



# NEWSLETTER

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## Minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of ASAUK, held at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, 12 September 2008

**Present:** Tunde Zack-Williams (President), William Beinart (Vice-President), Richard Hodder-Williams (Honorary Treasurer), Insa Nolte (Honorary Secretary), Rita Abrahamsen, Ademola Ajayi, Akinyinka Akinyoade, Mark Appiah, June Bam-Hutchison, Karin Barber, Tony Binns, Stephen Bulman, Fantu Cheru, Sara Rich Dorman, Rosaleen Duffy, Gloria Emeagwali, Diane Frost, Simon Heap, Lotte Hughes, Christopher Hutchison, David Kerr, Stephanie Kitchen, Ben Knighton, Clement Kolawole, Vanessa Liston, Reuben Loffmann, Zuzana Luckay, Dave Matsuda, Rachel Masika, Hannah Max-Kyre, Kees Maxey, Mpalive Msiska, Alexander Moradi, Tanja Müller, Nici Nelson, Fayomi Oluyemi, Abioseh Porter, Gina Porter, Deborah Potts, Laura Routley, Seidu Salifu, Eva Sebestyen, Ann Swart, Ola Uduku, Francoise Ugochukwu, Alphonse Umuliisa, Jan Kees van Donge, Dmitri van den Bersselaar, Haruna Wakili, Kutoma Wakunuma-Zojer, Chris Willott.

### **1. Apologies**

Karen Brown, Ray Bush, Reginald Cline-Cole, James Currey, David Killingray, John Lonsdale, John McCracken, Barbara Spina, Andrew Walls, Peter Woodward.

### **2. Minutes of 44<sup>th</sup> 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 continued to work closely with the Royal African Society (RAS) to state the need for increased support for Africanist research and joint African-UK projects. Since its recognition as a Learned Society, the ASAUK has developed a close working relationship with the British Academy, and it has also invited representatives from the other British Academy-Sponsored Institutes and Societies (BASIS), including the British Libyan Society, to attend Council meetings.

In September 2006 the British Academy awarded ASAUK the status of a Learned Society and joined its BASIS group. This recognition was accompanied by two exploratory grants of over £30,000 for 2007-8 and 2008-9, 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.

The Research Administrator has been in contact with Africanist journal editors in the UK, Europe and the United States, and has met with UK Africanist publishers and several African scholarly publishers. He plans to finish his first report, on the difficulties faced by African academics publishing in UK-based journals, in early 2009. He has also started work on a joint website managed by the ASAUK and British Academy, which will host the Directory of Africanists and a directory of African scholars to have visited the UK. Other activities undertaken by the Research Administrator include support for the ASAUK Conference and supporting the Association's ongoing recognition by BASIS.

ASAUK continues to reach out to Centres of African Studies and to invite representatives from the major funding Councils to come to Council meetings. At the same time, it has continued to seek the inclusion of a high number of Africanists who work outside those African Studies Centres into Council. The Association continues its traditionally close association with the journal *African Affairs*, which is free to members, and it is developing a close working relationship with the journal *Africa*, which is also offering ASAUK members an individual subscription at a greatly reduced price.

Garnette Oluoch-Olunya from Kenyatta University is this year's Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecturer and has spoken on *The Letter of James to the People of Limuru* yesterday. All members are reminded that the ASAUK seeks nominations for the Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture for 2009.

Council is grateful to the RAS for increasing the amount it provides to the ASAUK for the support of general conference activities to £5,000 during a conference year (£4,000 during a non-conference year), which has enabled the increased participation of Africa-based academics in UK Africanist activities. Thanks to the funding provided by the RAS, the Annual Research Day of the Britain-Zimbabwe Association and a joint event organised by Liverpool and East Anglia Universities on 'Hausa Identity: History and Religion' were supported in 2008. ASAUK has also supported several individual academics to present their work at Preston 2008, including Haruna Wakili (Bayero University, Nigeria), Sylvester Odion (Centre for Constitutionalism and Demilitarization, Nigeria), Geoffrey Nwaka (Abia State, Nigeria), Folasade Hunsu (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria), Hannah Max-Kyne (ENCISS, Sierra Leone), Laryea Koroku

(University of Ghana), Ali Hlongwane (Hector Pietersen Museum, South Africa) and Alphonse Bartson-Umulisa (National Museum of Rwanda).

Membership is increasing and the ASAUK now has over 1,000 members. Most of the increase in membership is due to the introduction of the joint ASAUK and RAS membership, and ASAUK has benefited from the high numbers of RAS members.

	2005	2006	2007	2008
ASAUK Members UK	408	481	731	793
ASAUK Members Overseas	69	89	81	153
Student Members UK	92	94	155	92
Student Members Overseas	16	15	9	11
Honorary Life Members	3	3	3	2
Corporate Members	1	1	7	10
Associate Members	6	4	7	10
Total Members	595	687	993	1,071

The Honorary Secretary expressed Council's sincere gratitude to Pat Jensen, who compiled the above table, and Gemma Haxby, who provides day-to-day secretarial support to the ASAUK for all the work they have done on behalf of the ASAUK.

Tony Binns congratulated Council on the increased membership of the ASAUK and on the number of African colleagues attending the conference. He also asked what stage the Directory of Africanists had reached. The Treasurer explained that the Directory of Africanist had been delayed by the time taken to discuss the dataset with the British Academy and illness of the database expert employed to develop the directory.

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

The Treasurer apologised for the fact that the official reports for 2007 were not available. He noted that the year 2008 saw the Association make a surplus of about £3,000 to date and that the conference was expected to make a profit. The Association now has over £57,000 in reserves.

The RAS and ASAUK have agreed an alteration to the arrangement by which the ASAUK pays for secretarial assistance and office space. In the new arrangement there has been an increase in payment for secretarial assistance and office space and incidentals such as post and phone are fixed for three years. This represents a good deal for the ASAUK.

