



NEWSLETTER

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ASAUK 2008: Extension of Call for Papers and Panels

'The Presence of the Past? Africa in the Twenty-First Century', ASAUK Biennial Conference, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, Thursday 11th–Saturday 13th September 2008. The conference brings together Africanists from all over the world and from various disciplines to discuss the past and current developments in Africa and African Studies. The organisers would particularly welcome postgraduate presentations on their current or recently completed research. Papers are invited on all themes relating to the continent. 250-word abstracts for papers or panels (of three papers) by 29 February 2008 to Emma Kelly: eakelly1@uclan.ac.uk or via the website: www.asauk.net

Minutes of the Forty-fourth Annual General Meeting of ASAUK, held at SOAS, University of London, 20 December 2007

Present

Tunde Zack-Williams (President), William Beinart (Vice-President, Richard Hodder-Williams (Honorary Treasurer), Insa Nolte (Honorary Secretary), Rita Abrahamsen, June Bam-Hutchison, Elsbeth Court, James Currey, Diane Frost, Gemma Haxby, Simon Heap, Lotte Hughes, David Kerr, Roy May, Derek Patterson, Barbara Spina and Dmitri van den Bersselaar.

1. Apologies

Ray Bush, Karen Brown, Jan Georg-Deutsch, Ben Knighton, David Pratten, Ben Page and Gina Porter.

2. Minutes of 43rd ASAUK Annual General Meeting

The minutes were accepted and signed by the President.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Report by the Honorary Secretary (Dr Insa Nolte)

The secretary summarised her written report, which had been circulated to the AGM. Throughout the past year, Council has continued to work closely with the Royal African Society (RAS) to develop ASAUK's profile as a Learned Society, to fund academic conferences and workshops in the UK and to deliver the Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture. The latter was delivered on 14 September in Leeds by Tim Murithi on the topic "From Pan-Africanism to the Union of Africa".

Council is particularly grateful to the RAS for increasing the amount of conference funding to be disbursed by the ASAUK from £2,000 in a non-conference year to £4,000, and from £3,000 to £5,000 in a conference year. Council also continues to work closely with the Standing Conference on Library Materials in Africa (SCOLMA), and plans to maintain good relations with Centres of African Studies in the UK.

Council has also worked closely with the British Academy. In September 2006 ASAUK was awarded the status of a Learned Society by the British Academy and joined its Board for Academy-Sponsored Institutes and Societies (BASIS) group. This recognition was accompanied by an exploratory grant of over £30,000 for the financial year 2007-08, and Council has begun to implement steps to support Africanist research in the UK and Africa. Activities include the employment of a part-time Research Administrator, David Kerr, based at the Centre of West African Studies in Birmingham, the co-operation with other BASIS institutions and the setting up of a Research Committee, chaired by Vice-President William Beinart. On 14-15 November 2007 the ASAUK took part in the annual BASIS meeting, which was followed by an 'Evolving Societies' event that showcased the various BASIS institutes and societies at the Barbican in London. The British Academy produced a booklet with information about all the Learned Societies and institutes, while ASAUK produced a poster board for this event.

Thanks to the change in membership policy, which means that RAS members will automatically become members of the ASAUK, ASAUK has gained 306 new members. Gemma Haxby and Pat Jensen compiled this table in September 2007.

	2005	2006	2007
ASAUK Members UK	408	481	731
ASAUK Members Overseas	69	89	81
Student Members UK	92	94	155
Student Members Overseas	16	15	9
Honorary Life Members	3	3	3
Corporate Members	1	1	7
Associate Members	6	4	7
Total Members	595	687	993

Finally the secretary expressed Council's sincere gratitude to Gemma Haxby for the work she has done on behalf of ASAUK.

5. Report by the Honorary Treasurer (Professor Richard Hodder-Williams)

The treasurer summarised the information contained in the ASAUK trustees' report and financial statement for the calendar year 2006, which was circulated to the AGM. He noted that the year 2006 saw the Association make a surplus of £8,000. This was due to a very successful biennial conference, which contributed £6,640. A small increase in subscription income allied with a small decrease in running costs produced the remaining extra. This means that the Association has a reserve of £54,500.

The cost of the Newsletter, which is the Association's major communications organ, is increasing steadily, as more information is conveyed to members. This success will also affect the finances in 2007.

