



NEWSLETTER

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ASAUK AWARDS

On 10th September 2020, to replace the award-giving in person at the cancelled Biennial Conference at Cardiff University, ASAUK organised a virtual award ceremony to celebrate African Studies in the UK, Africa and around the world.

ASAUK Distinguished Africanist Awards

This award is for individuals who have made a significant contribution to African Studies. The award is not confined to academics. It is intended for people who have contributed largely to African Studies in the UK, or who have strengthened links between African Studies here and in Africa itself. Two awards were made.

Dr Bibi Bakare-Yusuf

"I am a publisher because I am interested in the future. I am interested in contributing to and helping to shape what people in 100, 200 or even 500 years' will be discussing and mulling over when they take a walk into the labyrinth of their past that is our present moment. I am interested in how we can create the archive of the future in the present" – Bibi Bakare-Yusuf.

Bibi Bakare-Yusuf began her career as an academic, obtaining a Ph.D in Interdisciplinary Women and Gender Studies at Warwick University, where she also worked as an academic. Her thesis explored the relationship between embodiment and memory in the African diaspora, examining structures of retention found in New World cultures. She has published widely on the subjects of gender, power and sexuality in African and African diaspora studies, and she has worked as a gender and research consultant in for organisations including the BBC, the Central Bank of Nigeria and the European Union.

Bibi Bakare-Yusuf is the co-founder of Cassava Republic Press, which has been described by the *New York Times* as "at the forefront of Nigeria's literary renaissance". Since its inception in 2006, Cassava Republic has become one of Africa's leading publishing houses, and it has launched the careers of many writers who are now household names such as Teju Cole, Elnathan John and Sarah Ladipo Manyika. Cassava Republic is a social enterprise, driven by the

impulse to re-develop a reading (and writing) culture in Nigeria, as it forms part of the larger project of re-imagining Nigeria. Bakare-Yusuf has distinguished herself as a public intellectual, and her important contribution to scholarship and the world of publishing has been recognised in her selection as a Yale World Fellow, a Desmond Tutu Fellow and a Frankfurt Book Fair Fellow. Bakare-Yusuf is also the Chair of The Initiative for Equal Rights, the largest LGBT organisation in West Africa and is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

A common thread which underpins Bakare-Yusuf's academic output, consultancy work and her work in publishing is the importance of amplifying marginalised or decentred voices in Africa and the African diaspora. Cassava Republic has been at the forefront of commissioning and publishing works by writers in Nigeria's LGBTQ community and Nigerian communities whose writers have been overlooked. She has made an indelible mark in the world of publishing, and her work can be located at the intersection of theory and praxis. Publishing is the primary tool through which Bibi is able to enact the change that she wishes to see.

A recent development in Cassava Republic Press has been the launch of an African language literature imprint, the inspiration for which draws on the scholarship of Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o and Mukoma wa Ngũgĩ who have centred the promotion and development of African languages in the continent's efforts to decolonise. This provides a perfect example of how Bibi's engagement in the academic world directly relates to her contribution to the building of a publishing infrastructure which centres African voices and African thought.

The impact of Bakare-Yusuf's work is apparent within the academy but also in the broader public sphere. Bakare-Yusuf is both a thought leader and innovator. She has won several awards for her trailblazing work in publishing, including one by the International Excellence Awards 2018 in conjunction with The Publishers Association in London for "Inclusivity in Publishing" and the Brittle Paper's "African Literary Person of the Year". Her work has been profiled in a number of publications including the *New York Times*, the *LA Review of Books*, *The Financial Times* and the *Independent* and in 2020 she was named in *The Africa Report's* Top 50 Disruptors.

Given the breadth, importance and urgency of Bibi Bakare-Yusuf's work, the award of the ASUK's Distinguished Africanist Award recognises Bakare-Yusuf's intellectual and cultural impact, and amplifies her intellectual project of building "the archive of the future in the present".

Professor Babatunde ("Tunde") Zack-Williams

A defining feature of Professor Tunde Zack-Williams's work in African studies is that he is an organic intellectual - he is someone who has wanted to go beyond just using his intelligence and writing skills to develop and enrich knowledge and understanding of the African continent, he has also been engaged with helping transform knowledge to reduce the impact on Africans of the often deleterious consequences of "modernity" broadly defined. He is someone who has used his many years of internationally recognised outputs to advance ideas of progressive change and transformation in Africa and western ideas about the continent.

