

ASAUK 2018: Call for Thematic Streams

The next ASAUK Conference will be held on 11–13 September 2018 at the University of Birmingham. Bringing together scholars of Africa from a broad range of disciplines, from different continents, and at different levels of their careers, the conference offers a space for supportive and collaborative encounters.

In order to limit panel clashes, the conference hosts several thematic streams. These streams can include between two and 13 panels, which will be tabled successively so that all those interested in a particular stream can attend all of its panels. At the 2016 ASAUK conference, 26 thematic streams covered a wide range of topics, including African screen media and audio-visual representation; childhood in African societies; Congo Research Network; militaries and politics; newspapers, periodicals and print cultures; resilience in East African landscapes; slavery and freedom in African societies; studying materiality and temporality in the aftertime of the long 20th century; the contemporary Maghreb; the middle class in Africa; and the political economy of development.

Stream organisers are responsible for organising at least two thematically linked panels, with a panel normally consisting of a minimum of three paper presenters and one chair. They are also expected to respond to proposals from colleagues who wish to contribute panels or individual papers to their stream. In acknowledgement of their contribution to the success of the conference, stream organisers will also be given priority with regard to any bursaries for Africa-based scholars awarded by the ASAUK.

ASAUK conferences do not limit participants' contributions, and conference participants are allowed to present as many papers as are accepted by the organisers. Participants are also allowed to take on multiple duties as chairs and discussants. The organisers are not yet able to provide the final prices for conference attendance but expect to publish an indicative price list in July 2017. The ASAUK is run solely by volunteers. Income from the conference pays for the cost of the hosting university's infrastructure, organisation, subsidies for student

presenters, bursaries for Africa-based scholars, prizes, and the Association's support of UK-African collaboration through Writing Workshops and Teaching Fellowships. Calls for single panels and individual papers will be published from September 2017.

If you are interested in organising a thematic stream send the relevant details by 15 September 2017 to Dr Insa Nolte: m.i.nolte@bham.ac.uk and Elisa Tuijnder: e.tuijnder.2@bham.ac.uk

ASAUK Twitter

ASAUK now has a twitter feed under the handle: [@ASAUK_News](https://twitter.com/ASAUK_News). All members are invited to follow updates on the ASAUK conference and other matters!

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'Photographs Beyond Ruins: Women and Photography in Africa', Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, 14 July 2017. The symposium marks the opening of 'Usakos – Photographs Beyond Ruins: The Old Location albums, 1920s-1960s', an exhibition at the Brunei Gallery, SOAS, University of London. Demolished under the apartheid plan for Namibia in the 1950s, the Old Location is remembered with nostalgia by former residents, who were forcibly removed to a new township on the outskirts of Usakos. In the course of their research into Usakos's history, Lorena Rizzo and Giorgio Miescher were introduced to the private collections of three women who had for many years been collecting, curating and circulating photographs taken in the Old Location. The exhibition centres on these collections in dialogue with contemporary photographs of Usakos by Paul Grendon.

The conference takes the lead offered by this new research to focus on African women and photography. The aims of the conference are: to bring together researchers and curators working on and with photographic collections in relation to African women's histories; to advance scholarship and critical debate on the contribution of photographic collections to African history and gender studies, taking as a point of departure the under-studied perspective of urban settlements in South Africa's colony; to examine further the relationship between photographic collections, memory work and public histories; and to enhance the impact of research through greater public understanding of southern African and visual histories.

The conference will encompass African women as clients, as photographers, as photographic subjects and as collectors and curators of photographs and private photographic archives; women engaged in aesthetic practices that bridge conventional distinctions such as that between the visual and the oral; and women's role in memory. The conference will also consider how far female photography constituted a domain in which women represented, commented on, responded to and made sense of their experiences of the transformations brought about by colonialism and apartheid.

'Imagining Africa's Future: Language, Culture, Governance, Development', SOAS Africa Conference, SOAS, London, 20–21 July 2017. This conference marks SOAS's centenary, and in order to celebrate a century of African studies the organisers look forward to examine future key trends, changes and debates that are likely to shape the African continent over the coming century, drawing from a broad range of disciplines and perspectives in a truly inter-disciplinary conference.

