



NEWSLETTER

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Conference Announcement: ASAUK 2008

'The Presence of the Past? Africa in the Twenty-First Century', African Studies Association of the UK Biennial Conference, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, 11-13 September 2008. The ASAUK Conference always seeks to facilitate discussions between Africanist scholars who ordinarily would have few opportunities to talk, despite working on similar themes, either because they are working on different geographical areas or within different academic disciplines.

The conference brings together Africanists from all over the world and from various disciplines to discuss the past and current developments in Africa and African Studies. The conference organisers would particularly welcome postgraduate presentations on their current or recently completed research. Papers are invited on all themes relating to the continent. Though not seeking to limit contributions on new areas of research, themes of particular interest to the organizers include Popular Culture and Cultural Production; African Urban Culture, Social Movements and Popular Culture; Contesting Local Knowledge; Mining and African Development; Contesting the State: Africa, and the International Financial Institutions; The African Diaspora; Childhood and Youth; Human Rights and Citizenship; Colonialism, Rural Transformation and African Resistance; Gender and African Development; The African Union and African Security; Conflict and Conflict Resolution; Africa and the Challenge of the Developmental State; The Land Question; Africa and Globalisation; Education and Development; Politics and Democratic Renewal; and Africa 200 Years after the Abolition of Atlantic Slavery.

The Conference will also host the 2008 Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture, presentation of the Audrey Richards Prize for best doctoral thesis on Africa 2006/07, and the ASAUK Distinguished Africanist Awards for 2007 and 2008.

Please send proposals for panels of three papers, or abstracts for individual papers, of up to 250 words by 31 December 2007 to Emma Kelly: eakelly1@uclan.ac.uk or via the ASAUK website: www.asauk.net

Professor Tunde Zack Williams, President, ASAUK

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'Exploring Religious Spaces in the African State: Development and Politics from Below', Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, 9-10 April 2008. Organised by CAS and WISER (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, Johannesburg), this conference aims to understand the role of religion within development and politics and develop our understanding of the role and position of religious organisations and actors within more traditional conceptualisations of public action and its relationship to the state in Africa. The focus will be on Christian, Muslim and traditional religious organisations and institutions in, for, and against the political and broader development processes in post-colonial Sub-Saharan Africa.

Religious institutions have been at the forefront of human welfare for centuries. In Africa it is often difficult to untangle religious organisations from the agency of development. Religion, rather than declining as had been predicted with the advent of secular development, is taking an increasingly central and vibrant role in African political and developmental life. The African case demonstrates how secularisation theories had failed in assuming that in a modernising context the non-secular would gradually recede from public life. The reality is the non-secular in Africa is often pervading the spaces that the secular has singularly failed to address. Contemporary critiques of development theory assert that 'development' poses solutions to development problems in a peculiarly apolitical, antiseptic, neutral way. It fails to provide solutions that encompass human needs; food security and shelter is materially important but so is a sense of community and belonging.

In Africa the 'faith' dimension is important and plays a significant role in promoting non-governmental public action. Religious organisations and faith communities have wide networks, social resources and often unique access to people who are poor, marginalised and excluded. Religious organisations represent a particularly significant component of civil society; and faith-based development has strong ethical foundations that become particularly important in the absence of alternative worldviews, social norms and political ideologies.

The conference will be organised around the following three themes. First, 'filling the vacuum of the African state: tension or collaboration?' aims to explore the relationship between religious organisations and the African state. How do religious organisations define their role in the post-colonial state? How do religious organisations critique or plug the gaps in the so-called 'weak' African state? How do religious organisations cope with prejudices and forms of control from secular organisations? Second, 'faiths and development: religion and modernity' aims to explore the relationship between religious organisations and

development. How do religious actors and ideas contribute to development in contemporary Africa? Can we speak of a unique 'religious' answer to development? How do religious organisations forge their own identity as development is becoming increasingly technical, technology-led and driven by agendas such as the Millennium Development Goals? Third, 'faiths and responses to health crises: the case of HIV and AIDS' aims to examine the major contributions religious organisations are making in the battle against HIV and AIDS. How do religious organisations negotiate the problematic relationships between public health, religious doctrine and political discourse? What role do different kinds of religious organisation play in providing healthcare? What is the relationship between religious organisations, the state and development agencies with respect to healthcare? 300 word abstracts by 10 December 2007 to: African.studies@ed.ac.uk

'Empire, Slave Trade and Slavery: Rebuilding Civil Society in Sierra Leone Past and Present: an International Interdisciplinary Conference', Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation (WISE), University of Hull, 26-28 September 2008. Sponsored by Liverpool Hope University, Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples (York University, Canada), and WISE, this conference will mark the bicentenary of the establishment of Sierra Leone as a British Crown colony in 1808. The bicentennial presents the opportunity to re-examine the history of Sierra Leone and the reconstruction of the modern-day nation.