Professor Zack-Williams has had a sustained publication record for almost 40 years. His research is recognised internationally as helping to develop and deepen our understanding of different dimensions of conflict and reconstruction in West Africa. He has conducted primary research in Nigeria and Ghana but it is in his continuous research on Sierra Leone that he has become a world authority. His research has helped develop our understanding of the characterisation of the state in Sierra Leone, on the historical circumstances that have contributed to conflict and underdevelopment and the ways in which complex political emergencies can be grasped. He has written extensively about the consequences of mineral led growth that go beyond the tropes of "the curse of resources" to examine the political economy and social underpinnings of political crisis and violence linked to problems of capital accumulation, the presence and absence of strong entrepreneurial actors and the social costs of war: the impact on wellbeing, the phenomenon of child soldiers and the implications of conflict for rural livelihoods.

His published output goes beyond the analytical heft of his work on Sierra Leone. He has co-authored books on post-colonialism, Africa in crisis, the impacts of economic reform and structural adjustment and the difficulties of democratic deepening and consolidation. His academic range has also extended to include the debate about the politics of ethnicity, corruption, African youth, democratisation and political transition from authoritarian governance. His interventions have always been timely and have helped set the agenda regarding the need to interrogate western policy and practice in Africa and to do so with an accessible style that reminds readers of the importance of African voices and initiatives that are not dependent upon the West. Zack-Williams's work on economic reform in Africa, and alternatives to western prescriptions for it, has helped set a critical tone and context for understanding what at times since the neo liberal revolution of the 1970s, was an understandably feverish debate. Zack-Williams's research and output however, was measured and rooted in an analysis of existing social formations in Africa rather than any idealising of them by left or right wing policy advocates. While he worked at the University of Jos in the 1980s Zack-Williams developed innovative research on labour, women's

labour and local development initiatives as well as engaging with the highly influential Nigerian left that was emerging around academics at the Ahmadu Bello University where he was also highly respected.

The importance of Zack-Williams's careful and thoughtful interventions has nowhere been more felt than in his long serving role as editorial working group member and editor of the *Review of African Political Economy*. For more than 30 years Zack-Williams has helped *ROAPE* set an intellectual agenda and been foremost in nurturing and harnessing African participation and contributions to the journal. Zack-Williams has been influential in the coverage that the journal has engaged with, assembling material and editing it to a high standard and in working with African authors ensuring that the journal hears voices from the continent. This role has included developing themes for journal special issues, commissioning authors and working with submissions and always advocating for African authorship. In the last three years Zack-Williams has been at the forefront in the journal developing its new Connections workshops. These meetings have promoted innovative engagement with African convenors and participants in helping understand contemporary dimensions of recent political and economic reforms and resistance to immiseration in the continent with meetings in Ghana, Tanzania and South Africa.

Zack-Williams's career has in many ways been one of immense success despite, rather than because of the environment in which he has worked. In large part, in his academic career, he has been an Africanist in a non-Africanist environment. His university career was marked by energy and involvement in promoting understanding and knowledge of Africa across a range of student cohorts from Access programmes to doctoral programmes and his research, field work and publishing was conducted while also carrying heavy 'new' University teaching regimes where he innovated new courses on Africa and development more generally.

It is to the area of advocacy and engagement with Africa and on issues of race and racial discrimination that Zack-Williams as organic intellectual is further demonstrated. Long before the contemporary characterisations of racialised politics marked by resistance from *Black Lives Matter*, Zack-Williams was active in Lancashire and Liverpool advocating for black and ethnic minority interests. He has been a leading advocate for knowledge about Africa and an understanding of the dynamics of racial prejudice and discrimination in his community. This is evidenced by his work as Chair of school governors, across the range of education provision and his work with local government associations and police authorities regarding race relations. Zack-Williams has also worked with cultural associations involved in promoting dance and theatre production and he has also been active over many years, including in publications, on mental health support in his community and nationally.