The RAS is looking to alter the current arrangement by which the ASAUK pays £2,000 per annum for secretarial assistance and office space and increase it to £5,000 per annum. As this would put the ASAUK under some financial pressure, the treasurer suggested that he negotiate with the RAS in order to reduce the increase. The AGM delegated to the treasurer the authority to undertake these negotiations.

The RAS has also recommended an increase in the subscription level of £2 from £39 to £41. In order to cover these additional secretarial and office costs the treasurer recommended that the AGM approve this increase in subscriptions.

Finally, the treasurer pointed out that the accounts do not show the very considerable support given by the RAS to the ASAUK by funding overseas scholars to attend conferences and workshops in the UK. The AGM recommended to Council to consider for workshop and conference sponsorship only applications submitted by RAS/ASAUK (corporate or individual) members.

6. Subscriptions

The AGM agreed to raise subscriptions by £2 for 2008.

7. President's Report (Professor Alfred Zack-Williams)

The president emphasised the changes associated with the ASAUK's recognition as a Learned Society by the British Academy. He explained that as a member of BASIS the ASAUK could propose joint research projects with other BASIS institutes and societies. This year, the ASAUK and the British Institute in East Africa (BIEA) have submitted a joint proposal on "Modern Urban Culture in West and East Africa", on which the BASIS committee will decide early in 2008. ASAUK has also invited the head of the Society for Libyan Studies to attend Council meetings; this arrangement is reciprocal.

The president also informed the AGM that work on the Directory of Africanists was in progress, and that questionnaires would be sent out to members and other Africanists early in 2008.

The president informed the AGM that at the end of 2006 conference discussions took place between ASAUK (under Professor Graham Furniss' Presidency), Mr John Kirkland of the ACU and the British Academy about strengthening research links between British and African Universities. A report on this matter, written by Jonathan Harle, has just been published. A meeting has been set up between ASAUK, the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), representatives of African universities and the British Council, research councils and other funding bodies to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, in February of next year.

Finally the president asked the vice-president, William Beinart, to report on the work of the Research Committee. The vice-president explained that all Council members had been invited to two past committee meetings held in Leeds and Oxford. Also invited were heads of African Studies centres and editors of Africanist journals based in the UK. Discussions were held about the Association's future research plans, possible co-operation with Africanist journals and joint interests with organisations including the British Academy, the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and SCOLMA. It is envisaged that all Council members could participate in Research Committee meetings in the future.

8. Election of Officers and Council Members

The AGM unanimously voted for the re-election of the following council members: Dr Jan-Georg Deutsch, Dr Sara Dorman, Professor Roy May and Dr JoAnn McGregor. The AGM unanimously voted for the election of the following council members: Prof. Raymond Bush, Dr Karen Brown, Dr Lotte Hughes, Dr David Pratten, Dr June Bam-Hutchison and Dr Diane Frost. The AGM unanimously co-opted the following council members: Dr Simon Heap (Newsletter), Dr Ben Page and Dr Tim Kelsall (*African Affairs*), and Ms Barbara Spina (SCOLMA).

The AGM encouraged Council to continue to seek a regionally and disciplinary representation of Council members. After a query regarding Council attendance, the AGM encouraged Council to work more closely with the editors of *African Affairs*, and to attend Council meetings regularly if possible. The AGM also suggested strongly that Council members who had not attended three consecutive Council meetings be encouraged to resign their membership of Council.

9. Call for nominations for 2008 ASAUK awards (Distinguished Africanist Award, Audrey Richards Prize and Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture)

The secretary reminded all ASAUK members that the ASAUK seeks nominations for the Distinguished Africanist Awards, the Audrey Richards Prize and the Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture in 2008.

10. ASAUK Newsletter (Dr Simon Heap)

The editor reported that 1,200 copies of the Newsletter are printed each quarter, which are then sent out with African Affairs and posted on the ASAUK website two weeks thereafter. The October Newsletter was late because the journal had production problems, but future editions should reach members of schedule. ASAUK members are asked to contribute to the Newsletter by announcing conferences early on. Information about theses, news, fellowships and publications is also required. Members are invited to write 400 to 800 word contributions about conferences or other topics of interest for the Newsletter.

Simon confirmed that he was happy to continue as editor for the following year. The AGM thanked Simon for his work as Newsletter editor, and for maintaining its role as a major organ of communication among members.

