Ron Atkinson; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/717/>

Thomas Sharp (2014), 'The International Possibilities of Insurgency and Statehood in Africa: The U.P.C. and Cameroon, 1948-1971', Ph.D thesis, University of Manchester. Supervisors: Professor Bertrand Taithe and Dr Steven Pierce; <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/escholar/uk-ac-man-scw:219109>

Sebastião Nuno de Araújo Barros e Silva (2014), 'The Land of Flies, Children and Devils: The Sleeping Sickness Epidemic in the Island of Príncipe (1870s-1914)', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Sloan Mahone.

Joanna Kay Skelt (2014), 'The Social Function of Writing in Post-war Sierra Leone: Poetry as a Discourse for Peace', Ph.D thesis, University of Birmingham. Supervisors: Dr Stewart Brown and Dr Reg Cline-Cole; <http://etheses.bham.ac.uk/4990/>

Colette Solebo (2014), 'The First 24 hours: Mortality and Other Outcomes of Paediatric Emergency Care in Lagos: A Case Study', Ph.D thesis, University of Warwick. Supervisors: Dr Peter Sidebotham, Professor Frances Griffiths and Dr Kandala N-Bakwin; <http://wrap.warwick.ac.uk/61795/>

Richard Stanley (2013), 'Micro-Macro Paradoxes: The Effects of War and Aid on Child Survival' [Sierra Leone], D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Anke Hoeffler and Dr Raymond Duch.

Edward Mark Teversham (2014), 'Representations and Perceptions of the Kruger National Park and the Manyeleti Game Reserve, 1926-2010', D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor William Beinart.

Cassandra Mark-Thiesen (2014), 'West African Labour and the Development of Mechanised Mining in Southwest Ghana, c.1870s to 1910', D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Jan-Georg Deutsch.

Machiko Tsubura (2014), 'Accountability and Clientelism in Dominant Party Politics: The Case of a Constituency Development Fund in Tanzania', D.Phil thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisors: Dr Andrés Mejía Acosta, Professor David K. Leonard and Dr Shandana Khan Mohmand; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/48876/>

Samuel Danjuma Wapwera (2014), 'Spatial planning framework for urban development and management in Jos Metropolis, Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, University of Salford. Supervisor: Professor Charles Odit Egbu; <http://usir.salford.ac.uk/30802/>

Fassil Gebeyehu Yelemtu (2014), 'The Social Life of Seeds: An Ethnographic Exploration of Farming Knowledge in Kibtya of Amhara region, Ethiopia', Ph.D thesis, University of Durham. Supervisors: Dr Thomas Yarrow and Dr Ben Campbell; <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/10565/>

Recent Publications

Olayiwola Abegunrin (2014), *Africa in the New World Order: Peace and Security Challenges in the Twenty-First Century*, Lanham and New York: Lexington Books, 276pp, 978-0-7391-9351-8; £59.95; <http://www.lexingtonbooks.com/>

Afe Adogame (ed) (2014), *The Public Face of African New Religious Movements in Diasporas: Imagining the Religious 'Other'*. Ashgate, 300pp, 978-1-4724-2010-7, £70.

Afe Adogame and Andrew Lawrence (2014), *Africa in Scotland, Scotland in Africa*. Brill, 370pp, 978-90-04-27620-8, £50.

An Ansoms and Thea Hilhorst (eds) (2014), *Losing Your Land: Dispossession in the Great Lakes*. Boydell & Brewer, 220pp, 978-1-84701-105-3, £19.99.

Terry Barringer and Marion Wallace (eds) (2014), *African Studies in the Digital Age: DisConnects?* Brill, 262pp, 978-90-04-27230-9, £39.

Andrea Behrends, Sung-Joon Park and Richard Rottenburg (2014), *Travelling Models in African Conflict Management*. Brill, 248pp, 978-90-04-26460-1, £51.

Thomas Bierschenk and Jean-Pierre Oliver de Sardan (2014), *States at Work: Dynamics of African Bureaucracies*. Brill, 400pp, 978-90-04-26478-6, £53.

Jacky Bouju and Mirjam de Bruijn (eds) (2014), *Ordinary Violence and Social Change in Africa*. Brill, 180pp, 978-90-04-27155-5, £38.

Todd Cleveland (2014), *Stones of Contention: A History of Africa's Diamonds*. Ohio University Press, 240pp, 978-0-8214-2100-0, £16.

Peter Cole and Brian McQuinn (eds) (2014), *The Libyan Revolution and its Aftermath*. Hurst, 320pp, 978-1849043090, £30.

