



NEWSLETTER

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Signs of Spring?

Our Common Interest, the report of the Commission for Africa, made the renewal of African universities 'central to the whole development agenda' (Rowett and Sawyerr, *ASAUK newsletter* 41: 4). The establishment and strengthening of links between academics in the UK and Africa is one component in such renewal. The future of Africanist research in the UK is equally dependent upon such relationships. We have seen research funding agencies encourage collaborative relationships within the frameworks of their project funding schemes. And we have seen new funding initiatives specifically focusing upon inter-institutional relationships: the British Academy has set aside a number of their Visiting Fellowships for scholars from Africa and instituted a new partnership scheme [page 13 of this newsletter]; the British Council is renewing its former Links scheme; the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission is discussing a proposal for longer-term visits and links for former scholarship holders through a 'hybrid career structure' scheme. Individual institutions, such as Centres of African Studies, continue to run a range of visitor schemes. Lucy Hodges in the *Independent* (15 December 2005) reported support from Universities UK through their 'international strategy group' chaired by the VC of Sheffield, Professor Bob Boucher. Mike Silverman, of Leicester University, in talking of their links with the University of Gondar, Ethiopia, is quoted by Hodges as calling on the British Council to establish a database of Higher Education partnerships and to focus their renewed links programme on supporting partnerships between institutions rather than simply supporting projects.

So will the memoranda of inter-institutional agreement fall like rain upon parched ground? Empty (or should I say dry?) memoranda abound already. What are the real hindrances that currently block the path of any two academics, one in the UK and one in Africa, actually working together? First they have to get to know one another, meet, talk about their work and interests, take a liking to each other and, hopefully, trust each other. Maybe they put together a project

outline and get it funded. Since they and their researchers are the people who are being funded to gather data, do the analysis, think and write up, the presumption is that there are administrators and managers to handle the myriad other tasks surrounding the research – fixing travel, accommodation, obtaining research permissions and visas, liaising with institutions, ensuring the documentary and electronic resources are available to people in both locations, arranging cover, keeping accounts, and a myriad other things that can make the crucial difference between success and grinding failure. Is our general experience that managerial support is available to do such things rather than their being an additional burden on getting a grant? I suspect not. So it is with especial interest that we hear of the recent and very welcome grant of £200,000 given by Education Minister Bill Rammell to the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) to set up an 'Africa Unit' to promote links between universities in the UK and their counterparts in Africa. The ACU has people who do all these managerial tasks already in relation to the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission scholarship schemes, will the Africa Unit be able to extend these capacities to collaborating academics broadly across the Africanist academic community? Maybe some academics in some institutions are already well supported, but the ASAUK represents Africanists in many, many institutions across the UK where supporting UK-Africa joint research is not a high priority. Will they be able to turn to the ACU Africa Unit for support? I do hope so.

One other thing. Research teams usually include doctoral students who are on their way to becoming research leaders in their own right. Can the 'renewal of the African university' happen without doctoral students? I assume not. So how can the UK be proposing such renewal when UK universities continue to charge £8-9,000 per year in tuition fees for African doctoral students? With living costs in the UK at, say, a bare minimum of £12,000, the total costs of a 3-year doctorate stand at £60,000 and more. With 15 million Naira (the equivalent in Nigeria) you could probably buy a sizeable chunk of a university in Nigeria – all for the price of a UK doctorate. If UK universities are unable to subsidise doctoral students from Africa, then surely some thought should be given to special arrangements for UK higher degrees for researchers in African universities. Or are UK doctorates only for the African mega-rich and the inevitably select few supported by the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission? While many can and will undertake doctorates in other places in Africa where the costs are lower, does this mean that the UK contribution to 'renewing the African university' excludes the one key element of scholarly training, the doctorate? I hope not.

Graham Furniss, President, ASAUK

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'Honour and Poverty in African History: A Symposium in Honour of Professor John Iliffe', Trinity College, Cambridge, 13 May 2006. Speakers include Robert Ross, Fred Kaijage, Steven Feierman, John Makgala, John Lonsdale, Michael Twaddle, Terence Ranger, Siphamandla Zondi, Kenneth Ombongi, Patricia Hayes, Vivien Bickford-Smith, Harriet Deacon, Felicitas Becker, Shane Doyle and Wayne Dooling. Attendance is free and open to all, but places are limited. Contact Dorian Addison: da211@cam.ac.uk or 01223-334396.

