



# NEWSLETTER

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## Strengthening of African Studies in Africa and South Africa

At the invitation of the South African Ministry of Education, I represented ASAUK at a conference: 'Strengthening of African Studies in Africa and South Africa'. The meeting was held in late February 2006 and brought together delegates from various South African Universities, research centres and institutions, as well as those from a number of other African countries, including Uganda, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Other delegates included the High Commissioners and Ambassadors of various countries to South Africa.

The Minister of Education, the Hon. Naledi Pandor, opened the conference with an address, entitled 'African Studies in Africa'. In her address, Mrs Pandor noted that the conference was convened to enable delegates to share experiences of 'the study of Africa and the African diaspora and to give the Ministry some guidance on how to boost the study of Africa in South African Universities'. Echoing President Mbeki, she reiterated the crucial role African intellectuals and universities have to play in the African renaissance, a theme that was central to the contributions by Professors Gutto and Zeleza. In order to achieve this goal, it is argued that a long-term programme of investment designed to revitalise universities be undertaken, as recommended by the Africa Commission. This will involve the setting up of some thirty centres of excellence in science, engineering and technology, to be financed largely by external donors totalling some US\$3 billion over ten years. Though the Commission did not specifically call for the promotion of African studies, nonetheless, the Minister felt that such a perspective would help to revitalise African universities.

The Minister pointed to three avenues through which African studies have been delivered: Universities; African Studies Centres; Foundation Courses. Choosing SOAS as an example, she traced the history of this institution from its beginnings as the School of Oriental Studies in 1916 to the incorporation of Africa in 1938, with the aim of training British administrators for overseas postings; to the point where 'the School has grown into the world leading centre for exclusive study of

Asia and Africa, (and) rated as one of the United Kingdom's top ten universities'. She also noted that one driver in the establishment of African Studies was the demand for specialists, pointing to the link between geopolitics and academic funding.

She drew attention to the 'savage cuts' in public spending associated with the early years of Thatcherism and the loss of expertise, which meant that Britain lost the leadership of African Studies to the United States, where African studies took roots on the upshot of the civil rights movement. The demise of Area Studies accompanying the end of the Cold War signalled the emergence of International and Global Studies, in the US challenging African Studies, with the latter putting up strong resistance.

Meanwhile in Africa, Makerere, Dar es Salaam, Ibadan, Zaria, and Jos emerged in the 1960s, 70s and 80s as vibrant centres for an alternative discourse to the hegemonic modernisation paradigm, that of neo-Marxism or radical structuralism. The challenge thrown to African intellectuals and academics by the conference includes the need for a clear definition of what is understood by African Studies. With this in mind, Professor Amina Mama warned that African Studies should not be subsumed under the rubric of Area Studies, in her view, the appropriate concept should be 'African Scholarship', by which she meant the yearnings of Africans and others to challenge the global academy, the curriculum and methodology, as well as the necessity for African universities to be relevant to African development. For African scholarship to blossom, there is an urgent need to create enabling environments by better financing of universities and an atmosphere of academic freedom, thereby putting an end to the brain drain. Such a paradigm would by necessity be anti-imperialist, internationalist in outlook, set on a developmental state infrastructure, whilst seeking a *modus vivendi* with globalisation. Contrary to the uncritical celebratory outlook of Africology or Afrocentricity, African scholarship will by necessity have to be embedded in critical theory to embrace modernity. In order to achieve this, Africa would need to be wrenched away from that aspect of culture that is reactionary and dysfunctional to change. One such reactionary aspect of culture is the hegemony of gerontocrats and the attempt by both African leaders and donors to both re-feudalise African political structures and modernise feudalism. The cessation of exploitation by 'elders' of the 'cadets' is a *causa sine qua non* for peace and development in a troubled continent in the post-Cold War era.

Any serious analysis of the African people or the continent of Africa must incorporate this concern, and it is a precondition in the quest to transform Africa into what Professor Nel called 'a knowledge emporium'. Perhaps this review might kick start the 'critical debate' which the Honourable Minister demanded.

**Professor Alfred Zack-Williams, University of Central Lancashire, Preston,  
and Vice-President, ASAUK: Tzack-williams@uclan.ac.uk**

## Conferences Future...

### UNITED KINGDOM

**ASAUK Biennial Conference, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 11–13 September 2006.** ASAUK comes together every two years at its conference. Meet the major African Studies publishers, hear the Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecture, celebrate the announcement of the doctoral dissertation prize winners, honour the winners of the Distinguished Africanist Award. Come and support the ASAUK and discuss the state of African Studies at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

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, AIDS, local governance, drylands ecology, planning sustainable cities, and the state of higher education in Africa – all these and more are the topics planned for this conference.

