



# NEWSLETTER

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## **ASAUK 2016**

The ASAUK biennial conference 2016 is being held at Robinson College, University of Cambridge from 2pm on Wednesday, 7th September, to 3.30pm on Friday, 9th September 2016. Coinciding with the 50th Anniversary of the Cambridge Centre for African Studies (CAS), ASAUK 2016 is proud to present an exciting and stimulating event.

We have over 730 papers being presented across 202 panels, accompanied by a number of roundtable discussions, book launches, meet-the-author sessions, and documentary screenings. There is no overarching theme for this year's conference; instead, we have a selection of streams, consisting of three or more panels revolving around a common topic, as well as a significant selection of stand-alone symposia.

The 21 streams being run cover diverse themes such as *African Slavery, the Political Economy of Development, Childhood in Africa, Malawi and the Zambezi Region, and Militaries and Politics on the African Continent*. Alongside the streams there will be a wide range of individual panels hosting discussions on subjects from "Decolonizing the Academy", to "The Gender Dynamics of Land Grabbing in Sub-Saharan Africa".

The ASAUK/CAS 2016 conference will also include several notable academic and social events. To mark the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Cambridge Centre for African Studies the Audrey Richards Annual Lecture will be given on the first evening of the conference by Professor Derek Peterson from the University of Michigan. His presentation "The Uganda Museum and the History of the Heritage Industry in Africa" will be one of the highlights of the conference. During the Gala Dinner a number of awards will be given in recognition of outstanding work in the field of African studies: three Distinguished Africanist Awards, the inaugural Fage-Oliver Monograph Prize, the Audrey Richards Prize for best doctoral thesis. In addition there will take place the *African Affairs* award

presentation and reception incorporating the African Author prize and the Stephen Ellis prize.

We are grateful to all the groups that have provided funding for both delegates and the conference itself. The Sackler Fund (Trinity College, Cambridge), the Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre, and the Smuts Memorial Fund, along with the Royal African Society have ensured that bursaries have been made available to African scholars and postgraduate students to attend the ASAUK/CAS Conference. Several major publishers have also sponsored the event and will have stands at the conference.

Registration for the ASAUK Conference is open and all those wishing to attend are advised to register as soon as possible as places and rooms are quickly being filled. Details, including registration and accommodation fees, are available on the new ASAUK website at: [www.asauk.net/asauk-biennial-conference-2016](http://www.asauk.net/asauk-biennial-conference-2016)

If you have any questions about the ASAUK Conference 2016, please contact the conference administrator, Josh Pritchard: [conference2016.cambridge@gmail.com](mailto:conference2016.cambridge@gmail.com)

### **The Fage & Oliver Prize**

The ASAUK is pleased to announce the shortlist for the inaugural award of the ASAUK Fage & Oliver Prize. The prize is awarded biennially to the author of an outstanding original scholarly work published on Africa during the preceding two years.

The prize has been established in honour of two of the founders of African Studies in the UK. 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 went on to found and lead the Centre of West African Studies at the University of Birmingham. With Oliver he founded *The Journal of African History* (1960). Roland Oliver taught at the School of Oriental and African Studies (1948-1986). He and Fage were among the founders of the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom (1963) and Oliver played a major role in the establishment of the British Institute in Eastern Africa.

The winner of the inaugural Fage & Oliver Prize, for a book published in 2014 or 2015, will be announced at the Biennial ASAUK Conference, to be held at the University of Cambridge, 7-9 September 2016.

### **The Shortlisted Books:**

**Maxim Bolt, *Zimbabwe's Migrants and South Africa's Border Farms: the roots of impermanence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.**

Based on extensive, in-depth fieldwork on a white-owned commercial farm in the northern rim of South Africa, this book is an innovative extension and

combination of two central and long-standing themes in southern Africa anthropology: migration and farm labour. It investigates the experiences and perspectives of people living through uncertain times – not only the permanent and temporary farm labourers, many of them migrants from Zimbabwe, but also the white farm owners, and the African intermediaries whose ambiguous authority on the farm is compellingly explored. As all these groups strive to establish security and stability in a highly precarious economic, political and legal situation, the Zimbabwe-South Africa border itself is imaginatively thematised as the site of emergent interests and identities. The study is distinguished by its historical depth, drawing on substantial archival work as well as ethnographic fieldwork, and by its lively, engaging style.

**Deborah James, *Money from Nothing: indebtedness and aspiration in South Africa*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2015.**

This timely, empirically rich, and theoretically innovative study explores the upsurge in consumer indebtedness, and its flipside, accessible credit in South Africa, following the post-1994 government's initiative to abolish "credit apartheid" and "bank the unbanked". It reveals a complex, contradictory and multi-faceted picture of ordinary people's experiences of debt, and their efforts to keep a grip on expenditure while meeting family obligations and investing in a better future through education and training. It shows the significance of debt for a growing African middle class, and the complex forms that private ownership of property amongst African families has increasingly been taking. Based on original research, it is illuminated with captivating individual case studies while speaking authoritatively to a whole domain of comparative and theoretical work on popular economies, the formal and informal sectors, and the meaning of indebtedness.

**Matthias Krings, *African Appropriations: cultural difference, mimesis, and media*. Bloomington IN: Indiana University Press, 2015.**

This book is an intriguing exploration of the many different ways in which African producers and consumers of local popular culture mimic, appropriate and recycle material from the global media, in the process giving it new meanings. Fascinating case studies range from Bori spirit possession in northern Nigeria to images from *Titanic* in Nigeria, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; from the multiple variants of Nollywood as the local video film industry spread across Africa to Osama Bin Laden merchandise; from cybercrime to "White African" musicians. This highly readable book is full of fresh insights and ideas generated in close encounters with popular culture across Africa. In a stimulating reflection on theories of mimesis and cultural appropriation, it shows how the exuberant proliferation of global media destabilises the idea of origin and ownership of cultural forms.

**Terri Ochiagha, *Achebe and Friends at Umuahia: the making of a literary elite*. Oxford: James Currey, 2015.**

In this book, new light is shed on an iconic figure. In the last decades of colonial rule, Government College Umuahia in Eastern Nigeria produced an extraordinary cohort of creative writers – among them Chinua Achebe, doyen of African novelists. This study is an original exploration of the formation of this elite and the reasons for their adoption of fiction and poetry as their mode of expression. It traces the role of individual British teachers in their interactions with the young Nigerian writers-to-be, thus vividly illustrating the more culturally creative aspects of the colonial encounter. Ochiagha draws on interviews, memoirs and hitherto unknown archival sources, including school magazines, photographs and letters revealing the life and ethos of this prestigious school, to trace the emergence of a new literature. Elegantly written, this is a historical sociology of literature of a kind rare in African Studies.

