



NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Number 56

July 2009

ASAUK activities

Our March 2009 Council meeting was held in a magnificent room at the British Academy in London. This was arranged to coincide with the event to launch the British Academy and ACU report on academic and research links with African institutions. Drafted largely by council member Jonathan Harle, the report included a good deal of ASAUK and RAS input, and makes a number of concrete suggestions about enhancing research and academic links between British and African higher education institutions. Many of these issues were discussed at the Nairobi conference in 2008 which gave ASAUK representatives an opportunity to connect with key African associations and individual scholars. ASAUK's particular contributions will be in the field of website development, Writing Workshops, and Teaching Fellowships, outlined in my last note.

ASAUK Council discussions focussed not least on financial issues, following the new British Academy grant. Aside from enabling us to continue employment of an administrator, this has provided for a new round of Teaching Fellowships in African universities. We decided to support two six month fellowships, rather than a larger number of short-term visits. These have been advertised. Council also decided to support a conference on *Ageing in Africa*, to be held at Kings College, London in September, and a conference in Manchester on *Africa and Ancient Egypt*. We reserved part of the meeting for a discussion with Makeda Coastan, representing the Mayor of London's office, which is exploring a number of heritage projects.

Following the success of the first Writing Workshop in Oxford, ASAUK Vice-President Megan Vaughan will host one in Cambridge on 31st October 2009 with five journals represented. I will participate in a workshop at the Southern African Historical Society conference in Pretoria in June 2009 with four regionally-based journals. Journals based in South Africa, some of which have joined the Taylor and Francis stable, have become a particularly important outlet for academic publishing from scholars throughout Africa. Further workshops are planned with AEGIS, the European African Studies Association, probably in Edinburgh, and at Birmingham.

A productive meeting was held with the Richard Dowden and Gemma Haxby of the Royal African Society (RAS), exploring the joint membership scheme that has been so beneficial to both associations, as well as other potential activities. Membership has increased strongly over the last few years, from less than 700 to over 1,000. ASAUK and RAS will collaborate in a further membership drive. The quality of *African Affairs*, now edited by Rita Abrahamsen and Sara Rich Dorman, with Ben Page on reviews (all Council members) has played a significant role in attracting membership. ASAUK has also negotiated discounted individual subscriptions with *Africa* (£20) and *Journal of Southern African Studies* (£40).

RAS is focussing especially on its speaker programme and other public events – and is reaching out to constituencies beyond those with specialist knowledge of Africa. In certain respects, the recent joint ASAUK/Museum of London workshop, on *African Images and Interpretations of Beauty*, also achieved this goal. Organised by ASAUK Hon. Secretary June Bam-Hutchison, it attracted a diverse audience of academics, museum staff, and those interested in heritage, photography and cultural activism. There has been a lively and appreciative post-workshop correspondence and there will certainly be follow-ups, at the ASAUK biennial conference, if not before.

Discussions have also been held about joint activities with the US African Studies Association, and contact has been made with the rapidly growing Indian African Studies Association. We hope that the ASAUK conference in Oxford, 16-19th September 2010, will serve to bring some of these groups together. A call for papers is on the website and is included in this newsletter. David Kerr, ASAUK administrator, will spend much of the next six months (June to November) in Tanzania, but will continue to engage enthusiastically by email. June Bam-Hutchison will take over the convening of Council meetings in his absence.

'ASAUK Biennial Conference', University of Oxford, 16-19 September 2010.

ASAUK will hold its 2010 Biennial conference in Oxford, based at St Antony's College and other venues. The conference will run from 2pm on Thursday Sept 16th to 1pm on Sunday 19th September. This is a preliminary call for papers and panels. We are not attempting to give the conference a single theme. However, we are encouraging journals, Centres, networks and individuals to offer panels, or series of panels, on particular topics so that there can be sequential debate through the conference. We hope in this way to attract linked papers that will facilitate discussion and which may form the basis for a variety of conference publications. A limited amount of funding will be available for keynote speakers from African institutions. ASAUK is organizing a website for the submission of papers, which will be open from mid-July 2009. Wait until the website is open before submitting papers, but correspondence concerning the conference should be addressed to David Kerr.

Professor William Beinart, President, ASAUK
For correspondence, contact David Kerr: d.kerr@bham.ac.uk

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'Slavery in All its Forms: Historical Practices and Contemporary Problems: A Three-Day Masterclass', Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation, Hull, 21–23 September 2009. Slavery is both a core feature of human history and a topic of increasing public concern in the contemporary world. This intensive short course offers participants a unique opportunity to study both historical slave systems and modern forms of slavery in a single setting. This interdisciplinary programme has been designed for scholars and practitioners who are familiar with some aspects of slavery and abolition, but would benefit from further engagement with the broader history and modern dimensions of slavery in all its forms. Over the course of ten individual sessions, participants will receive expert instruction on various historical slave systems, the legal abolition of slavery, modern forms of slavery, methods for studying slavery, reparations for slavery, and forms of public commemoration. Each session will involve an introductory lecture, followed by class participation and deliberation. Up to 50 places will be available. In order to keep class sizes as small as possible, participants will be divided into two different groups. Each morning and afternoon will involve two parallel sessions, with one group attending one session, and a second group attending the other. At the end of these initial sessions the two groups will then switch, ensuring that participants receive instruction in both topics. Instructors include Professor Gary Craig, Dr Nicholas J. Evans, Dr Douglas Hamilton, Professor Paul Lovejoy, Dr Joel Quirk, Professor David Richardson, Dr Benedetta Rossi, Professor Simon D. Smith, Dr Darshan Vigneswaran and Dr Mick Wilkinson.