Finally, the Treasurer pointed out that the accounts will show a new category called restricted funding, which reflects the British Academy grant and is restricted to the projects outlined in our funding application. Unrestricted money in the ASAUK reserves will be used to fund travel expenses for Council members

to attend meetings and can be used for any kind of activity, such as the support of participants from Africa wishing to attend UK conferences.

## **6. Subscriptions**

The Treasurer reminded the AGM that last year the ASAUK members had agreed to put subscriptions up by £2 for 2008 and to further raise them in line with the RAS in 2010. The AGM was asked for an indication of whether regular smaller increases or larger increases with greater gaps between were preferred by ASAUK members. ASAUK members present at the AGM voted for smaller, more frequent increases.

## **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. Last year the Association was part of a showcase of the BASIS institutes and societies, and it was planning to participate in a similar event after the AGM. The President also announced that a forthcoming conference in Nairobi on 18-21 September had been jointly set up by the ASAUK, BA, RAS and Association of Commonwealth Universities. It will be attended by representatives of funders, African Universities, librarians and researchers and will aim to explore ways in which Africanist research can be supported and expanded, and it will also look for way in which the Association can work with African Universities and encourage research collaborations.

The President thanked Council for its work in support of his presidency. He expressed his gratitude to the Executive Officers who were retiring after the AGM, Richard Hodder-Williams, who has served the Association as Treasurer for many years, and Insa Nolte, who has been the Honorary Secretary for the last four years. Profound thanks were also given to the incoming President William Beinart for his support.

The President wished the ASAUK and the executive well.

## **8. Election of Officers and Council Members**

The AGM unanimously voted for the election of the following executive officers:

President: William Beinart.

Vice-President: Megan Vaughan.

Honorary Secretary: June Bam-Hutchison.

Honorary Treasurer: Ben Knighton.

The AGM unanimously voted for the election of the following council members:

Insa Nolte, Deborah Potts and James Currey.

The AGM unanimously co-opted the following council members: Simon Heap, Ben Page, Barbara Spina, and Jonathan Harle.

## **9. Call for nominations for 2009 ASAUK awards (Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture, Audrey Richards Prize, and Distinguished Africanist Award)**

The Secretary reminded all ASAUK members that the ASAUK continues to seek nominations for the Distinguished Africanist Awards, the Audrey Richards Prize and the Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture for the coming years and asked members to remain or become actively involved in the ASAUK. Nici Nelson reminded the AGM that the Distinguished Africanist Award is given for service to African Studies in the UK, not to a single institution.

#### **10. ASAUK Newsletter (Dr Simon Heap)**

Simon Heap reminded members that the *Newsletter* is sent out with African Affairs and posted on the ASAUK website two weeks thereafter. ASAUK members are asked to contribute to the *Newsletter* by announcing conferences early on, and were advised that conferences only go into the *Newsletter* if they are live for at least a month following publication. The details for obituaries that appear in the *Newsletter* are from newspapers as they are rigorously checked, but this does not preclude you putting in an appreciation. Simon noted that he had been editing the *Newsletter* for the past four years, and he invited anyone who might be interested in shadowing him or in taking over as editor to contact him via email. 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 continues to be located at <http://www.asauk.net/index.html>

#### **12. SCOLMA**

No news was received from SCOLMA at the AGM.

#### **13. Any Other Business**

The AGM was reminded that the AGM was followed by a plenary address by Fantu Cheru from the Nordic Africa Institute, a presentation by the Research Committee and the journal *Africa* as well as the Presidential address.

The Vice-President recorded the Association's thanks to Alfred Zack-Williams for his service as President during the last two years. He acknowledged that the outgoing President had built on the foundations laid by Graham Furniss and guided the Association through a continuing expansion of its activities.

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

**'The ASAUK Journal Writing Workshop', St Antony's College, University of Oxford, 14 March 2009.** In association with the International African Institute, the British Academy Africa panel, and the journals *Africa*, *African Affairs*, and the *Journal of Southern African Studies*, the ASAUK is planning a writing workshop to assist young scholars to prepare material for publication in international journals.

The ASAUK Council, working through its Research Committee, is committed to enhancing academic links between British and African institutions, and to increasing representation in British journals of work by scholars based in Africa. It is also committed to creating opportunities for young scholars of all backgrounds to publish their material. The workshop will be designed to achieve these goals. We are particularly interested in applications from those doing doctoral degrees and those who have recently completed. In the initial session, representatives from the Journals will discuss their priorities and the publication process in general. In three further sessions, students or post-docs will have the opportunity to present papers to a journal editor and small audience, and to work through comments and possible improvements. There will be follow-up workshops involving other journals. ASAUK will support travel within the UK for up to ten participants. Those papers or chapters selected for the workshop should be ready for circulation by the end of February. Participants should try to get them into a form suitable for submission to a journal (about 8,000 words and with footnotes). Abstracts and an indication of travel expenses by 30 January 2009 to David Kerr: [d.kerr@bham.ac.uk](mailto:d.kerr@bham.ac.uk)

**'Dambudzo Marechera: A Celebration', University of Oxford, 15–17 May 2009.**

Aimed to recuperate the memory of this important African modernist and former Oxford student, this inter-disciplinary symposium will analyze Marechera's legacy and the general situation in black southern African writing today. In encouraging both academic and creative approaches to Marechera's writing, the symposium seeks to draw a wide variety of responses to an author widely regarded as one of the most innovative African writers of the 20th century. Bringing together renowned international scholars, writers, and artists, it will emphasize transnational cultural interaction, creative freedom and free movement across national borders, of which Marechera was an embodiment, analyzing the meaning of 'African literature' in the 21st century. Confirmed speakers include Ben Okri, Helon Habila, Caryl Phillips, Flora Veit-Wild and James Currey. More information at: [www.marecheracelebration.org](http://www.marecheracelebration.org) 250-word abstracts by 15 March 2009 to: [dobrota.pucherova@trinity.ox.ac.uk](mailto:dobrota.pucherova@trinity.ox.ac.uk)

**'International Conference on the History of Medicine and Global Connections', The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, London, 18–20 June 2009.**