To book a place, go to the website: [www.asauk.net](http://www.asauk.net) and click on 'conference 2006' and follow the links to register for the conference, *or* contact Lindsay Allan, RAS/ASAUK, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG; telephone: 0207-898-4390.

**'Abolitions, 1807-2007: Ending the Slave Trade in the Transatlantic World', King's Manor, University of York, 12-14 April 2007.** This international bicentenary conference looks at the meaning and impact across the Atlantic world of the formal abolition of the slave trade in 1807. The city of York was one of the political arenas in which the abolitionist William Wilberforce fought the cause, and the department of history has long been associated with pioneering scholarship on the history of slavery and black studies in the UK. Papers from all disciplines are sought on the following themes: Africa and abolition; the European slave powers and the legacy of slavery and abolition (Denmark, France, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and UK); the Caribbean and abolition; depicting slavery and antislavery: satire, caricature, portrait and landscape painting, theatre writing; slavery and anti-slavery: poetry, memoirs, auto/biography, the novel; the first centenary of abolition: 1907; slave cities: Liverpool, Bristol, Glasgow, Nantes, Bordeaux, Charleston, New Orleans, Copenhagen, Rotterdam and Cartagena; the legacy of abolition in the modern anti-slavery movement; heritage studies and anti-slavery; and anti-slavery memorials. 250-word abstracts and CV by 31 July 2006 to Professor Miles Taylor: [mt504@york.ac.uk](mailto:mt504@york.ac.uk) Website: [www-users.york.ac.uk/~hist35/abolitions/](http://www-users.york.ac.uk/~hist35/abolitions/)

**'British World Conference 2007: Defining the British World', Bristol University, 11-14 July 2007.** Jointly hosted by the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England, Bristol, the principal objective of the 2007 conference is to take stock of what has been done since the first conference held in London in 1998, provide new research agendas, and most importantly define what is meant by the 'British World'. While keeping faithful to the themes debated at previous conferences, such as migration, identity formation, and the competing forms of what it is to be 'British' in the dominions (to name but three), the organizers are also keen to investigate the new and overlapping themes: Slavery and the British World; the 18th Century and the British World; other British Worlds (India, West Indies, Middle East and Far East); globalization, economics and Empire; trans-nationalism, regions and identities; and communications, networks and the British World. The organizers invite proposals from individuals wishing to put together panels of three people plus a designated discussant. Abstracts up to 200 words per paper by 10 November 2006 to Kent Fedorowich: kent.fedorowich@uwe.ac.uk

#### INTERNATIONAL

**'Language, Culture and Endangerment', Association for Promoting Nigerian Languages and Culture (APNILAC), 11th Annual Conference, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria, 19-23 November 2006.** The conference focuses on the themes of literature, Nigerian and foreign languages, video films, marketing and advertising, NGOs, music, education and culture. Abstracts of up to 200 words by 10 October 2006 to Calistus Anopue-Cussons: callycussons@callycussons.com

**'The Changing Dynamics of Inter-Group Relations in Nigeria since 1960: International Conference in Honour of Professor Ikime at 70', University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 16-18 January 2007.** The Department of History announces this conference in honour of Professor Obaro Ikime, a leading Nigerian historian and doyen of the Ibadan School of History, who turns seventy in December 2006. The organisers welcome papers on the concept of inter-group relations, as well the linkages between inter-group relations and any of the following issues: self-determination, conflict, religion, resource control, geography, constitutional development, military rule, ethnic militia and state creation. One page abstracts by 4 August 2006 to Chris Ogbogbo: cogbogbo@yahoo.com

**'Annual Conference of the Philosophical Society of Southern Africa', Stellenbosch, Western Cape, South Africa, 17-19 January 2007.** The conference has no theme, and papers in all areas of philosophy are welcome. Abstracts of up to 200 words by 30 November 2006 to Vasti Roodt: vroodt@sun.ac.za

**'Beer as a Local and Transnational Commodity in Africa', Africa Research Centre, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, 16 February 2007.** This workshop concentrates on the role of beer in Africa's recent past and present. The tensions and ambivalences epitomized by drinking alcohol in general and beer in particular relate to economic insecurity, gender, authority, identity, migrant labour or centralized state rule, to name but a few. Bottle stores, canteens, pubs and dance joints emerge as arenas where locality is continuously being negotiated, where colonial and contemporary identities are being made and unmade. The underlying question then is: what can microscopic studies of beer and drinking tell us about the 'true nature' of the colonial encounter, of the postcolonial state, of modernity and of development in Africa? Abstracts by 1 September 2006 to Steven Van Wolputte: [steven.vanwolputte@ant.kuleuven.be](mailto:steven.vanwolputte@ant.kuleuven.be)