The masterclass also precedes a major international conference at the Wilberforce Institute on 'Slavery, Migration and Contemporary Bondage in Africa', 23–25 September. Participants may want to consider attending both course and conference. Further details on both events are available at <http://hull.ac.uk/wise>

The course is open to applicants who have an undergraduate degree, and experience working with, or on issues related to, historical and/or modern slavery. The organisers encourage applications from postgraduate students, interested public servants, human rights activists, researchers and policy makers in international organisations, independent scholars, and those working in the heritage sector. The application form can be downloaded from the Wilberforce Institute website at: www.hull.ac.uk/wise Applicants should also submit a CV. The standard fee for the course is £250. The concessionary rate for postgraduate students is £150. These fees include a daily lunch, tea, coffee and drinks. The final deadline for applications is 28 August 2009. Since places on the course are strictly limited, applicants are encouraged to apply by the end of July in order to ensure a place. Completed applications should be submitted to: wise@hull.ac.uk

'Egypt in its African Context', The Manchester Museum, University of Manchester, 3–4 October 2009. The African elements of the ancient Egyptian culture, and indeed its physical location in Africa, have frequently been ignored, and there exists a level of prejudice against suggestions that Egyptian culture can be situated within an African cultural context. The contextualising of ancient Egypt culturally and geographically within Africa, the concept of ancient Egypt as part of Black History, and the discussion of how the material is perceived and interpreted in the West have only recently begun to receive attention, and the discussion is still regarded as peripheral and often irrelevant.

The conference aims to address perceptions of ancient Egypt in the West, in scholarly writing and public understanding; present the work of scholars working on African-centred Egyptology; show a scholarly approach to the subject of Egypt in Africa to counterbalance the extreme Afrocentric views within which such a debate is often contextualised; and investigate how community groups and professional Egyptologists can transfer their knowledge and points of view. Organised in association with the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge and with the support of the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, papers are sought that address the following themes: the African aspects of ancient Egyptian culture; historical and contemporary African perceptions of ancient Egypt; the contested nature of ancient Egypt; the biases inherent in presentation of Egypt in the West, and ways of addressing this – in museums, media and popular and scholarly publication. Abstracts up to 500 words by 31 July 2009 to Dr Karen Exell: karen.exell@manchester.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL

'Patriotism in the Face of Leadership Bottlenecks in Africa: Exploring Citizen-Initiated Activities and their Institutionalization Prospects', International Association of Nigerian Studies and Development (IANSD) 21st Annual Conference, Gloucester City, New Jersey, USA, 17–20 September 2009. Leadership bottlenecks have been, and continue to be, a major bane of good governance in Africa. Such bottlenecks have often been masked in excuses such as colonialism, the inequities of globalization and other geo-political dynamics, and even inexorable environmental occurrences. African leaders have used these excuses to further obfuscate their naïve and uninformed citizens and to cover up their incompetence, corruption and misrule. In spite of these leadership bottlenecks and handicaps, the African citizens are always called upon to show patriotism and to make sacrifices that national leaders often rarely make for national development. Interestingly, citizens have individually and collectively, at home and abroad, devised creative and invocative ways to address some of their basic needs and, in that light, maintained the peace and socio-political stability that, beyond the immediate goal of survival, reflect their patriotism.

The conference examines specific examples of citizen-initiated activities and initiatives, which demonstrate, explicitly or implicitly, the patriotism of Nigerians in particular, and Africans in general. Papers are invited on how citizen-initiated activities can be institutionalized to bolster patriotism and, by extension, citizenship and democracy. Papers should fit any of the following tracks on citizen-initiated activities for business entrepreneurship and economic growth, for political mobilization and empowerment, for education, health and capacity development, for physical development and environmental management, and for socio-cultural and spiritual development. 250-word abstracts by 30 July 2009 to Abi Awomolo: aawomolo@cau.edu

'Africa and the Environment', Mid-America Alliance for African Studies (MAAAS), University of Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA, 9–10 October 2009. MAAAS aims to bring together Africanists from throughout the Great Plains region, although participants have come from all over the United States as well as from African countries. Possible topics include conservation policies and practices; African environmental history; the environmental impact of African conflicts; African ethnobotanical and ethnozoological knowledge; struggles over land, water, and resources; African environmental activism; and animal-human interactions in African history and politics. 250-word abstracts by 15 August 2009 to Dr Jeremy Rich: roiadende@yahoo.fr

'Celebrating Change, Defining the Future: Social Justice, Democracy and Cultural Revival in the Third World Struggle for Social Justice Across the Continent and Beyond', 27th Annual Meeting of the Association of Third World Studies, Elmina Beach Resort, Ghana, 20–23 November 2009. The organizers seek proposals for presentations that engage marginalized identities, socio-economic and political resistance and liberation processes that expose the complex relationships between power and the dispossessed. Participants are encouraged to rethink strategies for success in global struggles for peace, justice, rights and development and to reconstruct local and global agendas that have benefitted or will benefit the dispossessed. 200-word abstracts by 30 July 2009 via conference website: www.regonline.com/ATWS2008