In recent years, global history and related subjects such as transnational, world, and connected history have caused a stir. The interest is in part a response to many kinds of public discussions about the global in our lives, but also in part – at least from the perspective of medical historians – because the turn toward social and cultural history tended to concentrate attention on complex relationships in local environments despite the fact that many aspects of medicine and science travel widely. Some kinds of medical and health practices and ideas do indeed remain rooted in particular languages, cultures, and socio-political systems, but medical commodities may be shipped

from place to place while various kinds of practices and concepts also move about: 'Western' medicine has been globalised, and so has 'Chinese' medicine.. To examine the opportunities and challenges posed by global history of the history of medicine, the organisers seek papers that consider how any aspect of medicine moved from one locale to another or resisted such movement, or how the idea of 'the global' has affected the historiography of medicine and biomedicine. 250-word abstracts by 20 February 2009 to Lauren Cracknell: l.cracknell@ucl.ac.uk

**'Slavery, Migration, and Contemporary Bondage in Africa', Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation (WISE), University of Hull, 23–25 September 2009.** Organised by WISE and the Forced Migration Studies Programme, University of the Witwatersrand, this conference focuses on linkages between the history of slavery and migration in Africa and contemporary forms of bondage, such as child labour, chattel slavery, child soldiers, descent-based discrimination, and human trafficking and the exploitation of migrants. The organisers invite submit paper proposals on one or more of the following themes. Similarities and differences in the (ab)use of labour: how have pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial political authorities sought to organize and regulate labour in Africa? Evolving patterns of migration and movement control: how have various models of political authority sought to regulate, promote and/or restrict the movement of peoples in Africa? What factors account for the emergence and/or further expansion of new forms of bondage following the legal abolition of slavery across continental Africa? On what terms can historical practices be connected to current problems, such as child labour, descent based discrimination, and/or debt-bondage? What can the history of slavery, migration and colonial rule in Africa tell us about contemporary developments and future prospects in Africa? How has the history of slavery, migration and colonialism influenced contemporary patterns of movement and labour exploitation within Africa? What avenues are available to repair past injustices? There are eight bursaries for early career scholars from/based in Africa (covering flights, accommodation and registration). Applicants for bursaries should indicate their wish to be considered for one when submitting their abstract. 300-word abstracts and CV by 28 February 2009 to: wise@hull.ac.uk

#### INTERNATIONAL

**'Contemporary India-East Africa Relations: Shifting Terrains of Engagement', The British Institute in Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, 27–28 April 2009.** This conference forms part of a collaborative project between the British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA) and the British Association of South Asian Studies (BASAS). Compared to the rapidly proliferating work on China in Africa, India, the other great 'Asian Driver', has been rather neglected in academic and policy circles. This event will bring together a series of papers on India's changing

relations with one region of sub-Saharan Africa. Many parts of East Africa have a long South Asian diasporic heritage, yet India's engagement with the region has moved beyond these historic links in recent years. As India increasingly challenges existing architectures of economic and geopolitical power, Africa has become an important and interesting arena for Indian ambitions. The influx of Indian aid, capital and personnel, moreover, has potentially profound developmental consequences for the plethora of East African nations, as well as for their South Asian diasporic communities. The organisers invite papers on all aspects of contemporary India-East Africa relations: geo-political engagements; development aid; Foreign Direct Investment; trade; civil society interactions; 'good governance' and human rights discourses; diasporic issues; cultural interactions; peacekeeping and military encounters; reactions to Indian engagement amongst different African actors. 300-word abstracts by 30 January 2009 to Dr Gerard McCann: gm246@cam.ac.uk

**'Communities and Transformations in Africa and African Studies', Canadian Association of African Studies (CAAS) annual conference, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, 4-7 May 2009.** Striving for community is at the heart of *ubuntu*, the African philosophy that stresses mutual obligations and responsibility. From far-flung kinship networks, artisan guilds and women's informal associations to regional or pan-African political movements, Africans across the ages have looked to communities to give meaning to their lives and to resolve conflict or find protection. Community is also close to the heart of Africanist scholars and activists outside of Africa, who seek to support each other and to express solidarity with African colleagues. Yet dysfunctional communities such as gangs, cliques, and tribalist groups have been a bane to efforts to develop and democratize. New media are rapidly changing the ways that communities cohere and the ways that scholars and activists relate and research them. CAAS seeks papers that consider transformations in the many different types of communities and community-building initiatives in Africa, among Africanists, with the African diaspora, and in the ways African Studies are conceptualized. The organisers also invite papers on other changes that reflect both great potential and risk to Africa. Nature and beauty, for example, abound on the continent yet have also resulted in harmful stereotyping and exploitation, for example, through sex tourism and the expropriation of indigenous communities in conservation efforts. How can we understand, appreciate, and harness African beauty and talent without reproducing destructive relationships, and towards imagining stronger, healthier communities? Abstracts by 2 February 2009 via the CAAS website: <http://caas.concordia.ca/htm/conference-e.htm>

**'Mapping Africa in the English Speaking World', University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana, 2-4 June 2009.** For ten years, the Department of English at the University of Botswana has hosted a biennial conference to discuss issues concerning English language and literature in Africa. This conference will



provide a platform for researchers, academics, educators, language planners, applied linguists, and other professionals interested in English in Africa to engage with various issues relating to the representation of Africa, past and present, in English. Suggested themes include the representation of Africa in various modes of communication in English in spoken and written literary texts, the media, theatre, film and other modes of performance and music; conceptions of African multilingualism, nationalism, identities and culture in English cultures within Africa and beyond; perceptions of power relations between African languages and English; teaching African cultures in the English language; teaching English in an African culture; the advantages and disadvantages of using English in Africa, the English(es) of the African Diaspora, the Africanisation/indigenisation of English in Africa, English and postcolonial Africa, and Africa's enrichment of English. 250-word abstracts by 31 March 2009 to Dr Kemmonye Monaka: [monaka@mopipi.ub.bw](mailto:monaka@mopipi.ub.bw)

