



# NEWSLETTER

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## *Nairobi Bomb Appeal*

Following August's appalling bomb atrocity in Nairobi, in which 250 Kenyans were killed and nearly 5,000 injured, the Kenya Society—a society of friends of Kenya—launched the Nairobi Bomb Appeal to assist those injured or bereaved in the disaster. Some £8500 was raised within a month of the disaster.

A sub-committee of the Kenya Society, chaired by Mr John Edwards, a former Deputy British High Commissioner in Nairobi, subsequently met to decide on the allocation of funds, and it seems probable that these will be used specifically for reconstructive and plastic surgery for the 2000 Kenyans who will need this specialised treatment. Another grim statistic is that 50 people were blinded in the explosion.

Further contributions will be welcome. Those who wish to contribute may ring the hotline number 0870 901-4222, or send a cheque directly to the Nairobi Bomb Appeal, Royal Bank of Scotland, 24 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7HP (account no. 10049148). Cheques for the victims of the Tanzanian atrocity, which will be passed on to the Tanzanian High Commission, can be sent to the same address and made out to the Nairobi Bomb Appeal, with a covering note that it should be for Tanzania.

## *Meetings, Lectures and Events*

*African Studies Centre, Cambridge University:* Seminars/Talks for Michaelmas Term 1998, Mondays at 5.00pm starting 12th October. The Research Seminar Series, 'New Research In African Studies'. Speakers to include: Justin Willis, Deborah James, Isabel Hofmeyr, Nana Wilson-Tagoe, Eleanor Gorman, Ato Quayson, Dan Brockington, Paul le Hausse. Venue: The Committee Room, Faculty of Social & Political Science, Free School Lane, Cambridge. All are welcome. Further details on The African Studies Centres webpage: <http://www.african.cam.ac.uk/>, or contact Casey Synge, Administrator, African Studies Centre, Free School Lane, Cambridge CB2 3RQ, UK; tel/fax: +44-(0)1223-334396; email: cs218@cus.cam.ac.uk.

A special talk by Her Excellency Cheryl Carolus, South African High Commissioner to the UK, on 'Post Apartheid South Africa's contribution to the New World Order' will be held on Friday 16th October at 5.00pm in The Old Library, Pembroke College, Cambridge. All are welcome to attend.

*Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham,* holds its *Graduate Forum for African Studies* on the last Wednesday of every month during term-time. The programme includes seminars by visiting speakers which are open to all. The seminars are at 5.00 pm in the seminar room, CWAS (Floor 1, 52 Pritchatts Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham). Speakers for the autumn term are: 28 October, Dr Philip Nanton (University of Birmingham), 'Liminality: researching anti-structure across disciplines, with

a few examples'. 25 November, Professor Isabel Hofmeyr (University of the Witwatersrand), 'Why post-colonial theory won't do—the case of Bunyan in Africa: research methods and archival sources'.

*Cultural Events* held in *Centre for West African Studies* seminar room, University of Birmingham, Tuesdays, at 5.30pm: 13 October, Ferdinand Dennis will be reading from his latest novel *Duppy Conqueror*. 27 October, Jack Mapanje will be reading from his new collection of poems. 4 November, Edward Baugh the Jamaican poet and scholar on a rare visit to the UK will be reading from his work. 24 November (to be confirmed), Karin King-Aribisala, the Guyanese/Nigerian novelist and critic will be reading from her new novel *Kicking Tongues*. 8 December, Femi Oyeboade the Nigerian poet will be reading from his new collection.

### Conferences Future...

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

#### UNITED KINGDOM

25-26 March 1999: International Conference, 'South to South: urban-environmental policies and politics in Brazil and South Africa'. The intensive urbanisation process in Brazil and South Africa has already provoked all sorts of dramatic changes—social, environmental, political, cultural as well as economic—in those countries. Many analysts have already remarked that, despite their fundamental differences, there are many similarities between Brazil and South Africa which would provide the basis for a most stimulating and thought-provoking dialogue. Indeed, while the situation of unequal income distribution and socio-spatial segregation in Brazilian cities is commonly referred to as social apartheid, the current process of urban change in South Africa has been described as one of Brazilianisation. Both countries are also undertaking many original and still little known experiences of urban management. The Institute of Commonwealth Studies of the University of London is promoting the international conference to enable a direct dialogue between scholars and professionals from Brazil and South Africa, and to inform the British audience on what has been happening in those countries in the field of urban management, as well as to stimulate a debate between the speakers and the audience. Five Brazilian and five South African academics and professionals will discuss various aspects of the urban environment and urban development in both countries, and a small number of papers by British-based scholars will also be presented. Those interested in presenting a paper should send an outline of no more than 300 words to the conference organiser, Dr. Edesio Fernandes, before 30 November 1998: Dr. Edesio Fernandes: fax: (44)(0)171 727 1271; email: edesiofernandes@compuserve.com. For more details contact Ms. Imelda McGowan, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, 28 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DS, UK; tel: +44-(0)171-862-8844; fax: +44-(0)171-862-8820; email: imegowan@sas.ac.uk.