**'Popular Cultures in Africa', University of Texas at Austin, USA, 30 March-1 April 2007.** The conference focuses on the histories, genres, meanings, purposes, and impacts of popular cultures in Africa. Popular culture has long served an important function in all facets of life throughout the continent. It reflects the creativity of the people and can also serve as a means of propaganda by totalitarian regimes. In the context of past and contemporary developments, what are the meanings, purposes, and influences of popular cultures in the continent? The conference aims to examine how popular cultures have evolved and contributed to the character of Africa. Themes of interest include activism in popular culture; popular culture as a means for diasporic or transoceanic conversations; the future of TV, radio, cinema or theatre in Africa; HIV/AIDS and popular culture; popular culture in urban versus rural communities; jazz and decolonisation; popular culture creating connections across the African diaspora; politics and popular culture; religion and popular culture; TV telling history; literature and liberation; manifestations of resistance/ anticolonial sentiments in popular culture; modes of popular culture; Western appropriation of African music; exile and the arts; hip hop in Africa; popular culture and the anti-apartheid struggle; Western images of Africa; and the future of popular culture. 250-word abstracts by 1 November 2006 to Tyler Fleming: [tylerfleming@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:tylerfleming@mail.utexas.edu) or Toyin Falola: [toyin.falola@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:toyin.falola@mail.utexas.edu)

**'Seventh North Eastern Workshop on Southern Africa (NEWSA)', Burlington, Vermont, USA, 13-16 April 2007.** The organisers seek papers on three topics. First, migration and displacement: the directions and scales of population movements have been shifting in novel ways, with implications for socio-economic change and the course of the regional HIV/AIDS epidemic. Political changes have led to unprecedented patterns of movement, while large-scale infrastructure projects, the creation of new trans-border protected areas, and the continuing effects of civil conflicts have also involved large-scale population displacement. Second, the environment: the social consequences of soil conservation programs and veterinary interventions, creation of protected areas;

drought coping strategies; indigenous environmental movements; environmental justice; pollution and toxins; urban environmental issues; community-based natural resource management, and climate change. Third, music: recent decades have seen the rise of *kwaito* and the indigenisation and transformation of hip-hop and house. The unprecedented popularity of Y-FM has also highlighted the cultural and economic significance of African youth. At the same time, the rise of inexpensive computer-based recording technology has begun to break the stranglehold that the recording industry has long held over local artists. Abstracts by 15 December 2006 to Gary Kynoch: gkynoch@dal.ca Website: [www.southwestern.edu/~greenmue/news-07-program](http://www.southwestern.edu/~greenmue/news-07-program)

**'Informalizing Economies and New Organising Strategies in Africa', Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden, 20-22 April 2007.** Self-employment and "unregulated" forms of employment are today widespread ways of earning a living. At the same time, informal economies have become both increasingly enmeshed in international commodity circuits and more exposed to global market forces. In addition to the influence of global forces, governments often have a negative, or at best ambivalent, attitude towards poor self-employed people. In many places they adopt restrictive and violent measures such as harassment and eviction.

The conference focuses on the collectively organised responses of popular groups to drastically changed conditions for earning a living in Africa. In particular, the aim is to concentrate on attempts to organise informal workers and to defend their interests. Some key issues include: organising strategies are emerging around the interests of informal workers; the agendas of these civic groups and who do they try to influence; and new alliances and constellations are emerging in this changing landscape of organised popular initiatives. Papers are particularly welcome on associations emerging from within the informal economy; organising across the formal-informal divide; transnational organising; and gender dynamics. Abstracts in English, French or Portuguese by 20 August 2006 to Ilda Lindell: [Ilda.Lindell@nai.uu.se](mailto:Ilda.Lindell@nai.uu.se)

**'Postcolonial Ghosts', Université Paul Valéry, Montpellier, France, 8-10 November 2007.** The conference examines haunting phenomena in the postcolonial world: is there a specifically postcolonial kind of haunting? Who/what are the postcolonial ghosts? How do they show themselves? Can they be conjured or exorcised? To answer these questions, and many others, the presence of ghosts in the new literatures in English (Africa, India and Caribbean) and by writers like André Brink and Wole Soyinka can be examined. Issues may include magic realism, neo-gothic writings, folklore, ghosts (guilty or innocent), and the various ways in which they manifest themselves. Abstracts and CV in English or French by 31 December 2006 to Judith Misrahi-Barak: [judith.misrahi-barak@univ-montp3.fr](mailto:judith.misrahi-barak@univ-montp3.fr)