The conference will bring together academics and practitioners from different disciplines to discuss and analyse contemporary issues affecting the continent and its diaspora through ground-breaking contributions in the form of academic papers, films and other audio-visual media, performances, poetry and debates. The format will be interactive and diverse, with panel discussions and workshops, screenings performances and small discussion groups mixing not only different media but also different perspectives. Africa has changed rapidly over the last century, and the pace of change in the 21st century already promises huge transformations to African societies, economies and cultures. The organisers want to seize the occasion of our centenary to explore and imagine not only what the impact of these transformations could be, but also how our research, policies, political action and visionary thought can shape Africa's future. The two-day conference will address issues relevant to five broad, cross-cutting and interconnected themes: language and linguistic inclusion; law, governance and economy; production and transmission of knowledge and skills; development, aid and trade; and African media, cultural representation and production. Register through the SOAS website: <http://store.soas.ac.uk/product-catalogue/conferences-events>

'Document to Digital: How Does Digitisation Aid African Research?', SCOLMA UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa Annual Conference, The National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, 11 September 2017. This conference will explore digitised archives relating to Africa and how they are being used. The organisers would welcome papers relating to archives across a range of media including documents and manuscripts, photographs, newspapers, historical printed collections, audio-visual material, historical artefacts and born-digital material. Subjects might include: how digitised

archives are used in research and teaching; how should the next generation of researchers be trained as technology advances; what is hidden by digitisation; what forms of research are improved by using digitised archives; what is the impact on original archives after digitisation; what are the effects of the digitisation of collections on libraries and archives in Africa and elsewhere; which formats work best for digitisation and which are not suitable; and technical enhancement through digitisation and innovative approaches to research. Researchers, archivists and librarians are invited to submit abstracts for consideration for this conference. Papers with a strong connection to Scotland will be favourably considered. Up to 500 word abstracts by 24 April 2017 to Sarah Rhodes: sarah.rhodes@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

‘Muslim Cultures of the Indian Ocean’, International Conference, The Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, Aga Khan University, London, 18-21 September 2018. Over the past couple of decades, significant new research has been undertaken across East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and the Indian subcontinent leading to fresh insights on a number of facets of Indian Ocean Cultures. Our objective is to study these multiple facets through the prism of one religion, Islam. How did one religion managed to unite different people from different area with different cultures? Since the Prophet, Islam was a mercantile religion par excellence and was favored through trade all over the Indian Ocean. As it was defined by Fernand Braudel for the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean became a ‘Muslim Mare Nostrum’.

This conference aims to understand the development of Muslim cities and states related to port areas as places of exchange, but also through time and competition as places of conflict. Understanding the relationship between ports, travel, economy and religion requires an in-depth examination of archaeological remains and written sources, but also knowledge on existing populations. It’s striking to see that Islam until very recently was considered by some scholars as a kind of foreign and coercive influence, sometimes associated with a kind of proto-colonialism, especially in Africa. These observations and theories were done mainly by archaeologists and some historians ignoring all the data provided by the ethnography and social anthropology.

Instead of trying to divide cultures and people, the objective of this conference is to bring together experts of Muslim cultures around the Indian Ocean. We are not seeking nationalism, regionalism and differences but we are looking for diversity and cultural exchanges. We particularly intend to draw specialists from the following geographic areas: Africa, Arabia, Persia and India. These specialists will be from different backgrounds to stimulate debate amongst archaeologists, historians and anthropologists. In recognition of the multidisciplinary nature of the endeavour, the conference will include papers on history, material culture and social anthropology. Accordingly, the conference aims to bring together

specialists as well as emerging scholars in the discipline to deliberate on issues related to culture as well as to elicit new approaches to its growing field of study. Abstracts up to 500 words by 1 June 2017 to Dr Stephane Pradines: stephane.pradines@aku.edu For further information on the conference, visit the following website: <https://www.aku.edu/ismc/about/Pages/home.aspx>

INTERNATIONAL

‘Drinking Cultures and the Public Sphere in Africa’, 4th International Symposium, Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri, Nigeria, 6 June 2017. The production, consumption and uses of alcohol are intrinsically linked to lifestyles. The historical context of policies and interventions on alcohol has historically affected Africa’s drinking behaviour. The use of alcoholic beverage is well entrenched in the culture of African societies. Alcohol played various socio-economic and cultural functions at different historical times and acquired different meanings. The contact with Europe influenced the availability and use of alcohol as much as politicized it through different control mechanisms. Yet the production and consumption of alcohol has grown rapidly in Africa, transforming consumption patterns in terms of age, gender, and other dynamics. The symposium intends to address the historical and cultural dimension of these phenomena and to trace the development of changing attitudes to consumption and historical and contemporary representations of alcohol and drinking in different parts of Africa.