The role that Zack-Williams has played in advancing knowledge and understanding of Africa has been recognised in Europe and the US with fellowships at Trinity College Dublin and he was a Feldman Engaged Scholar at Brandeis University in the United States. In 2013 he received the Amistad Award for distinguished service on human rights from the Central University of Connecticut. Zack-Williams is exceptional in that he has had multiple UK based roles in African Studies. He was a long-serving member of the ASAUK executive, he was ASAUK secretary and President, later serving as Chair of the Fage and Oliver Book Prize and he has also served since 2006 as a member of the British Academy Africa Panel. He is a worthy recipient of ASAUK's Distinguished Africanist Award.

Winner of the 2020 Fage and Oliver Prize

The African Studies Association is delighted to announce that the winner of the 2020 Fage and Oliver Prize is: *The Man Who Killed Apartheid: The Life of Dimitri Tsafendas* by Harris Dousemetzis (South Africa: Jacana Media, 2019).

Dousemetzis winning entry was selected from nine shortlisted titles as part of the 85 publications submitted by numerous publishers. Chaired by Ray Bush, Professor of African Studies and Development Politics, University of Leeds, the jury found this to be a gripping book based on ten years of solid research.

On behalf of this year's jury, Professor Bush said "*The Man Who Killed Apartheid, The Life of Dimitri Tsafendas* is a tour de force of investigative, analytical rigour, in righting one of the injustices perpetuated by *apartheid*. Harris Dousemetzis documents the political commitment of Dimitri Tsafendas in his assassination of the architect of Apartheid, Dr Hendrik Verwoerd on 6th September 1966. The government of South Africa covered up the assassin's motivation as one of mental illness, fearing political backlash for implementing apartheid. Dousemetzis, however, details the life of Tsafendas, a communist who was committed to racial, economic and social equality. He then becomes South Africa's longest serving prisoner, who was subjected to inhumane conditions of confinement and torture, dying at the age of 81 after 33 years of incarceration.

Harris Dousemetzis has written an accessible biography of Tsafendas that transcends the academic monograph. He highlights the life and times of *apartheid*, employs transnational historical evidence and in so doing indicates the book's contemporary relevance and significant contribution to African Studies. This is a captivating and hypnotising book, a fabulously worthy winner of the 2020 Fage and Oliver ASAUK book prize.

The prize is awarded to the author of an outstanding original scholarly work and one that is enlightening for a wider public about African issues published during the preceding two years. The ASAUK is very grateful to the 2020 jury members:

Professor Ray Bush (Chair); Dr Reginald Cline-Cole, Department of African Studies and Anthropology, University of Birmingham; Dr Diana Jeater, Department of History, University of Liverpool; Professor Madhu Krishnan, Department of English, University of Bristol; and Dr Kate Skinner, Department of African Studies and Anthropology, University of Birmingham. Thanks to the publishers who submitted their publications for consideration of this prize.

Audrey Richards Best Thesis Prize Winners

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

Third Prize

Jake Richards (Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge), "Liberated Africans and Law in the South Atlantic, c. 1839-1871"

This is a well-researched thesis, which demanded research activities in archives in several countries. It deals with a complex subject in an area of challenges and controversies and it is well written and the author has added immensely to various contested issues on the Atlantic slave trade as well as that of East African trade. For a Ph.D thesis this has been a wide-ranging, in depth project and Richards is commended for his rigour and commitment in producing a thesis which well deserves the mention and award given.

Second Prize

Alex Bud (The Open University), "In Search of the Nigerian Pastoral: Nollywood and the Nigerian Creative-Industrial System"

In reading this dissertation, one is impressed with the ensemble of different disciplines which the candidate has garnered to bring Nollywood to the world of the academy, particularly as so little has been written in comparison to the topics of other candidates. It is a well-crafted thesis, which draws the reader's attention to seemingly obvious points, but which a less informed researcher would have missed, including the influence of Igbo built environment.

First Prize

Jacinta Muinde (Newnham College, University of Cambridge), "An Economy of (Dis)Affection: Women-Headed Households, Cash Transfers and Matrilineal Relations in Kenya's South Coast"

This is a well-written thesis in which Muinde charts a clear course in her award-winning dissertation. She really gets into the life of her research subjects and explores their lives in relation to the contemporary economics of coastal Kenya. Her exploration of the "mradi" system and its effects on the female headed households with whom she lives with and observes is detailed and makes sense of an outwardly basic economic support system. This is an inspired piece of

research which gives unexpected and deep insights into the challenges of economic survival and livelihoods of communities in Kenyan coastal communities.