11. ASAUK Website

The Website – www.asauk.net – has been maintained by Rohan Jackson. David Kerr is currently improving his skills so that he can take on part of the website management once his research findings are to be published. ASAUK members are encouraged to visit the website and to contact Rohan with suggestions at: webweaver@asauk.net Rohan is also working on the ASAUK directory of excellence, which will be linked to the website.

12. SCOLMA

The Standing Conference on Library Materials on Africa (SCOLMA) remains active. Its Chair, Barbara Spina, remains a co-opted member of the ASAUK council. She reported that in 2007 SCOLMA held an inaugural meeting of European Librarians in African Studies (ELIAS), which is loosely linked with Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS) and will be attached to the AEGIS conference. ELIAS wants to cooperate and develop themes, and improve the way librarians can support academic research and African scholars. ELIAS has planned its next meeting for June in Paris, and hopes to invite a representative of the ASAUK to attend the Paris meeting.

13. Any other Business

No further issues were raised.

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'Coercive Networks': Violence, Punishment and the Colonial Condition', Robinson College, University of Cambridge, 9 May 2008. This interdisciplinary workshop aims to investigate coercive networks: the relationships between strategies of violence, the law and governance in the colonial and postcolonial world. This workshop will approach strategies of violence through wider empirical and theoretical frameworks. It will integrate studies of individual penal

techniques, with less studied practices such as vigilantism, punitive expeditions and summary justice to analyse the wider 'coercive networks' and strategies of violence in colonial governance. The workshop aims to move beyond conceptualizations of colonial punishments as a disciplinary strategy which are centred on Foucauldian understandings of discipline, and bring out the tensions inherent in practices of punishment and violence in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Economies of violence are constantly created and maintained, and investigating this process involves studying the relationship between social structures and discourses of power, the tensions between law and social custom, and between the aims and outcomes of the violence itself. As such, papers are welcomed on topics including state violence, punishment, extra-judicial violence, communal conflict, torture, human rights violations, and theoretical and methodological approaches. Abstracts of 300-words by 30 January 2008 to Stacey Hynd: sh562@cam.ac.uk

'African Athena: Black Athena 20 years on', University of Warwick, 6-8 November 2008. *African Athena* was Bernal's original title for *Black Athena*, his "infamous" work that has confronted the modern academy with some of the most challenging questions it has faced over the last twenty years. This conference seeks neither to demonise nor lionize Bernal's book, but to open dialogue on the issues it has posed: can a myth of Afrocentrism ever be a useful narrative in contemporary culture? How do Africanising and classicising cultures interface and interpenetrate in the arts and lives of Africans, Europeans, West Indian and Americans? Does *Black Athena* offer new possibilities for comparison between African and Jewish diasporas, cultures and struggles? How do we deal with the difficult collusion of essentialist and poststructuralist discourses in "postcolonial" thought? Scholars of African Studies, Black British Studies, African American Studies, of South Asia, of the Middle East, of classicists, philologists, anthropologists, sociologists, and any intellectual beyond these borders are welcome to participate. Confirmed keynote speakers include Martin Bernal, Paul Gilroy, Stephen Howe, Valentin Y. Mudimbe and Robert J.C. Young. Abstracts up to 500 words by 31 March 2008 to Dr Daniel Orrells: D.Orrells@warwick.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL

'(De)Constructing Urbanities: Opportunities and Challenges in African Cities', The James S. Coleman African Studies Center, University of California, Los Angeles, USA, 11-12 April 2008. To encourage discourse on the challenges and opportunities facing Africans in the post-colonial context of urbanization, the African Activist Association at UCLA is hosting a symposium to examine new configurations of African cities. Topics include: public policy and administration, public health, demography and mobility, architecture and art of the city, youth culture and music, film and performance art, religion and spirituality, or law. 250-word abstracts by 15 February 2008 to: africanactivists@gmail.com

'Borders and Border Crossings in Africa', AEGIS (Africa-Europe Group of Interdisciplinary Studies), Cortona Summer School in African Studies Cortona, Tuscany, Italy, 16-22 June 2008. This is a summer school designed for advanced Ph.D. students in African Studies (social sciences and humanities) aiming to take part in the Third AEGIS European Conference of African Studies (ECAS 3, Leipzig, July 2009). Sponsored by AEGIS-Naples in collaboration with the AEGIS Centres of Bayreuth, Edinburgh, and Leiden, the summer school brings together doctoral students and teaching staff from AEGIS Centres in order to exchange field and research experience; to improve the students' ability to prepare and present their research in an international context; and to promote graduate training within AEGIS and stimulate African-European inter-university cooperation.

