

NEWSLETTER

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ASAUK 2022 Conference

We are pleased to announce that the call for papers for the on-campus ASAUK 2022 Conference is now available. Here are the key deadlines and details.

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 main conference theme: "Diaspora: Restitution, Culture and Capital", follows on directly from the online conference, we invite members to send in proposals on themes they would like to present.

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 30th April, 2022. All proposals need to have the names of the 3–4 paper givers, and their abstracts submitted by the April deadline. This will enable us to plan the conference space and facilities required. Given the current post Covid-period, and continuing health advice, capacity will be limited as we will aim to ensure socially distanced settings are available for all conference events. We also plan to host the Liverpool conference in hybrid format, so if you are unable to join us in Liverpool you can join us online.

With this early call for panels and associated papers can we also ask that you alert us to any proposed international paper giver participants. This is to enable us work to ensure we prepare letters of invitation and any other material they may need to ensure visas are processed in time for the conference.

We realise that this is different from the traditional conference format but hope you will join us for this unique event. During the conference, 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 best thesis on Africa prize, the Fage and Oliver best research monograph on Africa prize and the distinguished Africanist awards ceremony.

For more information about the 29th ASAUK conference, please contact the conference curator, Nathan Richards, via the email address: asaukconference22@gmail.com

Panel proposals, comprising the 3–4 papers with abstracts, can also now be sent to the same address.

We will be providing further information related to conference registration in March as the conference details develop on our website and via social media.

ASAUK 2022 Online Conference

Ibadan – Nairobi – Liverpool

We also are happy to invite you to the entirely free online conference sponsored by the British Academy and the University of Liverpool. Here are the key details and dates.

The Online Conference, 31st August – 2nd September 2022 Restitution, Culture and Capital

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

Hosted by ASAUK colleagues at the IFRA Institute, at the University of Ibadan and the BIEA, 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 ASAUK and RAS presidents.

Introducing Nathan Richards

We are happy to welcome Nathan Richards to the ASAUK conference team. Nathan is ASAUK 2022 Conference Curator for both the online and physical conferences this September and will be working with us all to deliver this year's dual mode hybrid conference and future conference outputs.

ASAUK Website Update

The launch of the new ASAUK website is taking place. Watch out for this as it includes a full refresh of all information related to ASAUK, and much more information on our forthcoming conference. The URL is the same as our old website so you should find this easy to access: http://www.asauk.net/

Professor Ola Uduku, ASAUK President

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Imad Uddin Ahmed (2021), 'The Political Economy of Energy Mix in Hydropower Dependent Developing Nations: A Case Study of Zambia', Ph.D thesis, University College London; https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10121236/

Victor Olufunmilade Apiafi (2022), 'Investigating Employment in the Nigerian Offshore Oil and Gas Industry: Is Gender a Prerequisite?', Ph.D thesis, University of Plymouth. Supervisors: Dr Yi Wang and Dr Jonathan Moizer; http://hdl.handle.net/10026.1/18630

Judy Aslett (2021), 'Not Talking in Riddles: To What Extent can the Making and Use of Factual Documentary Change Understanding and Attitudes towards Female Genital Mutilation in The Gambia?', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisors: Dr Pamela Kea and Dr Paul Sparks; http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/id/eprint/98488/

Nicholas Barley (2022), 'British Army Military Capacity Building in Support of the UK's International Defence Engagement Policy: The Deployment of Short-term Training Teams to Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Somalia (2014-2019)', Ph.D thesis, King's College London. Supervisor: Professor Ashley Jackson.

Cleverline Brown (2022), 'Improving Compliance and Enforcement of Environmental Regulation of the Petroleum Sector in Nigeria: The Role of Institutionalism', Ph.D thesis, University of the West of England. Supervisors: Professor Jona Razzaque, Dr Onita Das and Christian Dadomo; https://uwe-repository.worktribe.com/output/7249099

Anne-Sophie Crunchant (2022), 'Acoustically Assessing Apes: Chimpanzee Conservation with Passive Acoustic Monitoring [Tanzania]', Ph.D thesis, Liverpool John Moores University. Supervisors: Dr Alex Piel and Professor Serge Wich; ttps://doi.org/10.24377/LJMU.t.00016120

Livini Tesha Donath (2021), 'Education, the Labour Market and Welfare in East Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Nottingham. Supervisors: Professor Oliver Morrissey and Dr Trudy Owens; http://eprints.nottingham.ac.uk/66243/

Daisy Alero Emoekabu (2022), 'Environmental Policymaking and Implementation in Nigeria: The Case of Climate Change Mitigation', Ph.D thesis, University of Kent. Supervisor: Professor Christopher Rootes and Dr Joy Zhang; https://doi.org/10.22024/UniKent/01.02.92781

Julian Manuel Goetz (2022), 'The Impact of Informal and Rural Labour Markets on Poverty Reduction: A Mixed Methods Study of Artisanal and Small-scale Gold mining (ASGM) in Northwest Tanzania', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Matteo Rizzo.