**'Aspects of the Foreign Relations of Benin Empire in History', Benin City, Nigeria, June 2009.** Tayo Akpata Foundation, in collaboration with Institute for Benin Studies, invites papers on the following sub-themes: historiography of Benin/Edo diaspora and relations with Benin; origins of Benin/Edo diaspora; Edo Diaspora in Yorubaland: Akure, Ekiti, Owo Akoko (Owo Division), Ilorin, Ikale, Ilesha and Eko-Lagos; Edo diaspora in Igboland and the Niger Delta', Benin Kingdom, the trans-Atlantic slave trade and Edo diaspora; influences in Sao Tome and Principe, West Africa and the Americas; and impact of colonialism on the Benin/Edo Diaspora. 250-word abstracts by 28 February 2009 to both: [insbeninst@gmail.com](mailto:insbeninst@gmail.com) and [insbenst@hotmail.com](mailto:insbenst@hotmail.com)

**'Children and Youth at Risk and Taking Risks: Historical Inquiries in International Perspective', Society for the History of Children and Youth Fifth Biennial Conference, University of California, Berkeley, USA, 10–12 July 2009.** The conference theme refers not only to children and youth who are deemed dependent or deviant, but to young people who are creative, active makers of history, who step beyond the bonds of tradition, defy age restrictions, challenge accepted norms and institutions, and help create new cultural practices, values, and sensibilities. Topics include the construction of childhood and youth as at-risk and risk-taking stages of life; discourses of risk and risk-taking: legal, medical, pedagogical, psychological, and sociological; shifts in the forms, functions, and cultural meaning of risk taking; creative risk-taking: risk-taking as a challenge to cultural norms, traditions, institutions, and age restrictions; risk factors over time: poverty, neglect and abuse, malnutrition, environmental risks, health and developmental problems, migrant status, family disruption, war and natural disaster, peer pressure, trafficking, child work, and consumption; contexts influencing risk and risk taking: age, class, environment, gender, race and ethnicity, religion; resilience in children; and efforts to protect children from risk and risk taking. 250-word paper abstracts and short CV, or 500-word panel

abstracts and short CVs, by 15 February 2009 to Professor Steven Mintz: sm3031@columbia.edu

**'Education, Gender and Sustainable Development in the Age of Globalization', Fourth Women in Africa and the African Diaspora (WAAD) International Conference, Abuja, Nigeria, 3–8 August 2009.** This conference's themes include: autobiographies and biographies; capacity-building and leadership; civil society, NGOs and transnational activism; creativity (oral and written traditions), artistic expressions and development; curricular development and reform; democratization and women's participation; educating against war and militarization; volunteerism, civil engagement and global citizenship; education policy, teacher education, and national development; energy, mineral wealth and national security; engendering the disciplines; entrepreneurship; feminist interventions; gendered inequalities and access to education; engendered spaces and the diaspora question; global financial institutions and women in developing countries; health, medical sciences and health education; gendered violence, human rights and social justice; libraries and archives; mobilisation and transnational social movements; peace and conflict resolution; poverty alleviation, agriculture, and food security; preserving the environment, saving our planet; religion, culture, and indigenous knowledge; skills-training and economic independence; communications, technology and the digital divide; the humanities, development, and globalization; understanding gender and global Africa; women in higher education; and youth engaging development strategies. Forms for papers and panels via: [www.waadconf.org](http://www.waadconf.org) Completed proposal forms, abstract and CV by 15 February 2009 to Professor Obioma Nnaemeka: [waadconf@iupui.edu](mailto:waadconf@iupui.edu)

**'Gender, Empire and Postcolony: Intersections in Luso-Afro-Brazilian Studies', University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, USA, 9–10 October 2009.** The organizers invite paper proposals bringing gender analysis to bear on any aspects of the former Portuguese empire and postcolonial Luso-Afro-Brazilian literatures, cultures and communities. 300-word abstracts and short CVs by 15 April 2009 to Professor Anna M. Klobucka: [aklobucka@umassd.edu](mailto:aklobucka@umassd.edu) and Professor Hilary Owen: [hilary.owen@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:hilary.owen@manchester.ac.uk)

**'Police and Empire, 1700-1900', 5th CIRSAP Project Workshop, Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris, France, 26–28 November 2009.** By 'police', the organisers mean the various apparatus and forces used to achieve the ideal of the 'policed State' from the classical Age and the Enlightenment, but also the regulatory and security practices emerged from the 19th century. The police played a crucial role in the history of colonial empires, by exercising control over local societies, enforcing colonial order and ensuring the diffusion of colonial norms and regulations. Policing has been relatively little studied by the various imperial historiographies. Traditional narratives on the history of policing have been ignoring it, too. We should now stop opposing the history of policing in the

metropolis and in colonial context, but instead considering the relations and the bonds that could exist between them, by giving the colonial experience the position it deserves in the history of police, by integrating these two dimensions in a true 'imperial history of policing' as a whole. Papers on every European colonial empire are welcome, especially those focusing on transfers of experiences and practices between metropolitan and colonial policing or between sections of Empire, or comparative studies. Papers can be presented in English or French. Abstracts by 1 March 2009 to Dr Vincent Denis: [vjdenis2@yahoo.fr](mailto:vjdenis2@yahoo.fr)

**'Continuities, Dislocations and Transformations: Reflections on 50 Years of African Independence', Biennial Conference of the German Association for African Studies, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, 8–10 April 2010.** 2010 represents a significant milestone for many countries and a majority of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa, as it marks half a century of political independence. Since 1960 the continent has undergone profound changes, not only politically but also in economic, social and cultural terms, and manifold processes of consolidation, differentiation and transformation have radically increased the complexity of the African social terrain. The conference will focus on and assess these processes and the conflicts arising from them. Of particular interest are the historical continuities, dislocations and transformations that have marked the past fifty years, as well as how this historical legacy impacts the present situation on the African continent and what this portends for future developments. The organisers invite proposals for panels that address the numerous interrelated transformations that have shaped Africa over the last fifty years: urbanisation, population growth and youth; agriculture and rural areas; economic development, marginalisation and engagement with new international actors; the nation state, nation-building and democratisation; regional conflict and cooperation; differentiated societal relations and society; religiosity in the public sphere as well as in popular and political cultures; the mass media; ICT; urban cultural production; national languages; university and research systems, and scientific research and scholarship. Conference languages will be German and English. Proposals for 3-paper panels by 31 January 2009 to Professor Thomas Bierschenk: [biersche@uni-mainz.de](mailto:biersche@uni-mainz.de)