Organised by Department of History and International Studies, Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education Owerri and the Research and the Development Initiative Lagos, and sponsored by SABMiller Nigeria PLC, this symposium seeks presentations on the following themes: the politics of Temperance Movements; alcohol, ceremonies and rituals; alcohol and European contact; gender, public space and alcohol drinking and production; colonial regime and alcohol prohibition; governments and the establishment of breweries; alcohol and the African economy; licensing, pricing, and sales strategies of breweries; contesting for space: beer brands and ethnical representations in alcohol advertising; breweries and Corporate Social Responsibility; alcohol advertising and popular culture; alcohol and the entertainment industries; alcohol and health; alcohol, sexuality and crime; alcohol and impact on sports; and public policy and alcohol production and consumption. 300 word abstracts by 30 April 2017 to Dr Uche U. Okonkwo: ucheokonkwo2007@yahoo.com

‘Challenges in the Administration of Justice and Emerging Crimes in East Africa’, Criminology & Criminal Justice Conference, United States International University-Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, 15–16 June 2017. The Criminal Justice Studies (CJS) programme in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences of the United States International University-Africa in partnership with the

Kenya Professional Society of Criminology (KEPSOC) are organizing the first ever conference in East Africa that will bring together academics and practitioners in criminal justice to discuss challenging issues pertaining to the administration of justice and the response to emerging crimes in the region, such as money laundering, organized crime, human trafficking, terrorism and other related mutual assistance issues.

There are numerous challenges that the criminal justice systems in East Africa, especially in responding to emerging crimes, that include money laundering, terrorism, and other transnational crimes. Academics and practitioners and other stakeholder are invited to present their research and other academic works that reflect the conference's theme. The organizers are calling for research papers and posters relevant to following sub-themes: biosocial or genetic factors in crime; capital punishment; community and social justice; international criminal justice; issues relating to international humanitarian law and enforcement; international criminal law; borstals and prisons; courts and law; crime prevention; criminal justice policy; criminological theory; cybercrime; domestic violence; drugs and substance abuse; the economy and crime; juvenile justice; media and crime, sexual offending; workplace crime, organised crime; policing; rehabilitation; and terrorism. 200 word abstracts by 30 April 2017 to the Criminology and Criminal Justice Conference: cjconference@usiu.ac.ke

'Education and Africa's Transformation', Toyin Falola Annual International Conference on Africa and the African Diaspora (TOFAC), Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo, Nigeria, 3-5 July 2017. Education in Africa has remained perpetually under intense focus due to the unrelenting crises in the sector occasioned by its incapacities, inefficiencies, contradictions, inequalities and inequities and a general failure to advance the vision of the African people for a better future. Today, nearly half of Africans are under the age of 15, but of Africa's population of nearly 128 million school age children, up to 17 million will never attend school, while another 37 million will be "in school but not learning." The Brookings Institution further estimates that in countries such as Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Zambia, more than half of children finish primary school without learning the basic skills that they need to learn at that age. A whopping 61 million children, almost half of sub-Saharan Africa's school age population, arrive at adolescence without the skills to lead productive lives, thereby constituting a permanent deficit to the continent's development aspirations. Although enrolment in higher education institutions more than doubled in Africa between 2000 and 2010, this accounts for only 6% of African young people, compared to the global average of 26%.

Pre-colonial Africa had a rich heritage in education that was enshrined in the highly sophisticated indigenous knowledge systems of the peoples of the continent. From the citadel of knowledge in Timbuktu, Mali to the great power

house of learning in ancient Egypt, Africa was home to centres of knowledge that helped shape the civilization of that era. Each African society's education system consisted of complex knowledge bases that served to sustain and develop African civilizations. These education systems reflected the capacity building of empires like the Yoruba and Kongo and the sustainability of decentralized systems like the Hausa City-States and Maasai. However, with imperialism and colonisation, Africa was recreated in the image of the colonialists. One of the ways through which this was done was the marginalisation and in many instances the destruction of the indigenous knowledge systems and their replacement with the colonial ones. Consequently, from the late 19th century, education in Africa was designed to reflect the character of the colonialists both in language and in the content of learning. In essence, educational institutions were created to train Africans who will both work for and defend the interests of the colonialists. Paradoxically, more than five decades after gaining political independence, education in Africa continues to reflect the structure and content of the colonial system. This can be seen especially in the continuity of colonial languages of instruction and in the maintenance of curricula which speak more to the needs of the colonialists than the present realities in Africa. Can there be paradigm shifts?