Tarryn Gourley (2021), 'A Socio-Political History of Youth and Violence in Zambia, 1958-1991', Ph.D thesis, University of Kent. Supervisors: Dr Andrew Cohen and Dr Giacomo Macola; https://doi.org/10.22024/UniKent/01.02.89310

Amanda Källstig (2021), 'Humouring the State?: Zimbabwean Stand-up Comedians as Political Actors', Ph.D thesis, University of Manchester. Supervisors: Dr Aoileann Ni Mhurchu and Dr Carl Death.

David Henry Kanyumi (2021), 'An Exploration and Analysis of the Role which Local Non-Governmental Welfare Organisations Play in Social Service Provision and their Impact on Service Users in Tanzania', Ph.D thesis, University of Strathclyde. Supervisors: Dr Gillian MacIntyre and Dr Bernard Harris; https://doi.org/10.48730/7cmn-a328

Benjamin Klein (2022), 'Restoring the Earth: South African Literature and Environmental Justice', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Christopher Warnes.

Anna Chongo Klenert (2021), 'Exploring the Potential for Coaching as an Approach to Support Zambian Women Leaders: A Focus on Socio-Cultural Barriers', Ph.D thesis, Oxford Brookes University. Supervisors: Professor Juliette Koning and Dr Adrian Myers; https://doi.org/10.24384/chg8-ww55

Debra K. Long (2022), 'Situating the Use and Follow-up of 'Soft Law' Findings of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and National Preventive Mechanisms within the Discourse on Implementation and Compliance', Ph.D thesis, University of Bristol. Supervisor: Professor Rachel Murray; https://research-information.bris.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/311834502/final_phd_combined_1_.pdf

Janet Lowore (2021), 'Forest Beekeeping in Zambia: Analysing the Nexus of Sustainable Forest Management and Commercial Honey Trade', Ph.D thesis, University of Huddersfield. Supervisors: Professor Adrian Wood and Dr Julia Meaton; http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/35520/

Chanda Mfula (2021), 'Digital and Social Media as Sites for "Collaborative Circumvention": Journalism and Democracy in Zambia', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex; http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/id/eprint/102874/

Chishimba Nakamba Mulambia (2021), 'Decentralisation and Health Service Governance in Zambia', Ph.D thesis, University of Sheffield. Supervisors: Professor Simon Rushton, Dr Muhammad Saddiq and Professor Garrett Brown; https://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/29445/

Godfrey Musuka (2021), 'HIV and AIDS Service Design, Implementation and Evaluation in Botswana and Zimbabwe', Ph.D thesis, University of Portsmouth. Supervisors: Dr Helena Herrera and Dr Ngianga Ii Kandala.

Christine Nakamba (2021), 'An Investigation of the Social Sustainability Practices in Zambia's Mining Supply Chains: A Focus on Payment Practices', Ph.D thesis, University of Manchester. Supervisor: Dr Maria Sharmina.

Mumba Ngulube (2021), 'Essays on the Economic Impacts of Upgraded Highways in Zambia', Ph.D thesis, University of Kent. Supervisors: Dr Amrit Amirapu and Dr Alex Klein; https://doi.org/10.22024/UniKent/01.02.91575

Osai Simeon Nnodim (2022), 'Investor and Assuror Perspectives on Materiality for Sustainability Reporting: An Exploratory Case Study of Nigeria's Oil and Gas Industry', Ph.D thesis, University of Dundee. Supervisors: Dr Gizella Marton, Dr Gwen Hannah and Dr Eric Bergmann.

