

Diaspora Remittance Flows; Restitution, Culture and Capital, ASAUK 29th Biennial Conference 2022

We are pleased to announce the launch of the 2022 ASAUK biennial conference titled: *“Diaspora Remittance Flows: Restitution, Culture and Capital”*. This is an innovative conference which seeks to harness the global two-year involvement with online communications with our physical engagement with conferencing which we hope will return in 2022.

This conference is conceived to enable our research colleagues in Africa (Ibadan, Nigeria and Nairobi, Kenya) to be part of the research conversation at the 29th ASAUK biennial conference, via the Zoom media platform. We will also be hosting a smaller traditional in-person conference in Liverpool addressing this and other ASAUK member-determined themes.

Running from 31st August to 4th September 2022, the ASAUK Biennial conference will be a unique two-part conference. With British Academy funding, the first part will take place entirely online and involve ASAUK research colleagues based in Ibadan and Nairobi engaging in the conference themes from Africa based platforms shared across Africa and Liverpool in the UK. This will be followed by a smaller, traditional in-person conference, hosted by the ASAUK at the University of Liverpool.

We invite you to attend the online conference, which is entirely free, and also to come to Liverpool for the ‘in-person’ conference, taking place from Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th September. The Liverpool conference will have a smaller audience, and conference panel requirements planned to pre-empt possible ongoing Covid health advice on conference size and appropriately spaced and ventilated conference facilities. Taking this into account, there will be online access to the physical Liverpool conference for a reduced fee.

THE ONLINE CONFERENCE, 31st August – 2nd September 2022

IBADAN-NAIROBI-LIVERPOOL

Restitution, Culture and Capital

This is an entirely free to attend conference (with registration required).

Hosted by ASUK colleagues at the French Institute for Research in Africa (IFRA) at the University of Ibadan and the British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA) in Nairobi, the online conference has been directly funded by the British Academy, with generous supplementary funding from the BIEA. It will be delivered entirely online from both Ibadan and Nairobi, using the Zoom platform. Working closely with the Institutes in Ibadan and Nairobi, these interactive conferences will be broadcast on two consecutive days, from Ibadan on Wednesday 31st August and Nairobi on Thursday, 1st September. The final part of the online conference will be broadcast from Liverpool on Friday 2nd September, jointly chaired by the ASUK and Royal African Society presidents.

We expect to curate and edit the key papers, from Ibadan, Nairobi and Liverpool that will be discussed at this unique online conference series. These with support from the British Academy will form the basis of the ASUK publication *Restitution Culture and Capital in Africa and the Diaspora*, a trans-national conversation which will elaborate on the themes of the conference through the publication of the keynote papers and also the responses as recorded by participants at the three conference platforms.

The panel session themes and keynotes for the three day online conference are:

HOSTED ONLINE FROM IFRA, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

Curated by Vincent Hiribarren, Director IFRA Ibadan

Ibadan Session 1: Diaspora Flows of Cultural Artefacts to and from Africa

Confirmed Keynote Speakers: Zachary Kingdon, Shadreck Chirikure; David Adjaye, tbc.

Ibadan Session 2: Diaspora Flows of Peoples and Cultures To and From Africa

Confirmed Keynote Speakers: Saheed Aderinto, Peju Layiwola; David Olusoga and Akosua Adomako Ampofo, tbc

HOSTED ONLINE FROM BIEA NAIROBI

Curated by Ambreena Manji + Freda Nkirote, Director of BIEA Nairobi

Nairobi Session 1: Restitutionary Futures: Land Justice

Confirmed Keynote Speaker: Parselelo Kantai

Nairobi Session 2: Restitutionary Futures: A Just Home

Confirmed Keynote Speakers: Prabha Kotiswaran

LIVERPOOL HOSTED CONCLUDING SESSION

Curated by Ola Uduku and Arunma Oteh

African Diasporas, remittances and capital in a post-Covid era and Viewing the European Black Diaspora in the 2020s

Confirmed Liverpool Keynote Speakers: Onyekachi Wambu, Afford UK, Tunde Zack-Williams, ASAUK; Miatta Fahnbulleh, New Economics Foundation, tbc.

Prior to the online sessions keynote speakers will discuss their papers with Africa-based ECRs in workshop format.

THE LIVERPOOL ASAUK 29th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th September 2022

The 'in-person' Liverpool Conference follows the traditional panel theme format. Whilst the theme titled: *"Diaspora: Restitution, Culture and Capital"*, follows on directly from the online conference, we invite proposals for other panel themes.

As this is planned to be a smaller conference we call on panel proposers to ensure all panel proposals are sent in to the ASAUK conference team by 31st March 2022. All proposals need to have the names of the 3 or 4 paper givers, and their abstracts submitted by the 31st March deadline. This will enable us to plan the conference space and facilities required. It will also mean that we can work to ensure that any documentation required for proposed international participants who might need this will get processed on time. We realise that this is different from the traditional conference format but hope you will join us for this unique, innovative conference in 2022. The 30th April is the later deadline for individual paper proposals. Due to the smaller conference format, space for individual papers will be limited and we encourage paper givers to consider working with emerging panel themes which will announce from February onwards.