British influence in Sierra Leone is long-standing and took a variety of forms in the transition from slavery to civil society from the eighteenth century to the present day. This part of West Africa was not only a slave supply region on the upper Guinea Coast but also the location for a number of abolitionist experiments in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Leading British abolitionists, including Granville Sharp and William Wilberforce, regarded Sierra Leone as a Province of Freedom that would transform Africa. It was hoped that the utopian vision of a settlement governed by former slaves would demonstrate African capacity for cultural, moral and economic improvement. To that end, the aims of the Sierra Leone Company, incorporated in 1791, were the destruction of the slave trade and the regeneration of Africa. The development of Freetown in a slave trading region was a bold and ambitious experiment in the implementation of morality and abolitionist economics. Although the Company aimed to develop legitimate forms of trade as alternatives to the transatlantic slave trade, it failed to achieve its aims, and in 1808 the settlement was formally transferred to the British Crown. This conference offers scope to examine the legacies of slavery, abolition, and colonial rule in Sierra Leone. The conference will explore British interaction with indigenous groups, the influence of European administrators on economic and cultural policy, and the activities of immigrants in establishing a unique cultural, religious and social identity. Moreover, the legacy of this past

will be explored in the context of the long history of colonial rule in Sierra Leone and the subsequent difficulties of establishing a civil society in the post-colonial era. In recognition of the historic reasons that Hull and Freetown have been twin cities, the conference will provide a forum to discuss past and present issues of social justice and civil development. One page abstracts to Jane Ellison by 1 December 2007: j.ellison@hull.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL

'Paradoxes of the Postcolonial Public Sphere: South African Democracy at the Crossroads', University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, 28-31 January 2008. Using South Africa as a starting point, this conference seeks to explore the contradictory possibilities of the public sphere in post-repressive, postcolonial contexts. It calls for papers on South Africa but also seeks comparative investigations of the relationship of public deliberation and democracy. While the focus is on contemporary public spheres, the conference is interested in processes of transition and the significance of the legacies of former repressive conditions.

Papers are invited which address one or more of the following themes: domains of the South African public sphere such as parliament and institutions outside the state; public broadcasting; state-sponsored public debate; postcolonial public science; institutions of public culture, and the universities; counter public spheres and alternative spaces of public deliberation, for example, those constituted by social movements, as well as through cultural practices – film, music, performance, art and literature – and in the electronic media; and the conditions under which such spaces emerge and flourish or flounder and collapse; mediated public spheres as themselves sites, or means, of political struggle; the role of new communication technologies, talk shows, on-line forums and newsletters, columnists, opinion pages, commentary and editorials; the effects of the need for commercial viability; religious and cultural public spheres giving particular attention to the complex ways in which the terrains of rationality, belief and tradition are negotiated; comparative perspectives particularly on other post-repressive regimes (especially papers which consider the relationship between public deliberation, the operation of democracy, human rights and citizenship, as well as the role of public intellectuals in post-repressive regimes).

The Public Programme, broadly focused around these same themes, comprises a series of panel discussions involving local and international public commentators, media and cultural practitioners, and social movement activists, as well as exhibitions and performances. It will run alongside the Research Conference. Enquiries and papers [the abstract deadline has just passed] by 1 December 2007 to Carolyn Hamilton: Carolyn.Hamilton@wits.ac.za

'The Fifth Annual Sport in Africa Symposium: Communication, Media and Sport in Africa', Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, USA, 22-23 February 2008. Since its inception in 2004, the Sports and Africa Symposium has sought to foster meaningful dialogue on the interface of sports and Africa among academics, practitioners, media, NGOs and the public. The first four conferences covered a range of topics across time and disciplines. In continuing the multi-disciplinary exploration and study of African sport, this conference focuses on themes such as communication for sports and development; international media coverage of African sports; digital media and sport; internet and sport; satellite and cable media and sport; women sport in media; youth and sport media; economics and sport media; the role of media sponsorship in sports; and media and the 2010 World Cup. 350-word abstracts by 1 December 2007 via online submission at: <http://www.ohiou.edu/sportsafrica/communicationmedia/abstract.htm>