## ...Conferences Past

A Conference on *The State and Ethnic Definition*, hosted by the Department of Politics and International Relations of the University of Oxford, and part financed by the ASAUK, brought together some thirty academics and research students based in the US, France and the UK, from a variety of social science and humanities backgrounds (social psychology, political science, anthropology, sociology and history), working on the theme of the politics of identity in Africa and Europe. Held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2006, its aim was firstly to facilitate discussions between scholars who ordinarily would have few opportunities talk, despite working on similar themes, either because they are working on different geographical areas or within different academic disciplines. Secondly, it sought to stimulate reflection from a variety of different perspectives, on what, particularly since September 11<sup>th</sup> have become heated public debates about the dangers of multiculturalism and the extent to which diversity necessarily leads to disorder. Fifteen papers were presented in four panels; two on Africa, one on Europe and one on North America. By opening the morning session and afternoon sessions with panels devoted to Africa, the conference hoped that Africa's long history of academic and policy focussed reflection on identity politics notably on the role of the state in managing and making manifest ethnic pluralism, could be brought to bear.

The first Africa panel contained three papers on Nigeria by Dr Abdul-Rauf Mustapha, Dr Kathryn Nwajiaku and doctoral student Ukoha Ukiwo. All papers discussed how the process of state building from the pre-colonial to the present, has helped as well as hindered the ability of Nigeria's different ethnic groups to live together, and how state policies may have entrenched ethnic solidarities rather than defused them. The question of whether the state has awarded citizenship based on residency or birth re-emerged in the second Africa panel presentation by Dr Henri Medard, on pre-colonial Uganda, whilst doctoral student Etienne Smith's convincing argued that the Senegalese state had been able to defuse ethnic solidarities through the official recognition of the colonial language – French, rather than Wolof. Doctoral student Gabrielle Lynch's perspective on how democratic politics has entrenched ethnicity as a political resource deployed by ambitious politicians, seemed to present an extreme example of what in the European panel expressed itself as much more insidious appeals to race and ethnicity, this time not deployed simply by politicians in electoral games, but transmitted through civic institutions, notably the media.

Papers by Dr Steve Garner and Dr Ama de-Graft Aikins both highlighted the role played by the media in influencing public discourse and determining attitudes to whiteness, blackness, integration, diversity and multiculturalism in the UK. Dr Cathie Lloyd's paper on North African solidarity organisations in France and Dr Roxy Harris' paper on children of South Asian descent in London, emphasised attempts by minority groups and their descendants to take the initiative and re-

define through every day ordinary behaviours and deliberate civic and social acts, their own identities, which were often far removed from the ethnicised categories employed by the state.

Dr Ellie Vasta's contribution on the policies of different European states to integration and assimilation emphasised the need to redefine multiculturalism itself, so that it obliges the majority culture to change itself. Her words were echoed in doctoral student Leah Bassel's work on the non-integration of Somali woman refugees. The politics of positive and negative labelling; whereby multiculturalism was equated with 'good' in Canada, thereby allowing the government to ignore the absence of 'real' integration in terms of access to economic and social goods for minorities, was also brought out in papers by Dr Steven Tuck and Professor Victoria Hattam. Both highlighted practices by the US government to categorise certain groups as 'races' and others as 'ethnicities', where unlike in Europe and in Africa where both terms are used interchangeably, in the US, race is equated with biology, intransigence, rigidity, segregation and the absence of integration whilst ethnicity is perceived as a positive attribute, equated with fluidity, culture and integration. Persistent attempts by US institutions to categorise Hispanics as an ethnicity rather than as a race, which is the case for African-Americans, was acknowledged as a deliberate attempt to institutionalise and retain the dominance of certain 'racial' groups over others.

What next? After a packed day of intense debate, little time remained for in depth discussion about next steps. Participants however agreed to retain contacts and to investigate the possibility of a joint publication, either a special journal or edited collection.

**Dr Kathryn Nwajiaku, ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford: [kathryn.nwajiaku@politics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:kathryn.nwajiaku@politics.ox.ac.uk)**

### **Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities**

Gregg Joseph Chavaria (2005) 'The Efficacy of Refugee Education in Uganda, 1993-1998: The Role of the Non-Governmental Organization', M. Litt. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Ceri Peach.

Samuel Cyuma (2006) 'The Process of Conflict Resolution and Post-Conflict Reconciliation in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Role of the Church with Special Reference to South Africa and Rwanda', Ph.D thesis, University of Wales. Supervisor: Professor Deryke Belshaw.

Lindiwe Dovey (2005) 'African Film Adaptation of Literature: Mimesis and the Critique of Violence', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge.



Miatta Fahnbulleh (2006) 'The Elusive Quest for Industrialisation in Africa: A Comparative Study of Ghana and Kenya, c.1950-2000', Ph.D thesis, London School of Economics, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Gareth Austin.