The 29th ASAUK biennial conference dinner will be held at Liverpool University's Victoria Gallery and Museum on Saturday 3rd September. This will also be the venue for announcement and awards ceremony for the Audrey Richards prize, the Fage and Oliver prize and the distinguished Africanist awards ceremony.

For more information about the ASAUK conference, contact the conference organisation team via the email address: asaukconference22@gmail.com Panel proposals, comprising the 3 or 4 papers with abstracts, can also now be sent to this address.

We will be providing further information as the conference details develop on our website and via social media.

Professor Ola Uduku, ASAUK President

Minutes of the Fifty-Eighth ASAUK Annual General Meeting, held online, 5pm onwards, Thursday 7th October 2021.

1. Members Present

Ola Uduku, Carli Coetzee, Geoffrey Rockliffe-King, James Currey, Nick Westcott, Elsbeth Robson, Celeste Shirvani, Lucy McCann, Louisa Egbunike, Katharina Oke, Madeleine Markey, Simon Heap, James Wan, Adriaan van Klinken, Rachel Masika, Ini Dele-Adedeji, Stephen Mcloughlin, Neville Townsend, David Kerr.

2. Apologies

Jonathan Fisher, Carol Adams, Max Bolt, Caroline Davis, Poppy Cullen, Reg Cline-Cole.

3. Minutes of 57th ASAUK AGM. 10 September. 2020 held online

These were circulated prior to the meeting and were unanimously approved.

4. President's Report (Professor Olu Uduku)

The African Studies Association UK has continued with its collaboration with the Royal Africa Society and activities of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Africa, currently there has been work on decolonising the curriculum, work on researching the Unilever Archives, and the celebration events marking the 120 year anniversary of the RAS. Due to the pandemic we have not had to deal with visa problems in relation to visiting scholars; however, we have successfully gained funding from the British Academy with support from the RAS to run an entirely online version of the ASAUK biennial conference in 2022. We are however committed to taking forward this work once travel begins to open again in 2022. We will continue to work in partnership with the Royal Africa Society and are very grateful for the excellent working relationships we continue to develop with them.

We have continued to work closely with the British Academy and had three successful ASAUK Writing Workshop applications from our membership. The Vice President Carli Coetzee describes these further in her report.

The Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture

The ASAUK Mary Kingsley Zochonis lectures this year involved two online lectures given by Gibson Ncube and Dr Neo Pule, titled 'Queerness is Unaffrican?: The Complexity of Non-normative Sexual and Gender Identities in Africa', and 'Decolonising Research Methodologies in Psychology: Social Dream Drawing Studies of the Student Leadership Context in South Africa' respectively. We were able to host both lectures online and they now can be watched on the ASAUK YouTube website. Both speakers have been supported by ASAUK in presenting panels at the forthcoming ASAA conference taking place in Johannesburg in 2022.

Constitution and Website

We have also in this year worked on updating the constitution and website; these will be discussed briefly during the meeting.

2022 Online Conference

In keeping with the previous executive committee's thoughts on the future of the large conferences in a post pandemic world, in the *Times Higher Education Supplement* online: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/opinion/world-cannot-afford-any-more-global-academic-jamborees> we are pleased to announce that we are planning a three location conference in 2022, titled *Diaspora Remittance Flows: Restitution, Culture and Capital* with partners at IFRA Ibadan, and the BIEA Nairobi, and a Liverpool University British base. The plans for this are well developed.

ASAUK Prizes and Awards

The Association's prizes: the Distinguished Africanist Award; the Fage & Oliver book prize; and Audrey Richards dissertation prize will take place during the smaller physical ASAUK conference celebration planned to take place in September 2022. We are currently constituting the panels, made from our membership who will also take on the task of reading submissions for both awards.

ASAUK Posthumous Awards

The ASAUK have worked with Nick Cheeseman and Elsbeth Robson to confirm they will be the awarding and citation for the late Raufu Mustapha and Thandika Mkandawire, both former members of ASAUK, at the forthcoming 2022 ASAUK conference.

We shall be advertising our multi-located 2022 ASAUK Conference, titled *Diaspora Remittance Flows: Restitution, Culture and Capital*, and look forward to a busy, if different, conference year in 2022.

5. Report by the Honorary Secretary (Dr David Kerr)

Over the last two years Covid has disrupted a number of the ASAUK's schemes.

Small Conference Grants

In non-conference years the ASAUK offers small grants (£500) for UK-based conferences, preferably for travel grants to bring an African scholar to attend the conference. This year no applications for funding were made.

Teaching Fellowship

This scheme offers £9,000 to support a teaching fellowship in the Social Sciences or Humanities enabling an early career scholar from a UK university to work in an African university. In 2020 due to the pandemic and travel restrictions Council has chosen not to re-advertise the scheme.

Membership

Our joint membership numbers with the RAS have increased slightly over the last year. Over the last two years the Covid pandemic, its effect on academic job opportunities and the absence of an ASAUK Conference in 2020 have made recruiting members harder.

There are currently 425 joint members with the RAS, 121 of whom are ASAUK members first.

For several years ASAUK has not been recruiting sufficient numbers of early career members. Council is increasingly made up of early career scholars and is exploring how to better engage with, support and represent the interest of early career scholars.

Relationship between ASAUK and RAS

Throughout the past year, Council has continued to maintain a good close working relationship with the Royal African Society (RAS). RAS Director Nick Westcott is a co-opted member of the Council. The President of ASAUK is also committed to attending RAS Council meetings and the RAS AGM.