'Multimedia Research and Documentation of Oral Genres in Africa: the Step Forward', Leiden University, The Netherlands, 17–19 December 2009. The conference theme relates to the issue how to deal with oral genres in a world where new technologies have become available not only for the researchers, but also for the local populations as well as the groups (of local non-academic scholars of local lore) that mediate between academic scholars, the performers and their audiences. The study of oral genres has shifted from the recording session (and academic publishing process) to the interaction of the participants – from the performers to the researchers – in the performance. In particular thanks to the possibilities offered by new technologies the recording has nowadays a

social life in dynamic networks in which often not well defined groups of stakeholders either appropriate and represent the recording or want others to bear responsibility for the recording. The classical anthropological goal of 'giving voice to' informants thus has become highly problematic. All these groups need to be incorporated when assessing 'authorship'. The organizers look for contributions related to these issues produced by the increased presence of multimedia technologies in the process of documenting oral genres in Africa. 300-word abstracts by 31 August 2009 to Jan Jansen: jansenj@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

'International Conference on Natural Resource, Security and Development in the Niger Delta', Niger Delta University, Yenagoa, Nigeria, 8–11 March 2010.

Organised by the Department of Political Science, Niger Delta University, and the Center for Applied Environmental Research, University of Missouri-Kansas City, the conference discusses issues and challenges in resolving the Niger Delta Crisis. The militarization of consciousness and the 'commodification of violence' have compounded the crisis as the internecine violence undermines development that is fundamental to peace building. The organisers seek papers on three themes. First, the environment and sustainable development in the delta: exploration and production of natural resources; climate change and environmental degradation; the disappearing forest and mangrove; corruption and environmental degradation; corporate citizenship and environmental management; environmental conservation efforts; and resource potentials and development. Second, securing the Niger Delta: human rights and security; militias and insurgency; militias and governance in the Niger Delta; social disorganization and insurgency; democratization and peace building; civil society and the politics of conflict resolution; corruption, inequality and violence; and pirates, insecurity and state responses. Third, policy options for Niger Delta development: public sector and budgetary reforms; human capital development agenda; education, peace building and development; NGOs and community development; and local governance and rural development. 500-word abstracts by 30 September 2009 via: www.ndu-polsci.com/abstract.html

'Histories and Legacies of Punishment in Southern Africa Conference', University of Cape Town, South Africa, 8–9 May 2010.

The organisers invite scholars and professionals from all disciplines who are working on Southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe) to submit proposals on historical and contemporary studies of punishment. The organisers envision the concept of 'punishment' in three broad themes. First is the theme of State power, crime and punishment. Settler regimes in Southern Africa were particularly notorious for racist bureaucratic systems designed to monitor and control African populations that were conceived of as inherently ill-disciplined, violent and susceptible to political agitation. Corporal punishment, labour detention, mass incarceration and capital punishment were all utilised by

different administrations. What were the social, economic, and political impacts of the enforcement and prosecution of colonial legal codes? How are colonial interpretations of criminality and punishment reflected in post-colonial practices? How do they differ?

The second theme is liberation, punishment and the legacies of the struggle. Liberation movements generally lacked the formal structures associated with defining, identifying, convicting and punishing criminal and political offenders. What methods did these groups utilise to legitimate their authority, to enforce discipline within the ranks, to sanction transgressors, and to gain support and compliance among rural and urban populations? What control mechanisms were in place to check abuses? What post-liberation challenges have emerged from these histories? The third theme is popular punishment: vigilantes, youth and social order. Alongside state and liberation movement campaigns to enforce particular visions of order, a host of grassroots and vigilante initiatives became features of the colonial landscape. In the absence of legitimate governance and protective policing, neighbourhood groups, ethnic associations, religious organisations, business collectives and various other bodies resorted to violence to define their communities and to safeguard them from moral and criminal dangers. The organisers are interested in all aspects of such efforts and the post-colonial manifestations of these developments. Papers are also invited on aspects of punishment elsewhere in Africa that illuminate contrasts and consistencies with Southern African cases. Abstracts by 1 August 2009 to Jocelyn Alexander: jocelyn.alexander@qeh.ox.ac.uk and Gary Kynoch: gkynoch@dal.ca

'Independence: Through Grassroot Experience in the 1960s', International Conference organised by the Africa-Indian Ocean Group, Laboratoire SEDET (Université Paris Diderot-Paris 7), Paris, France, 2–4 December 2010. 1960 opened the path for African freedom: years of promises but also years of complexities, years carrying the seeds of conflicts to come. One half-century after independence, 2010 marks, for many countries of the continent, the fiftieth anniversary of the political accession to independence. The international conference's title refers to the events experienced by the people fifty years later, not to celebrate the events but to offer a renewed reading of them. Everywhere euphoric crowds acclaimed the raising of the national flags, learned the verses from the national anthems which did not cease resounding in the streets, and, in French-speaking former colonies, danced to the sound of 'Indépendance Cha cha', to welcome the emancipation of many African countries. The approach adopted by the conference relates to the less known aspects or situations of the very moment of Independence: how did the people live the Independence Day but also the few years which preceded it or followed?