Jude Thaddeus Uchenna Nnodum (2022), 'Foreign Investment Protection and Environmental Governance in Nigeria: A TWAIL Analysis', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex; http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/id/eprint/104669/

Edward Efui Salakpi (2022), 'Forecasting Vegetation Condition in Pastoral Communities for Disaster Prevention', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisors: Professor Seb Oliver and Dr Pedram Rowhani; http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/id/eprint/103951/

Deo Sande (2021), 'The Impact of Monetary Policy, Sterilised Forex Intervention, Demand and Supply Shocks on Credit in Uganda', Ph.D thesis, University of Essex. Supervisor: Professor Dr Stefan Niemann; http://repository.essex.ac.uk/30369/

Olatunbosun Sanusi (2021), 'Slum: An Urban Tourism Resource in Zambia: A Case Study of Kalingalinga Informal Settlement, Lusaka', Ph.D thesis, Universoit of Swansea. Supervisors: Supervisors: Dr Simon Brooks and Dr Louisa Huxtable-Thomas; https://doi.org/10.23889/SUthesis.58081

Frank Thabani Sayi (2021), 'Language, Violence and Landscape in Yvonne Vera's 'The Stone Virgins'; and, Ekhaya: The Years of Childhood', Ph.D thesis, Birkbeck, University of London; https://eprints.bbk.ac.uk/id/eprint/46878/

Amy Scarth (2021), 'The Complexity of Private Philanthropy and Gift Giving Through Tourism in Sub-Saharan Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Brighton. Supervisors: Professor Marina Novelli and Dr Timothy Laing.

Gilbert Tepetepe (2021), 'Cartesian and Complexity Science in Quantitative Risk Management in Zimbabwean Banks', Ph.D thesis, University of Bolton. Supervisors: Dr Easton Simenti Phiri and Professor Danny Morton; http://ubir.bolton.ac.uk/3306/

Recent Publications

Maria Abranches (2022) Food Connections Production, Exchange and Consumption in West African Migration. Berghahn Books, 224pp, 978-1-80073-372-5, £99.

Paul Darby, James Esson and Christian Ungruhe (2022), *African Football Migration: Aspirations, Experiences and Trajectories*. Manchester University Press, 288p, 978-1-5261-2026-7, £90.

Jonathan Derrick (2022), Biafra in the News: The Nigerian Civil War Seen From a London News Desk. Hurst, 280pp, 9781787386860, £19.99.

Catherine Gegout (2022), Why Europe Intervenes in Africa: Security, Prestige and the Legacy of Colonialism. Hurst, 416pp, 9781787387249,£18.99. New in paperback.

Danell Jones (2021), An African in Imperial London: The Indomitable Life of A.B.C. Merriman-Labor. Hurst, 320pp, 9781787386068, £16.99.

Peter Martell (2022), Flowers for Elephants: How a Conservation Movement in Kenya Offers Lessons for Us All. Hurst, 304pp, 9781787386044, £20.

Moses Ochonu (2022), Engaging Emirs in London: Subaltern Travel and Nigeria's Modernity. Indiana University Press, 390pp, 9780253059154, £34.

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

News

"Ian Taylor Collection" in Addis Ababa

Ian's family and friends are currently preparing the transfer of Ian's personal library (of about 8,000 books) to the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) at the Addis Ababa University where Ian was a visiting professor. Please consider supporting this initiative by donating here: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ian-taylor-443

Training Diplomats of Postcolonial African States 1957-97

There is a new research project examining the geopolitics of training diplomats of postcolonial African states from 1957-97. It is led by three geographers at UK universities King's College London and Oxford, and funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

The aim of the project is to provide new understandings of postcolonial statebuilding across Africa by focusing on a hitherto overlooked dimension of this process: the training of diplomats. Drawing on oral histories and archival research on diplomatic training attended by the cadres of newly-independent African states, 1957-1997, the researchers examine the forms of international support for emerging states, and the geopolitics of giving and receiving training. As the first critical study of this diplomatic training, the research aims to diversify and historicise diplomacy studies, and provide new insights into the transnational politics of decolonisation, internationalism and the emerging African postcolonial state.

If you have a particular interest in this research, please get in touch with the researchers, Jonathan Harris, Ruth Craggs and Fiona McConnell. To find out more, please visit: www.diplotraining.org

Timbuktu Manuscripts: Mali's Ancient Documents Captured Online

A virtual gallery to showcase Mali's cultural history has been launched, featuring tens of thousands of Timbuktu's ancient manuscripts. The manuscripts were smuggled to safety from Timbuktu after Islamist militant groups took control of the city in northern Mali in 2012. They contain centuries of African knowledge and scholarship on topics ranging from maths to astrology.

"Central to the heritage of Mali, they represent the long legacy of written knowledge and academic excellence in Africa," said Dr Abdel Kader Haidara, a librarian known for smuggling the manuscripts out of Timbuktu, who was also involved in the project.

The collection, called Mali Magic, also captures Malian culture beyond the manuscripts. It was put together by Google, along with local and international partners.

It features a picture of the dance of the Dogon ethnic group. It also showcases art, such as that of award-winning Abdoulaye Konaté, and an image of builders plastering the Great Mosque of Djenné, a Unesco world heritage site about 500km (310 miles) south of Timbuktu.