ASAUK would like to express its sincere thanks and appreciation to the RAS/ASAUK Administrator. Council is deeply appreciative of the expertise, energy and efficiency with which she deals with the ASAUK finances, subscriptions and payments as well as maintaining the ASAUK e-mail list: ras@soas.ac.uk

6. Report by the Honorary Treasurer (Dr Louisa Egbunike)

Plans were well underway for the ASAUK Conference in Cardiff, however due to the global pandemic, it was unfortunately cancelled. What could be delivered from the conference programme culminated in the ASAUK's first Virtual Awards Ceremony in September 2020. The ceremony was warmly received and the Fage & Oliver, Audrey Richards and Distinguished Africanist Award winners were announced and celebrated.

Writing Workshops were also severely affected by the pandemic. Unfortunately, no workshop on the continent could take place, so online reading groups with panels from the conference were set up. This led to special issues of journals and new research groups who met over the course of the year.

During the year, the Trustees approved several future focused strategies and Sub-Committees were created for a next generation programme, to build and support the next ASAUK generation and another to review the ASAUK Constitution. It was also agreed that officers would explore further developing links with partner organisations, including the African Studies Association (USA), African Studies Association of Africa, Lagos Studies Association, and Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies Association.

The reserves policy is to maintain an operational reserve equivalent to at least 1 year's non-conference unrestricted expenditure plus a £50,000 contingency for any unforeseen deficit arising on the biennial conference. At 31st December 2020 this amounts to about £90,000. The accumulated unrestricted funds at that date were £140,407.

7. Amendments to the ASAUK statutes

At the annual general meeting of the Association duly convened and held at 5pm on 7th October 2021, the following resolution was passed by a two-thirds majority of the members:

Members' Resolution:

That, the Constitution in the form circulated to the members not less than 14 days before the date of this meeting be approved and adopted as the Association's Constitution in substitution for and to the exclusion of the existing Statutes.

8. Election of Council Members

The following council members were approved:

Standing for a first term:

Patricia Kingori, Simon Manda, Zaahida Mariam Nabagereka, Ifesinachi Okafor-Yarwood, Sarah Ozo-Irabor, Kadija George Sesay.

Standing for a second term:

Lindiwe Dovey, Jonathan Fisher, Helene Neveu Kringlebach, Katharina Oke, Nathan Richards.

9. Writing Workshops (Dr Carli Coetzee)

In the past the ASAUK used to apply as an association for writing workshop grants from the British Academy, but in recent years we have not been able to do that effectively as the e-Gap system requires the funds to be administered through a university. Individual members of the ASAUK have applied for the Writing Workshop grants, and we have had some success with being awarded these grants.

Workshop grants were awarded in this cycle to ASAUK members Ola Uduku, Carli Coetzee and George Ogola. George Ogola is traveling to Kenya next week to be physically present at the workshop, and there will also be some on-line collaboration with editors in the UK who will zoom in their contributions. Ola Uduku and Carli Coetzee have completed their writing workshops for 2021, in Ghana and Nigeria, for which we made use of zoomed formats, and data was sent to participants to the workshops. The British Academy understood that we would need to innovate, and the permission to send data to participants made a huge difference to early career scholars who needed it.

Through the ASAUK/ASAA collaboration, *The Journal Work Academy*, Carli Coetzee has participated in a number of editorial board sessions with Africa-based journals, talking through protocols and best practice peer review procedures. *The Journal Work Academy* will run again with a cohort (applications will open soon for places) at the ASAA conference to be held in Cape Town in April 2022, with the aim to train (in collaboration with our Africa-based peers) the next generation of peer reviewers, editorial board members and editors. Articles from the previous cohorts are making their way through peer review processes with journals, and a few have already appeared.

In this pandemic year, we have expanded on the community-building and cohort-creation work of the Writing Workshops and started a new online initiative, the ASAUKNextGen2020+. This set of events and conversations is aimed in particular at younger members, and the events bring UK-based ASAUK members together with Africa-based colleagues. We have run an average of two events each month, including discussion groups, mini-conferences and gallery tours. We have some exciting events lined up for the next months and welcome suggestions for future events from ASAUK/RAS members, in particular younger members.

10. ASAUK Newsletter (Dr Simon Heap)

Four quarterly newsletters came out over the past year. I hope they were interesting and useful. Printed newsletters go to all ASAUK members; later on they are put on the ASAUK website, where all back issues can be read. I have been your voluntary editor for the past 17 years and happy to continue for the coming year.

11. RAS (Dr Nick Westcott)

Nick Westcott reported that RAS was still solvent. The new Chair of the RAS Arumna Oteh is very engaged. RAS has added a new cheaper membership rate for those who wish to attend the arts and cultural event and do not receive the journal. The RAS *African Affairs* is thriving; *African Arguments* is also thriving.

12. SCOLMA (Lucy McCann)

2021 conference

SCOLMA's annual conference took place online on 14 June, having been postponed from 2020. The theme was 'Publishing, Collecting and Accessing African-language Materials' and speakers from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, the Netherlands, the US and the UK presented papers.

