

## **ASAUK 2018: Call for Thematic Streams**

The next ASAUK conference will be held at the University of Birmingham on 11-13 September 2018.

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.

The following thematic streams have already been proposed. Contributions of papers or panels can contact the stream organisers directly.

*The Everyday in DR Congo: Negotiating Change and Continuity in Precarious Times.* This stream invites scholars to reflect on experiences, imaginations and representations of “the everyday” in the DR Congo, past and present. Organisers: Katrien Pype (katrien.pype@kuleuven.be), Toni Smith (TXS413@student.bham.ac.uk) and Rueben Loffman (r.loffman@qmul.ac.uk)

### *Celebrating the work of Karin Barber*

This stream invites panels that reflect upon Barber’s work, and offer directions for exciting new research in Anthropology and African Studies. Organisers: Rebecca Jones (R.K.Jones@bham.ac.uk) and Insa Nolte (M.I.Nolte@bham.ac.uk)

### *90 Years of the International African Institute*

As the IAI’s journal *Africa* prepares to celebrate its 90th birthday, members of its prestigious Editorial Advisory Board offer papers exploring the journal’s distinctive contribution – its interest in and commitment to documenting ‘life on the ground’ - and proposing how it might position itself in future. Organisers: Stephanie Kitchen (sk111@soas.ac.uk), Karin Barber (K.J.Barber@bham.ac.uk) and Deborah Jones (D.A.James@lse.ac.uk)

### ***Living as Women and Girls in 21st Century African Societies***

This panel invites papers that interrogate the ways in which the lived experiences of women resident in Africa reflect their embodiment of intra-personal intersectional identities. Organiser: Alease Brown (aleasebrown.school@gmail.com)

### ***Constitutions, Law and Justice***

Panels might include – social and economic rights; pro bono lawyering; African legal education; African women's legal landmarks; Prof Gordon Woodman (Law Faculty, Birmingham) and his contribution to African Law. Organiser: Ambreena Manji (ManjiA1@cardiff.ac.uk)

### ***Muslim Written Intellectual Tradition in Africa***

Muslim chronicles leave us with a picture of scholars as ideological doers who wrote informed by the developments and dialectics of their day. The writings are invaluable sources to modern scholars of African Studies. To this end, we make a Call for Papers on Muslim intellectual writing in Africa. Organisers: Mohamed Mathee (smathee@uj.ac.za) and Bruce Hall (ouagadoo@yahoo.com)

### ***Africa Reads***

We invite panel proposals on readers of African language literatures, and on local discourses about the social meanings of reading, as well as on generational shifts in reading patterns. Organisers: Carli Coetzee (Cc76@soas.ac.uk) and Rebecca Jones (r.k.jones@bham.ac.uk)

### ***The Political Economy of Development in Africa***

Organiser: Jonathan Fisher (J.Fisher@bham.ac.uk)

### ***Slavery in African Societies***

Organiser: Benedetta Rossi (RossiB@adf.bham.ac.uk)

### ***Legal Anthropology***

Organiser: Jessica Johnson (J.Johnson.5@bham.ac.uk)

### ***Marriage in Africa***

Organisers: Kate Skinner (K.A.Skinner@bham.ac.uk) and Benjamin Lawrance (bnl@rit.edu)

The conference organisers are keen on receiving more stream proposals, especially from Africans and Africa-based scholars. If you are interested in organising a thematic stream, please contact Insa Nolte (m.i.nolte@bham.ac.uk) and Elisa Tuijnder (e.tuijnder.2@bham.ac.uk) with the relevant details by 15 September 2017.

A call for individual papers and panels for the 2018 ASAUK Conference will go out later this year.

**‘Social Media and Democracy in Africa: “The Nakuru Analysts” WhatsApp Group and the Evolution of Participation in County Governance in Kenya’, Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture, Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS, University of London, Monday, 23 October 2017 at 7pm followed by a reception.** Dr Duncan Mainye Omanga (Moi University, Kenya) will deliver the 2017 Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture, and all ASAUK members are invited to attend.