'The Nigerian Civil War: Forty Years After', Abuja, Nigeria, 10-14 March 2008. Seven years after independence, Nigeria was plunged into a tumultuous political crisis that degenerated into a major civil war, which lasted for thirty months. The war ended in 1970 after great casualties. The Nigerian government, under General Yakubu Gowon military administration, declared that there was "no victor and no vanquished". The government went further to implement a post-war reconstruction programme christened the three Rs: Reconstruction, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation. How constructive this programme was still remains the subject of intense debate amongst scholars. Indeed, forty years after the war, the fundamental issues that caused the war continue to be topical in the politics of the country.

The conference brings together scholars, war veterans, public officers, students and all other stakeholders in the Nigerian project. The idea is to provide a platform for the analysis of the Nigerian Civil War, its relevance and significance in the political history of the contemporary Nigerian nation. Papers on the following Nigerian Civil War sub-themes are sought: issues and causes; the course of the war; Igbo and non-Igbo perspectives; ethnic minorities; the war economy and its consequences; demobilization and disarmament; the refugee problem; the post-civil war generation and their perspectives on the war; literature on the war; Nigerian women; resurrection of the Nigerian Civil War/irredentist ideas and movements; and the Nigerian Civil War and the wider world. One page abstracts by 30 November 2007 to Professor Armstrong M. Adejo: armstrong_adejo@yahoo.com

'Children and Migration: Identities, Mobilities and Belonging(s)', University College Cork, Ireland, 9-11 April 2008. While a wealth of research exists in the broad area of migration and childhood from a variety of perspectives and disciplinary backgrounds, there are few opportunities to bring this together in an integrated forum. Hosted by the Marie Curie Migrant Children Research Team,

this conference aims to provide such a forum by focusing on the intersection of these research and policy areas, focusing on children's own experiences and perspectives of migration, diaspora and transnationalism.

Possible topics for papers include comparative approaches to children's experiences of different migration regimes, children's experiences of forced migration and asylum-seeking processes, children in labour migrant families, experiences of documented/undocumented status in different national contexts, children and internal migration, separated children; children's transnational experiences, and transnational families and lifestyles; children's perspectives on ethnic, migrant and other identities, and their experiences of racialisation, integration and peer networks (across different social spaces such as home, school, neighbourhood, and public spaces); cross-cultural research methods and ethics in research on children and migration; analyses of policy responses to the needs of migrant children and youth, including education policies and practices incorporating intercultural dimensions; and parenting in immigrant and ethnic minority families, children's roles in migrant families, children's participation in migration decision-making, children's rights. One page abstracts by 31 October 2007 to Dr Caitríona Ní Laoire: c.nilaoire@ucc.ie

'International Conference on African Culture and Development', Accra, Ghana, 20-24 April 2008. The organizers seek to draw global attention to African Arts, traditional and social institutions and how their potential can be harnessed for the development of the African continent and the world as a whole. Themes include culture and governance: modern governance structures and the future of traditional governing institution; culture and conflict resolution in Africa; opportunities for improving livelihoods in Africa through culture; and culture for development: unveiling critical factors in Africa's development. 250-word abstracts and short CV by 1 November 2007 to: icacd@ccoghana.org

'African Youth in America and Africa: Bridging the Gaps', The Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution, California State University, Sacramento, USA, 1-3 May 2008. The conference examines the state of African youth in the USA and Africa, with a focus on discussing inter/intra-cultural/group challenges, examine the prospects for bridging the gaps among/between generations of the African youth, and identify the best practices and models for youth empowerment, leadership development, crime prevention, networking, as well as stability of the family. Papers that are based on case studies and best practices are highly invited, such as youth development and leadership, peer relations, US-Africa youth study abroad exchanges; crime prevention and peacebuilding/peacemaking, peace education; African youth parenting and family. 100-word abstracts by 29 November 2007 to Professor Ernest E. Uwazie: uwazieeee@csus.edu

'Sudan's Wars and Peace Agreements', Sudan Studies Association 27th Annual Conference', Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, USA, 16-18 May 2008. The next few years will be decisive for Sudan's future as it resolves its protracted conflicts. Currently two peace agreements are being implemented: the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA). Will the signing of these peace agreements lead to the end of the over half-a-century period of protracted conflicts in Sudan? Do the agreements address the root causes of the Sudanese problem? What are the root causes of the problem – cultural, historical, economic, political, environmental and ethnic? How are these agreements being implemented? What is the state of the implementation of the human rights provisions enshrined in the various agreements? Does the implementation of the various peace agreements lead to the creation of the New Sudan, now common in Sudanese political vocabulary?