Papers on the following four themes are welcome. First, the conference aims to stimulate the search for new sources and to recreate the lived moments of 1960

by the means of the diverse sources: documents: photographs, newspaper reports, objects, 'cinema news', broadcast reports, artistic production (painting, sculpture), slogans, printed materials for the occasion; direct or indirect, oral or written testimonies; contemporary or posterior monuments, emblems (anthems, flags); and repertory of songs and dances, fashion collection. Second, ceremonies: from public to private events. The proclamation of independence was marked by various, immediate or planned meetings which deserve to be documented, analysed and described, such as official ceremonies and private or spontaneous reactions; and hybrid festivities, between national or regional cultural expression and borrowed European ways of performing. Third, individual enthusiasm and official initiatives: because people experienced the day of Independence in different ways, sometimes in a collective mode, sometimes individually, state-organised or not, in rural villages or in urban environments. Lastly, after fifty years, independence has also generated different memories. The history cannot be written without reference to subsequent interpretations of the historical processes leading to independence. Indeed what happened later has modified these interpretations. Reference can be made to writings or films related to independence or focus on the subsequent disenchantment. Abstracts and short CV in English or French by 15 September 2009 to Sylviane Cheminot: independances.afrique@univ-paris-diderot.fr

...Conferences Past

'Interpretations of African Images and Beauty Workshop', A Knowledge Partnership between the ASUK and the Museum of London Docklands, Museum of London Docklands, Saturday 25 April 2009. About 50 people participated in the workshop from a diverse range of fields (curators, academic scholars, artists, journalists, human rights activists and professionals, cultural activists, researchers, photographers, choreographers, documentary makers, film producers, youth, musicians, educators and poets) All with an active interest in the study of representations of beauty and interpretations of African images, participants and presenters included leading scholars and notable cultural leaders. Amongst them, Jennette Arnold, Trustee Museum of London, Chair London Assembly, Member of the EU-Committee of the Regions; Makeda Coaston, Senior Policy Strategist Mayor's Commission on African and Asian Heritage; the House of Commons; the Understanding Slavery Initiative; mental health and various African and African Caribbean communities; the British Council and leading scholars and community cultural activists in the field from Africa, the Caribbean, London, Canada, and other parts of Europe.

Presenters delivered papers and presentations on their research in the field in Africa, the diverse interpretations and work with photographs and images, the rich but little known photographic archives, views from African Diaspora communities and the role of the media. Engaging discussions followed with the

audience on the key critical areas of interpretation, images, representation and the related issues of identity. The workshop identified the importance of putting an appropriate process in place towards the making of an exhibition, which would involve a closer relationship between academia, the African Diaspora communities and museums as a creative and effective way of sharing resources, knowledge and interpretations; that school and youth participation would be an important element of this process and its work, which could also be addressed through this knowledge partnership. It was noted that these debates and discussions provide also an important catalyst not only for new kinds of research in academic institutions but also for the reflective changing role of museums.

The overall response to the workshop was very positive, and participants welcomed this new way of working with universities: "It was a very good day, it is always important to begin a dialogue and especially important to discuss topics that have been taboo for too many years. I know I learned a lot and think all in attendance did" (Marlene Archer, Human Rights Lawyer); "It was a wonderful and important day, as well as inspiration for what community conversations can be" (Wayne Modest, curator, Horniman Museum); "Coming from Africa, I appreciate how important it is to have such debates to broaden young people's view of the world. I look forward to further debates in this area" (Irene Niaga, British Council, Uganda); and "I found the whole day really interesting and learnt a lot" (Leslie Ikomi Braine, African Diaspora community art collector, Manchester).

June Bam-Hutchison: june.hutchison@googlemail.com

'Redefining Research Practice in Africa', Researching Africa Day, St Antony's College, Oxford University, 9 May 2009. Researching Africa Day is an annual conference organized by graduate students at Oxford University and hosted by the African Studies Centre, Oxford. Now in its tenth year, the Conference was organised by Lillian Cherotich and Leigh Gardner, doctoral candidates in Politics and Economic History respectively.

The Conference had four panels of four presenters. The first panel, 'Critical reflections on research design and research methods', examined the validity and reliability of a range of research methods available to researchers. All presenters underscored the need for innovation. Kamna Patel proposed ways of quantifying and measuring reciprocity, and examined how non-quantifiable acts of reciprocity can be dealt with. David Ostendorff demonstrated how records on investigations into some of Africa's key leaders, released by MI5 to the National Archives at Kew over the past five years, could be used to illuminate Africans' struggle against colonialism. Joshua Alabi examined issues of validity and reliability of research methods in the context of Fiscal Federalism and revenue-sharing in Nigeria, and made the case for a mixed-methods approach. Jonathan Earle explored the implications of ethnic historiographical construction in

Uganda, and demonstrated how this approach will enable deeper understandings of the Ugandan post-colonial State.