The growth and penetration of the internet in Africa, coupled with the popularity and ubiquity of the mobile phone have positioned social media platforms as the new spaces through which Africans organize and imagine both political discourse and action.

Dr Omanga’s lecture highlights the role of WhatsApp groups in Kenya’s Nakuru County in convening citizens for political deliberation and civic action in County government affairs. In the context of political and economic devolution in Kenya following the promulgation of a new constitution in 2010, this lecture shows how social media plays a critical role in localizing both formal and informal political discourse and action.

The presentation narrows focus to (possibly) one of the most organized WhatsApp groups in Kenya, ‘the Nakuru Analysts’. The analysts, as they are popularly known, have used the affordances of WhatsApp such as the ability to carry text, picture and video at very low costs, and the possibility of the platform to convene groups for ‘talk’, to emerge as one of the most notable spaces for deliberation, agitation and for mobilizing for social, legislative and political action in the city of Nakuru.

Specifically, Dr Omanga’s historicizes how ‘The Nakuru Analysts’ came into being, highlighting the specific contingencies that made it possible for ‘The analysts’ to become what they are today. Furthermore, the lecture offers an empirical insight into how WhatsApp groups are organized and the many ways through which they articulate their agenda.

In doing so, Dr Omanga will show why ‘The Nakuru Analysts’ have emerged as the most effective ‘check’ on the County government and why they have succeeded in ‘modulating’ Nakuru County politics. The lecture will also reveal the various digital roles taken by the ‘administrators’ and selected participants of these platforms, and how these positions shape grassroots politics in Nakuru. More important, he will highlight the real and perceived achievements of the analysts, thereby giving insights into how members draw from this critical digital space to set the local political agendas.

With financial support from The Zochonis Charitable Trust, the Mary Kingsley Zochonis lectureship award’s purpose is to encourage and support young African scholars. The lecture is always delivered by an African academic from an African University in an ASAUK non-conference year.

### **ASAUK Twitter Account: @ASAUK\_News**

Follow ASAUK news and debates easily through your twitter feed! ASAUK has set up a dedicated twitter account to tweet on matters of interest to the Africanist community of the UK. This includes advertisements for posts and publications, invitations to workshops and conferences in different parts of the UK and beyond, but also wider debates about Africa and African Studies. We look forward to seeing you at @ASAUK\_News!

### **Introducing the ASAUK President: Dr Insa Nolte**

The ASAUK President (2016-18) is Dr Insa Nolte, who is Reader in African Culture at the Department of African Studies and Anthropology at the University of Birmingham. Insa completed her Ph.D at the University of Birmingham under Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias and Karin Barber, and, after a Junior Research Fellowship at St Antony's College, Oxford, returned to Birmingham as a member of staff. Insa has been a Visiting Fellow at the Zentrum Moderner Vorderer Orient (ZMO) in Berlin, and she is a Visiting Professor at Adeyemi College of Education and Osun State University, both in Nigeria.

Between 2012 and 2017, Insa led an ERC Research Grant, which focuses on the way in which everyday encounters with religious difference among Yoruba Muslims, Christians and others in southwest Nigeria contribute to distinct social identities associated with gender, belonging and status. She led a team of over 20 scholars from different disciplines including history, political science, applied statistics, (corpus) linguistics, and literature, based both in the UK and Nigeria. As part of this project, Insa pioneered the first ethnographic survey of southwest Nigeria, which also happens to be the first large-n survey on religion in this part of the world since 1963.

Insa is committed to building networks with African scholars and institutions, and was the ASAUK's first Project Officer in charge of organising Writing Workshops for Africa-based scholars in the UK and on the African continent. Between 2012 and 2017, Insa was the Reviews Editor of *Africa: The Journal of the International African Institute*, and she is a member of the journal's Editorial Advisory Board. She is currently the Vice Chair of the UK Council for Area Studies.

Insa is responsible for organising the ASAUK biennial conference at the University of Birmingham on 11-13 September 2018. For the current call for thematic streams, panels, and papers, please see <http://www.asauk.net/asauk-2018-call-for-thematic-streams>.