'Drugs and Alcohol in Africa: Production, Distribution, Consumption and Control', St. Antony's College, Oxford, 23 May 2006. Africa has recently emerged as a focus of the global 'war on drugs'. International and local drugs control agencies and others warn of a growing role for the continent as a transit point for cocaine and heroin, while also lamenting the prevalence of drugs and alcohol commerce and use within the continent, especially among the youth. Drugs and alcohol are increasingly tied to broader economic and public health issues including unemployment, criminality, family disintegration, and HIV infection. The workshop will draw together scholars in both alcohol and drugs studies who will explore the contemporary alarm from historical, social scientific, behavioural science and policy perspectives. The keynote talk will be provided by Emmanuel Akyeampong, Professor of History at Harvard University and author of *Drink, Power and Cultural Change: A Social History of Alcohol in Ghana* (1996) and *Diaspora and Drug Trafficking in West Africa* (2005). Contact: Gernot.Klantschnig@sant.ox.ac.uk or Charles.Ambler@sant.ox.ac.uk

ASAUK Biennial Conference 2006, SOAS, London, 11-13 September 2006. Contemporary African cinema, human rights, the history of elections, writing in the diaspora, education and poverty reduction, plant and animal health, religiosity, village libraries, community action, HIV/AIDS, local governance, drylands ecology, planning sustainable cities, and the state of higher education in Africa – all these and more are topics planned for the Biennial Conference of the ASAUK. Six parallel series of panels will allow conference participants to follow a sequence of papers over three days in one or more of the following series: history, politics and urban studies; environment, development and human rights; human, plant and animal health; anthropology, religion and conflict; literature, media and visual arts; and books, writing and education.

Participants at the conference will also be able to hear the Mary Kingsley Zochonis and the Lugard lectures, celebrate the announcement of the Audrey Richards dissertation prize winners, and honour the winners of the Distinguished Africanist Award. See the conference web pages: www.asauk.net

INTERNATIONAL

'Identity in South African Media', University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, 6-7 July 2006. Submissions are sought for a conference and book project on the construction of identities by the post-apartheid media in South Africa. Contributions are especially needed on the following topics: media, gender and identity; media and religious identities; alternative media and identity construction; new media technologies and identities; identity, ethnicity and nationalism; identity construction in political communication; economic power and the impact on identity formation in the media; the political economy of identities in mass media; market segmentation, niche marketing and mediated identities; urban media culture and the formation of new black identities; class, lifestyle and media idealization of identity; and identity on the margins of the media: xenophobia/rural poor/immigrants. Papers should critically address the intersection of different formations of power (political, economic and ethnic) and the media, and the impact thereof on the construction of identity. A selection of these papers will then be revised for submission to the editors. Abstracts by 6 May 2006 to Herman Wasserman: hwasser@sun.ac.za

'Africa and Europe: Cooperation in a Globalised World', Institute for Social and Development Studies, Munich, Germany, 6-8 September 2006. This conference by the Scribani European Jesuit network is hosted by the Institute for Social and Development Studies at the Munich School of Philosophy. Collapsing states, violent conflicts and natural disasters form the picture of Africa in Europe. Therefore Africa is from a political perspective, often seen only in terms of emergency aid. This conference wants to challenge the common picture, instead of that it wants to analyse sophisticatedly the main aspects of the relationship between Africa and Europe. In addition will be asked how these relationships could be organised in the future to develop a better partnership between both continents. The success of a new world order depends on how Europe behaves with those countries – in the words of the German President: the development of Africa will be the deciding factor of the humanity of the world. Conducted in English, the conference has three main topics: the integration of Africa into the world economy, African-European migration politics, and the role of women in Africa. There will be also workshops on new agents of justice for fragile states; migration and development; HIV/AIDS; violent conflicts and peace-building; and inter-religious co-operation for human development. Contact Sylvia Eibl: s.eibl@hfph.mwn.de Website: www.hfph.mwn.de/igp/scribani/scribani_1.htm