@ASAUK_News Tweets

The @ASAUK_News is sad to say goodbye to President @AmbreenaManji who has ably led council with her optimism, vision and her irrepressibly revolutionary spirit.

The @ASAUK_News is delighted to announce the election of four new members to the council. They join the council for 2020-2022, which will be led by the incoming President of ASAUK, Professor Ola Uduku @twolatweet.

James Wan @jamesjwan is the Editor of the @royafrisoc's @africaarguments; he is a journalist and award-winning editor whose work focuses on Africa.

Rama Salla Dieng @Drsaalajeng is a Lecturer in @africanstudies Edinburgh, the Programme Director for the MSc Africa and International Development and the co- editor of the recently published anthology “Feminist Parenting: Perspectives from Africa and Beyond”.

Chisomo Kalinga @MissChisomo is a @wellcometrust Fellow and Principle Investigator of the project “Ulimbaso, You will be strong again: How literary aesthetics and storytelling inform concepts of health and wellbeing in Malawi”.

Akin Iwilade is Lecturer in African Studies at the University of Edinburgh. He has previously taught at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria and the University of Leeds. His research focuses broadly on the anthropology of youth in Africa and its diasporas.

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

Fifth Pan-African Congress 75th Anniversary Celebrations, 15-17th October 2020

‘We are determined to be free. We want education. We want the right to earn a decent living; the right to express our thoughts and emotions, to adopt and create forms of beauty.... We will fight in every way we can for freedom, democracy and social betterment’ – ‘The Challenge to the Colonial Powers’, Statement from the Fifth Pan-African Congress, Manchester, 1945.

The organisers are pleased to announce a tripartite University Initiative celebrating the 75th anniversary of the fifth Pan-African Congress that took place in Manchester in October 1945. Despite being much forgotten within our city, this

was a critically significant event that played a key role in the shaping of modern world history. It was the first time after WW2 that emerging Africans took on the leadership of the struggle, to demand self-rule and freedom from British colonialism, supported by allies from across the world.

The plaque commemorating this event is sited in the recently rebuilt Manchester Metropolitan University Arts Faculty Building facing onto All Saints Square in what had previously been Chorlton Town Hall where the six-day event had actually taken place. The congress had 200 attendees from across the world; including delegations from Africa, America, the Caribbean and Asia, as well as Black and White delegates from Manchester and across the UK.

A number of future independent African leaders were delegates at the Congress, including Kwame Nkrumah, Nnamdi Azikiwe and Jomo Kenyatta. The Congress provided a forum which would be a springboard for these key figures in connecting with each other and developing new national strategies towards hastening decolonisation and ultimately self-rule. The black American civil rights activist and sociologist Du Bois, past organiser of the previous Congresses, attended as a delegate, whilst the writer Peter Abrahams represented pre-apartheid South Africa.

The Manchester 1945 meeting was a precursor to the development of a number of African independence movements which went on to successfully secure self-rule for countries across Africa. It also signified the movement of the intellectual discourse on African self-realisation and solidarity with other causes moving from the Americas and the West Indies to the UK and then on to Africa. Joe Appiah, the representative of the West African Students Union in the UK for example went on to play a key role in Ghana's independence working directly with the nation's first premier Kwame Nkrumah. His son Professor Kwame Anthony Appiah is one of the leading philosophers in the world and we are delighted to be hosting him in the marking of this anniversary, where he will be delivering a keynote lecture.

The demands for self-rule and decolonisation that were tabled at the Congress in 1945 are not far away from the Black Lives Matter protests that we are evidencing today. Our University campuses are also included in this movement. It is significant that the opening session of the Congress focused on the 'Colour Problem in Britain'. The organisers feel this anniversary comes at a critical time in our history and allows us to reflect on Manchester's role in its support of the freedoms of the oppressed.

The organisers are particularly excited to be hosting this 75th anniversary event in association with colleagues from the Universities of Manchester and Salford, echoing the solidarity formed across various peoples and nations of the Manchester Congress. In these extraordinary times the celebrations will take

place online with plans to have socially distanced events across the three University Greater Manchester campuses over the second weekend in October.