### **Introducing the ASAUK Vice President: Professor Ambreena Manji**

ASAUK's Vice President is Ambreena Manji, a Kenyan lawyer who is Professor of Land Law and Development at Cardiff University's School of Law and Politics. Professor Manji has held academic posts at the Universities of Warwick and Keele in the UK and has been a visiting fellow at the Faculty of Law, University of Cape Town and at Dar es Salaam Law School. She has been a Global Teaching Fellow at Melbourne Law School; Dame Lillian Penson Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London; and Faculty Member at the Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa in Johannesburg. With Professor John Harrington, she leads Cardiff Law School's path-breaking Global Justice Law Clinic and teaches law and literature.

Between 2010 and 2014, Ambreena was seconded to the Directorship of the British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA) in Nairobi. As well as responsibility for the strategic direction of a leading multidisciplinary research institute, Professor Manji worked closely with Constitutional lawyers, members of the judiciary and colleagues in the legal academy across East Africa to bring about a significant widening of the BIEA's subject reach to include law. As a member of a Consortium on Land Law founded by Professor Yash Pal Ghai and the Katiba Institute, she has advised on land law reform in Kenya. Professor Manji has lectured and published widely on land law and politics in East Africa, including on Women and Land, Global Land Policy, Land Law Reform, Land and Elections, Urbanisation and Green Space, Land Corruption and Land Grabbing.

Professor Manji serves on the Research Committee of the British Institute in Eastern Africa (British Academy); the Advisory Board of the Africa Research Institute (London); and the Advisory Council of the Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa (Johannesburg). She sits on the Executive Committee of the Centre for Law and Society at Cardiff and is a member of the Editorial Boards of the journals *Social and Legal Studies*, *Feminist Legal Studies* and *Law and Humanities*. In 2016 Ambreena was a member of the ASAUK's Fage & Oliver Book Prize panel

Ambreena has advised a number of international organisations on land issues including UN Habitat, FAO and UNDP. She has been a project peer reviewer for the Department for International Development, the Overseas Development Institute, the African Centre for Cities (Cape Town) and the Rift Valley Institute (Nairobi). Most recently she has been nominated by the Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to act as expert adviser to the Habitat III conference being held in Quito, Ecuador in 2016.

When Professor Manji is President in 2018-2020, Cardiff University will host the ASAUK biennial conference.

## Conferences Future...

### INTERNATIONAL

**'The Yoruba Nation and Politics since the Nineteenth Century: A Conference in Honour of Professor J. A. Atanda', Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria, 9–11 October 2017.** This fifth annual event in honour of the distinguished Professor Joseph Adebawale Atanda will fittingly explore the variegated dimensions of the immersion, marginalisation, and impacts of Yoruba politics and nation making, from the nineteenth century to date. Professor Atanda's scholarship covers the history and politics of the Yoruba from the precolonial to the twentieth century. The conference will cover the eras that Professor Atanda explored in his books and essays, as well as on his key themes of politics, identity, and change.

As the Nigerian political landscape becomes ever more plagued by primordial politics shaped by erroneous views of the past and present, and the Yoruba influence in the overall shaping of Nigerian partisan politics, the need for this conference has become more real. Therefore, participants are invited to this conference to delve into the historical trajectory of the Yoruba nation, personalities, politics, society, cultural regeneration, internal and external relations, transnational influence and enduring impact on global and local politics and society.

The conference will re-open discussion around many issues and debates. Many have attempted to chart the emergence of the Yoruba as a distinct group, and as a nation. The earliest chroniclers of the Yoruba were not academic historians but elites such as John Olawumi George, E. M. Lijadu, Otunba Payne, Mojola Agbebi, and including missionaries, explorers, Sierra Leonean returnees, and colonial officers. Since Samuel Johnson's pioneering work, *A History of the Yorubas*, which attempted to map the origins of the peoples now known as the Yoruba from antiquity up until British colonialism, was published in 1921 (though written in 1897), academic interest in the Yoruba as a group has been unrelenting. But indeed, some would later claim that there were no "Yoruba" as a unifying name until about the middle of the nineteenth century, the starting point for the focus of this conference. The very definition of Yoruba was initially the subject of debate, as some tend to indicate that other groups outside the Oyo were not referred to as such before the nineteenth century. The peoples covered by the Yoruba identity today are divided into Lagos, Ogun, Osun, Oyo, Ondo, Ekiti and Kwara State, and areas of the Republic of Benin and Togo.