'Toxic Belonging? Ecology and identity in Southern Africa: Third Literature and Ecology Colloquium', Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa, 6 October 2006. What is the nature of our belonging on the earth and within natural ecosystems? How do we forge and represent our notions of identity within the *oikos* – the hearth – of the natural world? Is our presence inevitably

toxic? Do our symbolic representations of belonging (or alienation) necessarily partake in the damage we do to our environment, or can they help heal our sense of homelessness? Is our self-realisation – as Freya Mathews argues in *The Ecological Self* – only or inevitably “a function of ecological interconnectedness”? What is the role of our literature in expressing such self-realisation, especially in the southern African context? Papers addressing these and related questions are sought – preferably, but not necessarily exclusively, focussed on southern African material. Possible lines of approach include landscape aesthetics and belonging; literary treatments of the politics of land ownership; nature as trope for Africanness/indigeneity; notions of wilderness as expressive of identity; urban versus rural representations of belonging; pre-colonial societies as exemplars of ecological belonging; and influences of scientific ecology on conceptions of belonging. Abstracts by 31 July 2006 to Dr Dan Wylie: d.wylie@ru.ac.za

‘The Powerful Presence of the Past: Historical Dimensions of Integration and Conflict in the Upper Guinea Coast, West Africa’, Halle, Germany, 18-20 October 2006. A new research group at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany, ‘Integration and Conflict in the Upper Guinea Coast’, aims at a systematic and comparative analysis of processes of integration and conflict in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde. It is the aim of the conference to assess the impact and repercussions of specific historical experiences on current processes and practices of (re-)integration and conflict in the Upper Guinea Coast and to elucidate the potential for comparative research. The organisers seek papers dealing with the impact of different colonial powers on colonial and postcolonial processes of integration and conflict as well as on nation-building and statehood; settler communities’ role in processes of integration and conflict and in the construction and obstruction of postcolonial nation-building and statehood; the role of local rulers in processes of social and political (re-)integration and conflict; the experience of the transatlantic slave trade (and its interior counterparts) with regard to concepts and strategies of inclusion and exclusion; and the role of traditional institutions in processes of (re-)integration and conflict. Abstracts of up to 500 words by 19 May 2006 to Jacqueline Knörr: knoerr@eth.mpg.de

‘Female Slavery, Orphanage and Poverty in the Portuguese Colonial Empire (16th-20th centuries), Porto, Portugal, 20-22 November 2006. The history of women is almost absent from Portuguese historiography, especially on what concerns the study of female social marginalization, a phenomenon that affected slaves, orphans and many other cases of social inferiority, throughout the vast Portuguese colonial space, from Brazil to the Far East. And this is precisely the aim of this conference, which intends to study, under a comparative approach, the status of women in space and time, with a special focus on those groups that played a major role in the social and cultural construction of local communities,

as well as in the strategies of social domination and kinship alliances in the Portuguese colonial empire.

The conference has several themes, each needing one page abstracts in English or Portuguese and brief CV to different addresses by 30 April. The organisers of the session 'Female slavery' welcome papers that contribute to the study of categories and processes of acquisition and transaction, from a long-term perspective, in order to understand this peculiar situation of social subalternity, which played a major role in the domestic, nuptial and family markets. Abstracts to: mdmanso@netcabo.pt

'Literature and linguistics through female voices' analyses the literary production by and about women, as well as the lexical categories that represent the female gender, within the context of slavery, orphanage and poverty. The organisers welcome papers on women as subjects and objects of literature, on lexical representations of women, their origins and symbolic, social and cultural implications, with a special focus on groups instead of individuals from a general long-term perspective. Abstracts to: clara.sarmiento@netc.pt

For the theme 'female subalternity and cultural behaviour', authors should focus on the formal and informal aspects of women's education, in every sense. The scientific committee privileges the study of groups, within contexts of medium or long duration, more than the description of isolated cases. Abstracts to: leitaop@netcabo.pt

'Sex, Power and Slavery: The Dynamics of Carnal Relations under Enslavement in the Indian Ocean World', McGill University, Montreal, Canada, 19-21 April 2007. Sponsored by the Centre for Developing-Area Studies (CDAS), the Indian Ocean World Centre, and the Department of History, McGill University, the conference covers the Indian Ocean World, which is defined as Africa from the Cape to Cairo divide eastwards. Prospective participants are asked to consider the following themes: sexual relations within the enslaved community; sexual relations between the enslaved and non-slaves; sexual relations within maroon communities;- the sex slave traffic; structures of sexual enslavement; the harem; concubines; eunuchs; homosexuality and enslavement; enslaved children and sex; rape; affective relationships within the enslaved community; sex and the enslaved household; enslavement, sex and the slave-owning household; enslavement, sex and disease; enslavement, sex and taboos; sex and enslavement as reflected in traditions, myths and literature; and sex as slave agency. Short abstracts by 1 August 2006 to Professor Gwyn Campbell: gwyn.campbell@mcgill.ca