The second panel, 'Placing Africa in global contexts', discussed the challenges and opportunities presented by cross-country and cross-regional comparative research. Hazel Gray's comparative study of growth and primitive accumulation in Tanzania and Vietnam demonstrated the inadequacy of mainstream economic approaches for explaining the two countries' comparative experiences of growth and argued for the use of concepts from classical political economy, of power, social structure, and primitive accumulation to explore this issue. David Erhardt compared relations between 'indigenes' and 'settlers' in Kano and Amsterdam, and discussed the challenges posed by the difficulties of comparing across these different contexts, and the consequences of his insider/outsider status in these cities. Hannah Cross drew from her experience of conducting ethnographic research of West Africans in Senegal, Mauritania and Spain involved in clandestine migration. Her research analysed the motivations and intentions of migrants and their families, their strategies and responses to political and economic change, and the dynamics of the journey. Emer Brangan's paper discussed her proposed research into physical activity, chronic disease and wellbeing in South Africa. Noting the growing challenge posed to developing countries by chronic diseases commonly associated with westernized lifestyles, she noted the challenge of selecting appropriate methodology for exploring the factors influencing levels of physical activity in an urban context in South Africa.

The third panel 'Negotiating access and acceptance', examined the researcher's positionality and methods of gaining access into the research site. Jenny Diggins reflected on the relationship between anthropological research and the ideals of scientific rigour, and discussed the challenge this poses to research on secrecy among market traders in Sierra Leone. Tim Gibbs paper on ANC patriots and collaborators discussed the challenges of negotiating access and acceptance when researching a divided political past. Tom Fisher observed in his paper on researching elites in Tanzania that elites are skilled political operators, adept at concealing information from the researcher. He proposed building long-term good relationships with informants and conducting research in informal settings as a way of dealing with this. He also noted the potential for conflict between the duties the researcher owes to his elite informants and the duties of the researcher to the broader communities they research. George Mose discussed the role of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs), particularly mobile phones, in redefining the processes of national and community development in Kenya. His survey in Kisii showed that, although most small-scale farmers use ICTs for social purposes, 94% of respondents used them for agricultural activity.

The final panel discussed issues of ethics and accountability. Matthew Wilhem-Solomom's paper, based on qualitative fieldwork experience with HIV and AIDS treatment programmes to displaced communities in northern Uganda, examined

the value of social research to both medical programmes and the lives of those studied. He discussed how researchers should understand and respond to experiences linked to the knowledge of intimacy, acute illness, vulnerability and death. Chris Willott discussed the significance of the researcher's position in the research context particularly when researching sensitive themes such as patronage and corruption, and how this influences the type and quality of data collected. Melanie Bunce's paper showed the challenges of researching international journalists reporting on Africa. She proposed that, besides interviews and participant observation, researchers should conduct extended discussions with journalists on the pieces they have written, coupled with 'ecology mapping' of the journalist's world, to reveal the relationships that inform their reportage. Kate Fayers-Kerr proposed a study on Mursi body art because of the dearth of ethnographies on body decoration in North-East Africa, and the rapid changes taking place in this area due to increased tourist interest in the Mursi.

Professor Terence Ranger delivered the closing address in which he reflected on his years of experience as a researcher, and commented on some of the challenges of conducting research that were raised in the course of the conference, key of which was how to give back to the communities we research.

Lillian Cherotich, St Antony's College, Oxford: lillian.cherotich@sant.ox.ac.uk

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Stephen Bell (2008) 'Exploring Empowerment in Rural Uganda: Young People's Sexual health and NGOs', Ph.D thesis, Royal Holloway, University of London. Supervisors: Professor David Simon and Dr Vandana Desai.

Michael J. Causey (2008) 'Delineating Pastoralist Behaviour and Long-term Environmental Change: A GIS Landscape Approach on the Laikipia Plateau, Kenya', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Peter Mitchell and Dr Gary Lock.

Stacey Hynd (2007) 'Imperial Gallows: Capital Punishment, Violence and Colonial Rule in Britain's African Territories, c.1903-1968', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Jan-Georg Deutsch.

Gillian Kay (2008) 'Mechanisms of Southern African Rainfall Variability in Coupled Climate Models', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Richard Washington and Dr Mark New.

Yvonne Malan (2008) 'The Spectre of Justice: The Problematic Legacy of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor David Anderson.

Ruth Payne (2009) 'Child-headed Households in Zambia: From Concepts to Realities', Ph.D thesis, Royal Holloway, University of London. Supervisors: Professor David Simon and Dr Katie Willis.

Mattia Romani (2006) 'Agricultural Extension and Social Networks: An Empirical Investigation' [includes a case study in Madagascar], D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford.

Natalia Ann Shunmugan (2008) 'The Politics of Repatriation and Reburial in Post-apartheid South Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr David Pratten and Professor Marcus Banks.

Brian A. Stewart (2008) 'Refitting Repasts: A Spatial Exploration of Food Processing, Sharing and Disposal at the Dunefield Midden Campsite, South Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Peter Mitchell.

Corinne M. Weaver (2008) 'Turbulent Flow and Sand Dune Dynamics: Identifying Controls on Aeolian Sediment Transport' [Namibia], D. Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Gile Wiggs.