What exactly are the fundamental features of the New Sudan? What are the consequences of non-compliance with the terms of the peace agreements? Should the referendum at the end of the CPA end in separation? What are the implications for the new separate countries, border communities, etc.? What areas of cooperation should the separate countries pursue as neighbours? How will reconciliation among neighbours, who have been pitted against one another, be promoted in Darfur after the war and the resettlement of the victims of war in their original villages? What are the roles of the intra-Darfurian Dialogue, intra-Southern Dialogue, and other talks aimed at promoting reconciliation at various levels of society? How will the marginalized majority in rural Eastern Sudan avoid continued under-representation given the preponderant political domination of the rich in Gadarif, Kassala, Khashim al Girba, and Port Sudan; and the alliance of the rich in the East with the Khartoum establishment? Does the implementation of the various peace agreements simultaneously lead to the transformation of the central power in Khartoum? What is the role of major and regional powers in the Sudanese conflicts and their resolution? 200-word abstracts by 31 January 2008 to Stephanie Beswick: sfbeswick@bsu.edu

'Africa's Development: Possibilities and Constraints', 11th Conference of Africanists, Moscow, Russia, 22-24 May 2008. Organised by the Academic Council on Problems of African Countries and the Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, the conference themes include Africa and the world: intercultural communication, interpersonal relations and governmental politics; Africa in international relations and Russian-African cooperation; the role of traditional institutions in African development; evolution of African languages in the context of national and cultural development; literatures, literacy, and education in Africa; the socio-cultural frontier as a factor of African, Russian and global transformations; political modernisation and social problems of development; post-conflict reconstruction in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and African States: overcoming obstacles for the socio-economic and

political development. The conference working languages are Russian and English. 300-word abstracts by 1 November 2007 to Elena Gurevich: afrconf_08@mail.ru

'Bearing and Rearing Children: The Ethics of Procreation and Parenthood', University of Cape Town, South Africa, 26-28 May 2008. Biotechnological developments (assisted reproduction, cloning, and pre-implantation genetic diagnosis) and broader social changes in family structures (higher rates of divorce and re-marriage, the possibility of same sex co-parenthood) have radically changed the options open to prospective parents. What kinds of children are created and within what familial arrangements they are reared are now, in principle, open to much greater choice than previously.

Sponsored by the Department of Philosophy, UCT, the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, Georgia State University, and the British Society for Applied Philosophy, this conference addresses a range of ethical issues that arise from concerns about the life any future child might reasonably be expected to enjoy, about what makes someone a parent, and about what rights and duties a parent has. Topics include the right to procreate, the duty to (or not to) procreate, the role of the state in facilitating procreation, duties of prospective procreators to future children and relevant third parties, how disability bears on procreative decisions, the foundation and scope of parental rights and duties, the relevance of the distinction between 'causal' and 'custodial' parenthood, and how justice bears on procreative decision-making. 500-750 word abstracts including select bibliography by 17 December 2007 to Claire Murata Kooy: kkooy@gsu.edu

'2nd African Council for Distance Education (ACDE) Conference and General Assembly', Lagos, Nigeria, 8-11 July 2008. Papers are welcome on all aspects of Open and Distance learning in various formats such as theoretical papers, empirical or case studies, panel or poster presentations, as well as audio-visual, CD-ROM or internet demonstrations. 300-word abstracts by 10 December 2007 to acde2008@nou.edu.ng *or* using the website: www.nou.edu.ng/noun/acde2008