'African Alternatives: Initiative and Creativity beyond Current Constraints', AEGIS (Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies) Second Biannual European Conference on African Studies, African Studies Centre, University

of Leiden, The Netherlands, 11-14 July 2007. At the beginning of the 21st century, Africa is facing a number of predicaments. Afro-pessimist paradigms focus on failing states, war and famine and Africa is lagging still further behind in the world economy. While China and India are rapidly increasing their share of world trade, the question is how African countries can find a niche in an ever more competitive world market. The conference will focus on the constraints that are restricting Africa's development and growth, and on new initiatives coming from African entrepreneurial activities, self-help organizations, associational life, politics and religion at grassroots level. Exploring initiative and creativity is not limited to an understanding of the coping strategies of those faced with deteriorating socio-economic and political circumstances.

The conference also allows for a development-relevant perspective, with development being understood as a dynamic process but not necessarily following a linear model. African trajectories of development do not need to copy Western or Eastern models and the conference will look for possible alternative trajectories. The organisers invite empirical case studies of initiatives and ventures in Africa that present alternatives to current development discourses. A theoretical debate on the representation of African voices and visions would be welcomed. An underlying question is how far African initiatives produce viable alternatives to current development paradigms. If development and progress are not synonymous and 'development' is an overly Western-determined concept and project, what alternative ideas of 'progress' can be produced by Africans themselves? The organisers would welcome proposals for panels from all areas of African Studies. For pre-registration and panel submission: conference@aegis-eu.org Website: <http://ecas2007.aegis-eu.org/>

'The Bloody Writing Is For Ever Torn': Domestic and International Consequences of the First Governmental Efforts to Abolish the Atlantic Slave Trade', Ghana, 8-12 August 2007. The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, in cooperation with UNESCO, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the W. E. B. Du Bois Center for African and African American Studies, the Reed Foundation, and the Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation, will convene this conference. It will examine the national and international contexts of the transatlantic slave trade at the end of the eighteenth century; the circumstances that led to decisions by some of the trade's original instigators and greatest beneficiaries to outlaw participation in it; and the social, political, economic, and cultural consequences for all the inhabitants – slave and free – of the kingdoms and nations involved, of actions that ultimately abolished one of the pillars of Atlantic commerce. The conference will be multi-disciplinary, and the program committee welcomes proposals from scholars in all appropriate fields – history, historical anthropology, archaeology, literature, philosophy, and social sciences. Proposals of 3-5 pages for papers/panels, including CV, by 30 June 2006 to: ieahc1@wm.edu

10th Nilo-Saharan Linguistics Colloquium, Paris, France, 22-24 August 2007.

The conference is organized by the research unit, *Langage, Langues et Cultures d'Afrique Noire*. All papers on various aspects of Nilo-Saharan languages are welcome. Suggested topics include linguistic description (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics); comparative studies, history and classification; sociolinguistics; and literacy and linguistic policy. The conference will be in French and English. Further details at: <http://sumale.vjf.cnrs.fr/nilsah/>

...Conferences Past

'Crossing Places' Graduate Conference, Department of French and Francophone Studies, University of Nottingham, 26-27 January 2006. The aim of the conference, sponsored by Routledge and the Department, was to provide a forum in which postgraduates could present their research and meet other students in African Studies across the disciplines, with the aim of establishing a basis for future collaboration. 27 papers which addressed a fascinating range of topics were selected from graduate students at 19 different universities in the UK, Europe, Africa and America.

The resulting panels focused on different aspects of 'Crossing Places', including literary crossings, crossing between identities, negotiating communities, crossing between spaces and places through the processes of travelling and immigration, as well as generational and metaphysical crossings. Some panels focused on specific forms of representation. For example, the panel 'Literary Crossings' saw Ayako Aihara (SOAS) present her research on colonial encounters and border-crossings in Nehanda and Jikinya. John Masterson (Essex) presented a paper on the recent work of Nuruddin Farah and Gita Mohan (Salford) spoke about literal and figurative crossings in postcolonial Maghrebian literature. Other panels were structured thematically, inviting a wider range of disciplinary approaches in the papers. The panel 'Domestic and Commercial Spaces' brought together researchers in the areas of cultural anthropology, gender and immigration studies. Emily Venables (Edinburgh) presented a paper on sex workers in Ziguinchor, Senegal, Abigail Dumes (Yale) spoke about the system of mutual trust and gift exchange within women's Rotating Savings and Credit Associations in Cameroon and France, and Marie Rodet (Vienna) presented her research on migrants in French Sudan and gender biases in the historiography.