Recent Publications

Mirjam de Bruijn, Francis Nyamnjoh and Inge Brinkman (eds) (2009) *Mobile Phones: The New Talking Drums of Everyday Africa*. Bamenda: Langaa, and Leiden: African Studies Centre. 173 pages, ISBN 978-9956558537, 20 Euros; www.ascleiden.nl/Publications/

Catherine Eagleton, Harcourt Fuller and John Perkins (eds) (2009) *Money in Africa*. London: British Museum Research Publications, 74 pages, 978-086159-171-8, £20.00; www.britishmuseum.org/research/research_publications.aspx

Birgit Englert and Elizabeth Daley (eds) (2008) *Women's Land Rights and Privatization in Eastern Africa*. Oxford: James Currey. 192 pages, 978-1-84-7016119, £19.99; www.jamescurrey.co.uk

Roger Southall and Henning Melber (eds) (2009) *A New Scramble for Africa?: Imperialism, Investment and Development*. University of Kwazulu-Natal Press, 544 pages, ISBN: 978-1-86914-171-4; www.ukznpress.co.za

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

The Nairobi Report: Frameworks for Africa-UK Research Collaboration in the Social Sciences and Humanities

As reported in the January 2009 newsletter, the ASAUK was involved in a meeting in Nairobi last September, organised by the British Academy and the

Association of Commonwealth Universities, with the Royal African Society, to discuss approaches to strengthening the social sciences and humanities research base in Africa universities, and the role of the UK Africanist community. The outcomes of the meeting, including a set of 22 recommendations to be taken forward, were launched at the British Academy in March 2009 as *The Nairobi Report: Frameworks for Africa-UK Research Collaboration in the Social Sciences and Humanities*. As Professor Graham Furniss emphasised in his launch address, axiomatic to the Nairobi meeting and surrounding discussions was the notion that UK Africanist research has no future in isolation from that being undertaken in African universities themselves. African perspectives and African research capacity are a prerequisite if the UK community is to make a meaningful contribution, and if the oft-repeated (and NEPAD strapline) of 'African answers to Africa's problems' is to mean anything at all.

Specifically the report attempts to formulate ways in which this might all be practically achieved, and the frameworks of the report's sub-title seek to identify what needs to be done where, where collaborative initiatives with the UK might assist, and how to go about designing these. Many of the recommendations speak principally to African universities and research associations. This is no mistake, since while it is easy for a report published in the UK to charge the many challenges and responsibilities to African universities, it reflects what so many of the African colleagues who were present repeatedly emphasised: that it was their institutions – rather than external agencies or foreign universities – who needed to drive the change that was needed, but that external partners – UK universities, academics, funding agencies – could then offer valuable and much needed assistance as they did so, and to jointly conceive ways of using this support to match what they were trying to do themselves.

The report turns around three core themes, and its 22 specific recommendations range from grander schemes for new regional research communities to much smaller – but no less important – initiatives to encourage greater degrees of mentorship between experienced and early career researchers. Firstly, it addresses the foundations of research, and emphasises the need to improve the structures and systems of African institutions. Many of the current barriers to research are organisational and managerial rather than simply financial and new money for research will only be forthcoming if there is confidence in the ability of institutions to manage it. Secondly, the report argues that if the prospects for research and for research partnerships are to be improved, then African scholars must have a firm and enduring base in their own national and regional research communities. Scholarly networks and communities need first and foremost to be forged between Africa's universities and academics – many researchers are better connected to colleagues outside the continent than they are within their own country or region. Thirdly, it outlines a series of approaches to address the huge shortfall in Ph.D-trained researchers, involving research and training consortia,

split-site training and with a clear role for the UK Africanist community. It focuses specifically on the needs of early-career researchers, and on identifying ways to ensure that postgraduate programmes are improved so that they lay firm postdoctoral foundations and have at their heart proper academic mentoring. *The Nairobi Report* can be accessed in full from: www.britac.ac.uk/reports/nairobi/ Hard copies can be requested from j.harle@acu.ac.uk

Jonathan Harle, ACU/ASAUK

Rita Abrahamsen

Rita Abrahamsen has left the Department of International Politics in Aberystwyth, and has taken up a new position at the University of Ottawa, where she is jointly appointed by the School of International Development and Global Studies and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

University of Cambridge to Launch M.Phil in African Studies

The Centre of African Studies will launch a new nine-month M.Phil course in African Studies in October 2010. The aim is to offer students a window into the cultural, intellectual, and political dynamism of African societies. At a time when Africa is often represented a place in need of outsiders' benevolence and direction, it is hoped to give students the linguistic and interpretive tools to study African societies on their own terms. The degree will provide an excellent foundation for those who wish to expand their knowledge of Africa, and particularly for students entering positions in the arts, the media, NGOs, and other professions.

There are four elements comprising the M.Phil course in African Studies: a core seminar; a discipline-specific seminar in African History, Social Anthropology, Geography, African Politics or Commonwealth and International Literature; language training in Swahili or, by arrangement, in another African language; and a dissertation of 15,000 words.

Students who complete the degree to a sufficient standard may apply for admission to doctoral programmes in History, Politics and International Studies, Divinity, English Literature, Anthropology, Geography or in another field. (The Centre of African Studies does not at present offer Ph.D training). Staff with expertise in African Studies supervise doctoral theses in all of the main disciplinary faculties of the university, and students can continue to work with the same supervisor who guided their M.Phil work.