Stephen Ford (2005) 'South Africa: A Model of Transition from Authoritarian Rule to Democratic Consolidation', Ph.D thesis, University of Birmingham. Supervisor: Dr Keith Shear.

Itamar Katz (2006) 'South Africa Youth and HIV/AIDS: Evaluating Responses', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Daniel Low-Beer.

Charlotte Lemanski (2006) 'The Nature of Social Integration in Post-apartheid Cape Town', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Tony Lemon.

Vusumuzi Sithembiso Mncube (2005) 'School Governance in the Democratisation of Education in South Africa: The Interplay between Policy and Practice', Ph.D thesis, University of Birmingham. Supervisor: Dr Keith Shear.

### **Recent and Forthcoming Publications**

Tim Allen (2006) *Trial Justice: The International Criminal Court and the Lord's Resistance Army*. London: Zed Books. 176pp, £36.95, hardback, 1-84277-736-X; £12.99, paperback, ISBN: 1-84277-737-8.

Michael Amoah (2006) *Reconstructing the Nation in Africa: The Politics of Nationalism in Ghana*. London and New York: Tauris Academic Studies. 256pp, £47.50, hardback. ISBN: 1-84511-259-8.

Deborah Fahy Bryceson and Deborah Potts (eds.) (2006) *African Urban Economies: Viability, Vitality or Vitiating?* Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. 416pp, £65.00 hardback, ISBN: 1-40399-947-3.

Julie Flint and Alex de Waal (2005) *Darfur: A Short History of a Long War*. London: Zed Books. 176pp, £36.95, hardback, ISBN 1-84277-696-7; £12.99, paperback, ISBN: 1-84277-697-5.

Lotte Hughes (2006) *Moving the Maasai: A Colonial Misadventure*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. 272pp, £50 hardback, ISBN: 1-40399-661-X.

Francis Kennedy (2006) *Dust Suspended: A Memoir of Colonial, Overseas and Diplomatic Service Life, 1953 to 1986*. Foreword by Olusegun Obasanjo, President of Nigeria. 254 pp, £19.50 hardback, ISBN 1-84104-109-2. Contact: The Memoir Club, Stanhope Old Hall, County Durham, DL13 2PF; telephone: 01388-529060.

Michael S. Kargbo (2006) *British Foreign Policy and the Conflict in Sierra Leone, 1991-2001*. Oxford/Peiterlen: Peter Lang Publishers. 346pp. £40, ISBN 3-03910-332-6. Contact: info@peterlang.com

Reinhard W. Sander and Bernth Lindfors (2006) *Ngugi Wa Thiong'o Speaks Interviews with the Kenyan Writer*. Oxford: James Currey, 376pp, £19.95, ISBN: 0-95255-580-6.

Hans M. Zell (ed) (2006) *The African Studies Companion: A Guide to Information Sources*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. 864 pp. ISBN: 0-9541029-2-4 £148.00/€222.00/\$296.00, online access bundled with print. Purchase of the print edition entitles purchasers free access to the regularly updated electronic version. For more information, or requests for review copies: Hans M. Zell, Hans Zell Publishing, Glais Bheinn, Lochcarron, Ross-shire IV54 8YB; 01520-722951; hanzzell@hanszell.co.uk

**Obsidian III: Special Issue on the 50th Anniversary of Ghanaian Independence.** With publication set for the summer of 2007, papers are sought from all fields to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the independence of Ghana. Essays are solicited the literary and cultural legacy of Ghanaian independence in Ghana, in Africa, in the African Diaspora and throughout the world. Possible topics might include: how other African countries benefited and/or borrowed from Ghanaian independence; the legacy of Ghanaian independence; the cultural work of political literature in Ghana or in Africa; the fiction and/or poetry of Kofi Awoonor, Ama Ata Aidoo, Abena Busia, Kwesi Brew, Ayi Kwei Armah, Kojo Laing, Kobena Eyi Acquah, Ladw Wosomu and other Ghanaian writers; the relationship among Anglophone, Francophone, Lusophone and African language authors; and original, previously unpublished fiction and poetry focusing on the theme of Ghanaian independence. Proposals by 15 January 2007 to Sheila Smith McKoy: ssmckoy@unity.ncsu.edu

### **AEGIS Announces Africa Book Series with Brill**

The Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies is pleased to announce the AEGIS Brill Africa Book Series. Books will represent all fields of study within the humanities and social sciences, and will include both individually-authored works and edited collections on focused themes. The series will comprise titles reflecting on long-standing debates within African Studies as well as those based upon new research and the development of innovative approaches. Included among series authors will be both senior and junior scholars and the Editors wish to encourage the publication of outstanding recent doctoral theses. Discounted purchase prices will be offered to AEGIS members as well as to scholars in Africa. Authors are requested to submit a prospectus up to 1,000 words providing a summary of the work, a description of its intended audience, a word count, and the current status of the manuscript (which should not be sent until specifically requested by the editors). The prospectus, accompanied by a brief covering letter and CV, should be sent to AEGIS Brill Africa Book Series, attn: Angelica Baschiera, Centre of African Studies, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG.

## Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

### British Academy Visiting Fellowships

The British Academy has awarded six visiting fellowships to early career scholars from Africa. The recipients are:

1. Dr Aderemi Suleiman Ajala of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, to be based at the University of Birmingham, June-September 2006.
2. Mr Ronald Sebba Kalyango of Makerere University, Uganda, who was based at the University of Sussex, May-June 2006.
3. Dr Lapologang Magole from the University of Botswana, to be based at the University of East Anglia, October-December 2006.
4. Dr Muchaparara Musemwa from the University of South Africa, to be based at the University of Sheffield, May-July 2006.
5. Dr Oyeniyi Okunoye of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, to be based at the University of Birmingham, September-December 2006.
6. Dr Peter Quartey of the University of Ghana, to be based at Keele University for the first three months of 2007.

A call for the next round of awards for the period April 2007 – March 2008 is likely to be made in late July 2006, with a deadline in early November 2006.

Website: <http://www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/visfells.html>

## Obituaries

**Elizabeth Ann Salter, Honorary Secretary of Royal African Society, Scotland Branch, from 2002.** Elizabeth (Lizzie) Salter's passing will be felt by many people who have known her, especially her family. She had a direct link to the Centre of African Studies through her son, Thomas Salter. Tom, as he is best known, joined the Centre as a mature student bringing many gifts to the place. One of them was his mother. She entered into the life of the Centre and its activities with commitment and gusto. Many of us at the Centre became personal friends visiting her at her home in West Linton and in France perched high in the mountains.

Lizzie always attended the annual scholarship dinner bringing others along with her. She was always noticed because she would pick out of her wardrobe some African outfit that underlined her appreciation of her contact with that continent, colourful and vibrant. Her conversations were often filled with her most recent visit to South Africa to visit her son and his family or a visit to her Rwandan family who she always saw when in France. Not only intellectually but physically she wore her particular attachment to that continent.

She became one of the honorary secretaries to the Royal African Society in Scotland. She was asked to take on this role because of her skills in drawing

people in from the wider community and her longstanding engagement with Africa, particularly South Africa and Rwanda.

Over time we grew to hear of her wider interests. She was deeply concerned to view issues through the lens of the international rather than the parochial. Anne Hepburn reminded us of her time as Moderator of the Division of International Affairs of the British Council of Churches from 1984 until 1990. She wanted justice and peace for South Africa, still riven in those years by apartheid. Rwanda, during its years of trouble, was a personal concern.

You will hear of her many institutional connections today. Her strength lay in her daily and ongoing attachments to these causes and this is what made her such an asset to the Royal African Society in Scotland. Frequently her personal and general interests had her flying to spend time in Sweden, South Africa or elsewhere. But she carried her commitments with her. Conversations would soon turn to what was happening in Rwanda or Zaire. You learnt and you grew in your sympathy and understanding of Africa. The Royal African Society in Scotland and the CAS will miss her contribution. They take this opportunity to salute her spirit. To her family we send our heartfelt condolences.

**Pravina and Kenneth King,  
on behalf of the CAS and the RAS in Scotland**

**Professor Philip Shea** (30 July 1945 – 5 April 2006) was a pioneer economic historian of Northern Nigeria and an important figure in the Nigerian historical profession. Coming so soon after the death of another prominent Nigerianist historical scholar, Dr Bala Usman, Shea's death is an unquantifiable loss to Northern Nigerian, Nigerian, and African Studies.

Shea was a Professor in Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria, where he taught for almost thirty years, training and mentoring several generations of historians and avidly conducting path-breaking research into the economic and political history of Hausaland, especially Kano. He published several articles in Nigerian and international journals on, among other subjects, the development of the dyeing industry in pre-colonial Kano; rural production; indirect rule; and the central Sudanese silk trade. His most recent publication is 'Mallam Muhammad Bakatsine and the Jihad in Eastern Kano', *History in Africa* (2005).

His unpublished doctoral dissertation, 'The Development of an Export Oriented Dyed Cloth Industry in Kano Emirate in the Nineteenth Century' (Wisconsin, 1975), has become one of the most cited works on dyeing and textiles in Africa. It has become a reference text in discussions of indigenous African textile practices.