'Africa and the Food Question in the 21st Century', National Association of Women Academics (NAWACS) Biennial Conference, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria, 1-5 September 2008. Famine, food insecurity, malnutrition and nutrition related diseases dominate the food discourse in Africa. The problem of food is embedded in complex causes. Despite years of community, government and international concern about the African food situation the story seems to remain the same. Yet some Africans can boast of food sovereignty and self-reliance in the midst of complex food problems. Conference themes include agriculture and food production; post-harvest management of food; food politics in African nations; processing, distribution and industries; food entitlements; the food trade; science and technology and food; biodiversity and food; food history

and culture; genetically modified crops and foods; food and cooking energy; water as food and water for food; food, nutrition, health and safety; food in films, advertisement and fiction; food without boundaries; food, recreation and festivities; food and identity; food language and the language of food; the philosophy of food; and famine and the politics of food aid. 300-word abstracts by 30 November to Dr Eno Blankson Ikpe: enobieno@yahoo.com *and* nawacs.conference@yahoo.com

'Labour Crossings: World, Work and History' International Conference, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, 5-8 September 2008. Organised by the History Workshop, University of Witwatersrand, and the Centre for Sociological Research, University of Johannesburg, in association with the International Association of Labour History Institutions and the International Conference of Labour and Social History, this conference has two main aims: first, to contribute to the development of a transnational labour history, and, second, to explore the connections between, and social imaginations of, different types of workers, working class movements and types of work. Labour history has usually been written as a series of national histories, as the history of industrial workers, and as part of the history of the modern period. The transnational turn in labour history has led to a closer scrutiny of relations between labour in different regions of the globe, but also a broadening of our conceptions of labour history: a global perspective on labour history raises questions about such basic conceptions as 'labour', 'work' and 'labour movements'. This conference aims to engage with the historiography of labour in 'emerging countries', and help develop a transnational labour historiography.

In taking 'labour crossings' as the theme, conference organisers are interested in a wide range of 'crossings': between time periods, between regions and continents, between types of work, between waged work and domestic work, between free and non-free work, between different imaginations and imagined worlds, between religion and labour, between unions, politics and other types of movements, between race and labour, between gender and class, between economies and environments, between work and leisure, between consumption and production, between the 'private' and the 'public', between industrial and pre-industrial capitalism, between the modern and the pre-modern worlds, and between intellectual disciplines and traditions.

Conference themes include cross-nationalism and cross-disciplinarity: doing labour history; the state of labour history in the 'emerging countries'; archives, sources, museums and working class monuments; labour and the invention of 'the South'; labour diasporas and imaginations; slaves, servants and struggles; comparing Africa and Latin America; mining history across the ages; public sector workers and teachers: class, leadership and identity; service sector workers, globally and comparatively; gendered worker identity and social

movements; labour and the environment; caste, race and class; labour and religions: crossings, connections and reincarnations; labour, consumption and leisure; disease and crossings; workers, mobility and immobility; wars and working class movements; transport and labour across space and time; worker movement and movements: region and empire; the working class and the media: reading publics, movements and imaginations; organising in work without wages; crossing class: the poor, the unemployed and wage labour; organising in conditions of repression and illegality; political cultures of internationalism; explaining global strike waves; working people and revolutions; Communism, connections, comparisons; Syndicalism, subversion, solidarities; state formation, regulation and the nationalisation of labour and transnational labour movements. In order to propose a paper or a 3-4 paper panel, pre-register for the conference through the website, and submit proposals online by 15 January 2008: <http://web.wits.ac.za/Academic/Humanities/SocialSciences/HistoryWorkshop/>

...Conferences Past

'Rethinking Rights in Africa: The Struggle for Meaning and the Meaning of Struggle', Canadian Association of African Studies annual conference, New College, University of Toronto, Canada, 17-20 May 2007. Reflecting Canada's bilingual character, the Canadian Association of African Studies (CAAS) annual conference is notable for bringing together Anglophone and Francophone scholars of Africa, overcoming the academic divide sometimes evident elsewhere. This year's gathering in Toronto was no exception and saw a hundred or so speakers present work in some thirty panels. Various topical issues in African studies were explored, including the conflict in Darfur; the growing engagement of China with Africa and its consequences; the situation in Zimbabwe; the role of diasporas in politics and development in Africa; and the politics of sexuality and HIV and AIDS.