Participants are expected to present papers on their current research. The emphasis will be on field methodology and comparative research results, both in writing and the oral presentation. The workshop is open to 20 Ph.D. students and young researchers coming from AEGIS Centres and their affiliates in Europe and Africa. Applicants are invited to submit proposals that address the topic of borderlands as open spaces where peoples and states interact (issues relating to trade or protest) or the wider phenomena of border-crossing (labour migration, refugees. Each participant will be asked to contribute to the Summer School by paying a lump-sum of 600 Euros to cover costs in Cortona. The cost of travel is to be met individually. Candidates coming from AEGIS Centres can apply to their Centre for financial assistance. A limited number of scholarships may be made available to African students. 500-word abstracts, as well as a one-page outline of their Ph.D. status and current research by 31 January 2008 to Giulia Ferrato: giulia.ferrato@gmail.com For information on AEGIS: www.aegis-eu.org

'Sport History and Sport Studies in Southern Africa', University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 29 June-3 July 2008. This international conference is a collaborative effort between six institutions: Stellenbosch University; the University of Fort Hare; Michigan State University; the Institute of Northern Studies at Leeds Metropolitan University; the International Centre for the Study of Sports History at De Montfort University; and the Sport and Exercise Sciences Research Institute at the University of Ulster. The conference is intended by these institutions to be a contribution to the overall preparations for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, which will be held for the first time in Africa. This interdisciplinary conference aims to provide a platform for a discussion of the state and future of Southern African and African sport history and sport studies. It also aims to act as a vehicle for the consolidation of South African sport history research and writing through the publication of a volume/s synthesizing current and past work. The conference themes include sport and literature; biography; organizational histories; gender relations and changing patterns in women's sport; sport and apartheid; sport and liberation struggles; sport on the African

continent; the international dimension of apartheid and sport; sport and identity; sport in the re-imagining of the nation; sport as a socializing and political instrument; capitalism, class and elitism in sport; education and the construction of masculinity. 300-word abstracts by 1 March 2008 to Ms C. Harmsen: history-conference@sun.ac.za

'Ethnicity: Theory and Practice in the 21st Century', University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, 26-28 September 2008. This conference explores issues intersecting identity theories and pedagogical approaches concerning ethnicity. Suggestions for areas of discussions are ethnicity-based and race-based stereotyping; human rights and ethnic diversity; transnational citizenship: fact and fiction; multicultural ideals and reality; ethnic representations: films, literature, and other mediums; comparative analysis: ethnic acceptance in international context; ethnicity and the body; space/place and ethnicity; teaching ethnically; gendered ethnicities; and ethnicity and life writing. 300-word abstracts by 29 February 2008 to Maria Ng: maria.ng@uleth.ca

'Perspectives on African Decolonization: African Intellectuals and Decolonization', Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, USA, 2-4 October 2008. Fifty years ago, Guinea, under Ahmed Sekou Toure, chose political independence over continued association with France. The All-African Peoples Convention hosted by Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana in the same year highlighted the links between and among Africans and peoples of African descent in the Diaspora. 2008 is also the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the seminal journal *Presence Africaine* by Alioune Diop. Focusing on African intellectuals and decolonization will allow for an interrogation of all three concepts as well as an opportunity to examine the roles intellectuals have played and continue to play in contemporary African efforts at liberation from economic neo-colonialism. Additionally, this conference will provide an opportunity to highlight the cutting edge work of contemporary African philosophers, the inheritors of the intellectual traditions established by the generations who fought for the liberation of Africa. Topics for discussion include but by no means are limited to: Who is African? Who is an intellectual? What do we mean by decolonization? Colonialism and decolonization in Africa; neocolonialism and (neo)decolonization in Africa; women and decolonization in Africa; decolonizing the (Westernized) Academy; African philosophies and decolonization; African indigenous knowledge systems and decolonization; the Arts and African decolonization; African literatures and decolonization; the Sciences and decolonization in Africa; and conservation of natural resources in Africa and decolonization. 250-word abstracts and short CV for individual papers, or panel proposals with abstracts and CVs for each presenter as well as a 250-500 word overview of the panel, by 1 May 2008 via: www.ohio.edu/african/conferences.cfm