### ...Conferences Past

**'Frameworks for Africa-UK Collaboration', Nairobi, Kenya, 18–21 September 2008.** The British Academy and the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), with the ASAUK and RAS, convened a conference in Nairobi to identify how and where stronger collaboration might be forged between UK and African academics, and how the prospects for African humanities and social science research might be improved more generally. The meeting was based on a background study, published in 2007 as 'Frameworks for Africa-UK Collaboration in the Social Sciences and Humanities' which drew on a

consultation of academics and university staff across the continent. Together these were one of the early initiatives of the British Academy's Area Panel for Africa, established in 2005. The whole enterprise had its origins in the ASAUK presidency of Professor Graham Furniss.

The meeting brought together around 60 academics, research leaders and funders (including the ASAUK's then president, vice president and two members of council). It was not convened to lament poor funding and hollowed out departments – though these are of course major obstacles to revitalising research. Instead, its purpose was explicitly to think out some practical solutions. What made the event particularly unique, however, and differentiated it from many similar attempts to discuss familiar problems, was a deliberate policy of bringing young as well as more experienced academics to the table. The key to strengthening academia and reinvigorating research will be without a doubt to invest in the next generation.

So what did we learn? Academics, university leaders and research agencies were quick to recognise that good research is currently impeded by a host of problems. None of the stories told were particularly new – there were the familiar frustrations and anecdotes of poor resources, pitiful salaries and obstructive institutions which had dissolved research cultures in many institutions. But throughout the emphasis has been on practical and policy-relevant measures – realistic and achievable things that can be put in place, or lobbied for, to improve the lot of African social science and humanities scholars. This note pre-empts the conclusions of this process to some extent as a final report and a series of recommendations are currently in preparation. These are due to be launched in early 2009, but some things will inevitably feature prominently.

Emerging researchers will provide the critical human resources for revitalising research, and to enable strong and high quality research institutions to be built and sustained into the future. Many more Ph.D trained scholars will be needed to do this, and while an expensive proposition cannot be avoided. New models of Ph.D training, such as the split-site training (where African Ph.D students spend a portion of time at a UK institution and benefit from particular expertise, joint supervision and better resources) or a collaborative programme between a number of African institutions, will probably be needed to scale up training but without sacrificing quality.

The fact that many academics are relatively isolated was also emphasised, particularly at the continental and sub-regional level. As one participant observed it is this “intellectual isolation underpins African researchers' inability to set their own research agendas”. Reinvigorating continental networking must therefore be a principal objective. Vibrant academic networks offer foundations for inter-institutional research projects, postgraduate and postdoctoral training, and opportunities to increase the published outputs of research. Following this

'network' thinking, new ways of joining together institutions – as well as individuals – were also mooted. 'Centres of excellence' have featured prominently in African higher education debates in recent years. Some have celebrated these as a new way to build world-class research institutions, others have rightly cautioned about the polarisation of capacity, reinforcement of inequalities, and the danger of sucking out the best researchers from out of existing institutions. One idea which emerged, drawing on the experiences of a handful of similar successful initiatives, was the creation of networked or collaborative programmes between institutions, each taking responsibility for specific aspects according to available resources or expertise. This could work well for postgraduate training for example, where many institutions alone lack sufficient capacity and resources to supervise students at Ph.D level. Not only would this help universities to retain their talent (by providing researchers with opportunities to work with colleagues in other institutions) but it might feasibly offer donors an African research framework into which they could contribute funding – the common problem for donors with money to spend being the lack of good African structures to handle it.

These were just some of the ideas on which the Nairobi meeting touched. The challenge will be the extent to which these can be formulated into specific programmes, and these then taken forward. A final document, which summaries this process of learning, discussion and debate, and distils it into a set of practical and workable recommendations, will be published in the spring. The British Academy, ACU, ASAUK and RAS will, we hope, ensure this is taken forward in appropriate ways, but it will largely be down to those assembled in Nairobi to act on it as they see fit, and within their various networks and forums. Individual researchers, university leaders, and research and funding agencies will all have specific roles to play. Not everything will be within the scope of the community assembled in Nairobi, and some aspects, too important to be ignored, but too big to be tackled at this level, will require concerted advocacy at much higher levels.

**Jonathan Harle, ACU; [j.harle@acu.ac.uk](mailto:j.harle@acu.ac.uk)**

### Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Sallie L. Burrough (2008) 'Late Quaternary Palaeolacustrine Environments of the Middle Kalahari', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor David S. G. Thomas.

Tracy M. Carson (2008) 'Black Trade Unions and Consumer Boycotts in the Cape Province, South Africa, 1978-1982', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor William Beinart.

Florence Crick (2008) 'Exposure to Drought Adaptive Strategies amongst Rural Natural Resource Dependent Societies in Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor David S. G. Thomas and Dr Henry Osbahr.

Steven Davies (2008) 'The Political Economy of Land Tenure in Ethiopia', Ph.D thesis, University of St Andrews. Supervisor: Professor Ian Taylor.

Marcelle Carmen Dawson (2008) 'Social Movements in Contemporary South Africa: The Anti-Privatisation Forum and Struggles around Access to Water in Johannesburg', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor William Beinart.

Zosa De Sas Kropiwnicki (2007) 'The Sex-trade Hierarchy: The Interplay of Structure and Agency in the Decision-making Processes of Female, Adolescent Prostitutes in Cape Town, South Africa, D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Jo Boyden.

James Keay-Bright (2006) 'Land Degradation in the Sneeuberg Uplands, Central Karoo, South Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor John Boardman and Dr Richard Washington.