The theme of 'rights' – political, economic, social, human – ran through a good number of panels. A recurring issue in papers presented was the tension between universalistic constructions of rights and local interpretations. This was also pursued in a keynote address by Paul Zeleza (University of Illinois at Chicago), whose wide-ranging exposition on 'The struggle for human rights in Africa' explored different kinds of rights and placed current discourse in the context of political change in Africa from the Cold War to the present 'democratisation' era. Three other keynote addresses covered different aspects of rights. Bogumil Jewsiewicki (Université Laval) considered rights through art and aesthetics in his talk 'Penser en Afrique urbaine le droit d'appartenir au monde, droit en être citoyen: productions artistiques congolaises'. Janice Boddy (University of Toronto) spoke on 'Local knowledge and belief in colonial Sudan: gender and historical perspectives on contemporary human rights discourse', focusing on

female circumcision, the subject of her forthcoming book. And the conference closed with an address by Rhoda Howard-Hassmann (Wilfrid Laurier University) on another contentious, high-profile issue: 'Reparations to Africa: a human rights argument'.

A further area of interest was disability rights, the subject of two panels and appearing elsewhere too. This was partly a reflection of established research interests at the University of Toronto, but papers also highlighted the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the UN General Assembly in December 2006. It was suggested that this Convention may lead to disability becoming a more important criterion in development interventions, with concomitant academic critique. The intersection of disability and development could thus be a growth issue in African studies.

The 2008 CAAS conference will be held in Calgary in the spring with the theme 'Resources, Conflict and Exploitation'.

Dr Martin Evans, University of Leicester: mne5@leicester.ac.uk

'Migrants and the Making of Indian Ocean Cultures' conference, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 11 July 2007. This event followed from the 'Indian Ocean: Cultures in Contact' conference held in July 2006 at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London. Given the geographical spread of the region and the multidisciplinary nature, this event attracted scholars from the UK and overseas: Addis Ababa University, Anglo-Portuguese Society, University of Aarhus (Denmark), British Library, British Museum, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart (Milan), Katholik University of Leuven (Belgium), National Maritime Museum, Royal Asiatic Society, Royal Geographical Society (RGS), Royal Society of Arts, Sayyida Salme Foundation (Zanzibar and London), University of London (Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICS), King's College London, SOAS), and the universities of Cambridge, De Montfort, Essex, Oxford, Warwick and the Open University.

Cross-cultural outcomes from the dispersal and movement of peoples within the Indian Ocean were the main theme of this conference. The nature of cultural exchange and free movement of peoples, driven by commercial and ideological goals, was highlighted. The entry of Europeans expanding their trading zones, led to by-products – territorial possessions and cultural flows – in the Indian Ocean.

Given the focus on transAtlantic slavery in 2007, this Conference brought to the fore the eastwards migration of Africans and also the multidirectional movement of other ethnic groups in the Indian Ocean. In 'Migrants and the Maldives', Shihan de Silva of ICS demonstrated that descendants of African migrants live in the East and have made lasting cultural impressions in the area. Clifford Pereira of the RGS discussed 'From Rigging to Boiler Room: the history of the East

African seamen employed by the British Royal and Merchant Navies'. In 'From the Ocean to the Lakes: Cultural Transformations of Yemenis in Kenya and Uganda', Susan Beckerleg (University of Warwick) showed how migrants forged their own identity. Beatrice Nicolini (Milan) questioned the historiography in 'The Myth of the Sultans in the Western Indian Ocean during the 19th century: a new hypothesis'. Ivan van der Biesen (Leuven) illustrated acculturation through 'Social and Intercultural Relations in 19th century Zanzibar'. Musical integration and crossover was examined by Janet Topp-Fargion (British Library Sound Archive) through 'Indian music and taarab in Zanzibar'.

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Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Ronen Bergman (2007) 'Israel and Africa: Military and Intelligence Liaisons', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge.

Judeline Clark (2006) 'Discourses of Transition in South Africa: A Critical Feminist Analysis of Black Women's Life Narratives within the Cultural-political Project of Nation', Ph.D thesis, Manchester Metropolitan University.

Anne-Marie Deisser (2007) 'Investigating Partnership between Local and Institutional Communities for the Preventive Conservation of Cultural Heritage in East Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Southampton.

Felix Nikoi Hammond (2006) 'The Economic Impacts of Sub-Saharan Africa Urban Real Estate Policies', Ph.D thesis, University of Wolverhampton.

Simonne Janine Horwitz (2006) 'A Phoenix Rising: A History of Baragwanath Hospital, Soweto, South Africa, 1942-1990', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor William Beinart and Professor Megan Vaughan.

Frances Hunt (2007) 'Schooling Citizens: A Study of Policy in Practice in South Africa', D.Phil thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisor: Dr Mairead Dunne.

Kelechukwu Uchechukwu Ihemere (2006) 'A Tri-generational Study of Language Choice and Language Shift in Port Harcourt City, Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Supervisor: Dr Karen Corrigan.