'8th Northeast Workshop on Southern Africa (NEWSA)', Burlington, Vermont, USA, 17-19 October 2008. The organisers seek papers from scholars of all disciplines who are currently working on Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia or Zimbabwe. The conference is organized around intensive discussion of pre-circulated papers; there are also many opportunities for informal conversation about work in progress. Abstracts for papers or three-paper panels (and discussant, if possible) by 14 March 2008 to Peter Alegi: alegi@msu.edu

'Hierarchy and Power in the History of Civilizations: Fifth International Conference, Moscow, Russia, 16-19 June 2009. Organized by the Center for Civilizational and Regional Studies of the Institute for African Studies under the Russian Academy of Sciences in co-operation with the School of History, Political Science and Law of the Russian State University for the Humanities, the conference is to discuss the following issues: hierarchical and flat structures in the history of cultures and civilizations; civilizational and evolutionary models of socio-political development; historical and ethno-cultural variability of the forms of socio-political organization; from simple societies to the world-system: pathways and forms of political integration; socio-political and cultural-mental factors of social transformations; cultural and socio-biological foundations of dominance in human societies; ideology and legitimation of power in different civilizational contexts; cultural models of power's perception in different civilizations; violence and non-violence in the history of political institutions; access to information as a means of political manipulation and mobilization; power, society, and culture in the era of globalization; and the study of "hierarchy and power": schools, trends, and methods. The working languages of the Conference are Russian and English. Abstracts up to 500 words for papers or panels (of three papers) by 15 February 2008 to Dr Oleg I. Kavykin: conf2009@conf2009.ru

...Conferences Past

'African Alternatives: Initiative and Creativity beyond Current Constraints', The Second European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), Leiden, 11-14 July 2007. The conference brought together 783 participants from 52 countries, of whom 286 were (Ph.D) students and approximately 640 were panel conveners and paper givers. The keynote speeches, roundtable discussions and the 'meet the author' session formed the core of the conference and a wide variety of subjects – ranging from religion, state formation, Islam, HIV and AIDS, education and literature to decentralization and politics – were discussed in the panel sessions. There was a well-attended book display in the central hall and the ASC had arranged an exhibition of paintings by artists from Togo and Burkina Faso.

There were two roundtable discussions: *Justice versus Peace?* concerned dilemmas facing the International Criminal Court, and the NVA-CODESRIA session was on higher education and research in Africa. Richard Werbner's *Reasonable Radicals and Citizenship in Botswana* was the book under discussion at the 'meet the author' session.

The opening keynote lecture, *Can Africa Solve its Development Challenges?*, was given by Moeletsi Mbeki, a prominent businessman and deputy chairman of the South African Institute of International Affairs, who stressed the need to focus on Africa's own human resources rather than on external donors. There are signs of a growing middle-class in Africa today and Mr Mbeki called upon donors to support the emergence of home-grown African institutions and networks that could promote democracy and economic growth.

The closing lecture was given by Bert Koenders, the Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation, on the Dutch government's policy on fragile states in Africa. He feels that progress in Africa can only be accomplished if violent conflicts, bad policy and similar issues in fragile states are addressed, and he called on Africanists to think about how development relations can be improved. He argued that development should be embedded in a wider understanding of political processes in Africa and that key functions of the state need to be strengthened and accommodate means to alleviate poverty.

The panel sessions included, for example, one on *New Modes of Sociality in Muslim Africa* which explored how African Muslims are using texts, the media and the public sphere in an increasingly globalized world. It also looked at youth, generational differences, contested values and new ways of being Muslim. Another panel on *Generations of Migrants in West Africa* aimed to shift attention from movement into Europe to migration flows and immobilities within West Africa, and explored the impact of migration on families and individuals in papers linking historical and ethnographic material with life histories. And the panel *Makers of the Ethiopian Political Crisis* analyzed the genesis of ethnic politics and the impact of ethnic mobilization on the struggle of the Ethiopian state to pave the way to modernity. Details of all the panels and paper abstracts can be found on the conference website: <http://ecas2007.aegis-eu.org>

ECAS 2007 was a great success and everyone looks forward to meeting up again in Leipzig in 2009.