Agnes P. Zani (2008) 'Continuity and Change in Kenyan Secondary Education since Independence, 1969-2004: A Study of Gender and Social Inequalities on Educational Attainment', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Anthony Heath.

### Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Birgit Englert and Elizabeth Daley (eds) (2008) *Women's Land Rights and Privatization in Eastern Africa*. Oxford: James Currey. 192 pages, hardback: 978-1-84-7016119, £45.00; paperback: 978-1-84-7016102, £19.99; [www.jamescurrey.co.uk](http://www.jamescurrey.co.uk)

Jonathan Glennie (2008) *The Trouble with Aid: Why Less Could Mean More for Africa*. London: Zed Books. 192 pages, hardback: 978-1-84813-039-5, £40.00; paperback: 978-1-84813-040-1, £12.99; [www.zedbooks.co.uk](http://www.zedbooks.co.uk)

Fredrik Söderbaum and Ian Taylor (eds) (2008) *Afro-Regions: The Dynamics of Cross-border Micro-Regionalism in Africa*. Uppsala: Nordic Africa Institute. 203 pages; 978-91-7106-618-3; SEK250.00, approx. €27.00 or £24.00; [www.nai.uu.se/publications/books/book.xml?id=25262](http://www.nai.uu.se/publications/books/book.xml?id=25262)

Ian Taylor (2008) *China's New Role in Africa*. Boulder: Colorado: Lynne Rienner, 245 pages; 978-1-58826-636-1, £35.00; Turpin Distribution: 01767-604972 or [eurospan@turpin-distribution.com](mailto:eurospan@turpin-distribution.com)

Hans M. Zell (2008) *Publishing, Books and Reading in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Critical Bibliography*. 762 pages; 978-0-9541029-5-1 £130.00/€195.00/\$260.00, print and online, online access bundled with print. More details about the book, including the table of contents, at: [www.hanszell.co.uk/pbrssa/index.shtml](http://www.hanszell.co.uk/pbrssa/index.shtml) Contact Hans Zell Publishing: 01520-722951 or [hanszell@hanszell.co.uk](mailto:hanszell@hanszell.co.uk)

**The Africa Book Centre** has moved to Preston Park Business Centre, 36 Robertson Road, Brighton BN1 5NL; telephone: +44 (0)1273 560 474; fax: +44 (0)1273 500 650; orders@africabookcentre.com; www.africabookcentre.com

*African Security* is a new journal edited by James Hentz and Ian Taylor dedicated to the exploration of fresh approaches to understanding Africa's conflicts and security concerns. Publishing two issues per year, this journal investigates competing analytical approaches to understanding security while engaging in discussions of real world security issues in Africa. In particular, the journal seeks to investigate the myriad issues relating to conflict and security within and between African nations, not only from the more traditional approaches to security studies but also from more novel and innovative perspectives. While the journal is based in the disciplines of political science, international relations, and international security, it welcomes theoretical challenges to how we understand conflict and security drawn from the perspectives of other disciplines, such as anthropology, development studies, environmental studies, and economics. Enquiries and manuscripts to James Hentz: hentzJJ@vmi.edu

*Dictionary of African Biography* is to be launched by Oxford University Press and the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University. The General Editors of the project are Henry Louis Gates and Emmanuel Akyeampong of Harvard University. In the spirit of the *Dictionary of National Biography*, the *American National Biography*, and the *African American National Biography*, all three published by Oxford University Press, the *Dictionary of African Biography* will be a major biographical dictionary covering the lives and legacies of notable African men and women from all eras and walks of life. The editors encourage Africanists to consult the provisional list of entries and to nominate for inclusion the name(s) of any Africans not yet on the list: <http://oupreference.jot.com/WikiHome/African%20Biography/DAB%20Table%20of%20Contents> Those interested in contributing an entry to the DAB, need to submit name(s), a CV and a short (1,000 word) writing sample.

**Peter Badejo: Interventions in African Dance, Music and Drama Performance.**

Contributions are invited for papers on any aspect of Peter Badejo's work in African dance, music and drama performance. Authors whose abstracts are accepted will be invited to complete a full-length paper for inclusion in an edited collection of essays by June 2009, with the book published in 2010, timed to coincide with twenty years of Badejo Arts. Abstracts should include paper title, author's name, institutional affiliation and email address, as well as any professional or personal association with Peter Badejo and Badejo Arts. 250-word abstracts by 30 January 2009 to Dr Kene Igweonu: kene.igweonu@smu.ac.uk

*Journal of African Cinemas* explores the interactions of visual and verbal narratives in African film. It recognizes the shifting paradigms that have defined and continue to define African cinemas. Identity and perception are interrogated in relation to their positions within diverse African film languages. The editors seek papers that expound on the identity or identities of Africa and its peoples. Initial inquiries as soon as possible (full papers due by 30 June 2009) to Keyan Tomaselli: Tomasell@ukzn.ac.za

**Memory, Public History and Representations of the Past: Africa and its Diasporas.** The struggle over the re-presentation of the past continues to be contested terrain both in the academy and in the public domain. The recent and ongoing commemorations of the various abolitions and emancipations in the worlds created by enslaved Africans and their descendants provide many examples of this continuing contestation. Yet that is but one aspect of an increasing debate about the role of public history in the creation of national narratives and the relationship between historical memory and citizenship. This call for papers is for a volume which addresses these and allied issues. The editors – Audra Diptee (Carleton University) and David V. Trotman (York University, Toronto) – envisage a collection of essays which explores the ways in which representations of Africa and the making of its diasporas are inscribed in the public historical memory. They are particularly interested in bringing together a range of articles that assess the forces which have shaped the production of history, the dissemination of historical representations, and their influence on shaping popular perceptions of Africa and its diasporas. Possible topics could be memory, myth and the historical imagination; museums, history, and hagiography; public history in the digital age; historical representations in film, advertising and music; visiting the past: historical sites as tourist destinations; history and power: political uses of memory; history and the popular media; and explorations in the theory and methods of public history. Interested individuals should send 400-word abstract and CV by 31 January 2008 to: audra\_diptee@carleton.ca

*African Affairs* fielded some questions from ASAUK members at last year's Conference in Preston, which we are now in a position to answer more specifically. We also wanted to give ASAUK members some further feedback about the journal.