Elin G. Jensen (2007) 'Organisational Learning in UN Peacebuilding Operations: Efforts at Demilitarisation in Angola during the 1990s', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Neil MacFarlane.

Magdalena Frennhoff Larsen (2006) 'Negotiating the Trade, Development and Co-operation Agreement with South Africa: A Case Study of the EU Agenda-setting Process', Ph.D thesis, University of Westminster. Supervisor: Professor Richard Whitman.

David Mandiyanike (2007) 'In Search of Capacity: The Case of Zimbabwean Rural Local Authorities', Ph.D thesis, University of London. Supervisor: Professor David Simon.

Tonderai Davidson Maswera (2006) 'E-commerce in the Travel and Tourism Industry in Sub-Saharan Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Loughborough. Supervisor: Ray Dawson.

Sasha Polakow-Suransky (2007) 'The Unspoken Alliance: Israel and Apartheid South Africa, 1960-1994', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor William Beinart.

Natalie Spark-du Preez (2006) 'Health-seeking Behaviour for Childhood Illnesses in Urban South Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Loughborough.

Ambrose Oroboh Uchenunu (2006) 'Cinema in Nigeria: Culture, Change and the Problems of National Identity, 1960 to the Present, Ph.D thesis, University of Nottingham.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

David Anderson, Susan Beckerleg, Degol Hailu and Axel Klein (2007) *The Khat Controversy: Stimulating the Debate on Drugs*. Oxford: Berg. 272pp. Paperback: 978-1-84520-251-4, £19.99; hardback, 978-1-84520-250-7, £55.00.

L.J. Butler (2007) *Copper Empire: Mining and the Colonial State in Northern Rhodesia, c.1930-64*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. 440pp, 978-0-230-55526-6, £60.00.

Bill Derman, Rie Odgaard and Espen Sjaastad (2007) *Conflicts Over Land and Water in Africa*. Oxford: James Currey Ltd. Paperback: 978-0-85255-888p1, £17.95.

Ruth Finnegan (2007) *The Oral and Beyond: Doing Things with Words in Africa*. Oxford: James Currey Ltd. 272pp, paperback: 978-1-84701-001-8, £16.95; hardback: 978-1-84701-000-1, £50.00.

Patrick Harries (2007) *Butterflies and Barbarians: Swiss Missionaries and Systems of Knowledge in South-East Africa*. Oxford: James Currey. 312pp, 978-0-85255-984-0 (cloth) £55.00; 978-0-85255-983-3 (paper) £19.95.

Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution, 1983-1987 (2007) London: Pathfinder, 2nd edition. In English and French: 978-0-87348-986-7 (English); 978-0-87348-987-4 (French), £16. Available from: admin@pathfinderbooks.co.uk

‘China in Africa: A Moment of “Second Imperialism” or Progressive Partnership’. One major twentieth century development that continues to shape the political economy of the world in the twenty-first century is the emergence of China as a great political and economic power. China has succeeded in fostering an encompassing economic and political influence in Africa. Some current Chinese activities in Africa seem to be reflective of aspects of the erstwhile European imperialism in Africa. China needs Africa’s vast raw materials, for instance, petroleum, to sustain its growing population and industries; untapped African markets serve as a magnet for Chinese manufactured goods; and African countries serve as rich terrains for the re/investment of Chinese capital, for example, in infrastructural projects. Complementary to the significant Chinese economic and political interests are vigorous efforts being made to introduce Chinese language and culture in a number of African countries. Put together, these developments may be theorized as a moment of “second imperialism” in Africa. For their part, some African countries see the Chinese presence as an opportunity to re/build their stagnant economies, indeed, hoping to use it as a lever to weaken the economic grip of the former European colonial powers and the international financial institutions.