A sixth form conference, organised by MMU, will take place on Thursday 15th October, followed on Friday 16th by a series of city based activities culminating in a keynote talk by Professor Kwame Anthony Appiah, finally on the Saturday 17th we are planning conversations with academics with connections to Manchester that will take place at a number of physical venues and be relayed live digitally. We will have interactive coverage of events throughout the weekend using various digital media, and participation in all public events will be free to all. We invite you to join us and get involved in this momentous celebration that both celebrates the past and also importantly supports the Black Lives Matter agenda by publicly celebrating Black history and also providing a set of public events and forums through which to connect this with contemporary struggles. For more up-to-date information please contact Professor Ola Uduku: o.uduku@mmu.ac.uk

NEW DATE: 'Comparing the Copperbelt: Social history and knowledge production in Central Africa, St Antony's College, University of Oxford, 17–19th June 2021. Comparing the Copperbelt is an ERC-funded research project, running at the University of Oxford from 2016-2021. The project aims to examine the Copperbelt (in both Zambia and the DR Congo) as a single region divided by a (post-)colonial border, across which flowed minerals, people and ideas. It analyses how academic knowledge production (e.g. by the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute and CEPESI) shaped understanding of Copperbelt societies and it seeks ways to explore Copperbelt political culture and popular perceptions from a historical perspective.

This final project conference, held in conjunction with Oxford's African Studies Centre and Centre for Global History, represents the culmination of the project's research and builds on workshops held in Kitwe in July 2018 and in Lubumbashi in July 2019. It will discuss the region's shared histories and share ideas on social, environmental and cultural history. Research papers from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds (history, anthropology, economics, etc.), approaches and regional focuses are encouraged. Papers that compare the Zambian and Katangese regions are particularly welcome.

Topics to be explored include, but are not limited to: new approaches to political culture and activism on the Zambian and Congolese Copperbelt; popular perceptions and articulations of social and cultural change e.g. urban spirituality or artistic expression; the role of knowledge production in understanding and shaping historical and social change; the relationship between mining societies, political culture and social history including gender, class, generational, ethnic and racial relations; how the contemporary Copperbelt relates to and

memorialises historical change; and the history or contemporary environmental situation on the Zambian and/or Congolese copperbelts.

As well as allowing project researchers to share their research insights, this conference will enable participants to learn from other approaches and research experiences in order to advance the study of the Copperbelt region. The organisers particularly welcome submissions from Zambian and Congolese researchers: project funding has been allocated to support the participation of local researchers from the region; speaker presentations by video link will be facilitated.

The conference will be held in English where possible. Presentations can be made in French and translation will be available. Funding is available for some speakers' travel and accommodation: priority will be given to Congolese and Zambian participants and final decisions on the allocation of this funding will be made at a later date. 150-250 word abstracts in either English or French by 22nd October 2020 to Claire Phillips: copperbelt@history.ox.ac.uk

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Ayomikun Solomon Adewumi (2020), *An Exploration of the Characteristics of the Indicators of a Sustainability Assessment Framework for Neighbourhood Developments in Metropolitan Lagos, Nigeria*, Ph.D thesis, University of Dundee. Supervisors: Dr Vincent Onyango, Dr Dumiso Moyo and Dr Husam Al Waer.

Obaapanin Oforiwaa Adu (2020), *'Becoming and Being Senior Female Academics in Ghanaian Public Universities'*, Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex.

Modesta Tochi Alozie (2020), *'The Political Ecology of Oil in the Niger Delta: Understanding Youth Violence from the Perspectives of Youths'*, Ph.D thesis, University College London.

Holly Ashford (2020), *'Development and Women's Reproductive Health in Ghana, c.1920-1982'*, Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Gareth Austin.

Feyishola Ayenuyo (2020), *'Collective Actions for Poverty Reduction in Nigeria and South Africa: Exploring the Perspectives of Elites and the Poor'*, Ph.D thesis, University of Essex.

Clayton Todd Boeyink (2020), *'Politics and Practises of Refugee Self-Reliance in Trifurcated States of North-Western Tanzania'*, Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Dr Thomas Molony and Dr Jean-Benoit Falisse; <https://era.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/37122>

Louis Henry Angel Prosper Moulinex Champion (2020), 'The Evolution of Agriculture, Food and Drink in the Ancient Niger River Basin: Archaeobotanical Studies from Mali and Benin', Ph.D thesis, University College London.