We are pleased to report that the journal has risen to second place in the ISI impact-factor citation index for Area Studies, an indication of both the academic quality and widespread appeal of our articles, and continues to hold first place among African studies journals. Close observers have also been impressed that our 'impact factor' has risen above 1, which is rare among social science journals. Just as importantly, from the editors' perspective, we have had a very good first year with Mike Kirkwood as our new copy-editor.



We are also undergoing some changes at the editorial level. Tim Kelsall is stepping down, and has moved to Cambodia. Tim's years at *African Affairs* have been extremely fruitful, and his commitment to the journal has brought it many high quality articles, as well as an expanded readership base. Rita Abrahamsen of Aberystwyth brought her dynamism and energy on board over the summer, and has already played a significant role in preparing the January issue.

At ASAUK, a member asked about accessing the on-line version of the journal. We have pursued this, and discovered that ASA members need to email paula.thomson@oxfordjournals.org and explain that you receive the journal through RAS/ASAUK and ask for an 'Advantage customer number'. You should then be able to register for online access. Please let us know if you have any further difficulties, or other questions.

Over the year as a whole, we continued to receive a high number of submissions although we have not managed to achieve our aims of increasing the number of published contributions from authors based in Africa. One initiative for ameliorating this situation has been the *African Affairs* prize, for which we have received few potential applications. The idea had been that heads of department in a select number of institutions would hold an internal competition before sending their best article to us. In spite of encouragement from contacts in Africa, we are sad to say that the competition has not really gotten off the ground. We anticipate that in the New Year we will attempt to revive this initiative, in a simpler format.

*African Affairs* is also participating in a number of other schemes to increase publication by African authors. In September, Sara represented the journal at a meeting organised by the British Academy, ASAUK, and the RAS, which brought together African scholars, research administrators, and UK scholars to discuss ways of strengthening links between UK and African institutions. We hope that a number of further initiatives will develop out of this. We are also contributing to the ASAUK workshop.

We have recently asked some of our long-term board members to step down, after many years of support and contribution to the journal, and have invited a number of colleagues to join. The new members who have agreed to join include: Chris Cramer (SOAS), Kate Meagher (LSE), Tom McCaskie (SOAS) and Derek Peterson (Cambridge). We are also very pleased that William Beinart (Oxford) has agreed to join the Board in his capacity as the ASAUK President, for the two years of his term.

Sara Dorman: [african.affairs.editors@gmail.com](mailto:african.affairs.editors@gmail.com)

## Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

### **Audrey Richards Prize Winners, 2008**

The Audrey Richards prize is awarded biennially by the ASAUK and Royal African Society for the best thesis accepted in African Studies in the UK. The task of judging falls to the Vice-President of the ASAUK. Seventeen theses were submitted by supervisors for the two years up to December 2007 and the awards were announced at the ASAUK conference in Preston last September. All of the submissions included some fascinating material and it was difficult to judge between them. For me, two theses stood out. These are very different but they share a couple of things in common. Both are the result of total immersion by the authors in their chosen topics over a long period of time. It would be difficult for others to emulate them, but this sustained engagement did shine through. Both also had the capacity to express key ideas about African societies in a convincing, grounded and sophisticated way which balanced their own material with comparative and theoretical literature.

Fraser McNeill, 'An Ethnographic Analysis of HIV/AIDS in the Venda Region of South Africa: Politics, Peer Education and Music', was submitted in Social Anthropology at the LSE and supervised by Mathew Engelke and Deborah James. His thesis is based on a 15 year association with Venda as a gap year teacher, NGO worker, and musician in a popular local band, as well as extended fieldwork. McNeill became a local celebrity before he became an anthropologist. He is able to guide us through chiefly politics and the reassertion of Venda culture under the umbrella of the African renaissance. He writes with verve and conviction about a wide range of social processes including public events and ceremonies, rural power struggles, girl's initiation, the famous Domba python dance, and the wider musical culture. His central theme concerns local cosmologies and approaches to disease, especially HIV/AIDS. I thought this an excellent thesis, which was highly attuned to local language, rumour, and cultural expression. It opened up new ideas in every chapter, revealed a great depth of knowledge, and integrated many different themes. He is equally at home in explaining, with great care, how popular music addresses AIDS and why condoms were seen to spread the disease in Venda. I found it a page turner and was always impressed by his powers of observation.

Ruth Marshall's thesis, 'The Politics of Pentecostalism in Nigeria, 1975-2000', submitted to the Department of Politics, University of Oxford, supervised by Gavin Williams with special thanks to J.D.Y. Peel, is theoretically more ambitious and spins off a sophisticated reading of a huge range of scholarly literature concerned with post-colonial politics, post-colonial anxieties, and identity in Africa. Marshall shows convincingly the newness of Pentecostalism, its informal and sometimes rebellious codes, and the power of its discourses of spirituality. Her work is highly revealing about the rapid spread of these churches, their scale, and their success as purveyors of political spirituality. She explores the

links between politics and religious identity through extended interviews and is excellent on the way that the churches have helped to create a new subjectivity, providing a vehicle for the aspirations of their adherents – for accumulation, redemption, and participation. Marshall illustrates the meaning of such spiritual discourses and miracles to individual members and the inclusive capacity of these hungry expansionist churches. She ends by discussing the dynamic tensions in relations with Muslim communities. Marshall argues with passion for Nigeria as a specific and key case of a global phenomenon, and also for giving religion a more central place in the study of contemporary politics.

These two outstanding theses will be jointly awarded the Audrey Richards Prize for 2008. They should certainly be published. The prizes are awarded at the Royal African Society AGM. We would like to acknowledge the donors to the prizes this year: Royal African Society, International Africa Institute, ASAUK, Taylor and Francis/Routledge Journals, Oxford University Press Journals, and James Currey publishers, as well as the contribution of Karen Brown and June Bam-Hutchison in helping to read the short-listed theses.