Professor Leo J. de Haan, Director, African Studies Centre, Leiden

'Crossing Continental Borders: A Comparison of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean Worlds', Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICS), University of London, 23 November 2007. The conference brought together scholars from the Atlantic and Indian Ocean Worlds. The papers concerned the history of the peoples who cross continental borders and also the contributions they made to

their new lands. The event attracted both a variety of academics and others from the UK, Canada, USA, Denmark, Zanzibar, Japan and the Netherlands. Through his paper, *Slaves in the Islamic World: a Tentative Census*, William Clarence-Smith (SOAS) proposed that an equal number of European, Asian and African slaves were subjected to Islamic servitude. In *African Migration to Asia: A Forgotten Process*, Shihan de Silva (ICS) questioned why this other African movement had not received much attention. Hugo Cardoso (Amsterdam) discussed *The African element in the Indo-Portuguese-speaking Communities*, while Elsbeth Court (SOAS) exhibited a 'Slave Dhow' carved by David Kimunya, Gikomba Carving Co-operative Society (Kenya) in *Imagining the Indian Ocean Slave Trade*. Yoko Namikawa (Kobe City) discussed voluntary migrants to Africa through *Making a Proper Home outside Britain through Mission Schools*. Saidi El-Gheithy (Sayyida Salme Foundation) introduced the autobiography of Emily Said-Ruete in *The Life and Writings of Princess Salme (1844-1924)*. In *Savages with no knowledge of their ancestry: Examples of Dance Survivals during and after the Atlantic Crossing*, Rodreguez King-Dorset (Lincoln) distinguished between the forced movements on board the slave ships and African traditional dance. James Walvin (York) explained how 2007 had made *Slavery in the Atlantic Ocean* an every day phenomenon – "a sweet cup of tea" – through associating sugar with slavery. Ann Mitchell (Open) considered the effects of migration on the health of both Black and Asian women in *Crossing the Atlantic to Britain: the case of Guyanese women from the 1950s to the present day as providers and consumers of health care*.

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Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Iwaleso Omosalewa Akinrinsola-Salami (2006) 'Legal and Institutional Framework for Monetary Union in Anglophone West-Africa: The Nigerian Perspective', Ph.D thesis, University of London.

Matthew James Wilfred Barac (2007) 'From Township to Town: Urban Change in Victoria Mxenge TT Informal Settlement, Cape Town, South Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Mr P. Carl.

Lyndsay Peta Bird (2006) 'Learning about War and Peace in the Great Lakes Region of Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of London. Supervisors: Dr Eva Gamarnikow and Dr Chris Williams.

Francis Chigunta (2007) 'An Investigation into Youth Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship in the Urban Informal Sector in Zambia', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Frances Stewart and Dr Abdul Raufu Mustapha.

Mamadou Alpha Diedhiou (2006) 'Good Governance and Participation in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Policy Genealogy', Ph.D thesis, University of the West of England, Bristol.

Edward Dominick Donnelly (2006) 'Collective Bargaining Reform in the New South Africa and the Role of Employer Associability', Ph.D thesis, University of London.

Oluseto Fasan (2007) 'Compliance with WTO Law in Developing Countries: A Study of South Africa and Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, University of London.

Daniel Patrick Hammett (2007) 'Constructing Ambiguous Identities: Negotiating Race, Respect, and Social Change in 'Coloured' Schools in Cape Town, South Africa', Ph.D. Thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Professor Alan Barnard and Professor Kenneth King.

Genevieve Lynette Klein (2007) 'The Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) in Britain and Support for the African National Congress (ANC), 1976-1990', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor William Beinart.

Edith Lachkar-Bruder (2006) 'The Construction of Jewish Identities in Sub-Saharan Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of London.

Alexander J. Loftus (2006) 'A Political Ecology of Water Struggles in Durban, South Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Erik Swyngedouw and Dr Tony Lemon.

Paul Michael Pronyk (2006) 'Development Finance, Social Capital and HIV/AIDS in Rural South Africa: The Intervention with Microfinance for AIDS and Gender Equity', Ph.D thesis, University of London.

Ukoha O. Ukiwo (2006) 'Horizontal Inequalities and Violent Ethnic Conflicts: A Comparative Study of Ethnic Relations in Calabar and Warri, Southern Nigeria', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Abdul Raufu Mustapha.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Seifudein Adem and Abdul S. Bemath (eds) (2007) *The Politics of War and the Culture of Violence: North-South Essays by Ali A. Mazrui*. Trenton, New Jersey, USA: Africa World Press. 320pp. \$29.95. Details from <http://www.africaworldpressbooks.com/servlet/Detail?no=342>

Elizabeth MacGonagle (2007) *Crafting Identity in Zimbabwe and Mozambique* [the Ndau of southeast Africa]. University of Rochester Press. £45.00, 208pp, ISBN: 978-1-58046-257-0. Details from: www.boydell.co.uk/8046257X.htm

Gugulethu Moyo and Mark Ashurst (eds) *The Day After Mugabe: Prospects for Change in Zimbabwe*. London: Africa Research Institute. 214pp. Free copies (subject to availability) from: www.africaresearchinstitute.org

David Murphy and Patrick Williams (2007) *Postcolonial African Cinema, Ten Directors*. Manchester: Manchester University Press. 272pp. ISBN: Paperback: 978-0-7190-7203-1, £15.99. Hardback: 978-0-7190-7202-4, £55.00.