By the dispersal of trade, commerce, slavery, migration and other centrifugal factors, Yoruba people can be found as further west in the west of Africa as Sierra Leone and the Gambia, and in other continents, notably, in Cuba and South America. For a long time, they established a dominant presence in West Africa.

The traditional home of Yoruba has extended from Nigeria/Benin to other parts of Africa in particular. For example, there are many Yoruba in Ivory Coast and Ghana.

It is also necessary to map the progress of the “Yoruba nation” within the modern struggles for democracy, development and nation building in Nigeria, especially in the period since independence. Many have challenged Chief Obafemi Awolowo’s right to be considered the father of the Yoruba in the context of the deadly politics that bedevilled the first republic in Nigeria and splintered the Yoruba elite along sub-ethnic and egotistic lines. As the Yoruba have recently returned to the limelight in national politics with the successful merging of parties that created the now-ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), it is indeed an apposite time to reconsider what it means to be Yoruba individually, collectively, philosophically, and idealistically at home and beyond the geographical boundaries of the Republic of Nigeria and Republic of Benin.

This conference will engage the following themes: a review of the life and works of Professor J. A. Atanda; conceptual and theoretical issues in the study of the Yoruba; methodological issues in the study of Yoruba history and politics; Yoruba history and politics before the nineteenth century; role of the nineteenth century in shaping Yoruba nation and politics; myths of origin and the Yoruba nation; is there a Yoruba nation today; the impact of slavery on the Yoruba nation; the Yoruba diaspora; Yoruba and colonial politics; Yoruba and nationalism in Nigeria; Yoruba and federalism in Nigeria; intra-group relations among the Yoruba; Yoruba relations with other ethnic groups in Nigeria; Yoruba and political parties in Nigeria; Yoruba language and cultural continuities; bridging the gap between the Old and the New Generation Yoruba; Yoruba artistic expressions and cultural preservation; Nollywood Yoruba and the Yoruba nation; African churches and the Yoruba; Yoruba women in politics and society; Gender relations among the Yoruba; the future of Yoruba traditional institutions; migration and Yoruba identities; Yoruba elites and Nigerian politics; Yoruba personalities and the making of the nation; Yoruba and development in Nigeria; Yoruba leadership and prospects for Nigeria’s political development; Yoruba contributions to art, literature and music; and Yoruba and popular culture. 250 word abstracts by 15 August 2017 to: [olubomehind@gmail.com](mailto:olubomehind@gmail.com) and [oyekunle2006@yahoo.com](mailto:oyekunle2006@yahoo.com) and [toyinfalola@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:toyinfalola@austin.utexas.edu)

**‘Leadership and Institutions in Africa’, 18th Annual Africa Conference at the University of Texas at Austin, USA, 29–31 March 2018.** Purposeful leadership and inclusive political and economic institutions have been identified as necessities for Africa and all Africa-related peoples and regions to begin to address past failures, confront present predicaments, and chart a credible course for the future. Africa’s leaders have largely failed to transform the African state and its institutions into agents of development for the benefit of the citizens.

Several explanations have been adduced for the observed leadership deficiencies that have become almost permanent narratives of Africa. Such explanations have often included, but not limited to, externalist arguments that point to the legacies of colonial exploitation and its neocolonial challenges, as well as contemporary global events that systemically constrain Africa's opportunities for growth and development. There are also internalist explanations that attribute Africa's leadership conundrum and institutional failures to the rapacity and irresponsible choices of successive African leaders. Whatever these explanations may be, there is an emerging consensus that real progress cannot happen until Africa addresses its leadership questions and transforms its weak and predatory institutions to inclusive ones.