September 1999: The Fourth SCUSA Inter-University Colloquium, on the topic of 'Economic, social and environmental policy-making in sub-Saharan Africa: progress, constraints and priorities', will be held at UEA, Norwich. Contact Jill Wyatt, School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ; email: dev.general@uea.ac.uk.

### Intercultural Dimensions Crossing Cultures

Since 1993, Intercultural Dimensions educational travel program Crossing Cultures has introduced people to the French-speaking West African country of Senegal. In a three-week program limited to eight people and custom-tailored to individual interests,



participants visit different parts of the country and community projects, stay with Senegalese families or in guest houses, use public transportation and experience village life. Extended stays to do a field study or volunteer work can be arranged. The 1999 program dates are: January 5-27 and June 23-July 15. Contact: Janet L. Ghattas, General Director, Intercultural Dimensions, P.O. Box 391437 Cambridge, MA 02139-0015 USA; tel: +1-617/864-8442; fax: +1-617/868-1273; email: janetid@aol.com. (Intercultural Dimensions, Inc. is a non-profit educational organization (501C3) whose purpose is to provide cross-cultural awareness through travel, community service, workshops, and seminars.)

### *University of Natal International Winter School*

The International Winter School (IWS) at the University of Natal is now accepting applications for the 1999 International Winter School. The six week session starts on 28 June and will run to 6 August, during this period the following courses are offered: 'Language and diversity in the rainbow nation', 'Citizenship and community service', 'African art', 'Kwazulu Natal from earliest times to present', 'South African literature after apartheid', and 'Zulu language'. Depending on the Centre of study (Pietermaritzburg or Durban) the fees for the instruction, housing, meals and medical insurance are US\$ 2000 or US\$ 3000. Contact: Andrea Gommans, Assistant Winter School Co-ordinator, University of Natal, Private Bag X10, Dalbridge 4014, South Africa; tel: +27-(0)31-260-2677; fax: +27-(0)31-260-1189; email: gommansa@admin.und.ac.za; web-site: <http://www.und.ac.za/und/winter/index.html>.

### *Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities*

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

Stephanie Newell, 'West African Popular Literatures: Readers, Texts and Gender Perspectives in Local Publications from Ghana and Nigeria', PhD, Centre for West African Studies, University of Birmingham (July 1998).

Elizabeth Vidler, 'Regime Survival in the Gambia and Sierra Leone: A Comparative Study of the People's Progressive Party (1965-1994) and the All People's Congress (1968-1992)', Ph.D in politics, University of Newcastle, supervisor John A. Wiseman (July 1998).

### *Recent and Forthcoming Publications*

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

Anthony Clayton, *Frontiersmen: Warfare in Africa since 1950* (London & Philadelphia: UCL Press), 229pp. ISBN 1-85728-524-7 (cloth) £38.00; 1-85728-525-5 (paper), £12.95 (November 1998).

Jan-Georg Deutsch & Albert Wirz (eds), *Geschichte in Afrika. Einführung in Probleme und Debatten* (Berlin: Das Arabische Buch, Horstweg 2, D-14059 Berlin, Germany), 300pp. ISBN 3-86093-167-9 (paper), DM 24,80 (February 1998).

Paul Fordham, John Fox & Patrick Muzaale, *A Chance to Change: Access, Citizenship and Sustainability in Open Learning* (NIACE, 21 De Montfort St, Leicester LE1 7GE), 120pp. ISBN 1-86201-043-9, £12.00 (April 1998).

### *ASAUK Newsletter Reviews Policy*

The *ASAUK Newsletter* does not have a book reviews section. Books sent to the *Newsletter* for review will not be reviewed; nor will they be returned to the publisher, but will instead be given to the deserving poor, or to a charity *not* associated with the Princess Diana Trust. The notification of recent and forthcoming publications (above) is offered as a service to members of ASAUK and the RAS only, and we depend on our members to keep us informed of new publications. If you instruct your publisher to send us advance information about a publication, please have them inform us that they have done so at your express request.

### *Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges*

*African Studies Centre, Cambridge University:* Ato Quayson has made the transition from 'acting' director to director of the Centre.

*Centre of African Studies, London:* The following two scholars have just arrived in the UK under the East African Visiting Scholarship Scheme (both of whom have been funded by their home country British Council). They can be contacted via the Centre of African Studies office: Robert Mhamba Assistant Lecturer, Institute of Development Studies, University of Dar es Salaam whose research topic is 'Financial resource transfer savings, investments and agricultural development in a liberalised market in Tanzania'. Mr Harrison Nyaga, Programme Assistant in Research, Series on Alternative Research in East Africa Trust (SAREAT), Nairobi, working on the 'Democratic Audit' project which is a study on the state of civil society in East Africa. His research topic is, 'Women in the rural frontier of civil society in Kenya'.

Emmanuel Olukemi Rotimi (Department of History, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria) joins the Centre as Leventis Visiting Scholar for three months from 15 September. He will be doing research on 'A history of native administration police forces in Nigeria, 1900-1970'.

*University of Coventry:* Roy May, of the Department of Politics, has recently been promoted to a Chair.

#### **Note to Contributors**

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