Africa: the Journal of the International African Institute: Special Discount for ASUK members. Edinburgh University Press and the International African Institute would like to offer members of the ASUK and Royal African Society the opportunity to subscribe to *Africa* at a discounted rate from 2008 onwards. To subscribe at the discounted rate of £41.25 (regular subscription: £65), phone 0131-650-4218 or marketing@eup.ed.ac.uk

Call for papers: 'New, Emergent, or Alternative Expressions of African Christianity', *Nova Religio: the Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*. A special edition of *Nova Religio* will be dedicated to the theme of the changing nature of African Christianity. English-language articles of original research are invited on any expression of African Christianity that may be defined as new, emergent, or alternative. Initial enquiries to the guest editor, Dr Joel E. Tishken: tishken_joel@colstate.edu

Appointments, Awards and Fellowships

Royal African Society's new office

The Royal African Society has moved to 36 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PD [corner of Gordon Square and Endsleigh Street, two minutes walk north of the old office located at SOAS]. Phone numbers have changed: RAS Secretary, Gemma Haxby: 020-3073-8335, and membership enquiries for Pat Jensen: 020-3073-8336. E-mail and website contacts remain the same: ras@soas.ac.uk and www.royalafricansociety.org

Appointment of British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Dr Toby Green has recently started a three-year British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellowship based at the Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham. His research plans to extend the scope of his doctoral thesis into the question of the spreading of African and New Christian diasporas into the South Atlantic through the Capeverdean region. The hope is to provide a contribution to the growing literature on creolization, and also to contribute to the growing development of the study of the African Atlantic and to contribute to debates on empire, slavery and the development of modern ideas of "race". You can contact Toby at T.O.Green@bham.ac.uk

Nomination for ASAUK Distinguished Africanist Award

The Distinguished Africanist Award was inaugurated by the ASAUK as a way of paying tribute to people who have made exceptional contributions to the field of African studies, that is, people who have in one way or another expanded and disseminated knowledge of Africa, and interest in Africa. 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. Past recipients of the award have been Basil Davidson, John Fage, Douglas Rimmer, Lionel Cliffe, Eldred and Marjorie Jones, Shula Marks, Roland Oliver, Terence Ranger, Tony Kirk-Greene and John Lonsdale.

The ASAUK Council has decided to give two Distinguished Africanist awards for the years 2007 and 2008. The recipients will be given their awards at the ASAUK Biennial Conference in Preston, 11-13 September 2008. Nominations must come from the membership and should consist of a concise statement by the nominator, outlining why the nominee qualifies for the award, as well as a short and selective CV and publication list. Nominations by 31 March 2008 to Gemma Haxby, Secretary, ASAUK, 36 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PD *or* asauk@soas.ac.uk

ASAUK Audrey Richards Prize

The Audrey Richards Prize for the best thesis on Africa successfully examined at a British institute of high education and is awarded every two years at the ASAUK Biennial Conference. Thanks to the generosity of the RAS and a number of publishers, who donate books, journal subscriptions and cash, this prize is well worth having. It is also an excellent way of recognizing and encouraging up-and-coming new Africanists. The prize will be for theses examined between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2007. With the permission of the candidate, thesis supervisors are encouraged to send a copy of the best thesis examined under their supervision during this period. Send thesis and short covering letter by 31 March 2008 to David Kerr, Research Administrator (ASAUK), Centre for West African Studies, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT.

Nominations for Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecturer, 2008

ASAUK seeks nominations for the Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecturer for this year. The Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecture will be delivered in September 2008, during the biennial ASAUK conference in Preston. The lectureship award's purpose is to encourage and support young African scholars. The lecture is to be delivered by an African scholar at an African University. The candidate should be at the beginning of their career, and the content of the lecture should be non-scientific, non-technical and on an African subject. South African, Nigerian and Kenyan academics have delivered the lecture in recent years.