Philip Shea was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts and attended Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania before going to the University of Wisconsin for his Ph.D in African History. While conducting field and archival research for his doctoral

dissertation in 1970-71, he fell in love with Nigeria and never left. After the completion of his Ph.D., he took a job with Advanced Teachers College, Gumel, now in Jigawa State. In 1980, he was appointed Senior Lecturer at the Abdullahi Bayero College campus of Ahmadu Bello University, which had become an autonomous university and was renamed Bayero University in 1975. He was promoted to a full professor in 1998. He held visiting professorships at the University of California, Berkeley, USA, and Bayreuth University, Germany.

**Dr Moses Ebe Ochonu, Assistant Professor of African History,  
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA.**

**Dr Dominique Jacquin-Berdal** (1966-2006), died on 24 January, aged 39. We will remember Dominique Jacquin-Berdal as full of life and love. At the London School of Economics (LSE) in the international relations department, she was a determinedly hands-on tutor, personally concerned with the welfare of students, a dedicated and innovative teacher always eager to incorporate student feedback and to learn, as evidenced by her winning a prestigious teaching prize. We never met a student of hers who did not speak very highly of Dominique. She was also a wonderful colleague with a brilliant and creative mind. Part of her lasting gift to those who encountered her was the pleasure and experience of engaging with someone who was acutely intelligent and at the same time very giving, very caring and very psychologically astute.

Born in Ghana where her father was a diplomat, Dominique grew up to be an Africanist who loved Africa and was loved by Africans, many of whom she counted among her closest friends; her passing is a major loss to African studies. Dominique's doctoral thesis, which was later published as a book, *Nationalism and Ethnicity in the Horn of Africa: A Critique of the Ethnic Interpretation*, drew on the Horn of Africa (especially Eritrea) to provide a critique of the view that nationalism is rooted in ethnicity. With Martin Plaut, she edited and contributed to *Unfinished Business: Ethiopia and Eritrea at War* – a detailed and meticulous account of the bloody “brother's war” between 1998 and 2000. These were notable contributions to the literature on post-Cold War conflicts in Africa. Dominique dedicated her life to the study of the continent; more generally, she contributed much to our understanding of nationalism, of ethnicity, and of modern warfare in an historical perspective. She was always willing to mentor younger academics, co-authoring a chapter on nationalism in the Horn of Africa with a young Ethiopian scholar, Aida Mengistu, with great patience and charm.

For all her professional gifts and accomplishments, most important of all to Dominique was her family. Few who met her and her husband Mats Berdal and their beautiful daughter Ingrid remained untouched by the depth of the love between them; a generous, humorous and loving spirit spilled over readily to friends, colleagues and wider family.

“Such tender stalk is earthed in haste,” Nigeria’s Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka has written; and Dominique has been taken far, far too soon. Farewell to a gentle, loving, humane, generous and cherished friend. Farewell, soul sister, until we meet again in the land of the ancestors.

Adekeye Adebajo, Centre for Conflict Resolution,  
and David Keen, London School of Economics

**Professor Albert Adu Boahen** (24 May 1932 – 24 May 2006), Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Ghana, Legon, devoted his life to correcting the false impression created by many Western historians of the colonial era that Africa had "no history". Or that, if it had any history, it was full of barbarity and backwardness.

He also taught his fellow Ghanaians by example that it was not enough to know that one's history was full of heroic deeds, but that people must let their knowledge of their glorious past spur them on to accomplish great deeds in their own lives. He bestrode academic and political life. In 1988, he felt called upon to deliver a series of fearless public lectures on "The Culture of Silence" that had descended upon Ghana under the dictatorial rule of Flt Lt Jerry Rawlings. Then – in a move considered by some to be even more foolhardy – he stood against Rawlings in a presidential election in 1992.

Before that, he had, through the Movement for Freedom and Justice, also opposed the military rule of General I.K. Acheampong. This earned him a period of detention in prison – an ironic fate, since he had, a decade earlier, presided over a commission that inquired into the death in Nsawam prison under the Kwame Nkrumah regime of the "doyen of Ghanaian politics", Dr J. B. Danquah.

Adu Boahen published nine books and numerous articles in learned journals on African history. He was known as Africa's foremost historian, respected both by those who disagreed with him because they thought his historical notions were of a "romantic" nature, and those who adored the boldness of his imagination and the wide scope of his research. He was president of Unesco's International Scientific Committee for the Drafting of a General History of Africa, and the invaluable eight-volume *General History of Africa* published by Unesco – the seventh volume of which Adu Boahen edited – will stand as a monument to his work.