The keynote speaker was Muniyao Kilolo of the Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o Foundation and Jalada Africa who described projects supporting original writing and translation into African languages and the question of how to reach speakers of these languages. Other speakers addressed the acquisition of Somali language

books, African language material in the British Library and SOAS collections, the success of a Yorùbá newspaper first published in 1996, the Bible Society Collection at Cambridge which contains 1,000 translations into African languages and the archive of a comic book artist who used the urban language of Kinshasa. The papers will be published in the first edition of *Africa Bibliography, Research and Documentation*.

AGM

This was held on Zoom on 14 June. Lucy McCann (Bodleian Library) was elected Chair and Marion Wallace (British Library) Development Officer, with other office holders remaining the same. The Chair's report, delivered at the AGM, is available on SCOLMA's website: <https://scolma.org/>

African Research and Documentation

During the past year SCOLMA has agreed with the IAI to merge *African Research and Documentation* with the *Africa Bibliography*, to be published by Cambridge University Press. The new publication will be called *Africa Bibliography, Research and Documentation* and will first be published in 2022.

The merger will put both journals on a sound and sustainable financial footing and greatly increase access, particularly through CUP's digital platforms and its participation in Research4Life in Africa. Back issues of ARD (from 1973) will be digitised thereby improving access to them and guaranteeing their future digital preservation. The bibliography will henceforth be published online only; articles and book reviews will be published in print once a year with some published earlier online. The final issue of ARD (ARD 140) is currently being put together and will include a retrospective on its history.

Communication

Our Jiscmail mailing list – <https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=LIS-SCOLMA> – continues to be used to publicise SCOLMA activities to our friends and supporters. Anyone interested in keeping up-to-date with our work is warmly encouraged to subscribe to this list.

We continue to value our close connections with ASAUK and the ASAUK's support of SCOLMA's activities. We are particularly grateful for the input of Stephanie Kitchen as ASAUK representative at our committee meetings.

13. AOB

None.

The ASAUK Distinguished Africanist Awards

The Distinguished Africanist Awards pay tribute to people who have made exceptional contributions to the field of African studies. The award is not confined to academics. It is intended for people who have contributed largely to African Studies in the UK, or who have strengthened links between African Studies here and in Africa itself.

Awards have been given over the past twenty years to many renowned Africanists: Basil Davidson, John Fage, Douglas Rimmer, Lionel Cliffe, Eldred and Marjorie Jones, Shula Marks, Roland Oliver, Terry Ranger, Tony Kirk-Greene, John Lonsdale, George Shepperson, John McCracken, James Currey, Robin Law, Kenneth and Pravina King, Lalage Bown, Gavin Williams, John Peel, Nici Nelson, Richard Hodder-Williams, Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias, Karin Barber, Tunde Zack-Williams and Bibi Bakare Yusuf.

Two new awards will be made, chosen by the ASAUK Council, and announced at the ASAUK Biennial conference to be held at the University of Liverpool in September 2022.

The nomination should consist of three elements combined into one PDF document:

1. A concise one page single spaced statement by the nominator, outlining the range of contributions by the nominee to African Studies in the UK.
2. A selective one page CV, with major book publications.
3. Two one-page statements of support by two other members.

Those nominated must give prior consent to having their name put forward.

Nominations for the latest awards should be sent by 2nd April 2022 to David Kerr: d.kerr@bham.ac.uk *and copied* to the ASAUK secretary: ras@soas.ac.uk

Audrey Richards Prize for the Best Doctoral Thesis

Dr Audrey Richards, CBE (1899–1984) was a pioneering British social anthropologist who worked mainly in sub-Saharan Africa, notably Zambia, South Africa and Uganda. She held lectureships and directorships at LSE, Witwatersrand, Makerere, and Cambridge. She was the Second President of ASAUK.

The Audrey Richards prize is an early mark of esteem for graduate work and is accompanied by a certificate and an attractive package of book and journal vouchers generously provided by our publisher donors.

The Audrey Richards Prize is awarded biennially for the best doctoral thesis in African Studies which has been successfully examined in a British institution of higher education during the two calendar years immediately preceding the next ASAUK Conference.

The cut-off is for any dissertation submitted between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2021. Deadline for the submission of nominations will be 31st March 2022.

Nominations should consist of a short letter of nomination from the supervisor or external examiner, accompanied by the internal and external examiner's reports. No self-nomination Please note when writing your nomination that it will assist the Audrey Richards Prize readers and evaluators if you can illustrate why the nominee deserves recognition. Your supporting statement should elaborate on why the nominee's accomplishments are worthy of the award.

The recommendation for the award is made by a Committee headed by Dr Carli Coetzee, the Vice-President of ASAUK, and confirmed by the ASAUK Council. The prize will be presented at the Biennial Conference in Liverpool in September 2022.

Nominations should be emailed to Dr Carli Coetzee, Vice-President of ASAUK at: asaofuk@gmail.com (please include 'Audrey Richards Prize' in the subject line). The thesis should be emailed as a pdf document along with the examiners' reports also to: asaofuk@gmail.com

Fage & Oliver Prize, 2022

The ASAUK invites publishers to nominate titles for the Fage & Oliver Prize. The ASAUK presents the Fage & Oliver Prize to the author of an outstanding original scholarly work published on Africa during the preceding two years.