The allowances include an economy return air fare to London, a prize of £500, accommodation and food expenses up to £500 and additionally, up to £250 for travel expenses to allow the lecturer to travel to other centres of African studies in the UK. The proposed lecturer should be nominated by a colleague; no self-nominations please. CV and a short statement on the topic of their proposed lecture by 31 March 2008 to Gemma Haxby, Secretary, ASAUK, 36 Gordon Square, London, UK, WC1H 0PD or asauk@soas.ac.uk

Royal Institute of British Architects Research Award

The 2007 winner of the RIBA President's Awards for Research for Outstanding PhD Thesis is Matthew Barac of the University of Cambridge for his doctorate, entitled *From Township to Town: Urban Change in Victoria Mxenge TT Informal Settlement, Cape Town, South Africa*. The thesis examines how symbolic and practical interpretations of city-making compete to transform the post-apartheid terrain into a more democratic living environment. Among the other shortlisted entries for this award was Kahina Amal Djiar of the University of Westminster for *War on the Casbah: Housing, Culture and French Colonialism in Algiers*.

Obituaries

David Joseph Mead Muffett (6 March 1919 – 30 September 2007).

Newspaper copyrighted.

Professor Peter Shinnie (18 January 1915 – 9 July 2007).

Newspaper copyrighted.

Dr John Davidson (12 March 1939 – 19 November 2007). It is with great sadness that we record the death of Dr John Davidson, who had served the Department of History and Welsh History and Aberystwyth University for many, many years as a wholly generous and deeply conscientious member of the academic staff. A historian of West African history, and more particularly of Sierra Leone, John Davidson joined the University in 1964 as lecturer in African and South Asian history, and served in a wide range of capacities, including periods as Dean of Arts (1986-89) as well as Acting Head (1983-84, 1989-90, 1991-92) and Head of Department (1992-94). He was appointed Senior Lecturer in 1994.

A graduate of the Universities of Edinburgh and of Wisconsin, John retired to Edinburgh in 1998. His wife, Anne, died in 1994; he leaves one daughter, Janet, and two sons, Tom, and Johnny, and three grandsons. John's funeral service was held in Edinburgh on Monday 26 November.

During his many years at Aberystwyth, John was known as a highly effective and careful teacher, someone who cared passionately about his area of the discipline and was conscious of maintaining it and of nurturing students, thereby consciously creating a constituency from which to draw students for further and

higher study on African and South Asian history. This also meant that John, as the sole historian of non-western history in the Department of History (from 1994, History and Welsh History) taught widely. He covered British relations with Africa and India, as well as British Imperial and Commonwealth history more generally alongside his more specialised courses on West African history.

John's opportunities for close research in Sierra Leone were limited, though he maintained his research in that area and published on the late-nineteenth-century political history of southern Sierra Leone, including a discussion of the 'Mende War' of 1898 ('April 27, 1898: the "Mende War " revisited', in P.K. Mitchell and A. Jones, eds, *Sierra Leone Studies at Birmingham, 1983* (Birmingham, 1984)). John's research also took him into investigations of ethnicity, as in "'Creole" or "Sierra Leonean": some evidence from 1898', in A. Jones and P.K. Mitchell, eds, *Sierra Leone Studies at Birmingham, 1985* (Birmingham, 1987) and in his more general surveys of the topic ('History and anthropology' and 'History, identity and ethnicity', both in P. Lambert and P. Schofield, eds, *Making history: an introduction to the history and practices of a discipline* (Routledge, 2004)). In his retirement, John's research focus shifted in part to Edinburgh, where he was gathering material on the city in the mid-nineteenth century.

One of John's greatest strengths was as a colleague; he is more than fondly remembered as a fine advocate for the university and its staff, not least as a supportive colleague to new members of staff. There will be many who will have enjoyed the advantage of that support over the years and will cherish his memory accordingly.

Professor Phillipp Schofield, University of Aberystwyth: prs@aber.ac.uk

Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the next *Newsletter* by **15 March 2008** to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, Plan International, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6JG, UK or simon.heap@plan-international.org Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK. For all matters relating to membership of either the ASAUK or RAS contact: Pat Jensen, RAS/ASAUK, 36 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PD; telephone: +44 (0)20-3073-8336; email: asa@soas.ac.uk or ras@soas.ac.uk

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