David G. Dickinson (2014), *A Different Kind of AIDS: Alternative Explanations of HIV/AIDS in South African Townships*. Femela, 408pp, 978-1920196981, £12.95.

Allison Drew (2014), *We Are No Longer in France: Communists in Colonial Algeria*. Manchester University Press, 336pp, 978-0-7190-9024-0, £75.

Ulf Engel and Manuel João Ramos (2014), *African Dynamics in a Multipolar World*. Brill, 220pp, 978090-04-25604-0, £51.

Amanda Hammar (ed) (2014), *Displacement Economies in Africa: Paradoxes of Crisis and Creativity*. Zed Books, 288pp, 978-1780324883, £21.99; <http://www.zedbooks.co.uk/node/16925>

Giles Mohan, Ben Lampert, Daphine Chang and May Tan-Mullins (2014), *Chinese Migrants and Africa's Development: New Imperialists or Agents of Change?* Zed Books, 192pp, 978-1780329161, £19.99.

F. Fiona Moolla (2014), *Reading Nuruddin Farah: The Individual, The Novel and the Idea of Home*. James Currey, 216pp, 978-1-84701-091-9, £45.

Tanja R. Müller (2014), *Legacies of Socialist Solidarity – East Germany in Mozambique*. Lexington Books, 222pp, 978-0-7391-7942-0, £51.95; <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9780739179437>

Knut G. Nustad (2014), *Creating Africas: Struggles Over Nature, Conservation and Land*. Hurst, 224pp, 978-1849042581, £25.

Barnaby Phillips (2014) *Another Man's War – The Story of a Burma Boy in Britain's Forgotten African Army*. OneWorld Publications, 336p, 978-1780745220, £20.

David W. Phillipson (2014), *Foundations of an African Civilisation: Aksum and the Northern Horn, 1000 BC – AD 1300*. James Currey, 304pp, 978-1-84701-088-9, £16.99.

Gérard Prunier and Éloi Ficquet (eds) (2014), *Understanding Contemporary Ethiopia: Monarchy, Revolution and Legacy of Meles Zenawi*. Hurst, 224pp, 978-1849042581, £19.99.

Ato Quayson (2014), *Oxford Street, Accra*. Duke University Press, 344pp, 978-0-8223-5747-6, £15.99.

David Richardson and Filipa Ribeiro da Silva (ed) (2014), *Networks and Trans-Cultural Exchange: Slave Trading in the South Atlantic, 1590-1867*. Brill, 284pp, 978-90-04-28057-1, £79.

Hugh Roberts (2014), *Commanding Disorder: Military Power and Informal Politics in Algeria*. IB Tauris, 336pp, 97801860647178, £29.50.

Andrew Sardanis (2014), *Zambia: Fifty Years of Nationhood*. IB Tauris, 336pp; hardback: 978-1780768212, £35; paperback: 978-1780768229, £12.

Ian Taylor (2014), *Africa Rising? BRICS – Diversifying Dependency*. Oxford: James Currey, 194pp, 978-1847010964, £19.99.

Rijk Van Dijk, Hansjörg Dilger, Marian Burchardt and Thera Rasing (eds) (2014), *Religion and AIDS Treatment in Africa*. Ashgate, 320pp, 978-1-4094-5669-8, £70.

Maaïke Voorhoeve (2014), *Gender and Divorce Law in North Africa: Sharia, Custom and the Personal Status Code in Tunisia*. I.B. Tauris, 320pp, 978-1780765297, £65.

Call for Book Manuscripts: Africa in Development

While African development remains a preoccupation, policy craftsmen and a multiplicity of domestic and international actors have been engaged in the quest for solutions to the myriad problems associated with poverty and underdevelopment. Academic and scholarly responses have built on the traditional and non-traditional analytical frameworks and promoted a multidimensional discourse on, for example, conflict management, peace and security systems, HIV and AIDS, democratic governance, and the implications of globalization.

This book series is designed to encourage innovative thinking on a broad range of development issues. Thus its remit extends to all fields of intellectual inquiry with the aim of highlighting the advantages of a synergistic interdisciplinary perspective on the challenges of and opportunities for development in the continent. Of particular interest are studies with a heavy empirical content which also have a bearing on policy debates and those that question theoretical orthodoxies while being grounded on concrete developmental concerns.