Keynote speaker, Kadija George Sesay, took up the topic of Crossing Places, relating her own experiences as a publisher and writer, and drawing together many of the broader themes of the conference. The result was a conference which reflected the depth and breadth of new research in African Studies, bringing graduates together from many different disciplines including English, French, Comparative Literature, Film Studies, International Development, Law,

Anthropology, Bioethics and Translation Studies. It is hoped that further research collaboration and events will result from this conference.

Charlotte Baker, doctoral student, Nottingham University (afxcab@nottingham.ac.uk),
Zoë Norridge, doctoral student, SOAS, University of London (zoe.norridge@soas.ac.uk)

Child-Headed Households Conference, African Studies Centre, Coventry University, 27 January 2006. This was the second such conference to be held, and included presentations from both researchers and practitioners in the area of child-headed households. The following researchers gave presentations on their work with child headed households: Dr Sally Graham, from Street Child Africa, on her work with child-headed households in Jinja, Uganda, Ruth Payne, University of Royal Holloway, on her field work in Zambia, Monica Chizororo, University of St. Andrews on research in rural Zimbabwe, and Marion MacLellan, Coventry University, on the rights of children in child-headed households in Rwanda.

Presentations were given by Dr Stuart Kean, World Vision, Dr Simon Heap, Plan, and Father Patrick Shanahan of Street Child Africa on programmes and initiatives by those organisations in addressing the issues of child-headed households and vulnerable children. Issues arising from these presentations and leading to comprehensive discussion included the methodological challenges of working with children, the merits of various child-focussed methodologies, alcoholism as a cause of child-headed households, age categorisation in defining child heads, identity, the legal capacity of minors. This led to a debate on definitional issues and the wider implications of these topics in the lives of all vulnerable children. The seminar concluded with discussion on the use of such research in programming and policy-making. On behalf of Coventry University, the director of the African Studies Centre, Professor Roy May gratefully acknowledged the financial support of ASAUK and Street Child Africa.

Marion MacLellan, doctoral student, University of Coventry
(m.maclellan@coventry.ac.uk)

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Abimbola Adesina Rilwan Agboluaje (2005) 'Europe and Africa: From Development Intervention to Development Enforcement', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor James Mayall.

Brian Chase (2006) 'Late Quaternary Palaeoenvironments of the West Coast of South Africa: The Aeolian Record', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor David S. G. Thomas and Dr Mark Bateman.

Stig Jarle Hansen (2005) 'Organisational Culture at War: Ethiopian Decision-making and the War with Eritrea (1998-2000)', Ph.D thesis, University of Wales. Supervisor: Dr Rita Abrahamsen.

Hélène Neveu Kringlebach (2005) 'Encircling the Dance: Social Mobility through the Transformation of Performance in Urban Senegal', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor David Parkin.

Carol Patricia Long (2005) 'Contradicting Maternity: HIV-Positive Motherhood in South Africa', University of Cambridge. Supervisors: Professor J. C. W. Mitchell and Professor Bryan Turner.

Rebecca Marsland (2005) 'Ethnographic Malaria: The Uses of Medical Knowledge in Tanzania', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Christopher Davis.

Kathryn Nwajiaku (2005) 'Oil Politics and Identity Transformation in Nigeria: The Case of the Ijaw of the Niger Delta', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Gavin Williams.

Cosmas Milton Obote Ochieng (2005) 'The Political Economy of Contract Farming in Kenya: The Historical-comparative Study of Tea and Sugar Contract Farming Schemes, 1960-2002', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Judith U. Heyer.

Charles Parkinson (2005) 'The Origins of Bills of Rights in the British Commonwealth: the Emergence of Domestic Human Rights Instruments in Britain's Overseas Territories, 1950-1962', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr John Darwin.

Ruksana Patel (2005) 'Fragmented Lives: A 'Forgotten Generation' in Post-liberation South Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisors: Professor J. C. W. Mitchell and Professor Bryan Turner.

Pamela Jean Welch (2005) 'The Development of the Anglican Church in Southern Rhodesia, 1890-1925', Ph.D thesis, King's College, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Andrew Porter.

Lindsay Whitfield (2005) 'Democracy as Idea and Democracy as Process: The Politics of Democracy and Development in Ghana', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford, 2005. Supervisor: Gavin Williams.

David Whittaker (2005) 'Cultural Identity and the Nigerian Novel in the 1950's', Ph.D thesis, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Mpalive Hangson-Msiska.