It was not by accident that Adu Boahen lived and breathed history all his adult life. For he was born, in 1932, at Osiem, in Akyem Abuakwa (in the eastern region of Ghana) to a mother of Asante extraction, Maame Kisiwaa (a fish-seller) and an Akyem father, Agya Amankwaa (a cocoa-buyer). They had seven children, of whom Adu was the third.

The Asantes and the Akyems, immediate neighbours in southern Ghana, are of common descent. But they parted ways about 500 years ago, since when they have been at each other's throats in battles too many to count. The immediate ancestors of Adu's mother were from Dwaben, in Asante, and had been driven into exile in Akyem, during the civil war in Asante in 1874. So Adu Boahen's birthplace and its environs were a veritable hotbed of political intrigue and historical disputation. Although his father was an indigenous Akyem, Adu Boahen was actually an Asante, because both the Asante and the Akyem trace their roots through their maternal line.

A few years after Adu had started his education at Osiem Presbyterian Primary School in 1938, his mother's brother, Kwasi Asare, who was living at Dwaben and was relatively prosperous, came for his nephew and enrolled him at Asokore Methodist School in 1943. Adu had to walk eight miles to and from school each day, but this onerous enterprise was rewarded when, in 1947, he gained entrance to one of the most prestigious secondary schools in Ghana, Mfantsipim, in Cape Coast.

Adu Boahen was in his second year at Mfantsipim when history invaded his life. In 1948, the Gold Coast (as Ghana was known before its independence in 1957) erupted into a series of riots and boycotts against continued British rule. Six of the country's best-known nationalist leaders – J. B. Danquah, Akuffo Ado, William Ofori Atta, Obetsebi Lamptey, Kwame Nkrumah and Ako Adjei – known as "The Big Six", were picked up by the British authorities and imprisoned without trial. Mfantsipim students, angry at this show of "gunboat diplomacy", went on strike. Although this could have led to expulsions, Boahen joined the strikers.

He got good enough grades to enter the University of the Gold Coast, Legon, in 1951. He chose, of course, to read History. He obtained a BA (Hons) degree in History in 1956 and in the same year, entered London University's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) to pursue a Ph.D in African History which he got in 1959. Out of his thesis came a book entitled *Britain, the Sahara, and the Western Sudan, 1788-1861* (1964).

At the time Boahen was a student, British scholars, who determined the syllabus and oversaw the work of students of African history everywhere, including the nascent African universities, were largely of the Hugh Trevor-Roper school of thought, which professed (in the words of Trevor-Roper) that "Perhaps in the future, there will be some African history to teach. But at present there is none: there is only the history of Europeans in Africa. The rest is darkness." Adu Boahen may not have consciously set himself the task of demolishing Trevor-Roper's nonsense. But when he returned to Ghana in 1959, to teach at the University of Ghana, Legon – where he rose rapidly to take the chair of the

history department in 1967 and become a Professor in 1971 – all his work was geared towards shining a new light into Trevor-Roper's "darkness".

Instead of concentrating on what Europeans had done in Africa, he researched and taught what was in Africa both before and after the Europeans came. On colonialism, in particular, the question he addressed, in his own words, was: "What was the attitude of the Africans themselves to the establishment of colonialism?... This is a question that has so far not been seriously considered by historians, African or European, but it needs to be answered. The answer is quite clear and unequivocal: an overwhelming majority of African authorities were vehemently opposed to this change and expressed their determination... above all, to retain their sovereignty and independence."

Boahen was a prolific writer – "the main weapons in his revolutionary armoury", according to one writer, were "his ground-breaking textbooks": *Topics in West African History* (1966) and, with J. B. Webster, *West Africa Since 1800: the revolutionary years* (1967), along with his later *African Perspectives on Colonialism* (1987), *The Ghanaian Sphinx: reflections on the contemporary history of Ghana, 1972-1987* (1989), *Mfantshipim and the Making of Ghana: a centenary history, 1876-1976* (1996), *Yaa Asantewaa and the Asante-British War of 1900-1* (2003). He also co-edited the Asantehene Agyeman Prempeh's *The History of Ashanti Kings* (2003).

Boahen was very jovial and wrote a humorous column under the sobriquet "Kontopiaat" for *The Legon Observer*, the periodical founded by Legon dons after the 1966 coup.

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#### Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports on recent conferences, announcements of forthcoming conferences, symposia and workshops (giving topic, date, venue, abstract deadline 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.

Send items for inclusion in the *Newsletter* to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, Plan International, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6JG, UK or [simon.heap@plan-international.org](mailto:simon.heap@plan-international.org) **Deadlines are 15 September 2006 (for October 2006 issue), 15 December (for January), 15 March (for April) and 15 June (for July).** Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK.

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