Henry Dee (2020), 'Clements Kadalie, Trade Unionism, Migration and Race in Southern Africa, 1918-1930', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Professor Paul Nugent and Professor Emma Hunter.

David Mark Fearon (2020, 'Life Journeys with Advanced Breast Cancer in Mauritania: A Mixed Methods Case Study', Ph.D thesis, University of Lancaster. Supervisors: Dr Sean Hughes and Dr Sarah Brearley; <https://eprints.lancs.ac.uk/id/eprint/145164/>

Daniel Feather (2020), 'British Policy towards Cultural Relations with South Africa, 1960 to 1994', Ph.D thesis, Liverpool John Moores University. Supervisors: Professor Nick White, Chris Vaughan and Alex Miles.

Yaya S. Jallow (2020, 'Essays on Health in the Senegambia Region', Ph.D thesis, University of Leicester. Supervisors: Dr Martin Foureaux Koppensteiner and Dr Jesse Matheson; <https://doi.org/10.25392/leicester.data.12659861.v1>

Ryan Anthony Licata (2020), 'Of All the Places – A Novel & A Life in Search of a Narrative: The Construction of Narrative Identity in the Autobiographical Fiction of J.M. Coetzee', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Alan Jamieson and Dr Allyson Stack; <https://hdl.handle.net/1842/37202>

Seth Sayibu Mahama (2020), 'Propaganda Censorship and the Media: An Ethnographic Study of Ghana Dagbon Chieftaincy Crisis, 2002-2019', Ph.D thesis, Bangor University. Supervisor: Professor Vian Bakir.

Angelica Agredo Montealegre (2020), 'A Global History of the Road: Road Construction, Maintenance and Use in Colombia, Argentina, French West Africa, and the Algerian Sahara, 1930-1970', Ph.D thesis, King's College London, University of London. Supervisors: Professor David Edgerton and Dr Christine Mathias.

N. Tait (2020), 'Archaeological Ceramics as Chronological Indicators on Islamic Sites in Eastern Ethiopia', Ph.D thesis, University of Exeter. Supervisors: Professor Timothy Insoll and Dr John P. Cooper.

Mikal Woldu (2020), 'A Cross-National and Inter-Generational Analysis of Eritrean Transnational Engagement in London and Milan', Ph.D thesis, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Supervisors: Dr John R. Campbell and Dr Catherine Dolan.

Recent Publications

Barbara MacGowan Cooper (2019), *Countless Blessings: A History of Childbirth and Reproduction in the Sahel*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 345pp, 978-0-253-04201-9, £28.99.

Douglas W. Leonard (2019), *Anthropology, Colonial Policy and the Decline of French Empire in Africa*. Bloomsbury Academic. 248pp, 978-1-78831-520-3, £76.50.

Gregg Mills, Olusegun Obasanjo, Emily van der Merwe and Hailemariam Desalegn (2020), *The Asian Aspiration: Why and How Africa Should Emulate Asia*. Hurst, 336pp, 978-1787384453, £25.

Awino Okech (2020), *Gender, Protests and Political Change in Africa*. Palgrave Macmillan, 276pp, 978-3030463427, £89.99.

Call for Papers: Chants, Dreams and Other Grammars of Love

The Editorial Team of Remi Raji, Josephine Alexander, Oyeniyi Okunoye, Natasha Himmelman, Bongani Kona and Idowu Omoyele invite contributions to a commemorative anthology celebrating the life and work of Professor Harry Oludare Garuba (1958-2020); poet, literary scholar, teacher, mentor, and beloved friend.

Harry Garuba has been described as “the magnetic force of lasting and legendary friendships” (Raji 2020), an ever-present power “in the conviviality of people that he [...] nurtured, comforted and added in his ever-expanding circle of inclusion” (Fuh 2020), “African intellectual and icon” (Kessi 2020), and “one of the world’s finest and most innovative poets” (Omoyele 2020).

This collection seeks to gather stories, poems, and reminiscences about our beloved friend and teacher and his engagement with, and contributions to society, people and literature. This anthology is envisioned as a fête, praise song, dirge, sendero, faithful witnessing, an open place for remembering and healing for the great loss of an exceptional mind.