**Carina E. Ray, *Crossing the Color Line: race, sex, and the contested politics of colonialism in Ghana*. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2015.**

This rich and absorbing study explores the changing nature of interracial sexual liaisons in pre-colonial and colonial Ghana. It traces the shift from the open relationships of precolonial traders with “native” wives to the clandestine, frowned-upon liaisons in the era of high colonialism, and then to the increasing official tolerance of interracial marriages in the decade before independence. A particular strength of the study is that the focus on Ghana is complemented with the story of sex and marriage between West African seamen and white women in British ports. Interracial sex and the many different forms of conjugal relationship provide a key to understanding colonial race relations more broadly. The study draws innovatively on legal cases concerning concubinage and interwar families’ efforts to stay together, biographical sketches of late-colonial interracial marriages, and fascinating reportage drawn from the early Gold Coast press.

**Benedetta Rossi, *From Slavery to Aid: politics, labour, and ecology in the Nigerien Sahel, 1800-2000*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.**

This study offers a sweeping social, political and environmental history of the desert-edge region of Ader from the pre-colonial era to the present day. It analyses the complex interactions between ecology and society over the long term, and shows how forms of dependency and exploitation persisted while taking on new institutional forms. Pre-colonial slavery gave way to colonial forced labour, and this in turn was superseded by modern development initiatives demanding the contribution of unpaid work. The study shows how the arid Sahelian environment and the possibility – or impossibility – of mobility shaped social and political relations and set the terms of state intervention. Theoretically sophisticated and built on extensive fieldwork and archival research, the study fuses history and anthropology in an illuminating and

authoritative way, and provokes reconsideration of fundamental assumptions about the intersection of freedom and dependency in the Sahel.

**Alison K. Shutt, *Manners Make a Nation: racial etiquette in Southern Rhodesia, 1910-1963*. Rochester NY: University of Rochester Press, 2015.**

In a historiography that focuses largely on the formal ideologies of race, and on racial legislation, Shutt offers a rare and innovative exploration of the everyday language of race. Racial hierarchy in Southern Rhodesia had to be performed through bodily etiquette – through manners, deportment and dress – as well as being expressed discursively. This original and engaging study explores the multiple overlapping ways that etiquette informed conceptions and practices of social hierarchy, and embodied values associated with class, civilisation and morality. Etiquette reflected tension and anxiety on both sides of the racial divide, and breaches of etiquette could unleash violent reactions. Close-up analysis of small incidents shows the subtle and pervasive ways in which manners mattered, but also opens up into a discussion of the bigger political implications of the exaction of racial deference.

**Ricardo Soares de Oliveira, *Magnificent and Beggar Land: Angola since the civil war*. London: Hurst and Company, 2015.**

Since the peace of 2002 that ended forty years of warfare, Angola has emerged as a giant – one of the largest and fastest growing economies in the subcontinent. This book presents a comprehensive and illuminating picture of the country's dramatic transition from a conflict-ridden state to major international presence, fuelled by oil wealth, but steered along an unusual and independent path by the victorious MPLA led by José Eduardo dos Santos. The nature of this remarkable recent transformation is explained by the complex interplay of local and international forces throughout a long political and economic history, dominated by Angola's small and tightly networked "Creole" elite. In his analysis of Angola past and present, Soares de Oliveira combines a panoramic overview with a wealth of striking detail. Lucid and highly readable, and based on extensive original research, the book is both authoritative and accessible.

## **Conferences Future...**

UNITED KINGDOM

**'African Medicine Matters: Documenting Encounters in Medical Practice and Healthcare', SCOLMA Annual Conference 2016, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DP, Tuesday, 6 September 2016.** This conference will explore aspects of medicine and healthcare in Africa, traditional and western, historic and contemporary and their traces in the documentary and digital records. The keynote speaker is Dr Benson Mulemi of the Catholic

University of East Africa who will discuss 'Dialectical construction and deconstruction of contemporary African medicine' and other speakers will consider medical practices during World War I in Africa, colonial medicine in East Africa, medicine and surgery in early 20th century Algeria, indigenous care in Mali, traditional medicine in various parts of Africa, international health and medical mission in post-colonial Ghana, creating a digital archive of medical missionary experiences, public responses and disease control in Ebola and sleeping sickness, and medical record-keeping in Tanzania. A documentary film about traditional and western medicine in Kenya will be shown.

Conference fee £50 (£30 unwaged) to include tea/coffee and lunch. For the full programme see <http://scolma.org/event/scolma-annual-conference-2016-african-medicine-matters/> and to book a place contact Sarah Rhodes: [sarah.rhodes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.rhodes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

#### INTERNATIONAL

**'50th Anniversary of the 1st World Festival of Negro Arts: Past and Present, 1966-2016', Dakar, Senegal, 8–10 November 2016.** At the invitation of Poet President Leopold Sedar Senghor, Dakar hosted the 1st World Festival on Negro Arts from 1 to 24 April 1966. This momentous event took place in the wake of the Congress of Black Writers and Artists held in Paris (1956) and in Rome (1959) to highlight the contribution of Black writers to world literature. The event was focused on the defence and illustration of Black Art. In the words of President Senghor, it was meant to "show evidence of the participation of Negritude to the universal civilization through the richness of Black Art."

The 1st World Festival of Black Arts was a unique event when Dakar became the capital city of Negritude and the privileged place for the defence and the illustration of the black world's civilization values. It was staged with the active attendance of the other 'Negritude Fathers' such as Aimé Césaire, Léon Gontran Damas and Alioune Diop, the founder of *Présence Africaine* (1947) and of the Society of African Culture (1956). André Malraux's remarkable presence did not go unnoticed as well as that of hundreds of artists, writers, and cultural figures from 37 countries. It is a masterpiece which should be preserved and valorised in order to have it filed by the World Heritage committee. The 1st Festival was followed by other Festivals in Kinshasa (1974), Nigeria (1977), and Dakar (FESMAN, 2010) and, in another style, Algiers (PanAfrican Festival, 1969).

That is the reason why a group of Senegalese intellectuals from the Senegalese section of the African Community of Culture (CAC/SEN), chaired by philosopher/writer Alpha Amadou Sy, and Professor Saliou Mbaye, former National Director of Archives and Chairman of the scientific committee, aware of the irreplaceable role of the 1st Festival in Senegalese, African and global

collective imaginations, and of the effectiveness of its message, decided to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the 1st World Festival of Black Arts.