Teaching for the M.Phil course will be conducted by a group of fifteen lecturers and post-doctoral researchers connected with the Centre of African Studies. The Centre has very strong links with African universities, and each year it hosts a group of five Visiting Fellows from Africa, who come to Cambridge for six months of coordinated research. M.Phil students will have many opportunities to interact with, and learn from, the African Visiting Fellows. The Centre's 35,000 volume library, newly relocated to the Mond Building, offers rich resources; and

M.Phil students will in addition have access to the University Library, which holds more than eight million volumes. M.Phil students will make particular use of the Library's extensive archival holdings: the Royal and Commonwealth Society's papers and photographs; the Churchill College archives; the British and Foreign Bible Society's papers; and other collections. M.Phil students will be made members of one of Cambridge's thirty colleges, where they will be provided with accommodation and meals. Applications for admission in academic year 2010 will be due on 15 October 2009 for overseas students and by 31 January 2010 for home students. For more information, consult the Centre's website: www.african.cam.ac.uk Specific questions can be directed to the Centre: afrenq@hermes.cam.ac.uk

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

ASAUK Teaching Fellowships

The ASAUK Council, in association with the British Academy, is offering two teaching fellowships of up to £9,000 each to UK based academics for work in an African University during 2010. ASAUK Council is committed to developing partnerships and academic relations between British and African Universities. Ideally we are looking for applications from young academics that have recently finished doctoral degrees on African topics in British Universities. But we will also consider doctoral students, especially those with some teaching experience, and other applicants based in British universities. The award is open to applicants of any nationality trained in British universities.

The award is designed to cover travel expenses and about six month's subsistence at £1,300 a month. However, ASAUK Council has a flexible approach to the award and would be keen to support co-funding or exchange arrangements that could last over a longer period. The award can cover any field in the social sciences and humanities. Applicants should negotiate links and teaching responsibilities themselves. Applicants should send a CV, including teaching experience, research focus, and research plans; a short description of teaching plans and any co-funding or partnership arrangement; a letter of support from a sponsor in an African institution; and a letter of support from a mentor, supervisor or other referee in the UK by 28 August 2009 to David Kerr: d.kerr@bham.ac.uk

African Affairs' African Author Prize

The editors of *African Affairs* are pleased to announce the establishment of the African Author Prize. The prize will be awarded for the best article published in *African Affairs* by an author based in an African institution, or an African Ph.D student based in an overseas university. The prize is in recognition of excellent African scholarship, which often does not reach audiences outside the African

continent. To the extent possible, the prize committee will prioritize scholars at the beginning of their career.

The prize will be awarded every second year, for the best article published in the previous two year period. Thus, the first prize will be awarded for articles published in the calendar years 2008 and 2009, and will be announced at the ASAUK Conference in Oxford in September 2010. The awarding committee includes Richard Dowden (Director of RAS), William Beinart (President of ASAUK), Rufus Akinyele (Member of the Editorial Board), and the editors of *African Affairs*. The winner will receive a cash prize of £500, one year's free subscription to *African Affairs*, an economy airfare to London, and £500 for expenses to attend the ASAUK Conference. The runner-up will receive one year's free subscription to the journal.

University of Cambridge Visiting Fellows for 2009-2010

The Centre of African Studies at the University of Cambridge announces the election of four Visiting Fellows for the academic year 2009-10. They are:

Dr Verkijika Fanso, History, University of Yaoundé

Ms Muza Gondwe, Guardian Newspaper, Malawi

Dr Wapulumuka Mulwafu, History, Chancellor College, University of Malawi

Dr Joseph Kariuki Muriithi, Applied Sciences, Kenyatta University

These four scholars will spend six months in Cambridge, pursuing research on the theme 'The Public Understanding of Science in Africa'. Their projects vary widely: Mulwafu, for example, will study how, in colonial Nyasaland, British agricultural scientists and African farmers contended over how best to cultivate the soil, organize water supplies, and market crops. Muriithi will study the growing 'eco-tourism' industry in Kenya, tracing how Masai pastoralists interact with and shape the conservationist agenda; while Fanso will study of history of public health education in Cameroon. The scholars will together participate in a seminar series on the fellowship theme, convened during Michaelmas term 2009. In March 2010 we will organise a workshop in Cambridge at which the Fellows will present the results of their research; and in July or August 2010 the Visiting Fellows, together with their Cambridge colleagues, will travel to Kisumu, in western Kenya, to present the fruits of their research. The Cambridge/Africa Collaborative Research Programme is funded by the Isaac Newton Trust and the Leverhulme Trust.

Mo Ibrahim Foundation 'Governance for Development in Africa' Leadership Development Visiting Fellowships, SOAS, University of London, early 2010

This scheme primarily targets young people from sub-Saharan Africa who can show demonstrable leadership potential within their sector (which may be academic, government, or private). SOAS will provide weekly workshops tailored to this programme, support for fellows in making relevant contacts and

meetings, and library/online research resources. To apply for the Fellowship, send your CV together with a statement setting out a study plan, outlining how the period of eight weeks in London would be used, starting in January 2010, to develop your skills, knowledge and capabilities and how this will benefit the longer term development of your sector and country or region. Applications by 30 September 2009 to Angelica Baschiera: cas@soas.ac.uk

Obituaries

Suzanne Wenger (4 July 1915 – 12 January 2009),

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Dr Aidan William Southall, who has died at the age of 88 on 17 May 2009, was one of a number of social anthropologists in or around the nineteen fifties, including Leach (1954) and Middleton (1960), who pioneered the then new interest in ritual and religion as a canvas of political process and conflict and not as harmoniously creating solidarity. Southall's approach, however, developed quite distinctively. It started out as Weberian but, unlike that of his contemporaries, presaged a later interest in Marxist anthropology. His two major works, *Alur Society* (1956) and *The City in Time and Space* (1998) are separated by a gap of 32 years and, together with the numerous highly significant papers and volumes in between these two, show this transition.