John Donnelly Fage (1921-2002) and Roland Oliver (1923-2014) were pioneers of British African Studies. After a decade teaching in the University of the Gold Coast, Fage spent the rest of his career at Birmingham University where he founded the Centre for West African Studies (CWAS). With Oliver he founded the *Journal of African History* (1960). Oliver taught at the School of Oriental and African Studies (1948-1986). He was one of the founders of the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom (1963) and played a major role in the establishment of the British Institute in Eastern Africa.

The winner of the Fage & Oliver Prize will be announced at the Biennial ASAUK Conference in Liverpool in 2022. A list of the finalists for the Prize will be published in the programme of the meeting and on the ASAUK's website at: <http://www.asauk.net/>

Nominations are made directly by publishers who may nominate no more than 3 titles. Eligible titles would be original non-fiction scholarly works published in English (or translated into English) and distributed in the United Kingdom. Entries from all continents meeting these criteria are welcome. We especially welcome nominations from small and independent publishers. Publishers must

supply three copies of each title submitted. Following submission, publishers may be asked to supply up to four additional copies to the judging panel.

The subject matter has to significantly deal with Africa and/or related areas (Cape Verde, Madagascar, or Indian Ocean Islands off the East African coast). Collections and compilations, proceedings of symposia, new editions of previously published books, bibliographies, and dictionaries are not eligible.

The winner of the 2020 Fage & Oliver prize was *The Man Who Killed Apartheid: The Life of Dimitri Tsafendas* by Harris Dousemetzis (South Africa, Jacana Media). More information is given on the ASAUK webpage: <https://www.asauk.net/winner-of-the-2020-fage-and-oliver-prize/>

Only books with a 2020 or 2021 copyright are eligible for the 2022 Prize. The deadline for submissions is 15th March 2022. Three copies of nominated monographs should be sent by the 15th March 2022 deadline to: The Co-ordinator, ASAUK, Fage and Oliver Book Prize 2022, RAS Offices, SOAS Mail Room, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, London, WC1H 0XG. Enquiries can be directed to the ASAUK email: asaukconference22@gmail.com

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'Empire in the Middle East and the Maghreb: The Shaping of Hopes and Perspectives', The Maghreb Review and the Maghreb Studies Association conference, Oxford, 28–29 March 2022. Details on website: www.maghrebreview.com and from: maghreb@maghrebreview.com

'This is the Canon: Decolonize Your Bookshelf in 50 Books', A conversation at Huddersfield Literature Festival (online), 7-8pm, 31st March 2022. *This Is the Canon* is for anyone who wants to redress the imbalance of their education and to rethink what are considered the 'classics'. The Centre for Spatial, Environmental and Cultural Politics (SECP) and Humanities and Social Science Research and Knowledge Exchange Funding support this event. Joan Anim-Addo, Deirdre Osborne and Kadija Sesay discuss their timely and important book, tapping into the ongoing discussions around race and identity.

Professor Joan Anim-Addo is Professor Emerita of Caribbean Literature and Culture at Goldsmiths University and the co-founder of the world-first MA in Black British Literature. Dr Deirdre Osborne is Reader in English Literature and Drama at Goldsmiths University, London and the co-founder of the world-first Black British Literature MA. She is also associate editor of *Women's Writing*. Dr Kadija Sesay Hon FRSL is a writer and editor of several anthologies, the founder

of SABLE LitMag, and AfriPoetree SIV and co-founder of The Mboka Festival in The Gambia.

This event will be held online as a Zoom webinar. A link to access the webinar will be sent to you the day before the event. While this event is free, a ticket is required: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/this-is-the-canon-tickets-227704158267>

Africa and the Environment: Documenting and Archiving a Changing Climate
SCOLMA (UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa) 60th Anniversary Conference, SOAS, London, Wednesday, 29th June 2022. Africa's natural environment is rich and diverse, ranging from its wildlife and plants to its land and resources. It is also one of the continent's most severely affected by climate change, with increasingly erratic weather events adversely impacting biodiversity, agriculture and those living there. This conference will explore library and archive materials relating to Africa and the environment and how they are collected, catalogued, preserved and used in research and teaching. The organisers would welcome papers relating to a range of media including documents and manuscripts, photographs, newspapers, historical printed collections, audio-visual material and born-digital material.

Subjects might include: how the archives of individuals and organisations working on environmental issues are being preserved and made available; how library and archive materials are used to chart and address climate change; how collections are used to research renewable energy in Africa; how current field research is being preserved and published; and how environmental challenges affect libraries and archives in Africa and how they respond. Abstracts of up to 350 words by 18th March 2022 to Sarah Rhodes: sarah.rhodes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

'Common Threads: Black and Asian British Women's Writing' Second International Conference, University of Brighton, 21st-23rd July 2022. Following the inaugural conference of the Black British Women's Writing Network (BBWWN) at the University of Brighton in 2014, the organisers are pleased to announce the second international conference on Black and Asian British Women's Writing.

This conference celebrates the fact that so many Black and Asian women writers have emerged in the last two decades and acknowledges the significant impact their writing has made on publishing and the media since 2015. Black and Asian women's writing has transformed Britain's cultural landscape and provoked urgent conversations about nation and identity, home and belonging. Their work challenges the control white, British canonical writers have asserted over what qualifies as literary, where meaning is located in literary culture, and whose voices are privileged. The last couple of years have been particularly exciting for Black and Asian British women writers with Bernardine Evaristo winning the

Booker Prize in 2019, the first Black British woman to do so (and who will be the conference keynote speaker) and several debut authors such as Reni Eddo-Lodge topping the UK's fiction and nonfiction paperback charts in 2020-21, and receiving substantial attention and recognition.