The series welcomes proposals for collected papers as well as monographs from recent Ph.Ds no less than from established scholars. Book proposals can be discussed with Lucy Melville, Publishing Director, Peter Lang Ltd, Oxford: l.melville@peterlang.com

From AFRAS to African Studies at Sussex

The ASAUK conference provided the occasion for two interlinked celebrations. Firstly, it celebrated the 50th year anniversary of the founding of AFRAS – Sussex's School of African and Asian studies in 1964 – through a magazine history. Secondly, it marked the launch of the new Sussex Africa Centre (SAC) to take forward this tradition of African studies.

AFRAS encapsulated Sussex's early radical progressive ethos. It was part of the university's unique 'schools of study' structure that aimed to challenge conventional disciplinarity and brought together subject specialists around a shared focus on a region. The belief was that knowledge could not be separated from understanding of the cultural, historical and geographical contexts in which it was produced. AFRAS broke intellectual conventions in numerous ways, as well as embodying Sussex's spirit of activism. Students threw themselves into a range of causes, from university politics to international solidarity campaigns, anti-apartheid, anti-racist, anti-capitalist and anti-nuclear movements. There were sit-ins and occupations. The legacies of this internationalism are inscribed on the campus in Mandela Hall, so named in 1973, and the Mandela scholarships, supported not by endowments from corporate philanthropists, but run through the student union and funded by staff payroll deductions. In its heyday, AFRAS attracted established scholars and big names bored with what they felt was the intellectual stagnation in older institutions.

The 'History of AFRAS' project is on-going. To download the magazine history, or to contribute materials and memories, contact: globalcomms@sussex.ac.uk, or visit the link from: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/africacentre/>

SAC is building on the legacy of AFRAS, but is taking this tradition of African Studies forward in new directions. SAC has the benefit of a large body of staff with Africa expertise, and 70 doctoral students working on African topics, for which SAC acts as an interdisciplinary intellectual hub. SAC's approach to area studies emphasises transnational connections and mobility. Africa is defined to include North Africa, and there is a strong emphasis on research and engagement with African diasporas. SAC is distinctive for the range of disciplines it incorporates – not only anthropology, history, geography, development, but also international education and social work, environmental science, science policy (SPRU) and the Brighton and Sussex Medical School. The Centre also takes forward Sussex's tradition of activism and engagement.

SAC has re-institutionalised a Ph.D route in interdisciplinary African Studies, and a new undergraduate minor pathway in African Studies begins in 2015. Students of anthropology, development, international relations and geography

will be able to choose a minor specialism in African studies as a complement to their disciplinary focus.

The Centre benefits from a multitude of existing research partnerships with institutions in Africa, and is developing new links. A new collaboration with the Brighton Museum has led to a co-sponsored Ph.D on 'Fashion Cities Africa' linked to a forthcoming exhibition during the Brighton Festival. Other partners include the London Africa Centre, who have sponsored Ph.D research on their archives, and the Observatory of Conflict and Violent Prevention in Hargeisa, who have invested in a Ph.D on justice, security and urban governance.

For further information on SAC, visit: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/africacentre/>

**JoAnn McGregor, Professor of Human Geography, School of Global Studies,
University of Sussex, and Director, Sussex Africa Centre**

African Peacebuilding Network Research Grants and Postdoctoral Fellowships

The African Peacebuilding Network (APN) of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), based in New York, is now accepting proposals for its Individual Research Grants and Residential Postdoctoral Fellowships competitions.

The APN supports independent African research on conflict-affected countries and neighbouring regions of the continent, as well as the integration of African knowledge into global policy communities. Support is available for research on issues such as the following: root causes of conflict and conflict prevention, mediation, management, resolution, and transformation; environmental change and conflict; post-conflict elections, democratization, and governance; the relationship between peacebuilding and state building, including state-society relations and state reconstruction; transitional justice, reconciliation, and human rights; economic and financial dimensions of conflict, peacekeeping, and peace support operations; disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration; security sector reform; media, civil society, and peace; peace partnerships involving the UN, the AU, Regional Economic Communities, and civil society; gender and peacebuilding; and international justice and post-conflict peace.

There are two types of awards available. Individual Research Grants: supporting up to six months of innovative field-based research in order to produce knowledge that can lead to practical action on peacebuilding initiatives in Africa (up to \$15,000). Residential Postdoctoral Fellowships: supporting African academics in the early postdoctoral phase of their careers for three months in both an African and a US institution as they complete ongoing projects on important and relatively less-studied themes and places in Africa (up to: \$20,000).