Others have equally argued that the journey to transformation in Africa will remain an illusion until indigenous knowledge systems become part and parcel of the design, implementation and application of education on the continent. How can we make the indigenous relevant again? Furthermore, who is responsible for the transformation of education in Africa? South African students have taken their future in their own hands with the #FeesMustFall movement. On the other extreme, big donor organizations from outside the continent such as the Carnegie Corporation have intervened in the continent's educational landscape. Increasingly special interests compete to establish private schools across Africa. These secular schools such as Chinese business and language schools, and parochial schools such as those by Evangelical and Islamic organizations, are quickly multiplying to meet these investors' economic or social agendas. What roles should teachers, governments, and parents amongst others play in the transformation of the continent through education?

The organisers seek papers on the following themes: decolonisation of education in Africa: pre-colonial education in Africa; education during colonial systems; Indigenous Knowledge systems and transformation in Africa; language and education; culture, religion and education; decolonisation of education and social transformation in Africa; Education for Development; teacher education; student-teacher relations; Vocational and technical education and training (VTET) and Africa's transformation; the diaspora and Africa's educational transformation; language education; impact of conflict and wars on education; crises: cultism, student insurrections, and the academic and non-teaching staff unionism;

funding education in Africa: Public-Private-Parent Partnerships; the growing trends in private secondary and tertiary education in Africa; national budgeting for education and the transformation of Africa; the roles of national, state and local governments in education; infrastructure and education; African scholars of education and educationists and educational transformation; education, entrepreneurship and employment; education and youth empowerment; the Sustainable Development Goals and the right to education; educating the girl-child; disability and education in Africa; and adult education. 250 word abstracts by 1 May 2017 to: Dr Samuel Akintunde: samakrose@yahoo.com and Dr Adeshina Afolayan: adeshinaafolayan@gmail.com

‘Tax Havens and the Developing World: The Global Dimension’, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 2–4 August 2017. This conference seeks to reflect on the consequences of the existence of tax havens for the developing world. It is an effort to create new pathways in the scholarship on this important theme. The global web of tax and secret havens have been nursed and protected over the years by different countries. By their definition and scope, tax havens are geographical areas outside the jurisdictions of one’s home country. They rarely impose restrictions on business activities within their jurisdictions and attract little or no income tax. In the developing world, the issue of tax havens has revolved largely around the questions of graft, corruption and money laundering. The aim at this conference, therefore, is to address this issue from a multiplicity of methodological approaches and areas of focus. The hiding of assets by individuals, government officials, corporations and others, from home governments in the developing world should now be interrogated closely in the global age to understand the causes and effects of hiding assets in tax havens across the world. Tax havens have drawn anger and frustration from the developing world. The hiding of assets has assumed wider dimensions in the 21st century. How do we begin to change the rules of the game and transform the financial and global economic landscape to understand the interest of the developing world? Who should be held to account? With the outbreak of the Panama Papers scandal in 2016 and the role that foreign banks and tax havens play in sheltering assets, it is now more urgent to understand not only the workings of this phenomenon but also their implications for the developing world. It has been estimated that about \$16 billion leaves Africa illegally annually. These included missing revenues, under-declared revenues, proceeds of graft, corruption, and undeclared profits. The inequalities arising from global economic structures have compounded development and existentialist issues in the developing world. How do we begin to understand the complex nature of tax havens and the implications of their existence for the developing world?

The Centre for General Studies (CGS) in conjunction with the Office of International Programmes (OIP), University of Ibadan, Nigeria, invite proposals for individual papers or panels (3-4 papers) related to the theme of the

conference. Possible topics for discussion and their relation to the existence of tax havens may include: philosophical, theoretical, historical understandings of tax havens; tax havens and the dynamics of development corporate service providers and shell companies; international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows; international financial and monetary institutions/systems; financial controls and management in the developing world; whistle-blowers; leadership, governance and development; offshore bank accounts; national anti-corruption policies; assets recovery and international transactions; global finance and development; corruption, inflation and capital flight; economic sabotage; new paradigms of development; and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. 250-400 word abstracts by 30 April 2017 to: cgstaxhavensconf2017@gmail.com

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Michela Chiara Alderuccio (2016), 'Curriculum Innovations and the "Politics of Legitimacy" in Teachers' Discourse and Practice in a Mozambican Primary School', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisors: Professor John Pryor and Dr Jo Westbrook; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/66924/>

Amy Lisa Duvenage (2015), 'Challenges to Ubuntu and Social Cohesion in South Africa', Ph.D thesis, Kingston University.