This symposium will consist of presentations read in plenary sessions and of an open forum for potential witnesses and participants in the 1966 event around the following questions: what was the first World Festival of Black Arts, its genesis, its actors and preparation; what is left of the Festival; what are the continuities and discontinuities one can currently note, and what are the impacts of the 1st Festival; at global, African and national levels, is Negritude visible; does Negritude still make sense; what is the impact of the 1st Festival on current forms of cultural expression, such as music, drama, dance, visual arts, architecture, handicraft, national languages; and what cultural responses may come out, given the new paradigms on Globalization, Information and Communication Technology, Sustainable Development, Cultural Industries? Proposals by 31 August 2016 to Professor Saliou Mbaye: mbaye.saliou@gmail.com

**‘Cultures of Corruption’, National Anti-Corruption Conference, Abuja, Nigeria, 6–8 December 2016.** One major explanation for Nigeria’s dismal performance in the area of anti-corruption has been its narrow conception of corruption as a problem arising mainly, if not solely, from inadequate or weak formal institutions which, it is believed, can easily be corrected once there is sufficient political will to enforce anti-corruption laws. The role of other relevant variables such as cultural values and value orientations, social practices, political system, or even the economy has largely been ignored.

Organised by the Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria, the general aim of this conference is to examine the different ways in which culture has interacted or can interact with corruption in Nigeria, either as an enabler of corruption or as a potential tool for combating it. Specifically, the conference seeks to expose the limits of the legal-institutional policy approach to fighting corruption by successive governments in Nigeria; shed light on the cultural dimensions of corruption in Nigeria; examine the various theoretical perspectives and practical approaches to fighting corruption derived from Nigeria’s indigenous cultures; and suggest effective ways in which a culture-centred approach can be appropriated or incorporated into existing anti-corruption policies and strategies in Nigeria.

Papers are sought on the following sub-themes: African/indigenous concepts and understanding of corruption; cultural theories of corruption and contemporary anti-corruption policies; pre-colonialism, colonialism, post-colonialism and corruption; political cultures and corruption; sub-cultures and counter-cultures of corruption; popular culture and corruption; religion and corruption; capitalism, individualism and corruption; modernity, foreign religions and corruption; gender and corruption; morals, laws and culture; socialisation,

cultural revival and corruption; and globalization and corruption. 300 word abstracts by 29 July 2016 to: [acan.icpc@outlook.com](mailto:acan.icpc@outlook.com) and [academy@icpc.gov.ng](mailto:academy@icpc.gov.ng)

**'Words of Paper: Discourses and Materiality in African Contexts', L'Institut des Mondes Africains (IMAf), Paris) in collaboration with Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies SMI (Bergen University) workshop, Paris, France, 15 March 2017.** Until recently, the search for new texts and narratives has been at the core of scholarly interests in order to write a history of African societies in the *longue durée*. The metaphor of the miner looking for the gold nugget lost in a rubble heap of worthless illustrates the condition of the historian ignoring what is brought in its content: its material support, specially thought, organised and conceived for the future reader. Indeed, before entering into the contents of a letter, of a legal or religious document, an epigraphic inscription or a newspaper, the historian faces an object that is a communication tool integrated in a concrete interaction between the sender(s) and the intended recipient(s).

The study of the document, as producer of a discourse, involves many research fields, including religious, social and political history, with always three key questions: what is the message expressed by the creator of the object; what were the tangible and intangible tools used to communicate this message; and how the object bearing the message affects the sensory of the recipient, whether as historical agent or historian, and how the object is preparing to read the text?

By focusing on African societies that developed a long tradition of writing, as Islamic Africa, Christian Nubia and Ethiopia, this workshop aims to analyse the messages expressed through the carriers of these texts and their interaction with the textual content by decrypting layout, images and writing styles chosen by their authors and copyists. Compared with the textual study of documents, these elements can highlight conflicting messages, sub-texts and stories that would otherwise remain silent. This show how 'reading' a text at several levels can offer us a more complex story. The workshop seeks papers for one of the following three research topics:

*Emotions, sensoriality and materiality of the historical document.* The bodies of the reader and of the recipients of a given document are placed at the centre of this analytical perspective. The first research focus is on emotion and affects in historical process, and in particular on emotions that are expressed and transmitted by the documents. Texts express, transmit, and transform emotions. How can historians analyse these concepts and practices of the emotional register? By adding flesh to sources, texts, and their media once again, we also find a way of addressing the sensual message that emerges from the documents, and historians can then reconsider the meaning, the visuality, the senses, the texture, and the tone that emerge and are recalled in the document.

*In search of authenticity: support, certification and forgery.* Diplomatic is one of the first scientific disciplines that focused on document's paratextuality. It developed in early modern Europe as a tool for jurists for studying and determining whether documents were authentic or forgeries. However, the certification of documents was an issue in every literate society. The support of written documents is the receptacle of rules and norms that allow the document's authentication or that mislead its recipient. This research topic proposes to analyse how scribes or writing specialists developed figurative and technical norms in order to express the power and legitimacy of their religious, political or economic authorities. Contributions that will focus on fake or fictive dimensions, as well as on the making process of forged documents or their uses by both historical actors and historians, are also welcome.

*Circulations, recycling and recovery of the support.* In many cultural contexts, the text travels on its carrier. Letters cross seas and deserts, steles are detached and displaced, surfaces are used to write once again. If to follow the trails of the carriers of writing contributes to a better understanding of the material and immaterial circulation in Africa and beyond, its recycling brings a new life to the object. Besides, the itinerary of the document and the recycling process does not stop when the object becomes a work item for the historian. We could also consider the transformative process that occurs with its use and handling as historical document, during the process of editing and archiving. 500 word abstracts and 2 page CV by 25 July 2016 [extended deadline for ASAUK members] to Dr Rémi Dewière: remi.dewiere@orange.fra *and* Dr Silvia Bruzzi: silviabruzzi@yahoo.it

**'Global History of Black Girlhood Conference', University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA, 17–18 March 2017.** The conference will gather scholars from diverse disciplines to explore new approaches to black girls' history. Until recently, many believed that black girls were inaccessible in the historical archives, silenced by gender, race, and in some cases, poverty and illiteracy. New work has proven that the voices of black girls can be recovered through creative archival strategies. This conference offers the opportunity to place the emerging field of black girls' history in an interdisciplinary frame, think critically about the unconventional archives of black girlhood, and consider how our understanding of black girl pasts changes when approached from a global perspective.

To date, the burgeoning field of black girls' studies has centred on particular regions and cities, often within the United States. This conference's emphasis on diasporic black girlhood will make it the first to expand the frame of the new subfield in "black girls' studies" to include work on girls of African descent in Europe, Africa and the Americas together. What does it mean to think about black girls' studies through a global lens?