These awards are open to scholars and practitioners from multidisciplinary backgrounds. Applicants must be based at African universities, research organizations, and/or policy and practitioner institutions. It is expected that award recipients will produce research-based knowledge that is relevant to, and

has a significant impact on, peacebuilding policy and practice on the continent. All candidates must complete an online application form by 14 December 2014 via the APN's website: <http://www.ssrc.org/programs/apn/>

Rhodes House Library

The Bodleian Library of Commonwealth & African Studies at Rhodes House closed on Friday 12th September to move to the Weston Library (formerly known as the New Bodleian, on the corner of Broad Street and Parks Road), which will become the centre for the Bodleian's special collections. The Weston David Reading Room and Reference Area (where the open shelf books from Rhodes House have moved) opened on Monday 22nd September. The Weston Library's opening hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 7pm and Saturday 10am to 4pm throughout the year. The general enquiry email for the Weston Library is: specialcollections.enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

Obituary

Selena Axelrod Winsnes (15th November, 1925 – 7th July, 2014) has died, aged 88. Selena was born and brought up in Gloversville, upstate New York, where her mother was a seamstress and father, perhaps obviously, a glover. After Teachers' College in NY State she took a Master's at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor where she met Mathis Winsnes, a Norwegian student, to whom she proposed: they married in May 1949 – Matt always says that it was a good job she proposed to him as his visa was running out! Selena spent the next, over 30, years as culturally active 'faculty wife' and volunteer, and mother to her four children: she and Matt celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary this year. They left the US in 1958 and over the next 20 plus years, Matt worked for the Institute of Atomic Energy in Norway interspersed with tours abroad for UNESCO, in India in the early 60s for about a year, then Indonesia in the early 70s for three years, followed by Ghana in the late 70s until 1981. Selena, as well as being all that was and is best about being a mother to four teenagers/young adults, also energetically threw herself into teaching and cultural activities during these tours abroad, teaching English to blind students in Indonesia and helping organise a jazz club in Ghana; and she loved India, and was uncritical in her admiration of Chandigarh. It was only during Matt's last tour in Ghana that Selena, with Matt's retirement looming, began a Master's course in African Studies for herself.

The Ghanaian MA, with a proposed thesis on lorry signs and their significance, was never completed, but Ghana's loss was Birmingham's gain. With her linguistic skills and historic curiosity, Selena shifted her attention to uncovering and making more widely available the travellers' and sailors' accounts of their voyages between Europe and West Africa (and the Caribbean), originally written in German and/or Danish, to a contemporary audience. Selena's new career was launched in 1985, when she was 60!

The rest, one could almost say, is 'history.' With the MA from the then Centre of West African Studies in Birmingham completed, *Isert* was published (1992) and was followed by meticulously annotated translations of *Tilleman* (1994); *Wulff* (2004); *Monrad* (2009); *Rask* (2009); *Rómer* (2013), and, further, Selena contributed critically to the growing literature on translation and annotation more formally. But in addition to this new career (during which she never held a formal academic post or drew a salary, and was dependent on small grants to fund trips to archives in Copenhagen and elsewhere), came the new project, after the discovery and exploration of a Norwegian slave ship that, after a long and varied career, sank off the coast of Norway in the 18th century. Selena was a member of the committee that, under the auspices of UNESCO, discovered the history and horrors of the *Fredensborg*, and used the results to publicise the workings and consequences of the trade, both in Scandinavia and the West Indies, and in Ghana, with the inauguration of a permanent exhibition based on the *Fredensborg* discoveries, in Ghana's national museum, in 1999.

In spite of academic acclaim for her books, I think perhaps a, if not *the*, high point for Selena, of her most recent career was the award of an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Ghana in 2008, conferred by Kofi Annan who was the University's Chancellor. She was a devoted student and friend of Ghana and has many Ghanaian friends, all of whom will miss her greatly.

I first got to know Selena in the infancy of her latter career, during her MA in Birmingham. She spent the summer of 1985 with us working on *Isert* and I remember long sessions around our kitchen table puzzling over maps and thinking of changes in the shape and extent of the Keta Lagoon; of the problem of just what were these 'cinque sous' that were landed in such numbers at various times of the year on the Coast. She met and corresponded with Paul Hair, doyen of Guinea Coast history at the time, and subsequently also David Henige and, from tentative beginnings, grew into a confident and very highly respected scholar. Her work is invaluable for both current and future generations, a key point of reference. But Selena's own personality: her vivacity, her energy, her interest in others will also be sorely missed, by me just as much as everyone else.

Dr Lynne Brydon, Pont de Cirou, Tarn, France

Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the January 2015 *Newsletter* by 15 December 2014 to Dr Simon Heap, 76 Waynflete Road, Oxford, OX3 8BL or effaheap@aol.com Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK.

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Check the website: **www.asauk.net**