Jean-Benoît Falisse (2016), 'The Community Governance of Basic Social Services in Fragile States: Health Facility Committees in Burundi and South Kivu, DR Congo', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Stefan Dercon and Professor Winnie Yip.

Abubakar Bukar Kagu (2017), 'Globalisation of Plea Bargaining and its Emergence in Nigeria: A Critical Analysis of Practice, Problems, and Priorities in Criminal Justice Reform', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex.

Sheku Kakay (2016), 'The Effect of Collectivism on Family Meal Consumption Behaviour and its Implications on Food Companies in Sierra Leone', Ph.D thesis, University of Salford. Supervisors: Dr James Mulkeen and Dr Jonathan Swift; <http://usir.salford.ac.uk/40150/>

David James McLennan (2016), 'The Lived Experience of Inequality in Post-apartheid South Africa: Measuring Exposure to Socio-economic Inequality at Small Area Level', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Michael Noble and Dr Gemma Wright.

Edward Richard Michel (2017), 'The White House and White Africa: Presidential Policy on Rhodesia, 1965-79', Ph.D thesis, University of Birmingham. Supervisor: Dr Jonathan E. Gumz, <http://etheses.bham.ac.uk/7172/>

Anastasia Nzute (2017), 'Utilisation of Insecticide Treated Nets among Women in Rural Nigeria: Themes, Stories, and Performance', Ph.D thesis, University of Wolverhampton. Supervisors: Dr Vinette Cross, Dr Dean-David Holyoake and Dr Sharon Vincent; <http://hdl.handle.net/2436/620391>

Kate Orkin (2015), 'The Role of Aspirations and Identities in Decisions to Invest in Children's Schooling [case studies from Ethiopia]', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Stefan Dercon and Dr Laura Camfield.

Matthieu Pignot (2016), 'The Catechumenate in Late Antique Africa: Augustine of Hippo, His Contemporaries and Early Reception (ca. 360-530 AD)', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Conrad Leyser and Dr Neil B. McLynn.

Emmanuel Oluwasina Sotande (2016), 'Transnational Organised Crime and Illicit Financial Flows: Nigeria, West Africa and the Global North', Ph.D thesis, University of Leeds; <http://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/15473/>

Patrycja Stys (2015), 'With No Direction Home': Refugee Resistance against Repatriation in Africa's Great Lakes Region since 1994', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor David Anderson.

Lucy Tusting (2016), 'Agriculture, Development and Malaria in Rural Uganda', Ph.D thesis, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London. Supervisors: Dr Jo Lines, Professor Steve Lindsay and Dr Deborah Johnston; <http://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/2572615/>

Ross Wignall (2016), "'Our Brother's Keeper": Moralities of Transformation at YMCA Centres in the UK and The Gambia', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisors: Professor James Fairhead and Dr Jon Mitchell; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/63209/>

Recent Publications

Seifudein Adem, Jideofor Adibe, Abdul Karim Bangura and Abdul Samed Bemath (2016), *A Giant Tree has Fallen: Tributes to Ali Al'Amin Mazrui*. African Perspectives Publishing, 537pp, 978-0-9922363-6-6, £32.

Susan Booysen (ed) (2016), *Fees Must Fall: Decolonisation, Higher Education and Governance in South Africa*. Wits University Press, 300pp, 978-1-86814-985-8, £28.45.

Cloete Breytenbach (2016), *The Spirit of District Six*. 108pp, 978-1-4853-0306-0, £18. Distributed by Central Books Ltd London | <http://www.centralbooks.com/>

Neil Carrier (2017), *Little Mogadishu: Eastleigh, Nairobi's Global Somali Hub*. Hurst, 340pp, 9781849044752, £22.

Christopher Clapham (2017), *The Horn of Africa: State Formation and Decay*. Hurst, 224pp, 9781849048286, £17.99.