Conference funding is generously provided by the Page Barbour Fund, the Center for Global Inquiry & Innovation, the Clay Endowment for the Humanities, the Maxine Platzer Lynn Women's Center, the Corcoran Department of History, the Programs in Women, Gender & Sexuality, American Studies, and Latin American Studies. Conference presenters will receive an honorarium. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, the following: black girlhood and historical memory/trauma; histories of state violence; slavery and/or degrees of freedom; black girls as travellers (migration, pleasure, performance); meaning of blackness for girls; age as a category of analysis; black girls' games; global girls' culture; girlhood, race, and beauty culture; black girls and performance studies; intersections of black girlhood, history and digital culture; literature for or by black girls; black girlhood in memoirs/life writing ; black girls and young women's reproductive health/justice; black girls and work; and schooling. Authors should address how the proposed paper engages with the categories of age, gender and race. Submissions should also discuss how their papers engage with the historical broadly construed. 400 word abstract and 200 word biographical statement by 15 August 2016 to Dr LaKisha Simmons: [globalblackgirlhood@gmail.com](mailto:globalblackgirlhood@gmail.com).

**'Exploring the Boundaries of Black Intellectual History', African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS) Second Annual Conference, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA, 24–25 March 2017.** What does it mean and what has it meant to "do" black intellectual history? What is a black intellectual? Who have been the producers of black intellectual history? Through a series of papers, panel sessions, roundtable discussions, films, and talks, this two-day conference seeks to address those questions and explore the boundaries of black intellectual history. The conference will examine the vital contributions that self-defined black intellectuals—including artists, writers, and activists--have made to U.S. and global intellectual history. It will also raise questions about the role of organic intellectuals, including enslaved people, in the Black intellectual tradition. The conference will focus on reassessing established theories within Black intellectual history and proposing new paradigms for this critically important field. It will draw upon traditional methods of writing and researching Black intellectual history while integrating new approaches of historical production. In short, the second annual AAIHS conference encourages new thinking about the historical boundaries of African American intellectual history and new ideas about how scholars in the twenty-first century can best define, practice, and recover it. Potential topics include, but are not limited to, religion, political thought, gender, racial ideologies, sexuality, queer theory, popular culture, internationalism, pan-Africanism, slavery, secularism, literature, and Black Nationalism. The organisers welcome submissions for scholarly papers, organized panels of three or four papers, poster sessions, lecture-demonstrations, film/video screenings, or workshops. 250 word abstracts and short CV by 15 November 2016 to Dr Brandon R. Byrd: [aaihs10@gmail.com](mailto:aaihs10@gmail.com)

**'Urban Africa - Urban Africans: New Encounters of the Rural and the Urban', 7th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS 7), Basel, Switzerland, 29 June–1 July 2017.** The conference is organized by the Centre for African Studies Basel (University of Basel) in cooperation with the Swiss Society for African Studies on behalf of the Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS).

At 3.5% Africa has the highest urbanization rate in the whole world. The potential effects of these staggering growth rates are relevant for all Africans, both in the urban as well as in the rural areas. By 2040 the continent's cities are expected to have to accommodate 79 million additional inhabitants. The latest UN-Habitat report forecasts that by 2025 Africa's urban population will outstrip that of Europe and Latin America together. No wonder that a growing number of researchers, institutions and governments are paying more and more attention to urbanization in Africa. This growing interest focuses on whether rapid urbanization will overwhelm African governments and societies or whether it reflects the increasing importance of the middle classes, a factor which is held by many to account for Africa's positive economic performance of late.

African urbanization trends raise several issues that are of interest to scholars. These range from what does the growing importance of city dwellers mean to the character of politics; will urbanization undermine or foster efforts at overcoming inequalities; are African social relations changing in any significant way as a result of these trends; how do Africans live their cities; will urban life styles dominate the rural; and how will the rural and the urban relate to each other in the future?

While the urban will be prominent, the proposed conference theme will also look into the entanglements of the rural with the urban, especially with a view to addressing an implicit assumption underlying the study of Africa and which concerns the supposed rural 'nature' of the continent as well as the constitutive nature of the tension between tradition and modernity.

The organisers are explicitly open and sensitive to proposals focusing the rural. Africa may be becoming urban but it will remain a rural continent for a long time. Urbanization has an impact on the nature of the rural much in the same way the character of the rural shapes urban dynamics in particular ways. It will be of crucial importance to explore rural-urban entanglements on the continent and encourage researchers with a strong research record in rural Africa to bring their expertise to bear on how the changing face of the continent is impacting their own object. Propositions addressing other themes and emerging issues in particular are equally welcome.

Submit panel proposals by 18 August 2016 using the online form at <http://nomadit.co.uk/ecas/ecas2017/panelproposal.php5> Provide your contact

details, institutional affiliation and current position, the title of your panel, a short abstract of no more than 300 characters (including spaces) and a long abstract of up to 250 words. The main conference language being English, this information should be submitted in either English or French. Panels will last an hour and a half and up to 5 participants, including the panel convener and/or discussant. Panels are required to be open for paper proposals. Each participant shall present one paper only but may be involved as convener of a further panel, plenary session or roundtable, or be involved as discussant in one of these.

### **...Conferences Past**

**‘Contemporary Congolese Studies’, 4th Congo Research Network conference, African Studies Centre & Emmanuel College, Cambridge University, 11-12 June 2015.** We had 9 panels on topics ranging from ‘urban socialities’ to ‘natural resources, environment, and new frictions of power’ and ‘gender, conflict and reproduction’. We had 28 speakers from the UK, Europe, the USA and Africa, including both graduate students and senior colleagues, from political scientists to historians, architects, anthropologists and sociologists. We were also very lucky to be able to host the Reverend Dr Yossa Way, who is Academic Dean of Université Anglicane du Congo. We had 7 discussants and a keynote address given by Professor Nancy Rose Hunt. We pre-circulated the papers and had lively and extended discussions after each of the panels. I attach the programme for your reference. We are very grateful for the support provided by the ASUK, which enabled us to provide accommodation, food and transportation for our speakers, and contributed to making a memorable conference which has already led to further collaborative discussions.

**‘Repairing the Past, Imagining the Future: Reparations and Beyond...’** On 5–7 November 2015, the University of Edinburgh (UoE) and Wheelock College (Boston, US) joined forces to organize an international conference and networking event in Edinburgh to examine the question of reparations for the enslavement of peoples of African descent and other crimes against humanity. Reparations — or repairing for harm done — is an ancient concept that has recently resurfaced in public debates. In 2013, Caribbean governments formed the Caricom Reparations Commission (CRC) tasked with seeking reparatory justice for the crimes against humanity committed by the former slave trading nations of Europe. In 2014, the CRC unanimously approved a ten-point justice programme that called for Europe to address the ongoing effects of slavery upon Caribbean communities. These demands have coincided with the sudden increase in public awareness concerning the slave past, notably following the recent spate of high-profile films, such as Steve McQueen’s Oscar-winning *12 Years a Slave* (2013).