Send single or multiple submissions of poems, stories, tributes and artwork by 30th October 2020: othergrammarsoflove@gmail.com and remiraji@gmail.com Please send your entry only in word format (not PDF) and indicate your full or pen name and affiliation. Artwork only in jpeg format.

References for the obituaries:

Fuh, Divine. 2020. ‘Obituary: The Pothole in My Heart: Tribute to Harry Garuba (1958-2020).’ *Modern Africa: Politics, History and Society*, 8.1, pp. 5-9.

Kessi, Shose. 2020. 'In Remembrance: Professor Harry Garuba.' *UCT News*, 29 February 2020. <https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2020-02-29-in-remembrance-professor-harry-garuba>

Omoyele, Idowu. 2020. 'Garuba Finds His "Port of Death."' *Mail & Guardian*, 19 March 2020. <https://mg.co.za/article/2020-03-19-garuba-finds-his-port-of-death/>

Raji, Remi. 2020. 'Harry Garuba (1958-2020): A Tribute in Two Feelings.' *Konya Shamsrumi*. <https://shamsrumi.com.ng/2020/03/04/harry-garuba-1958-2020-a-tribute-in-two-feelings-by-remi-raji/>

Call for Papers: Old Wine in New Bottles: The New Scramble for Africa

Late 19th century hyper-nationalism, economic downturn, and global competition to open up new markets for European goods gave rise to the scramble for Africa. A legacy of this scramble was the 1885 partition of Africa and the inauguration of colonial rule. This project of exploitation in Africa lasted for more than seven decades before it began to collapse. Between January and December of 1960, seventeen African nations became "politically independent" from their European overlords. Sixty years later, the promises of independence have remained a mirage for many on the continent, and the image of Africa for many in the West evokes corruption, disease, war, and poverty or what Dambisa Moyo has described as "the Four Horsemen of Africa's Apocalypse."

The arrangements that led to the independence of African countries granted them political independence without economic independence as the economies remained reliant on the extractive systems that were put in place by the European powers. Leaders of these new states that Frederick Cooper calls "Gatekeeper States" relied primarily on excise taxes and foreign loans/ aid to manage their countries, a situation that makes them less responsive to their people but more to the Euro-American powers that provide the capital. As in the 1880s, a newly heightened interest in Africa is emerging among Asian, European, and American powers. These powers are rushing to 'invest' in Africa and also to establish commercial and strategic ties. This new surge has been fuelled by China's \$300 billion-plus investments in Africa. Since the 2018 Forum on the China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing where the Communist Party's leader Xi Jinping announced a \$60 billion investment package for Africa, other European powers have joined the scramble: the Russia-Africa Summit (October 2019), Germany's Compact with Africa (November 2019), and the Britain-Africa Investment Summit (January 2020). The US is present as a major player through its neoliberal and neocolonial multilateral financial institutions such as the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation.

The editors are interested in contributions that discuss, challenge or interrogate issues relating to the activities of China and Euro-American powers and their institutions on the African continent. Some possible questions that essays should address are: how does Africa's colonial past shape the new rush for its natural

resources; what is the nature of China's "investments" in Africa? Is China a new imperialist power on the continent; Brexit and colonial nostalgia: what is the role of the Commonwealth of Nations; Russia's return to Africa, what does this mean for Africa and the West; what is the G-20 Compact with Africa and how is it shaping Africa's relations with the Global North; are France's economic ties with its former colonies a continuation of colonial rule; what would be the main dissimilarities, if any, between the Old scramble for Africa and the new jostle for Africa by global Super Powers; in the Old Scramble, Ethiopia and the Afrikaner Republics were participants; which African states will be actors or acted upon in the new scramble; what is the financial, social, religious, and infrastructural impact of the new scramble on African states, and how are the citizens responding; to what extent could Non-Governmental Organizations operating in Africa be neo-imperialists; are IMF/World Bank activities in Africa neo-colonial; how are global trade policies affecting Africa's development; and how African is the African Development Bank?

Contributors should address these questions from historical and interdisciplinary perspectives. The editors are particularly interested in contributions from disciplines such as history, sociology, political science, economics, and geography. We are currently working with Leuven University Press and the proposal will be submitted to them in the first instance.