James Copnall (2017), *A Poisonous Thorn in Our Hearts: Sudan and South Sudan's Bitter and Incomplete Divorce*. Hurst, new edition, 320pp, 9781849048309, £20.

Richard Fardon and Sènga la Rouge (2017), *Learning from the Curse: Sembene's Xala*. Hurst, 160pp, 9781849046954, £17.99.

Kempe Ronald Hope (2017), *Corruption and Governance in Africa: Swaziland, Kenya, Nigeria*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 226pp, 978-3-319-50191-8, £86.

Paul Lovejoy (2016), *Jihad in West Africa during the Age of Revolutions*. Ohio University Press, 408pp, 9780821422410, £29.99.

R. S. O'Fahey (2017), *Darfur and the British*. Hurst, 352pp, 9781850659488, £65.

Bram Posthumus (2016), *Guinea: Masks, Music and Minerals*. Hurst, 280pp, 978-1849043694, £25.

Mirjam Van Reisen and Munyaradzi Mawere (eds) (2017), *Human Trafficking and Trauma in the Digital Era: The Ongoing Tragedy of the Trade in Refugees from Eritrea*. Langaa RPCIG, 520pp, 9789956764877, £36. Available from African Books Collective: <http://www.africanbookscollective.com>

Susan Williams (2016), *Who Killed Hammarskjöld? The UN, The Cold War and White Supremacy in Africa*. Hurst, new edition, 320pp, 9781849048026, £14.99.

'French Colonial Histories from Below', Special Issue of *French History*

The editors of *French History* seek articles for a special issue on the theme of "French Colonial Histories from Below" to appear in autumn 2019. Since *French History* published its first special issue devoted to France's colonial past in 2006, empire has developed into a vibrant area of inquiry within French history. A decade on, there is a well-established and growing body of research on the ideologies and discourses of French empire, political and cultural influences between the colonies and metropolitan France, linkages between French and other empires, and the postcolonial legacies of French imperialism for colonizer and colonized alike. Seeking to further broaden this already diverse field, we invite contributions exploring the histories of French imperialism and colonialism 'from below.'

Concern with the 'subaltern' has long been central to colonial historians, while scholars working in the newer fields of world or global history have shown the

power of writing history “from the bottom up” to shed new light on large-scale historical phenomena, including empire. In addition to making the complexities of empire legible, especially to students and non-specialists, such approaches also have the potential to illuminate the connected or entangled nature of colonial histories, and the ways that they were experienced and shaped by individuals and local communities across the French empire.

Proposals exploring ‘bottom-up’ approaches to any aspect or period of French colonial history, including the postcolonial, are welcome. The editors are interested in submissions that focus on particular colonial territories but equally with articles that take transnational approaches or consider metropolitan France as an imperial space. Although the editors expect most of the published contributions to be based on primary source materials, they also welcome theoretical and methodological articles that consider the opportunities and challenges, intellectual and practical, associated with writing colonial and postcolonial histories from below. Any enquiries regarding potential contributions should be addressed to the guest editors. Full manuscripts of 8,000-10,000 words (including references), in either English or French, by 1 September 2017 to the guest editors of the special issue, Dr Claire Eldridge: c.eldridge@leeds.ac.uk and Dr Jennifer Sessions: jennifer-sessions@uiowa.edu

International African Library Series: Call for Proposals

The International African Institute (IAI) and Cambridge University Press (CUP) welcome proposals for the International African Library monograph series. The series editors are Leslie Bank (Human Science Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa), Harri Englund (Cambridge, UK), Adeline Masquelier (Tulane, New Orleans, US) and Benjamin Soares (University of Florida, Gainesville, US). The managing editor is Stephanie Kitchen, International African Institute.

The editors welcome proposals from scholars in fields including social anthropology, development, history and politics that privilege an ethnographic approach. We are looking for theoretically informed ethnographies, and studies of social relations 'on the ground', sensitive to local cultural forms. The series includes works focused on the linkages between local, national and global levels of society; writing on political economy and power; studies at the interface of the socio-cultural and the environmental; analyses of the roles of religion, cosmology and ritual in society and history; and historical studies of a social, cultural or interdisciplinary nature.