Set within the wider context of the US's 150th anniversary of the abolition of slavery (2015), the conference set out to explore reparations from a broad disciplinary base with panels crossing between law and justice, ethics and philosophy, history, politics, cultural and literary studies, and the social sciences. Its central theme was to look at the question of 'reparations and beyond...'; that is, to examine the potential of reparations to offer a way of engaging more actively in overcoming the legacies of slavery beyond that of memory and commemoration. Importantly, we set out to include papers from both academics and activists involved in reparation movements in the UK, as well as other practitioners, such as artists, curators, teachers and journalists. The lively discussions that arose between academic and activist positions, notably over questions of language usage and voice, were testament to the very real living consequences of this important history.

In total, 75 papers were offered across fifteen parallel panels, with speakers coming from sixteen countries, making it a truly international event. In addition, there was a plenary panel with leading US experts on reparations and a student panel sponsored by Wheelock College, as well as film screening of Katrina Browne's *Traces of the Trade* (2008). Sponsorship included internal funding from the UoE, the Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies (UoE), the Centre for African Studies (UoE), the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER, Glasgow), the Association of Modern & Contemporary France and the African Studies Association UK. Around 250–300 people attended the conference and its related public addresses. The event was opened and closed with public lectures by two leading figures in the fight for reparations: the eminent historian and President of the Caricom Reparations Commission, Sir Hilary Beckles (University of the West Indies), and the Chair of the Jamaican Reparations Committee, Professor Verene Shepherd. The conference was concluded with a roundtable discussion, chaired by the editor of the *Journal of African American History*, V. P. Franklin, in which attendees discussed ways to take the reparations' agenda forward. A 'Conference Summary of Recommendations' was produced, which includes six broad action points, including a mandate for a follow-up conference to be held in West Africa in November 2017 and calls for the need to develop ongoing working linkages between community-based organizations and academia to conceive and implement an effective reparations strategy.

The summary and further information can be found on our conference website: <http://conferences.hss.ed.ac.uk/reparations/>. You can also follow us on our Facebook page 'Reparations Network', or through our Twitter link: @MemoriesEnslavement.

**Nicola Frith (Chancellor's Fellow, University of Edinburgh)**

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

Zakari Adam (2016), 'Building Capacity for Advancing Child Protection in Mali', Ph.D thesis, Middlesex University; <http://eprints.mdx.ac.uk/18785/>

Adesina Akanji Adedeji (2016), 'Spatial Exploration and Analysis of Electricity Poverty: A Case Study of Ibadan, Southwestern Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, University of Leicester. Supervisors: Dr Claire Jarvis and Professor Michael Bradshaw; <https://lra.le.ac.uk/handle/2381/37461>

Farid Boussaid (2016), 'The Political Economy of State-Business Relations in Morocco', D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Michael Willis.

Ruth Anne Bromiley (2016), 'From (Wo)man to Man: A Reconsideration of Olive Schreiner's Quest for Equality Before and During the South African War, 1899-1902', Ph.D thesis, University of Leicester. Supervisor: Dr Claire Brock; <http://hdl.handle.net/2381/37426>

Crystal Courtney (2015), 'Sustainable Africapitalism? Grassroots Perceptions of Maasai Mara Conservancies and their Relationship with Development', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Dr Thomas Molony and Dr Joost Fontein.

Chux Uzoka Daniels (2016), 'Organisational Capabilities for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Formulation in Developing Countries: The Case of Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Science and Technology', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisors: Dr Puay Tang and Professor Ben Martin; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/60801/>

St John Day (2016), 'Managing Water Locally: An Inquiry into Community-Based Water Resources Management in Fragile States', Ph.D thesis, Cranfield University. Supervisor: Professor Keith Weatherhead; <http://dspace.lib.cranfield.ac.uk/handle/1826/9849>

Xénia Venusta de Carvalho (2016), 'The Construction of Knowledge in Postcolonial Societies: Identity and Education over Three Generations in Mozambique', Ph.D thesis, University of Brighton. Supervisors: Professor David Stephens and Dr Carol Robinson; <http://eprints.brighton.ac.uk/15450/>

Miriam Driessen (2015), 'Asphalt Encounters: Chinese Road Building in Ethiopia', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Biao Xiang and Professor David Zeitlyn.

Allard Duursma (2016), 'African Solutions to African Challenges: Explaining the Role of Legitimacy in Mediating Civil Wars in Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Neil MacFarlane.

Oseasunmhen Ehi-Uujamhan (2016), 'The Complements Towards Developing a New Risk Management Framework and its Applicability to the Nigerian Power Sector', Ph.D thesis, Aston University; <http://eprints.aston.ac.uk/28123/>

Luíseach Nic Eoin (2015), 'The Gatherer and the Grindstone: Towards a Methodological Toolkit for Grindstone Analysis in Southern Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Peter Mitchell.

Ellen Louise Olu Fagbemi (2016), 'Pedagogic Renewal and the Development of Teachers in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Case of Ghana', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisors: Dr Jo Westbrook and Professor Kwame Akyeampong; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/60878/>

Olumide Famuyiwa (2015), 'Towards a Nigerian Objectives Based Triple Peaks Financial Regulation', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Fidelis Oditah.

Eleanor Katherine Kezia Jew (2016), 'Rapid Land Use Change, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Miombo Woodland: Assessing the Challenges for Land Management in South-West Tanzania', Ph.D thesis, University of Leeds. Supervisors: Professor Andrew Dougill, Dr Susannah Sallu and Professor Tim Benton; <http://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/12380/>

Ruth Judge (2016), 'Transformational Journeys: Volunteer Tourism, Non-Elite Youth and the Politics of the Self', Ph.D thesis, UCL, University of London. Supervisors: Dr Claire Dwyer and Dr Ben Page.

Olanrewaju Malik Kassim (2016), 'Trade Liberalisation, Balance of Payments and Tax Revenue in Sub-Saharan Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Kent. Supervisors: Professor Christopher Heady and Professor Anthony Thirlwall; <http://kar.kent.ac.uk/54868/>

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Lilian Kishimbo (2016), 'Corporate Social Responsibility in Developing Economies: Organisation, Communication and Activity Dimensions of Local Large Firms in Kenya and Tanzania, East Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Manchester. Supervisors: Dr Duncan Thomas and Professor Philippe Laredo; <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/escholar/uk-ac-man-scw:299998>

Kazuo Kobayashi (2016), 'Indian Cotton Textiles and the Senegal River Valley in a Globalising World: Production, Trade and Consumption, 1750-1850', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisors: Professor Tirthankar Roy and Dr Leigh Gardner; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/3265/>

Christian Koramoah (2016), 'Financing Secondary Education in Ghana: Managing Subsidies to Promote Equitable Access and Participation', Ed.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisor: Professor Kwame Akyeampong; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/60122/>

Christian Laheij (2015), 'A Country of Trial: Islamic Reformism, Pluralism and Dispute Management in Peri-Urban Northern Mozambique', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisors: Professor Deborah James and Dr Mukulika Banerjee; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/3128/>

Jonathan Lain (2015), 'Essays on Self-Employment in Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Margaret Stevens.