The ancient documents were originally written in medieval Arabic but have now been translated to English, French, Spanish and modern Arabic to make them more accessible, which Google Program Manager and Digital Archaeologist Chance Coughenour told the BBC was a first.

"Making a digital record and copy of the manuscripts is very important and for the first time we're bringing the fruits of our labour after so many years," he said.

For centuries Timbuktu was a cultural hub on the African continent, as well as an Islamic centre of learning. The city's mosques played a critical role in the spread of Islam throughout West Africa in the 15th and 16th Centuries, according to UNESCO.

Over the last seven years Mali's traditional leaders, historians and digital archaeologists have been hard at work to make sure that the ancient manuscripts, some dating back to the 11th Century, containing the country's rich history are preserved by digitising them. The project presents an opportunity for people to learn from those who came before them, Dr Haidara said.

The digitising of these manuscripts began with a call to Google by Dr Haidara in 2014. He invited the company to visit Mali to see the renowned manuscripts of Timbuktu and to learn the story of why they were at risk. On arrival they found texts which included early Qurans and some with diverse topics including astronomy, maths and geography. The team then had the task of not only going through hundreds of pages to make a digital record of these but to make them visually appealing online.

Up to 40,000 pages will now be available online.

It is a project the people of Mali have kept their eyes on for many years since Islamist militants set fire to libraries in Timbuktu as they tried to destroy the priceless papers. Over a period of six months, manuscripts were smuggled out of Timbuktu to Mali's capital Bamako, as time was running out to rescue and preserve the documents from near destruction.

In 2016 an alleged member of an Islamist group, Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi, was found guilty of intentionally ordering attacks on religious and historic building in Timbuktu by the International Criminal Court (ICC). He was sentenced to nine years in jail and apologised. It was the first time that the court in The Hague had tried a case of cultural destruction.

This project to preserve Mali's manuscripts is not however the first attempt. The University of Cape Town launched the Tombouctou Manuscripts Project in 2003, with an emphasis on "manuscript traditions throughout the African continent", according to the website. Similarly, the US Library of Congress has made some of the manuscripts available online.

Nomsa Maseko, BBC News

Appreciation

Remembering Professor Ian Taylor

Last year in February, Professor Ian Taylor of the University of St Andrews passed away after a short struggle with cancer. Ian was a world-renowned scholar in the fields of African studies, International Relations and Global Political Economy. Besides his remarkable academic achievements, Ian was an extremely passionate educator as well as a kind, humorous and supportive colleague and friend to many of us. This is a modest attempt to pay tribute to an inspiring intellectual and true friend of Africa.

Together with his twin brother Eric, Ian grew up on the Isle of Man, before the family relocated to West London where he spent his teens and would become a die-hard Brentford FC supporter – in his words a '100% local club'. Whilst there were few points of contact to Africa on the small Crown dependency in the Irish Sea, Ian, early on, developed an interest in Africa, as he heard stories from his grandmother whose parents had lived in South Africa, and where a large network of relatives still live.

After reading History and Politics at what was then the Leicester Polytechnic, Ian used a gap year in 1991-92 for his first travel to southern Africa – obviously at quite a formative time for the region. This trip clearly left a firm impression on him, as he would return to the region throughout his life. However, first he joined Jo, the love of his life whom he met in South Africa, when she took up Ph.D studies at the University of Hong Kong in 1994. Ian enrolled himself for a Master's there. His 368-pages M.Phil thesis on China's foreign policy vis-à-vis Africa laid the cornerstone for one of his research specialisations and arguably also for a new sub-discipline, China-Africa studies. One of his first academic articles, an output from his M.Phil research, was published in the *Journal of Modern African Studies* and has since been cited 357 times (Taylor 1998). Exactly 18 years later, Ian became co-editor-in-chief of this prestigious journal, together with Ebenezer Obadare.

In 1996, Ian moved to South Africa (Jo followed several months later) to pursue Ph.D studies at Stellenbosch under the supervision of Philip Nel. With his Ph.D research, Ian delved deeply into South African foreign policy and into the gradual neoliberalisation of the post-apartheid African National Congress and, by extension, the South African state (Taylor 2001). At the time, Stellenbosch's political science department gathered a group of scholars who had become rather disillusioned about remaining inequities in the post-Cold War global order, and who were inspired by the work of critical political economists like Susan Strange, Robert Cox, Stephen Gill and William Robinson as well as by critical Africanists such as Timothy Shaw, Patrick McGowan and Craig Murphy (Nel forthcoming). As his Ph.D supervisor reflects, it was within this intellectual habitat that Ian developed a "distinctive Coxian and Gramscian theoretical approach" which "allowed him to link the dynamics of ideational factors with the material interests of actors – an ideology critique in the original sense of the phrase" (Nel forthcoming). Ian became an eminent voice of the Stellenbosch School of critical global political economy (Vale 2002). As Professor Extraordinary, he would regularly return to his alma mater and continue to inspire generations of students there and at other (African) institutions.