The 2018 Africa Conference will critically examine Africa's political leadership and extant institutions vis-à-vis the continent's history of underdevelopment, present challenges, and future trajectories within the global political economy. Scholars are invited to interrogate the nature and evolution of leadership and institutions in Africa from the pre-colonial era to contemporary times. Institutions in this context are broadly defined to include formal and informal institutions, including history, traditions and culture of the people. Is it leadership that shapes institutions or do institutions determine the quality of leaders that emerge? How can African states achieve the leadership and institutional transformation necessary to address the perennial development challenges of the continent? Are there lessons that could be drawn from the experiences of the pre-colonial era to inform contemporary issues of leadership? The organisers invite submissions that include but are not limited to the following sub-themes and topics.

**Institutions Conceptualised:** the nature and role of formal and informal institutions; institutional path dependency; institutional change and transformation; incentive structures and the choices of agents; institutions and economic performance; policy institutions; institutions and enforcement mechanisms; and the State, its institutions and the citizens.

**Leadership and Institutions in Pre-colonial Africa:** the nature of leadership in pre-colonial Africa; role of chiefs, kings, monarchs and other authority figures; interface between culture and leadership in pre-colonial Africa; evolution of culture from the pre-colonial era to the present; society and the citizen in the pre-colonial era; and traditional institutions versus contemporary systems.

**Leadership and Institutions in the Colonial Era:** State formation in Africa; the nature of colonial institutions; interactions of colonial institutions and pre-colonial systems; the rise of new elites; dislocations, transformations, and modernity; and nationalism and new trajectories.

**Colonial Legacies:** colonial exploitation and the emergence of predatory state-society relations; neocolonialism; colonial economic models; Western democracy



and the conflict of culture; dependence on former colonial masters; rural-urban divide and the challenge of active citizenship; and education, culture and the leadership question.

The Nature of Political Leadership in Postcolonial Africa: the role of Africa's independence leaders in setting leadership standards; leadership recruitment processes; role of culture in determining the type of leaders that emerge; religion and leadership; foreign interventions in domestic policies; education, training and leadership; ethnicity and the leadership question; democracy and accountability; citizenship, expectations, and civic engagements; role of civil society in holding leaders accountable; class and the political economy of leadership recruitment; Africa's Big Men and Women; and patriarchy, gender and the leadership question

Institutions in Postcolonial Africa: the nature of political and economic institutions; evolution of institutions in postcolonial Africa; colonialism and the legacies of exploitation and expropriation; examination of critical institutions of the state – civil service, the Police Force, etc; property rights institutions; anti-corruption crusades and institutional reforms; law enforcement and the judiciary; economic systems, financial institutions and systems; law enforcement and anti-corruption institutions; institutions and informal politics and spaces; and the future of traditional institutions in Africa.

The Cold War and Africa's Postcolonial Leadership: Africa's decolonisation and the Cold War; the impact of the Cold War on Africa's independence leaders; the nature of foreign interventions during the Cold War; the Cold War and the emergence of violent political culture; international legitimacy versus domestic popularity for African leaders; the Cold War and Africa's political institutions; and post-Cold War transformations of African leadership.

Multilateral Institutions in Africa: the role of the World Bank and IMF in Africa's economic systems; public debt and the choices of African leaders; foreign interests and interventions in leadership selection; economic development ideologies versus local realities; the futility of universal recipes in economic policies; foreign aid and leaders' responsibilities; usefulness of foreign aid in Africa; conditionalities and citizens' welfare; future of development assistance to Africa; and the effect of foreign aid on institutions.

Information Technology and Social Media: social media and citizens' demand for leadership accountability; dissemination of government programmes; social media and government transparency; Information Technology and the election process; leadership recruitment, retention and removal; citizenship participation in the governance process; and public engagements and institutional change.

Education: education and citizenship rights; the relationship between education, industry and bureaucracy; State involvement in education; quality and

availability of basic and compulsory leadership education; history, leadership and the African State; and the role of the media in institutions building.

Creativity and Performance of Leadership/Institutional deficits: creative governance; leadership accountability; models of institutional checks and balances; and governance peer review mechanism.