The International African Institute, London, is a learned society and publisher of the journal *Africa* since 1928. Cambridge University Press is a leading university press publisher of African studies journals and monographs. Please send any initial enquiries to: Stephanie Kitchen, Managing Editor, International African Institute: sk111@soas.ac.uk and Maria Marsh, Commissioning Editor, African & Middle Eastern Studies: msmarsh@cambridge.org

News

The Martin Lynn Scholarship

Thanks to the generosity of the family of the late Martin Lynn, the Royal Historical Society has pleasure in announcing the establishment of an annual award in his memory. Martin Lynn was Professor of African History in the Queen's University, Belfast, the first scholar to hold a chair in African history in Ireland. His scholarly career was devoted to the history of West Africa and he published most extensively and importantly on the 19th and 20th century history of Nigeria. His scholarly achievements were matched by the reputation he enjoyed as an exciting and concerned teacher and a delightful, generous colleague and friend.

This award reflects the interests of the man it commemorates. Annually the Society will make an award of up to £1,500 to assist an historian pursuing postgraduate research on a topic in African history. In 2014 the Scholarship was awarded to George Roberts (University of Warwick) for his research on the Cold War in Dar es Salaam c.1964-1979. In 2015 Scholarship was awarded to Lucy Taylor (University of Leeds) for her research on masculinities and violence in Acholiland, 1860 to the present day. Download an application form from <http://royalhistsoc.org/grants/grant-awards/> The next closing date for applications is 19 June 2017.

Obituary

Professor Emeritus Jan Vansina, one of the world's foremost historians of Africa, died peacefully in Madison on Wednesday, February 8, 2017. He was surrounded by his wife, Claudine, and his son, Bruno. Diagnosed with lung cancer in the autumn of 2015, Vansina underwent chemotherapy for a few weeks and enjoyed a remission in the summer and early autumn of 2016, during which he continued his tireless quest for understanding the past of Central Africa.

A pioneering figure in the study of Africa, Vansina is considered one of the founders of the field of African history in the 1950s and 1960s. His insistence that it was possible to study African history in the era prior to European contact, and his development of rigorous historical methods for doing so, played a major role in countering the then prevalent idea that cultures without texts had no history. He remained a trailblazer in the field for more than five decades.

Vansina spent most of his career at UW-Madison, where he took up a position in African History in 1960 at the invitation of Philip Curtin. Together, Vansina and Curtin created the first program in African history in the United States, and trained the first and second generation of specialists in the history of Africa and

the African diaspora. Vansina quickly became a towering figure in the field, a scholar of exceptional intelligence, erudition and intellectual drive. He combined an encyclopaedic knowledge of linguistics, anthropology and history with a steadfast commitment to rigorous historical research, and a unique talent to recover intricate historical changes in places where little traces of the past could be retrieved. In scale, depth, complexity, clarity and significance, his work in African history was unique and will certainly remain so for many years to come.

Vansina's career was marked by daring and original choices. Born in 1929 in Antwerp, Belgium, he trained as a medievalist before accepting a position in 1952 as an anthropologist in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, then a Belgian colony. After conducting several months of field research in Nsheng among the Kuba, and working at the Institute for Scientific Research in Central Africa (IRSAC) in Butare, Rwanda, where he met his wife-to-be, Claudine, Vansina went back to Leuven to earn a licence (BA) in historical linguistics and to defend a Ph.D. on "The Historical Value of Oral Tradition: Application to Kuba History" (1957). He also spent a few months at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London, getting to know the work of Nigerian historians Kenneth Dike and Jacob Ajayi, who had organized archives in Nigeria. Along with them and British scholars Roland Oliver and John Fage, he participated in three major conferences on African history at SOAS. This was the beginning of Vansina's many collaborations in international academic and research networks that resulted in helping to publish the *UNESCO History of Africa* (1981-1999), the first collective effort to establish a global, academic history of the continent. In 1959, Vansina went back to Rwanda to serve as the director of IRSAC. During a break in Europe in 1960, he was invited by Philip Curtin to accept a position in the History Department at UW-Madison and decided to move to Wisconsin.