The recent publication of *The Cambridge Companion to Black British and Asian Writing* (edited by Deirdre Osborne), and *The Cambridge History of Black and Asian British Writing* (edited by Susheila Nasta and Mark Stein) bring together over 400 years of Black and Asian British writing. 2022 also marks the 21st anniversary of the landmark 'Write Black, Write British' conference at the Barbican (organised by Kadija George Sesay), and of the publication of the anthology *Bittersweet: Contemporary Black Women's Poetry*. *Common Threads* aims to celebrate this rich cultural heritage while at the same time exploring how Black and Asian British Women's Writing enables us to re-imagine the nation otherwise in the context of the unsettling, hostile environment of post-Brexit Britain.

Suggested topics include, but are not limited to, the following: intersections and Common Threads: Black and Asian British women's writing in the era of Black Lives Matter and post-Brexit Britain; teaching transformation: Black and Asian British women's writing and Decolonising the Curriculum; Black and Asian British women's life writing, screenwriting, journalism, popular fiction, radio drama, short fiction/flash fiction, and non-fiction; Black and Asian British women's Poetry and Spoken Word Performances; Speculative Fiction; drama and performance; critically neglected writers/new writers; Black and Asian women's writing and the School Curriculum; Black and Asian British Children's Literature and storytelling; Black and Asian British queer writing; the 2018 Windrush Scandal; the matter of bodies, politics, place and diaspora; making space/reconfiguring space: real and imaginary spaces, online, publishing and other spaces, worlds turned upside down; and regional and rural writing. Online presentations/panels welcome. Abstracts of up to 300 words and brief bio by 31st January 2022 to: commonthreads2022@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL

'Africa-Europe: Reciprocal Perspectives', VAD2022 (Association for African Studies in Germany – Vereinigung für Afrikawissenschaften in Deutschland) Conference, Africa Centre for Transregional Research (ACT) of the Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, 7th–10th June 2022. The conference will address processes of co-production of knowledge as well as the mutual questioning of different ways of thinking. Political and epistemological entanglements will be explored and unusual perspectives will also be opened up. This should unlock new forms of collaboration and further develop existing ones. Experiences with collaborative research and its challenges should lead to analyses which also take into account questions of persistent exclusion and the

lack of representativeness in teaching and research in both Africa-related studies and 'European Studies'.

Instructions for proposing a paper: <https://nomadit.co.uk/vad/vad2022/cfp>
Abstracts by 31st January 2022 through the website, which has a list of panels you can submit a paper to: <https://nomadit.co.uk/vad/vad2022/programme#all>

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Cydonie Banting (2021), 'Musical Composition as a Tool of Ethnographic Research in a Rural Ugandan Village', Ph.D thesis, King's College London. Supervisor: Dr Frederick Moehn;

[https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/theses/musical-composition-as-a-tool-of-ethnographic-research-in-a-rural-ugandan-village\(036aa61d-1674-42c0-b487-922912a7c18c\).html](https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/theses/musical-composition-as-a-tool-of-ethnographic-research-in-a-rural-ugandan-village(036aa61d-1674-42c0-b487-922912a7c18c).html)

Therese Fish (2021), 'The Evolution of an Interorganisational Network in Higher Education: The Case of a Provincial Health Authority and Health Sciences Faculties in South Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Bath. Supervisors: Professor Christos Vasilakis and Dr Dan Davies;

<https://researchportal.bath.ac.uk/en/studentTheses/the-evolution-of-an-interorganisational-network-in-higher-educati>

James Hawkins (2021), 'Synergies and Trade-offs between Climate Mitigation and Poverty Alleviation for East Africa's Dairy Sector', Ph.D thesis, University of Lancaster. Supervisors: Professor Mariana Rufino and Professor Camilla Toulmin; <https://doi.org/10.17635/lancaster/thesis/1507>

William Ingram (2021), "'Smart Meters" for Rural Water Supply in Sub-Saharan Africa' [Gambia and Tanzania], Ph.D thesis, University of Exeter. Supervisor: Professor Fayyaz Ali Memon.

James King (2021), 'Rainfall Dynamics and Change in East Africa', D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Richard Washington and Dr Sebastian Engelstaedter.

Vengesai Magadzire (2021), 'Essays on Social Protection and Human Welfare in Southern Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Leeds. Supervisors: Dr Gaston Yalonetzky, Dr Sandra Lancheros Torres and Dr Suman Seth; <https://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/29237/>

Barrack Okwaro Muluka (2021), 'Forced Migration and the Dialectic of Home and Return: The Case of South Sudanese Refugees in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement in Kenya, 1991-2019', Ph.D thesis, University of Leicester. Supervisors: Dr Kelly Staples and Dr Laura Brace; <https://doi.org/10.25392/leicester.data.16602068.v1>

Emma Lucy Victoria Norton (2021), 'The Impact of Christianity on the Trickster Figure in Anglophone African Literature During the Period of Decolonisation', Ph.D thesis, Open University; <http://oro.open.ac.uk/78734/>