Recent Publications

Andrew Burton (2005) *African Underclass: Urbanisation, Crime & Colonial Order in Dar es Salaam*. Oxford: James Currey. 320 pages. ISBN 0-85255-975-5 (paperback) £16.95; 0-85255-976-3 (hardback) £50.00.

Shane Doyle (2006) *Crisis and Decline in Bunyoro: Population & Environment in Western Uganda 1860-1955*. Oxford: James Currey. 288 pages. ISBN: 0-85255-431-1 (paperback) £16.95; 0-85255-432-X (hardback) £45.00.

James L. Gibson (2006) *Overcoming Apartheid: Can Truth Reconcile a Divided Nation*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. 488 pages. ISBN: 0-87154-313-3; \$22.50.

John Iliffe (2006) *The African Aids Epidemic: A History*. Oxford: James Currey. 224 pages. ISBN 0-85255-890-2 (paperback) £14.95; 0-85255-891-0 (hardback) £45.00.

David Turton (ed) (2006) *Ethnic Federalism: The Ethiopian Experience in Comparative Perspective*. Oxford: James Currey. 288 pages. ISBN 0-85255-897-X (paperback) £16.95; 0-85255-896-1 (hardback) £45.00.

Africa Special Discount Rate. *Africa*, the Journal of the International African Institute, has launched a discounted subscription rate for new subscribers. From 2006, first-time subscribers can get 4 issues per year at the special reduced rate of £40/\$72 – a saving of over 20% on the normal rate. *Africa* is the premier journal devoted to the study of African societies and culture. Editorial policy encourages an interdisciplinary approach, involving the social sciences, history, the environment and life sciences. Each issue contains five or six major articles, arranged thematically, extensive review essays and substantial book reviews. The first issue of the 2006 volume is a special issue, entitled 'African Socialisms and Postsocialisms'. Edited by Anne Pitcher and Kelly Askew, the issue will also be published as a book with a different cover from the standard issue sent to subscribers. This means that, for the first time, issues of *Africa* will also be available to non-subscribers through bookshops. *African Socialisms and Postsocialism's* (Africa 76.1) was published in February with a cover price of £16.99. ISBN: 0-7486-2483-X. Plans are also underway to publish both *Africa* 74.1 (2004) and *Africa* 75.1 (2005) as books. For further information: Douglas McNaughton: Douglas.mcnaughton@eup.ed.ac.uk Subscribe online at the special rate: www.eup.ed.ac.uk

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

New administrative staff at Centre of African Studies, SOAS

Jackie Collis retired from the Centre of African Studies, SOAS, University of London, in December 2005, after fifteen years of service at the Centre. Angelica Baschiera has succeeded Jackie as Administrator for the Centre. Angelica is a SOAS Master's graduate in African Studies, with reference to Swahili language and East African culture, and has been working at SOAS since 1999 in various administrative and research-related capacities.

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

Queen's New Year's Honours to Africanists

Professor Malcolm McLeod, Professor of African Studies, and Vice-Principal of External Relations and Marketing, at the University of Glasgow, was awarded a CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) "for services to education and to museums".

Professor Richard Pankhurst, an internationally noted scholar and famous Ethiopianist, was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) "for his work to advance Ethiopian studies".

Sally Healy, "former senior principal research officer, Foreign and Commonwealth Office" and who is on the Royal African Society council, was awarded an OBE.

Book Awards

Robin Law's *Ouidah: The Social History of a West African Slaving 'Port' 1727-1892* (James Currey, 2004) was short-listed for both the Herskovits and Frederick Douglass book prizes in 2005.

Mark Leopold's *Inside West Nile: Violence, History & Representation on an African Frontier* (James Currey, 2005; ISBN 0-85255-940-2 (paperback) £16.95; 0-85255-941-0 (hardback) £45.00, was chosen as one of Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles for 2005.

Designation Status for the Sudan Archive, Durham University Library

In 2005 the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) extended its Designation Scheme from museums to libraries and archives. Institutions in England were invited to apply for designation status. On 28 October 2005 the MLA announced a list of 38 collections in libraries and archives across England that had been recognised as having outstanding national and international importance under the Designation Scheme.

Durham University Library successfully applied for designation status for two of its outstanding collections: Bishop Cosin's Library and the Sudan Archive. The latter was founded in 1957, the year after Sudanese independence, to collect and preserve the private papers of British officials who had served or lived in the Sudan during the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium period (1899-1955). Now the major archive on the Sudan outside Khartoum, it comprises approximately 800 boxes of official, semi-official and personal papers from over 320 individuals, 50,000 photographs, 1,000 maps, 130 cinefilms, museum objects and sound recordings.