Erica Louise Lombard (2015), 'The Profits of the Past: Nostalgic White Writing of Post-Apartheid South Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Elleke Boehmer.

Emma Elinor Lundin (2015), 'Practical Solidarity: Connections between Swedish Social Democratic Women and Women in the African National Congress of South Africa, 1960-1994', Ph.D thesis, Birkbeck College, University of London. Supervisors: Dr Hilary Sapire and Dr Mary Hilson; <http://bbktheses.da.ulcc.ac.uk/170/>

Martina Martignon (2016), 'Postcolonial Organising: An Oral History of the Eritrean Community in Milan', Ph.D thesis, University of Leicester. Supervisors: Dr Dimitris Papadopoulos and Professor Jo Brewis; <http://hdl.handle.net/2381/37730>

Gesine Meyer-Rath (2016), 'The Economics of Antiretroviral Therapy in South Africa: The Role of Budget Impact Modelling in Changing Policy', Ph.D thesis, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Alec Miners; <http://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/2548623/>

Natalie Charlotte Moss (2016), "'The Dilemma of Councillors": The History of Local Government in Kenya, c. 1945-2010', Ph.D thesis, University of Durham; <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/11510/>

Niccolo Mugnai (2016), 'Architectural Decoration and Urban History in Mauretania Tingitana (Morocco)', Ph.D thesis, University of Leicester. Supervisors: Professor David Mattingly and Dr Daniel Stewart; <http://hdl.handle.net/2381/36703>

Anneke Newman (2016), 'Faith, Identity, Status and Schooling: An Ethnography of Educational Decision-Making in Northern Senegal', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex.

Chioma Vivienne Nwokoro (2016), 'From Vulnerability to Empowerment: Faith-Based Aid Organizations, Secular Aid Organizations and the Wellbeing of Rural Widows in Abia State, Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, University of Leicester. Supervisors: Professor Barbara Misztal and Dr Pierre Monforte; <http://hdl.handle.net/2381/37459>

Chimene U. C. Obunwo (2016), 'A Framework for Enhancing Project Quality and Customer Satisfaction in Government Road Construction Projects in Rivers State, Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, University of Wolverhampton. Supervisors: Dr Ezekiel Chinyio and Dr Subashini Suresh; <http://hdl.handle.net/2436/609022>

Monica Paganini (2016), 'An Efficiency Analysis of Firms in Sub-Saharan Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Kent. Supervisors: Professor Iain Fraser and Professor Miguel Leon-Ledesma; <http://kar.kent.ac.uk/54353/>

Sara Pena-Valderrama (2016), 'Entangling Molecules: An Ethnography of a Carbon Offset Project in Madagascar's Eastern Rainforest', Ph.D thesis, University of Durham. Supervisor: Dr Tom Yarrow; <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/11475/>

Enrique Restoy (2016), 'Global Norms-Domestic Practice: The Role of Community-Based Organisations in the Diffusion of HIV and Human Rights Norms', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisors: Professor Stefan Elbe and Dr Anne Roemer-Mahler; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/59591/>

Nicholas Sabin (2015), 'Group Structure and Behaviour in Microfinance: Empirics from Sierra Leone', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Felix Reed-Tsochas and Dr David Barron.

Marian Tsegah (2016), 'Making a Difference: A Study of the 'Social Marketing' Campaign in Awareness Creation of Gender-Based Violence in Ghana', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisor: Janice Winship; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/60041/>

Ashwin Vasan (2016), 'Improving the Quality of Primary Care Delivery and Health Worker Performance in Rural Rwanda Using the W.H.O. Integrated Management of Adolescent & Adult Illness (IMAI) Guidelines', Ph.D thesis, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Stephen Lawn; <http://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/2548572/>

Jacob Wiebel (2014), 'Revolutionary Terror Campaigns in Addis Ababa, 1976-1978', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor David Anderson.

Martin Williams (2016), 'The Organizational Basis of Government in Developing Countries: Management and Policy Implementation in Ghana's Public Sector', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisors: Professor Patrick Dunleavy and Dr Joachim Wehner; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/3252/>

## Recent Publications

Richard B. Allen (2015), *European Slave Trading in the Indian Ocean, 1500-1850*. Ohio University Press, 372pp, 978-0821421079, £23.99.

Giulia Bonacci (2015), *Exodus! Heirs and Pioneers, Rastafari Return to Ethiopia*. The University of the West Indies Press, 520pp, 978-9766405038, £39.95.

Sarah Brett-Smith (2015), *The Silence of Women: Bamana Mud Cloths*. 5 Continents, 368pp, 978-887439670, £45.

Ezra Chitando and Adriaan van Klinken, eds (2016), *Christianity and Controversies over Homosexuality in Contemporary Africa*. London and New York: Routledge, 212pp, 9781472444745, £95.

David Coltart (2016), *The Struggle Continues: 50 Years of Tyranny in Zimbabwe*. 680pp, 978-1-4314-2318-7, £22.95. Available from Central Books Ltd: [mo@centralbooks.com](mailto:mo@centralbooks.com)

John Gillow (2016), *African Textiles: Colour and Creativity across a Continent*. Thames and Hudson Ltd, 240pp, 978-0500292211, £19.95.

Kwasi Konadu and Clifford C. Campbell (eds) (2016), *The Ghana Reader: History, Culture, Politics*. Duke University Press, 496pp, 9780822359920, £20.99.

Dele Layiwola (ed) (2016), *The City State of Ibadan, Texts and Contexts*, Ibadan, University of Ibadan Institute of African Studies with BookBuilders Editions Africa, 333pp, 978-978-921-111-1, £25 (cased); 978-978-921-112-8, £18 (paperback).

Jestina Mukoko (2016), *The Abduction and Trial of Jestina Mukoko: the Fight for Human Rights in Zimbabwe*. KMM Review Publishing Company, 154pp, 978-0-9922329-5-5, £11.95. Available from Central Books Ltd: [mo@centralbooks.com](mailto:mo@centralbooks.com)

Bukola Adeyemi Oyeniya (2015), *Dress in the Making of African Identity: A Social and Cultural History of the Yoruba People*. Cambria Press, 304pp, 978-1604978995, £78.99.

Ben Rawlence (2016), *City of Thorns: Nine Lives in the World's Largest Refugee Camp*. Portobello Books, 352pp, 978-1846275876, £14.99.