William Beinart, President, ASAUK

### **ASAUK Conference Funding Awards**

This new ASAUK funding seeks to co-support/co-fund Conferences related to one of its key research themes, support travel costs for participants based within African institutions, and support events that will result in some form of publication. Since ASAUK became part of the British Academy-Sponsored Institutes and Societies (BASIS) scheme in 2007, it has established a research committee with a primary aim of facilitating research initiatives. Key themes include: African debates about governance and democratization; African knowledge production including media, popular culture, literature; social sciences and local knowledge, especially in relation to environment and food; and conflict resolution. ASAUK Conference funding has been awarded to 'Brokers of Change: Atlantic Commerce and Cultures in Pre-colonial "Guinea of Cape Verde"', Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham, 11–13 June 2009 [see *ASAUK newsletter*, October 2008, for details]. A smaller award was made to 'African Cinema', SOAS, London, 26-29 June 2009. Both grants will help to fund scholars from African universities and we hope that both conferences will help to initiate longer term partnerships.

### **ASAUK Teaching Fellowship Awards**

The ASAUK Council's teaching fellowship is a pilot project for a UK-based academic to work in an African University. ASAUK hopes to raise funds to support a more sustained programme in future years, as it is committed to developing partnerships and academic relations between British and African Universities. ASAUK were looking for applications from young academics that have recently finished doctoral degrees on African topics in British universities, as well as doctoral students, especially those with some teaching experience, and

others based in British universities. The first ASAUK teaching fellowship was awarded to Dr Izabela Anna Orłowska, who will teach at the History Department and Centre for African Studies at the University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She is currently a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh. A smaller award was also made to Kelly Rosenthal of St Antony's College, Oxford University, who will teach at the Fort Hare Institute of Social and Economic Research (FHISER), Fort Hare University, South Africa. ASAUK had many excellent applications for this scheme and hope to extend it in future years because it will be of great benefit to both British and African institutions and will provide the basis for longer term relationships.

**Lake-scape Histories: Environment and Heritage in Western Victoria Nyanza, 2,500 BP to Present.** This new project, funded by the British Academy UK-Africa Partnership Programme, will explore human/environment interactions on the Ugandan islands and shore of Lake Victoria Nyanza. Led jointly by Dr Julius B. Lejju of the Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda, and Dr Ceri Ashley of the University College London (UCL) Institute of Archaeology, the project will integrate archaeology, palaeoenvironmental data and historical records to chart the changing lake ecology from c.2,500 BP to the present. Existing environmental research suggests that the lake fluctuated greatly over this period, with rising/falling levels leading to a dynamic and shifting lacustrine landscape, while recent historical records also demonstrate extensive human settlement and exploitation of the lake and its fringes. In contrast, archaeology has tended to ignore the lake, and regard it as a barrier to social activity and movement, rather than as an important economic asset and source of regional mobility. Through new field research and documentary/oral historical investigation, this project will re-examine the long-term histories of human activity on and around the lake, creating a rich historical context for modern understanding of the lake-scape.

In addition, this project will build local research capacity through a programme of field-schools that will provide archaeological and palaeoenvironmental training for ten funded Ugandan and eastern African students. Within the field-school structure, students will gain classroom experience of the relevant theories and methodologies, which will be followed by several weeks of practical training during the project field-work. Given the lack of existing facilities within Uganda for such training, this initiative represents a vital source of education and future capacity building.

A final element of the project is the hosting of a major international conference in year three of the programme, which will highlight the results of the research, as well as providing a forum for more general regional discussion of related issues, including water management and heritage infrastructure.

Dr Ceri Ashley, UCL Institute of Archaeology: [c.ashley@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.ashley@ucl.ac.uk)

## Obituaries

**Professor Isaac Adeagbo Akinjogbin** of the Obafemi Awolowo University (formerly, University of Ife), Ile-Ife, Nigeria, and a great Nigerian historian, died on 27 July 2008. He was the doyen of the Ife School of history. The transition of this great historian and distinguished scholar has ended a glorious chapter in Nigerian intellectual history in particular and African historiography in general. He was an astute and forthright scholar with a flair for originality. As a scholar, he placed his life, works and credibility on a scale higher than most. Professor Akinjogbin engaged in deep and profound cultural and historical studies, examining a wide range of cultural, historical and ideological processes and issues of the Yoruba people. His most famous book, *Dahomey and Its Neighbours, 1708-1818* (Cambridge, 1967) has become a classic in African historiography.

Born in Ipetumodu, Ife North Local Government Area of Osun State, Nigeria in 1930, Professor Akinjogbin would be educated at Ijebu Ode Grammar School, Fourah Bay College in Freetown, and later at the University of Durham in England where he gained his BA (Hons) in Modern History in 1957. Between 1957 and 1960 Akinjogbin was affiliated with the Yoruba Historical Research Scheme headed by Dr Saburi Biobaku, as a Junior Research Fellow. In this position, he was sent back to England to conduct research at the Public Records Office in London. In 1960, he became a Commonwealth Scholar at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London. In 1963 he was awarded the Ph.D degree in African history. In the same year, he joined the University of Ife as a lecturer in the Department of History. In 1965, he was appointed the Acting Director of the Institute of African Studies and in 1968 when he became a full professor he became the substantive head of the Department of History. He was buried on 6 September 2008. May his soul rest in peace.

Dr Olutayo C. Adesina, University of Ibadan: [olutayo27@yahoo.com](mailto:olutayo27@yahoo.com)

**Professor Christopher Fyfe (9 November 1920 – 26 August 2008)** aged 87 and **Andrew “Drax” Manley**, aged 44 have also died. Full obituaries in printed newsletter.

### Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the next *Newsletter* by 15 March 2009 to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, Plan, International Headquarters, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6JG, UK or [simon.heap@plan-international.org](mailto: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 ASAUK/RAS contact: Pat Jensen, 36 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PD; telephone: +44 (0)203-073-8336; email: [asa@soas.ac.uk](mailto:asa@soas.ac.uk) or [ras@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ras@soas.ac.uk)

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