All levels of colonial society are represented, from Governor-General and senior officers of government, to Assistant District Commissioner, as well as from the technical and medical services, the army and the church. Major individual collections include the papers of General Sir Reginald Wingate (1861-1953), the second Governor-General, and the Sudan papers of Sir James Robertson (1899-1983), former Civil Secretary. The scope of the Archive now extends to the Mahdiyyah (1885-98), with over 300 Mahdist documents in Arabic and material on British involvement in the Nile campaigns of the 1880s and 1890s, and to the period after independence. Moreover, as officials were frequently seconded or posted to neighbouring countries, or simply passed through them on leave, the Archive also holds substantial numbers of papers relating to Egypt, the Arab lands of the Ottoman Empire, Palestine, Transjordan, and African states bordering on the Sudan.

It is hoped that this new status, recognising the international significance of the Sudan Archive, will help to raise its profile and to attract more visitors. For further information see the Archives and Special Collections website: www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/ or contact Jane Hogan: pg.library@durham.ac.uk (tel: 0191-334-2932).

British Academy's UK-Africa Academic Partnerships

In an initiative developed by the British Academy's Africa Panel, two awards of up to £10,000 a year for up to three years are available to support the development of ongoing links between UK and African research centres or institutions, within the humanities and social sciences. The link would be built around a specific research theme of mutual interest. This could be carried forward through visits in both directions; workshops; seminars and lecture programmes; collaborative research; and joint publications. The programme might form part of either institution's training programme and will ideally involve participation from more than one African institution, and might also involve more than one department/university/group/ research centre in the UK.

The scheme is intended to foster UK-Africa links, with an emphasis on helping scholars in the UK and Africa to develop research skills and to produce a joint research outcome. Priority will be given to projects with a training element, such as the support and development of staff or postgraduate students (in the UK and in Africa). Visits might be undertaken for staff exchange, supplying teaching elements to courses and developing joint curricula. Workshops and seminars should form an integral part of the programme, and involve both staff and postgraduate students. It is expected that each programme should produce papers or some other joint research outcome designed for publication. Application by 30 April 2006 via the UK-Africa Academic Partnerships form at: www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/africaap.html

'3-Year funded Ph.D Research Studentship on Social Reintegration of Child Soldiers in Post-Conflict Societies in Africa', Africa Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford. The Social Re-integration of Child Soldiers in Post-conflict Societies in Africa is a core programme of the five year Ferguson Grant on Working for Durable Peace and Sustainable Development. The primary objective of this action research, which focuses on the case studies of Sierra Leone, Liberia, northern Uganda and southern Sudan, is to explore, from a conceptual and policy perspective, the relevance and potential utility of traditional/indigenous resources and societal institutions for the purpose of reintegration and rehabilitation of child soldiers. The research focus draws from a multi-disciplinary field including Peace and Conflict Studies, Development Studies, Psychology, Sociology and Health Sciences.

Applicants should have a first degree (2.1 or above) and/or a Master's degree in the Social Sciences (preferably Peace and Conflict Studies, Politics and International Relations, and Development Studies). Applicants should have secured admission or have submitted an application for admission for the 2006/7 academic year in the Department of Peace Studies. Only those successful applicants who have been granted MPhil/PhD admission and researching on a topic relating to child soldiers and/or children and war in Africa will be considered for the studentship. The Africa Centre is seeking to recruit 1-2 research students to enrol as full-time Ph.D research students in the Department of Peace Studies and who will be based in the Africa Centre. In addition, successful candidate(s) will be expected to work 15 hours per week as part of the staff of the Africa Centre with specific and limited responsibilities under the management supervision of the Centre's Programme Administrator. The value of the studentship is £19,000 per annum for three years and will cover tuition fees, maintenance (including accommodation subsidy); allowance for working 15 hours per week in the Africa Centre, and limited research/conference-related subsidy. The closing date is 12 June 2006; further information from Dr Kenneth Omeje: k.c.omeje1@bradford.ac.uk

Visiting Research Fellowships Programme, Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, 2006. The programme aims at allowing young African academics to spend time interacting with colleagues at CAS, develop papers and projects, and making use of resources across Scotland. This research initiative, funded for three years by the Scottish Executive, will have an annual theme: in year one, civil society and development; year two, health and infectious disease; and year three, education and capacity building.