Hannah Sam (2021), 'Three Essays on the Impact of Conflict and Disease on Household Welfare in Sierra Leone', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisors: Professor Barry Reilly and Dr Julie Litchfield; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/id/eprint/101031/>

Melissa Shales (2021), 'Steel Safari: Cairo to Cape Town by Train (Where Possible)', Ph.D thesis, University of Essex; <http://repository.essex.ac.uk/31469/>

David Shaw (2021), 'An East African Record of Vegetation and Climate as Interpreted from the Palynology of the Terrestrial Late Neogene and Quaternary Sediments of the Southern Part of Lake Albert, Uganda', Ph.D thesis, University of Southampton. Supervisor: Professor John Marshall; <https://eprints.soton.ac.uk/450729/>

Bartosz Soltowski (2021), 'Innovative Technology to Enable Bottom-up Electrification in Rural Regions of Sub-Saharan Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Strathclyde. Supervisors: Dr Scott Strachan and Dr Olimpo Anaya-Lara.

Lisa Thalheimer (2021), 'Methods of Attributing Human Mobility to Climate Change: Evidence from East Africa', D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Friederike Otto.

James Turing (2021), 'Understanding the Circular Economy in Kenya', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Dr Jamie Cross, Dr Omaima Hatem and Dr Andrew Bowman; <https://era.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/37987>

Dennis Vincent (2021), 'Hero to Zero: An Evaluation of the Leadership of General Sir Alan Cunningham during his African Campaigns of 1941', Ph.D thesis, King's College London. Supervisor: Professor Ashley Jackson; [https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/theses/hero-to-zero\(dd373e81-8fb1-48a0-9c81-5b9027c002df\).html](https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/en/theses/hero-to-zero(dd373e81-8fb1-48a0-9c81-5b9027c002df).html)

Recent Publications

Paddy Docherty (2021), *Blood and Bronze: The British Empire and the Sack of Benin*. Hurst, 240pp, 9781787384569, £20.

Ulf Hannerz (2022) *Afropolitan Horizons: Essays Toward a Literary Anthropology of Nigeria*. Berghahn Books, 258pp, 978-1-80073-319-0, £27.95.

Asnake Kefale and Fana Gebresenbet (eds) (2021), *Youth on the Move: Views from Below on Ethiopian International Migration*. Hurst: African Arguments series, 304pp, 9781787385702, £22.

Uroš Kovač (2022) *The Precarity of Masculinity: Football, Pentecostalism, and Transnational Aspirations in Cameroon*. Berghahn Books, 220pp, 978-1-78920-927-3, £89.

Gabriella Nugent (2021), *Colonial Legacies: Contemporary Lens-Based Art and the Democratic Republic of Congo*. Leuven, 272pp, 9789462702998, £49.

Jason Pack (2021), *Libya and the Global Enduring Disorder*. Hurst, 304pp, 9781787385689, £25.

Deborah Pellow (2022) *A New African Elite: Place in the Making of a Bridge Generation*. Berghahn Books, 288pp, 978-1-80073-378-7, £99.

Valentina Peveri (2020), *The Edible Gardens of Ethiopia: An Ethnographic Journey into Beauty and Hunger*. University of Arizona Press, 264pp. 978-0-8165-4115-7, £41.95.

Paula Cristina Roque (2021), *Governing in the Shadows: Angola's Securitised State*. Hurst: African Arguments series, 264pp, 9781787385740, £22.

Jason Warner with Ryan O'Farrell, Héni Nsaibia & Ryan Cummings (2021), *The Islamic State in Africa: The Emergence, Evolution, and Future of the Next Jihadist Battlefield*. Hurst, 288pp, 9781787383906, £35.

This is the Canon: Decolonize Your Bookshelf in 50 Books

Joan Anim-Addo, Deirdre Osborne and Kadija Sesay have curated a decolonized reading list that celebrates the wide and diverse experiences of people from around the world, of all backgrounds and all races. It disrupts the all-too-often white-dominated 'required reading' collections that have become the accepted norm and highlights powerful voices and cultural perspectives that demand a place on our shelves.

From literary giants such as Toni Morrison and Chinua Achebe to less well known (but equally vital) writers such as Caribbean novelist Earl Lovelace or Indigenous Australian author Tony Birch, the novels recommended here are in turn haunting and lyrical; innovative and inspiring; edgy and poignant. Other African writers include Assia Djebar, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, Ayi Kwei Armah, Bessie Head, Miriam Tlali, Nawal El Saadawi, Ama Ata Aidoo, Buchi Emecheta, Mariama Ba, Tsitsi Dangarembga, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Dinaw Mengestu.

The power of great fiction is that readers have the opportunity to discover new worlds and encounter other beliefs and opinions. *This is the Canon* offers a rich and multifaceted perspective on our past, present and future which deserves to be read by all bibliophiles: <https://www.hachette.co.uk/titles/kadija-sesay-george/this-is-the-canon/9781529414592/>

News

Jagger Library Fire, University of Cape Town

Mandy Noble (mandy.noble@uct.ac.za) of UCT Libraries has provided the following information for anyone wishing to offer books to replace those lost in the fire in April 2021:

“If you have materials that are relevant to the African Studies Collection and would like to donate them to us, please could you supply us with a list of the items so that we can check our holdings against our catalogue.