Tit-for-tat – after finishing his Ph.D, it was again Ian's turn to 'follow' his wife. The two moved on to the University of Botswana where Jo had been offered a teaching position and where their first child, Blythe, was born in 2004. Ian took

up a lectureship in Gaborone and was soon promoted to senior lecturer. Amongst his students was Kennedy Kamoli, who would, in 2014, stage a coup d'état in Lesotho – an occurrence that Ian, with his typical humour, often referred to as his only 'claim to fame'. It was during his time in Gaborone that Ian, together with his close friend Fredrik Söderbaum, launched a 'second wave' of critical research on African regionalisms in the tradition of the New Regionalism Approach (see Taylor 2003a; Taylor and Söderbaum 2003). Concurrently, Ian published a rigorous critique of the neoliberal underpinnings of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (see Taylor 2002, 2005) as well as several influential contributions on Africa's international relations and conflict dynamics (see, for instance, Taylor and Williams 2002; Taylor 2003b).

In 2004, Ian was appointed to a faculty position in the School of International Relations at St Andrews where he worked as a Professor of International Relations and African Political Economy until his untimely death. Amongst both students and faculty in St Andrews, Ian's office was legendary for the colourful book walls he had erected around his desk. No doubt, his office hosted the biggest private Africana library in Scotland. But there were also thousands of books on China, political economy, history, political though, etc. Ian was a polymath. He was post-disciplinary (before it became fashionable) and eclectic (though not arbitrary) in the selection of theories and sources that he used to explain and critique developments on the continent and beyond.

Once established, Ian published an immense body of works which includes, amongst others, monographs on China-Africa relations (Taylor 2006, 2009, 2011), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Taylor and Smith 2007) and on the International Relations of Africa (Taylor 2010), as well as Oxford's Very Short Introduction to African Politics (Taylor 2018). He offered a much-needed discursive corrective to the overenthusiastic narrative about the transformative impact of so-called emerging powers in global governance (Taylor 2017) and famously argued that the BRICS countries were diversifying Africa's dependency instead of diminishing it (Taylor 2014a). Numerous critical interventions in article form, such as the ones on state capitalism and Africa's oil sector (Taylor 2014b), the (neo-) coloniality of the Communauté Financière Africaine (Taylor 2019) and China's Belt and Road Initiative in Africa (Carmody, Taylor and Zajontz 2022), have attracted much attention in scholarly circles and beyond. Ian had become 'one of the most authoritative academics' on Sub-Saharan Africa's International Relations, as he was once called in the Cambridge Review of International Affairs (Anesi 2012: 171).

Throughout his career, Ian remained steadfast and loyal to his political ideals of a more equitable and just world. He was a radical – a very gentle radical. He never compromised on his convictions of what is right and what is wrong. What he most certainly considered wrong was the enduring systematic exploitation of Africa by external actors and economic interests. At the same time, he would

never let African political and economic elites escape from their responsibility for the fate of their people. Not only his neo-Gramscian training and his appreciation of the complexity of state-society relations but also his familiarity with the political thought of thinkers like Claude Ake, Samir Amin, W.E.B. Du Bois, Amílcar Cabral, Frantz Fanon, Kwame Nkrumah, David Rodney and others prevented him from reductionist or Eurocentric assumptions about Africa's role in the international system and global political economy.

Ian was an extremely hard-working academic who was marked by his humility and proud of his working-class background. In contrast to some other leading scholars, he really listened when others spoke. He incorporated silenced voices, not least from Africa, into his work and actively engaged in diversifying thought at the institutions he taught at by embracing previously unheard or ignored ideas. Throughout his life, he remained a keen "student of Africa". He visited 44 African countries. Whenever he found himself guest lecturing at Addis Ababa University, he would check Ethiopian Airlines' vast route network and book a flight to one of the few African destinations he had not been to. Wanderlust and curiosity were innate to Ian. His untimely death hindered him from completing his personal "Africa journey". Yet, he fully accepted his fate and was immensely grateful for the help he received from medical staff and for the love from family and friends. It was obvious that his firm belief in God gave him faith no matter what would come. May his soul rest in peace.

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Note to Contributors

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