Elodie Razy and Marie Rodet (eds) (2016), *Children on the Move in Africa. Past and Present Experiences of Migration*. James Currey, 255pp, 978-1847011381, £45.

Pamela Scully (2016), *Ellen Johnson Sirleaf*. Ohio University Press, 136pp, 978-0821422212, £10.35.

Adriaan van Klinken and Ezra Chitando, eds (2016), *Public Religion and the Politics of Homosexuality in Africa*. London and New York: Routledge, 278pp, 9781472445513, £95.

Katja Zvan-Elliott (2015), *Modernizing Patriarchy: The Politics of Women's Rights in Morocco*. University of Texas Press, 236pp, 978-1477302446, £42.

### **New Journal: Journal of African Military History**

JAMH is an international, peer-reviewed journal that publishes historical scholarship on war and society in Africa. The journal is particularly interested in exploring the issues of conflict, military and society relations, and social histories of the human experience during wartime. JAMH presents a new outlet in the study of military matters in Africa and the connections between military matters in Africa and the diaspora. This journal is an important new forum for historical researchers to connect their work to the broader fields of African History and Military History.

JAMH welcomes submissions from all disciplines that situate the study of the African military experience within a historical context. The themes of these submissions may include: the social construction of the military and warfare in Africa and the diaspora; the historical arc of colonial and post-colonial militaries in Africa; the military strategies and tactics of African states and societies; comparative construction of militaries in pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial Africa; conscription and compulsory military service in the African context, including the historicization of child soldiers; gender, militarization, and warfare; the construction of militarized identities and military service within African societies; warfare and technology in sub-Saharan Africa; political, economic, and ideological causes and effects of warfare in Africa and the diaspora; comparative African military service and slavery in the Atlantic, Trans-Saharan, and Indian Ocean contexts; African military resistance to colonisation; the African experience in global conflicts; global, continental, and regional military exchange in the age of African decolonization; the historicization of militarized humanitarianism as it applies to the African continent; and the psychological effects, memories, legacies, and representations of African conflicts.

JAMH also welcomes submissions for thematic special issues. Volume 1 is planned for 2017. For more information on the JAMH, its Editorial Board, or instructions for submissions, see: <http://www.brill.com/products/journal/journal-african-military-history>

### **New Book Series: *African Identities: Past and Present***

The Series Editors welcome proposals for this new book series, *African Identities: Past and Present*, with Cambridge University Press. The series offers scholars a unique publishing platform for exploring the multivalent processes through which collective identities have come into being. Books in this series will probe the work that African identities have been made to do, the varied investments that historical and contemporary actors have made in them, and the epistemological dilemmas and intellectually fraught politics of writing about such contingent categories of being. The focus on African identities makes clear the series' commitment to publishing histories of the complex and ongoing processes of identity formation through which Africans have taken on shared senses of being. This series calls upon its authors to unpack the flexible, fluid, contingent, and interactive nature of collective African identities, while also exploring how historical actors have alternatively sought to delimit, expand or otherwise challenge the boundaries of such identities.

The Series Editors seek authors who draw on the tension between theory and practice by productively exploring those categories of identity that are important to and widely used by African historical actors, even as many scholars today regard some of those units of analysis, namely ethnic categories, as largely invented identities – products of the colonial encounter and its aftermath. The series' intention is to critically engage ethnic identities in ways that reveal their constructed and often invented nature, without obscuring the degree to which such identities become meaningful and historically productive categories of their own. In this regard, we are especially interested in publishing books that probe the intersectional nature of identities framed in ethnic terms, such as Dinka, Hausa, and Zulu. This requires a combination of rigorous historical analysis of purportedly self-evident categories of people, such as the Asante or the Shona, and a more creative and critical approach that privileges asking how people construct what it means to be Asante or Shona and what other kinds of identities are invented, subsumed, subjugated or lost altogether in the process.

While a core mission of this series is to provide sophisticated analyses of African identities that are expressed in terms of ethnicity, we are deeply committed to publishing cutting edge work on other forms of identity, especially but not limited to religious, political, racial, sexual, gendered, and artistic identities. Books in this series will ask bold questions, offer new methodological and theoretical approaches to answer them, and in the process will reframe how we think about African identities. Send letter of introduction, 2-3 page preliminary proposal, and CV to the Series Editors: Professor Toyin Falola: [toyinfalola@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:toyinfalola@austin.utexas.edu) and Dr Carina Ray: [cer15@brandeis.edu](mailto:cer15@brandeis.edu)

### **GiA Recruitment – Editor in Chief**

The journal *Governance in Africa* (GiA) is seeking a candidate to serve as Editor-in-Chief. Our current EiC will be stepping down in 2016 offering a rare opportunity for someone to lead this new and innovative journal. This position may also interest a small team of editors. This is currently a voluntary position. The time commitment is not onerous but is not trivial; editors might be expected to handle 1-2 submissions per month.

GiA is an international, open-access, peer-reviewed journal that publishes original research, expert commentary and policy briefings on a number of themes relevant to contemporary governance in Africa. It features contributions from multiple disciplines including, politics, economics, international relations, development, security and environment. GiA's objective is to build and consolidate knowledge, to increase the reach and impact of research, and to influence policy at the highest levels.

A full description of the role can be found at <http://www.govafricajournal.org/announcement/> Interested candidates should send an email to [christine.cubitt@gmail.com](mailto:christine.cubitt@gmail.com) with the subject 'Editor-in-Chief position' and the following information: a short summary of your current research position; a description of why you believe you would make a good Editor-in-Chief for GiA and why you would like to take on the role; a suggestion of the specialist subject areas that you would cover; and references to any relevant supporting material such as published works.

## **News**

### **Law and Global Justice, Cardiff University**

Law and Global Justice is a research group within the Centre for Law and Society at Cardiff University established in 2016. It fosters scholarship and teaching on legal and constitutional change in the global south, building on comparative, critical and socio-legal traditions of scholarship.

The group's current thematic focus is on: law and accountability for development aid; global health law; African post-colonial theory; education and the legal Professions in Africa. Recent and forthcoming events include: a workshop on 'Mobility and Modernity: Connections in Legal Education between East Africa and the UK' co-hosted with the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, London (December 2015); a colloquium on 'Transnational Constitutionalism and New Forms of Democracy: Perspectives from the Global South' (June 2016), led by political theorist Professor Chris Thornhill (Manchester); the 5th Annual Lecture of the Welsh Centre for International Affairs on 'World Trade Law and African Deindustrialization', given by Professor James Gathii (Loyola Chicago); and a panel on 'Law, Legal Professionalism and Political Change in Africa: History,

Practice, Agency' at the biennial conference of the African Studies Association UK (September 2016). Guest lecturers have included: Professor Upendra Baxi, University of Delhi, on 'Climate Change Justice'; Dr Prabha Kotiswaran, Kings College London, on 'Human Trafficking in Transnational Law'; and Dr Grace Musila, Stellenbosch University, on 'Rumour and Truth in Kenyan Politics'.