Fellowships will cover return airfare and a stipend of approximately £1,600 per month towards accommodation and living expenses for periods of between two and six months. Applicants should be young African scholars, with a Ph.D or

equivalent research experience, who are seeking to develop their careers and who are currently based in an African institution.

2006's research theme is Civil Society, Democracy and Development. It is now widely recognised that 'civil society' is central to African politics and development. Non-state actors are agents of democratization, vehicles of empowerment and development, and contribute to a complex 'societal glue' within African states and across borders. Consequently the relationship between state and civil society must be constantly reshaped and rethought, avoiding past tendencies to homogenise the ambiguity and plurality within real civil (and uncivil) societies. Research will be supported which develops a deeper understanding of the complex compositions of civil societies, the evolution and dissolution of organisations including (but not limited to) NGOs, community groups, churches, trades unions, and 'traditional' associations in both rural and urban areas. In particular, we are interested in new formations and new trends within older forms of social networks.

Applicants may apply at any time, but should aim to apply at least four months before they intend their fellowship to begin. To be considered for a fellowship during 2006, send a short CV and the names and email addresses of two referees; a proposal of not more than 1,000 words on this year's theme, showing your record of past research, how you will benefit from the fellowship and what you hope to achieve; and indicate the period of time you would need in Edinburgh. Applications or enquiries to Professor Paul Nugent, Centre of African Studies, 21 George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LL *or* paul.nugent@ed.ac.uk

African Studies Visiting Research Fellowships Scheme, Centre of African Studies, University of Cambridge, October 2007–March 2008. The Centre of African Studies, with the generous assistance of the Ford Foundation, Isaac Newton Trust, Smuts Memorial Fund and A. G. Leventis Foundation, invites applications for Visiting Research Fellowships, one of which will be entitled 'Smuts Visiting Research Fellowship in African Studies'. Fellows will be affiliated to various Cambridge colleges. Each six month award is worth £10,000, out of which travel, accommodation, maintenance costs and medical insurance will be paid by the Centre on behalf of the fellow.

The Fellowships for October 2007 will be centred on the theme of *Religion and Public Culture in Africa*. The thesis of secularization, which predicts decline in the public importance of religion, is challenged by various contemporary social and political trends in Africa. The spread and diversity of religious forms, most conspicuously Christianity and Islam, exerts an obvious influence on public culture in many parts of Africa. Less obvious, but equally important, is the frequent blurring of boundaries between religious and secular spheres. Politicians can be held accountable through religious means, just as religious leaders are subject to worldly laws.

Scholars who come to Cambridge under this fellowship scheme will explore the limits and possibilities of secular liberalism under the historically diverse conditions of contemporary Africa. A range of empirical issues can be addressed within this theme, such as the relationship between religious and secular notions of Human Rights; contests over citizenship in the context of transnational religious movements; religious and liberal conventions of public accountability; religion and the distribution of wealth in the context of economic liberalization; the challenge of religious networks to the liberal understandings of state-society relations; gendered tensions over the religious and secular sources of authority; the differences and similarities between religious and secular NGOs in providing humanitarian and development aid; and the role of mass media in maintaining or blurring the religion-secular divide.

Applications are invited from all disciplines and are open to scholars and others in academia, research institutes, NGOs, museums and libraries. Preference will be given to candidates with a distinguished research profile who are permanent residents in Africa and who have active research interests in the areas advertised for the Fellowships. For details on how to apply by 1 October 2006, write to the Centre of African Studies, Free School Lane, Cambridge CB2 3RQ or check website: www.african.cam.ac.uk

Dr Dominique Jacquin-Berdal (1966-2006), died on 24 January, aged 39. A lecturer in international relations at the London School of Economics, there will be a full obituary in the next newsletter.

Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports (of around 200-300 words) on recent conferences, announcements of forthcoming conferences, symposia and workshops (giving topic, date, venue, and contact address), announcements of the awarding of grants, fellowships and prizes, news of appointments and visiting fellowships, recently completed theses, publication announcements of books by members, and brief articles or notices on matters of importance to Africanists in the UK. **Please do not send review copies of books.**

Send all items for inclusion in the *Newsletter* to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, Plan, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey GU21 6JG, UK (fax: +44(0) 1483-756505; email: simon.heap@plan-international.org). **Deadlines are 16 June 2006 (for July 2006 Newsletter), 15 September** (for October), *15 December* (for January) and *15 March* (for April). Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK.

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

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