Alur Society describes how the Nilotic-speaking Alur of northern Uganda incorporated various neighbouring, socio-linguistically different ethnic groups, who generally accepted Alur aristocratic domination as providing ritual specialists whose arbitration methods could resolve their own endemic conflicts. Theoretically central to the study was a critique of existing accounts of state development and evolution, culminating in his theory of the segmentary state, in which lineage segmentation actually produced increasing political centralisation rather than the two being in conflict as had been proposed by other scholars. (A lengthy appreciation of *Alur Society* is available as a new introduction by David Parkin to the 2004 reissue by Lit Verlag for the International African Institute).

This interest in social evolution was the explicit concern in the later volume, which, in a global-historical comparison, traced the development of the city as moving through different modes of production. Indeed, at the time of its publication in 1998, other former Marxists had moved on to other interests. Southall stayed firm and showed how meticulous ethnography combined with the comparative method and modes of production analysis could still provide new insights, many of which are especially relevant for the present economic decline and popular questioning of capitalist assumptions. Part of the work's originality is in taking the city as a social phenomenon in its own right and not simply as a form of social organisation which happens to be more complex than those normally studied by anthropologists. In his ideas on the evolution of the city, one can see parallels in his interest in state development.

Southall's interest in urbanism in fact began much earlier, during the nineteen fifties, not long after his initial research among Alur. With Peter Gutkind he wrote a remarkable, theoretically informed ethnography of Kampala, Uganda (*Townsmen in the Making*, 1957), where he taught as professor of sociology at Makerere University College, as it was. His was part of a wider interest among Africanists in towns, most of whom came from Gluckman's Manchester 'school', including the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute in Lusaka, Zambia. Gluckman is rightly credited with having formed the teams and offered many of the initial ideas and methods that steered much social anthropology into the study of complex social formations. But, alongside Gluckman and his colleagues, Southall came also to be regarded as a foremost scholar of society in transition and edited numerous works on that theme. Thus, alongside a continuing fieldwork and intellectual interest in the Alur and surrounding peoples in rural northern Uganda and western Kenya, he managed to make significant intellectual contributions to the immense changes that swept across Africa before and after the granting of independence to many African nations in the late fifties and early/mid-sixties.

Throughout his studies either of complex society or of lineage and state formation among Nilotes, he retained a theoretical grasp of social anthropology whose legacy endures and is still acknowledged. Classic papers include his critique of Leach's 'rubber sheet' analogy of social diversity; his recasting of the concepts of tribe and ethnicity, linked to his charge that Nuer and Dinka were not to be essentialised as separate peoples but as a single people at different ecological points; and various papers on ritual, urban and political processes, state formation, and cross-cultural semantics. Regarding the latter, it is worth drawing attention to Southall's remarkable command of the Alur language, extending into a knowledge of other Nilotic dialects, and even to such Bantu languages as Luganda and Swahili. This linguistic prowess was clearly helped by the fact that, for nearly twenty years, he was able to visit the Alur and other peoples from his university in Kampala. Indeed, Southall was unique among

British anthropologists of his generation in staying on in Africa to teach and research rather than take up a position in the UK or the USA as most of his contemporaries did after fieldwork. He came to Makerere in 1945, three years after his Cambridge undergraduate degree in economics and anthropology. He first worked on the Nilotic Luo of Kenya, producing *Lineage Formation among the Luo*, which provides a study of a polysegmentary lineage system still unsurpassed by other scholars. Then, after extensive fieldwork among the Nilotic Alur of Uganda, he completed his Ph.D in 1952 under external relations with the University of London, visiting the LSE and Cambridge on a few occasions and, in seminars, freely sharing his ideas with, among others, Edmund Leach.

He stayed on at Makerere until 1964 when he took up a post in the USA at Syracuse University, moving in 1969 to Wisconsin University at Madison. Even from the US he continued to make extensive field visits to the Alur as well as to other areas, including Madagascar. He even returned for two years to Makerere in 1971-3 as a visiting professor. In later years he was visiting professor at Cape Town University and frequently short-term fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge. He retired to France in 1990 from the University of Wisconsin with his wife, Christine Obbo, also of Wisconsin University, with whom he could continue to explore the fascinating intricacies of Nilotic language and society, and where he completed the second major monograph on city evolution. To the end he kept up his facility for critical appreciation coupled with intellectual acumen, humour, kindness and sheer good company. One of his last letters reminded me of the agreement to tape his many intriguing memories of life in the 1940s in colonial Uganda and after. That was indeed planned but did not happen, for he passed away rather more quickly than his robust health of a few years ago had suggested. He left an immense archive of notebooks and it is some compensation that there will be much yet to excavate both of his scholarship and his incomparable humanity.

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Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the next *Newsletter* by 15 September 2009 to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, Plan, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6JG, UK or simon.heap@plan-international.org or effaheap@aol.com

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

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Check the website: www.asauk.net