The group's thematic priorities are also reflected in its teaching on Global Problems and Legal Theory, Law and World Literature, and Land Law and Development. Its pioneering law clinic programme on global justice sees students working under academic guidance with UK lawyers and international NGOs on securing accountability for human rights violations infringements in East Africa. The group has partnerships with the Katiba Institute for Constitutional Law and the British Institute in Eastern Africa (both Nairobi), the Hingorani Foundation for Public Interest Litigation (New Delhi) and Deighton Pierce Glynn, solicitors (London and Bristol). Through the Centre for Law and Society it funds the involvement of selected doctoral and post-doctoral researchers from around the UK in its programme.

Current Ph.D theses supervised by group members focus on health law and devolution in Kenya and the regulation of surrogacy in India. Group members include Professor John Harrington (group co-ordinator); Professor Ambreena Manji (ASA Executive Council); Dr Sara Dezalay; and Dr Branwen Gruffydd Jones. Contact: [harringtonj3@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:harringtonj3@cardiff.ac.uk)

### **British Institute in Eastern Africa**

Between November 2015 and May 2016, the ASAUK has worked hard to resist the possible defunding of the British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA) in Nairobi. The ASAUK wrote to the British Academy in January 2016 to express its concern that the British Academy would make significant cuts to the core funding of the BIEA. In particular, we emphasised that the commitment of many UK scholars to collaboration and co-operation with African colleagues is facilitated by the BIEA. We pointed out that without the Institute very significant Africanist research work would not be done. The ASAUK worked closely with colleagues from the Royal Historical Society and the Arts and Humanities Alliance to develop a well-coordinated, rigorous and timely response to the British Academy's proposals. We are pleased to report that the BIEA has recently learned that it will receive a flat rate settlement over the next four years. We believe there is a continued need for vigilance to ensure the future of African Studies in which the BIEA plays such a critical role is safeguarded.

**Professor David Maxwell, President, and  
Professor Ambreena Manji, Vice-President, ASAUK**

## Obituary

**Clare Currey** (15 November 1936 – 26 April 2016), who has died in Oxford aged 79, played a central role alongside her husband James in the creation and expansion of James Currey Publishers, one of the key stimuli to the development of African Studies in Britain from the 1980s. Earlier, in South Africa, she had been involved with James in arranging the dramatic escape to Canada of their friend Randolph Vigne, hours before his certain arrest by the Special Branch.

Born in 1936, Catherine Clare Wilson came from a strong Quaker family: her father was a conscientious objector during the Second World War before becoming a distinguished consultant psychiatrist in London. After early education in Oxford and in Lausanne, and an eye-opening visit to Jamaica, Clare went to St Anne's College, Oxford where she read modern history and met James Currey, a student at Wadham College. After graduation the two went their separate ways. Clare took a job with the Quaker firm, Rowntree's in York, and subsequently worked for Cambridge University Department of Aerial Photography. James joined the Oxford University Press and was sent out as one of its representatives to South Africa. They met again in 1962, married and returned together to Cape Town, arriving in January 1963 at a time when political tensions were at their height. Earlier, in 1962, James had joined with friends, Randolph Vigne, Neville Rubin and Tim Holmes, in founding *The New African*, a radical review which attracted a remarkable range of contributors including Bessie Head, Ezekiel Mphahlele and Wole Soyinka. Clare contributed a piece describing the atmospheric proceedings in the Supreme Court in June 1964 during the last weeks of the Rivonia Trial. She reflected on what it must be like for Mrs Sisulu and Mrs Mandela watching their husbands in the dock day after day.

A month later in July 1964, James and Clare with great luck managed to flee from South Africa after they had enabled Randolph Vigne to escape to Canada. Clare could well have also been watching her husband in the dock. It was only subsequently that the pacifist Clare learnt that Vigne, as a member of the African Resistance Movement, had been involved in a campaign of sabotage against the apartheid government. Now that there was no danger of a child having South Africa as the place of birth on its passport they started a family with Hal born in 1965 and Tamsin born in 1967. Clare founded a playgroup and a reading group, while working for the Stevenage CAB. James worked first with the OUP and then from 1967 until 1984 on the famous African Writers Series with Heinemann Educational Books.

In June 1982 the Nigerian Foreign exchanges closed leading to what Michael Crowder called 'the African Book Famine'. Heinemann, which had been taken over by BTR (British Tyre and Rubber), told James to stop all African publishing. In addition the impact of the 'Thatcher cuts' on British universities led all big

British publishers except Cambridge to cease publishing Africanist academic books. However Black Studies had morphed into African Studies in the United States and James had built up relationships with California, Ohio and Indiana University Presses. It was Clare's idea that they should establish their own publishing house to publish academic work in paperback on Africa and the Caribbean. Authors such as Terry Ranger, Ngugi and Ali Mazrui who had previously published with HEB, transferred their allegiances to James Currey Publishers and other Africanists followed their examples, attracted by the policy of the new publishers in producing their work in well-designed paperback editions published jointly with an American and often with an African publisher. Their authors and their publishing colleagues in Africa ingeniously found ways of making paperback editions available at appropriate local prices. Clare, from the first, handled the company's finances at a time when their Islington basement flat was increasingly converted into part office, part stockroom. She also regularly joined James at conferences in Britain, Europe and America, actively promoting their books, finding new authors and, always, making new friends. During these years she also found time to take an Open University degree, this time in Art History.

In Oxford, she was active in the Citizens Advice Bureau and founded the Oxford Reading Group (if she had any reservations concerning Africanist academics it was the tendency of some of them to descend into near incomprehensible jargon). During what passed for retirement Clare organised speakers for the Oxford branch of the University of the Third Age. In her final illness she displayed the same combination of wisdom, humour and courage that had exemplified her behaviour throughout a life that had been distinguished by its quiet service in encouraging people, especially women, to widen their horizons.

Clare is survived by her husband, James, by her children, Hal and Tamsin, and by four granddaughters.

**John McCracken**

#### **Note to Contributors**

Send items for inclusion in the October 2016 *Newsletter* by 15 September 2016 to Dr Simon Heap: [effaheap@aol.com](mailto:effaheap@aol.com)

Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK. For all matters relating to membership of ASAUK/RAS contact: Melmarie Laccay, 36 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PD; telephone: +44 (0)20-3073-8336; email: [rasmembership@soas.ac.uk](mailto:rasmembership@soas.ac.uk)

Check the website: [www.asauk.net](http://www.asauk.net)