If you are interested in contributing a chapter to this volume, please submit an abstract of 500 to 800 words and a brief CV (not more than two pages) to Bekeh Ukelina by 1st November 2020: bekeh.ukelina@cortland.edu Notification by 20th November 2020, if your proposal is accepted. Completed articles of 6,000 to 8,000 words are due by 1st April 2021. Authors will be invited to discuss their papers in a Zoom Workshop with fellow authors in April 2021.

News

Chevening British Library Fellowship 2021/22

The Chevening British Library Fellowship is a collaboration between the UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office and the British Library, offering international experts a year-long professional project-based placement. Fellows will have the privilege of working with the extensive library's collections and benefit from the broad range of professional expertise of library staff. One of the fellowships will be working with the Endangered Archives Programme to work on digitised Harari sound recordings.

If you are a citizen of Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Somaliland, or Yemen and currently reside in country and would like to learn more, please go to the Chevening website (<https://www.chevening.org/fellowship/british-library-cataloguing-harari-sound-recordings/>)

A Tribute to Lynn Taylor at James Currey (an imprint of Boydell and Brewer)

We recently heard the news that Lynn Taylor, the managing editor responsible for publications in literature, theatre and film at James Currey, has stepped down from her job, alongside other staff and as part of Boydell and Brewer's response to the financial constraints caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

Lynn has been a core member of James Currey's team for 30 years and she has helped to build the company into the UK's leading African Studies publisher. Working closely with early-career scholars in the development of their book projects, she has helped to bring several award-winning first books to publication including, most recently, Terri Ochiagha's *Achebe and Friends* (ASAUK Fage & Oliver Monograph Prize, 2016) and Rebecca Jones's *At the Crossroads* (shortlisted for the Fage & Oliver Prize, 2020). She has also commissioned numerous major publications by senior scholars, not least Ngugi wa Thiong'o's incisive, provocative writings on decolonising African literature.

ASAUK members will have met Lynn at our conferences over the years, at the ASA and ALA conferences in the United States, and at numerous African Studies lectures and events in the UK. Through her conversations with prospective authors and her warm sociability, she has supported several generations of scholars with innovative projects in African literary and cultural studies. For her entire working life, Lynn has remained committed to producing African editions of James Currey publications through co-publishing arrangements with colleagues on the continent. In short, she has been a vital presence in a scholarly community characterised by friendship and collegiality, and she will be sorely missed. We join many others in wishing her well in the next phase of her career.

Stephanie Newell and Ranka Primorac, Series Editors,
African Articulations, James Currey (Boydell & Brewer).

Obituary

Professor Samson Chukwuma Ukpabi

The Historical Society of Nigeria, HSN, Southeast Zone on 4th July 2020, lost one of its illustrious members, fathers, mentors and scholars, Professor S. C. Ukpabi. He, along with Professors Afigbo and Ifemesia, made Department of History, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, UNN, shine like a million stars in the firmament of historical scholarship in Nigeria in the 1970s and 1980s.

A quintessential scholar, Professor Ukpabi elevated military history to an art and during long years of military dictatorship in Nigeria was one of its key supporters and advisers. He held several positions of authority such as Head, Department of History, UNN, Dean, Faculty of Arts, UNN, Provost, Anambra

State University of Science and Technology, Provost, Nigeria Defence Academy, NDA, Kaduna, Sole Administrator, Enugu State Local Government Service Commission, Secretary to State Government, SSG, Enugu State and Chairman, JAMB among others.

Professor Ukpabi was charismatic, trustworthy and amiable which accounted for his being recommended to serve in various capacities severally. He was also a good mixer and embodied with a great sense of wisdom for his people of Okpanku, Aninri LGA, Enugu state to crown him as their Igwe, traditional ruler, a position he discharged with great sense of responsibility for many years upon retirement. Death is a necessary end for all mortals and as we bid Professor Ukpabi joyful activities in the great beyond. May we entreat the Almighty God to spare, Southeast historians further grief this year.

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Professor Paul Obi-Ani, VP, Historical Society of Nigeria, Southeast**

Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the January 2021 *Newsletter* by 15th December 2020 to Dr Simon Heap: effaheap@aol.com

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