The editors seek for publication theoretical and empirical papers on the nature, impact, and trajectory of Chinese economic, political, and social activities in Africa, written from multidisciplinary perspectives, including history, economics, political science, sociology, media and communication, and cultural studies. Possible topics include but are not limited to the following: comparative theoretical essays that locate Chinese involvement in Africa as a moment of “second imperialism”; changing trends: China and Africa from the late 19th century to the present; China and the forces of globalization in Africa; critical assessment of Chinese foreign and economic policies toward African states; African initiatives and responses to the Chinese presence in Africa; African and/or non-African media and the constructions of the Chinese in Africa; specific Chinese projects on the continent and their effects; Chinese culture and language in Africa; the implications of Chinese quest for raw materials in Africa; China and the Darfur conflict; and responses of Western governments to Chinese expansionism in Africa. 300-word abstracts by 15 November 2007 to Dr Kwabena Akurang-Parry: kaparr@ship.edu *and* Dr Femi J. Kolapo: kolapof@uoguelph.ca

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

Smuts Post-doctoral Fellow in African Studies, 2007-10

The Centre of African Studies at the University of Cambridge announces the appointment of Dr Ruth Prince as Smuts post-doctoral fellow in African Studies. Dr Prince is a medical anthropologist who earned her doctorate from the University of Copenhagen in 2004. Her research is based on extensive fieldwork conducted in the Luo-speaking areas of western Kenya. She's published articles on herbal medicines used by schoolchildren; on popular music; on death and Pentecostal thought; and on generational politics. She has also co-produced a short film on motherhood and daughterhood.

During the three year tenure of her Smuts award she will pursue research on 'Antiretroviral therapy, Pentecostal/charismatic Christianity and youth in western Kenya'. Her presence at the Centre will bring the Centre into close cooperation with the Max-Planck Institute in Halle-Salle, Germany, of which she is a member. The Centre gratefully acknowledges the support of the Smuts Fund for Commonwealth Studies, which underwrites this fellowship.

Obituaries

Peter Marris (6 July 1927 – 25 June 2007), who has died aged 79, was a sociologist who did extensive fieldwork in Africa, UK and USA. Born in London, Peter attended Bryanston School in Blandford, Dorset. His national service was spent as an RAF translator in post-war Japan. After finishing his Cambridge degree, he joined the Colonial Service for two years as a District Officer in Kenya. From 1966-68 he returned to Kenya to publish, with Anthony Somerset, *African Businessmen* (1971), a positive study of entrepreneurs and development. Interviewing over 1,200 business people, the worst problems were found to be overburdened management, conflicting loyalties, untrustworthy and demanding relatives, and social isolation.

Doing fieldwork in Lagos Island just before independence, Peter wrote *Family and Social Change in an African City* (1961), where he examined the destruction of the stable structures of families cleared from the slums of Lagos. Poor planning and rehousing combined to deprive many families of relatively secure work and strong social connections.

From 1955 to 1972, Peter was at the Institute of Community Studies in Bethnal Green and then spent four years at the Centre for Environmental Studies, in London, and then he became professor in the school of architecture and urban planning in the University of California, Los Angeles, remaining there until 1991. During the latter period, he married Dolores Hayden, now of Yale University, and became an American citizen. He published *Loss and Change* (1974), and

lectured extensively on its themes of conservatism and innovation. He taught in the Department of Sociology at Yale until 2004. He is survived by Dolores, his daughter Laura and his younger brother Tyrell.

Kari Blackburn (30 March 1954 – 29 June 2007) died while swimming off the English coast near her home at Felixstowe. She was 53. Kari was a distinguished head of the BBC African Service, later overseeing the BBC World Service programmes for the Middle East and Africa. She was enthusiastic about new ventures with the BBC World Service Trust. A former Swahili Service programme organiser, Kari was a gentle and approachable person. Her kindnesses are remembered by many. She steered the often volatile African Service into calmer waters than it had previously known. She carried out her considerable responsibilities calmly and with a sure attention to detail. She worked on the paperwork during the long daily train journey to and from Essex to London. This left her time to devote to staff and visitors and take part in activities outside Bush House. She continued the tradition of BBC African Service involvement with ASAUK/RAS and was a member of the speakers and publications committee. Kari was of part Norwegian parentage. She married a Ugandan doctor, Tom. They had two children and adopted a third. My wife and I share their grief at Kari's untimely death. She will surely be remembered and mourned by many in Africa.

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Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports on recent conferences, announcements of forthcoming conferences, symposia and workshops (giving topic, date, venue, themes, abstract deadline and contact address), announcements of the awarding of grants, fellowships and prizes, news of appointments and visiting fellowships, recently completed theses, publication announcements of books by members, and brief articles or notices on matters of importance to Africanists in the UK.

Send items for inclusion in the *Newsletter* to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, Plan International, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6JG, UK or simon.heap@plan-international.org

Deadline for the next newsletter is 15 December 2007 (for January 2008). Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK.

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

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