At UW-Madison, Vansina brought immense energy and commitment to the scholarship and legacy of African history. He held his position for thirty-five years (1960-1994), advising more than 50 Ph.D. dissertations and writing over 200 articles and 20 books. Beginning with the publication of *La tradition orale* in 1960, his work led to the acceptance in the academic world of oral traditions as valid sources of history. *La tradition orale* appeared in English in 1965 and eventually translations in Spanish, Italian, Arabic, and Hungarian followed. In 1985, Vansina published *Oral Tradition as History*, a complete reworking of *La tradition orale* that became his most widely known book. Vansina also promoted the use of interdisciplinary tools, especially historical linguistics, archaeology, and art history, to recover the African past. His reputation as the preeminent authority on methods for the study of early Africa extended beyond academia. Alex Haley, for example, consulted frequently with Vansina as he worked on *Roots*; though the two differed significantly on matters of method and content, Haley always acknowledged Vansina's openness and generosity with his time and insights.

An energetic teacher and a generous mentor, he had wide influence on several generations of students. He remained close to his former students and colleagues following his retirement in 1994 at the age of 65. Living close to UW campus, Vansina remained a stimulating and generous presence for African historians, students and friends, and the many scholars who visited him and Claudine to converse and debate about African history, African politics, or the tribulations of academia in the United States. His intellectual prowess remained intact until his death and continued to fuel his remarkable productivity. Every year, he offered the inaugural sandwich seminar at the African Studies Program at UW. His last presentation reflected on history and memory from the viewpoint of the capacity of the human brain to preserve and rework past experience and information. This was to become Vansina's new research project, cut too soon by illness. In his last few months, he tirelessly worked with Professor Rebecca Grollemund on a joint article on Bantu languages, currently under review for the *Journal of African History*.

The history of Central Africa, and the early history of Africa as a whole, could not be what it is today without Vansina's immense contributions. He was the first historian to tackle the challenge of reconstructing the past of societies in the rainforest over several millennia, from the early diffusion of Bantu languages and communities to political and cultural innovations in the early modern period and the nineteenth century. In 1990, *Paths in the Rainforest: Towards a History of Political Tradition in Equatorial Africa*, crowned this encyclopaedic research and thinking. Covering more than two thousand years of history, the book detailed the rich traditions that Equatorial Africans created to invent their society, culture and institutions, ending with the disruptions brought by the slave trade and European intrusions in the nineteenth century. Six major books followed. *Living with Africa* (1994) combined Vansina's intellectual biography with a history of the discipline. In 2003, he wrote *When Societies are Born* as a complement to *Paths in the Rainforest*, turning to the early history of the southern part of West Central Africa.

Antecedents to Modern Rwanda: the Nyiginya Kingdom (2004) looked at the early formation of Hutu and Tutsi identities, and the development and expansion of the ancient Rwandan kingdom. The book was a feat of historical research, based on hundreds of oral traditions (*ibitéekerezo*). It also made a clear political statement by countering the Rwandan government's claim that the eastern provinces of Congo had once belonged to Rwanda. In 2010, *Being Colonized* traced how the Kuba people in the Congo experienced colonial rule. Using dreams, life stories, and visual archives, the book offered a unique view of the fabric of African life under European domination. In 2014, Jan Vansina published *Through the Day, Through the Night: A Flemish Belgian Boyhood and World War II*, a lively memoir on his life as a young man under the German occupation in Belgium.

Vansina received numerous honours and distinctions over the course of his career. He twice won the African Studies Association's Melville Herskovits Prize for the best book in African Studies, the first time for *Kingdoms of the Savanna* in 1967 and the second for *When Societies are Born* in 2004. Vansina was also an early recipient of the African Studies Association's Distinguished Africanist Award and toward the end of his life he was awarded the American Historical Association's Award for Scholarly Distinction (2014). He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1982, from which he quietly resigned when the group failed to denounce the use of torture during the presidency of George W. Bush, and to the American Philosophical Society in 2000.

Vansina was committed throughout his professional life to promoting the writing of African history for African audiences. Some of his last thoughts concerned the younger generation of Central Africans, whom he hoped could read rich, updated and accessible histories of their region. He believed that a sense of pride in their past could help them to deal with the challenges of the present. Jan Vansina's love for Africa and Africans, his inextinguishable passion for knowledge and truth, and for making them abundantly available to all, marked everyone who had the privilege to meet him.

The African Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has created a tribute page, http://africa.wisc.edu/?page_id=12687 where people can share their stories and fond memories of Jan Vansina.

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Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the July 2017 *Newsletter* by 15 June 2017 to Dr Simon Heap, c/o Academic Office, Buckley 1.08, Oxford Brookes University, Gypsy Lane, Oxford, OX3 0BP or effaheap@aol.com

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