Alternatively, please search the UCT Libraries’ online catalogue – Primo <http://www.lib.uct.ac.za/> to see what was lost to the fire.

Please note: In the aftermath of the fire, all books, pamphlets and DVDs in the African Studies Collection and Government Publications collection show on Primo, as Lost in 2021 fire. UCT Libraries staff are in the process of physically checking each salvaged book and will update the ones that have survived to show that they survived the fire.

In broad strokes, the materials that were lost are:

- Books with a shelf mark/call number falling within the Dewey Decimal classification number ranges of BA 000 and BA 699
- All items in the African Studies Reference Collection (shelf mark/call number BR)
- All DVDs in the African Studies film collection (shelf mark/call number BZDV)

We are not able to provide a list of materials that was lost as that list would quickly become out of date. Daily, replacement copies are being taken into stock and are reflected on the catalogue.”

Saluting Emil Magel

We have given thanks for Bleek, for the stories from the San - and to Rattray, for those of the Ashanti; for the textual introductions to the Mantis and Anansi. Let me take a few moments here, to recognise the work of Emil Magel, for his contribution to the sharing of the folklore of the Wolof.

Until now, it’s never been my intention to visit Kentucky; but I would like to go there one day, to the state university, to shake hands with Professor Magel. To say thank you for the translations in '*Folktales From The Gambia*' and the blessings of annotations. I say blessings, as the notes following each tale, offer a brighter spotlight on Wolof culture; food, mannerisms, geographical locations, flora and so on. Imagine reading a gem of a story, like '*The Hare Seeks Endowments From Allah,*' and you have notes to refer to, that embellish the sparkling.

These stories take place in the region that incorporated the former medieval Wolof states, such as Kayor and Walo. Stories of those times and after, retold to Magel in villages and towns, in the latter twentieth century.

One reason why I admire the work of Magel, is that we tend to focus on the jalis of Mali, when we think of west African storytellers, due to the popularity of figures such as Toumani Diabate, Bassakou Kouyate and the Sundiata epic; but the Wolof also have bardic lineages. The storyteller – who is much featured in their tales – is called a *gewel*; and respect is given to the one who has mastered his craft.

If I never get to shake his hand, I salute him here. For the Moonlit Classroom, where learning is still passed on, in an inter-generational setting, around the evening fire.

Natty Mark Samuels,
africanschool.weebly.com
yandawa.substack.com

<https://reggaediscography.blogspot.com/2021/11/nunu-celebrating-african-and-caribbean.html>

Dr Marie Rodet Funding Award for Co-production of a Mobile Game Against Slavery and For Peace in Mali. Reader in the History of Africa at SOAS, Dr Marie Rodet has received a £120,932 research grant from UKRI to collaborate with Malian organisations Donkosira and Voice4Thought Academy (V4T) in the continuation of an AHRC-funded project through the Antislavery Knowledge Network, which used arts and humanities to fight against slavery in Mali.

This new project aims to continue to make the history of slavery better known and raise awareness against descent-based slavery in Mali yet this time through the co-designing of a mobile game with young Malian villagers from Western and Central Mali, and make it ultimately a factor for peace. The project targets mostly young generations, to develop their skills and knowledge of the history of internal slavery and of resistance against it. It will deepen their comprehension of Malian history, inspire and support them in the fight against descent-based slavery, for human rights and against discrimination, and thus change mentalities.

Dr Rodet said: “With this project I’m thrilled to combine historical knowledge on slavery with new mobile technologies. By fighting against discrimination and for peace this mobile game can have a real societal impact in Mali today.”

This project involves equitable international collaboration with the creative and cultural sectors through its strong partnership with Donkosira and V4T Academy in Mali, as well as crucial knowledge transfer through its collaboration with Dutch Value Foundation specialised in digital humanities and online gaming and the Malian creative enterprise Kasart Media.

The project has a huge potential in both producing creative knowledge and awareness-raising media, and in increasing knowledge of historical context and young people's commitment to fight for social justice and peace. The project will run till October 2022.

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/news/newsitem156030.html>

Appreciation

Professor George 'Sam' Shepperson

On 4th September 2021, George 'Sam' Shepperson's ashes were laid to rest in the ancient churchyard of The Church of the Holy Trinity, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. An account of the preceding Memorial Service, restricted due to the Covid pandemic, is related by his daughter Janet in this special electronic Memorial Edition of *The Society of Malawi Journal*, which may be accessed via: <https://online.flipbuilder.com/spmg/fgbz/>

On behalf of my co-editor, Dr John Lwanda and the Society of Malawi, I wish to offer sincere thanks to all those who contributed their memories and their appreciation of Professor George 'Sam' Shepperson's remarkable life and the manner in which it touched, and influenced, the lives of so very many others during a long and distinguished career.

I feel sure that everyone reading this special Memorial Edition will learn something new to them in respect of George's (or Sam's) life as well have having half-forgotten, or long-forgotten, memories re-awakened and re-lived. A worthy Memorial, I believe.

Again, a sincere 'thank you'.

Tsalani bwino.

David Stuart-Mogg,
Hon Editor, *The Society of Malawi Journal (Historical & Scientific)*

Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the *April Newsletter* by 16th March 2022 to Dr Simon Heap: effaheap@aol.com

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Check the website: www.asauk.net