Each individual proposal must include 200 word abstract, 3-5 keywords and contact details. Proposals for panels of 3-5 papers must include: title of the panel, 250 word summary of the panel's theme, including the title of each individual work, 200-word abstracts for each paper, contact details and institutional affiliation of each presenter. Proposals will be accepted on the official conference website from mid-August to 30 November 2017: <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/africa-conference/> If you need more information, contact conference coordinators Professor Toyin Falola and Dr Ken Kalu: [toyinfalola@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:toyinfalola@austin.utexas.edu) and [africaconference2018@gmail.com](mailto:africaconference2018@gmail.com)

**'Maqdala at 150: An International Conference on the Era of Tewodros II', University of Gondar, Ethiopia, 10–13 April 2018.** In April 2018 the 150th anniversary of the fall of Amba Maqdala and the tragic death of Emperor Tewodros II of Ethiopia will be commemorated. The fate of Maqdala in 1868 was one of the defining chapters in the history of modern Ethiopia and in the wider world it became an icon of African utopia and tragedy under colonialism. In order to mark this episode, to ponder about its causes, its consequences and also about a wide range of related issues in Ethiopia and elsewhere in the African continent a consortium of Ethiopian and foreign institutions, including Ethiopian state and regional authorities, universities, local bureaus and NGOs has organised an international conference. In addition, preparations are underway to organize a cultural-artistic festival that shall include exhibitions, poetry, music and drama performances centred on Tewodros II and his time as well as tourist routes guided by expert historians to the sites where the Emperor spent his life and exerted his power are planned.

The conference will be organised by Gondar University on its campus in partnership with three other universities: Debre Tabor University, Amba Maqdala University (yet to be opened) and Bahir Dar University. While the main focus of the conference is an historical episode, the academic profile of the participants shall include historians as well as experts in folklore studies, literature, archaeology, anthropology, philology and political sciences and also intellectuals and heritage professionals. The topics of the conference will be related to the life and times of Tewodros, his vision for Ethiopia and the African continent, the political and cultural history of Ethiopia in those times, that is, the relations of Ethiopia with foreign powers during the modern era, to the places

where Tewodros lived and exerted his power and to the legacy of Tewodros and his time in modern and contemporary Ethiopian and African societies.

Some of the questions, but by far not the only ones, the attendees may want to ponder are: how has Tewodros II been interpreted, portrayed, and imagined in Ethiopia and beyond; what is the state of the historiography on Tewodros II and his time today; what was the contribution of Tewodros II and his time for the present society; what has been the fate of the Maqdala treasures until the present day and what role do they play in the contemporary plea of non-western nations for the return of their national heritages; and what were the cultural, artistic and intellectual developments that characterized Ethiopia under Tewodros II?

The conference will be held mostly in English and focus on the discussion of pre-circulated papers of about 5,000 to 7,000 words. A limited number of grants covering cost of travel and accommodation of some African participants are expected to be approved. 300 word abstracts in English or Amharic by 15 August 2017 to: maqdala150@gmail.com

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

**'Law and Social Order in Africa' Conference, University of Edinburgh Centre of African Studies Conference, 3–4 April 2017.** The creation and enforcement of the law, and the maintenance of social order have been key concerns for states, societies and individuals in Africa. However, the way in which these terms have been defined, practiced and justified has shifted across time and place. This year the Centre of African Studies at the University of Edinburgh took up the theme of Law and Social Order in Africa as the focus of its annual conference. The conference created a space for engaged and creative conversations around law and social order in Africa between scholars from Africa, Europe, America and the Middle East. The papers that were presented at the conference were drawn from a range of disciplines including anthropology, law, politics and history.

The conference began with three theoretical round tables on the following central concepts that lie at the heart of the conference theme: Statehood; Order and Disorder; Law and Norms. The participants in these roundtables were drawn from a range of disciplines and included scholars whose geographical expertise is not on Africa. The roundtables thrashed out many of the cutting edge methodological and theoretical debates in the field. They also raised a range of questions which were taken up on the second day of the conference. The second day was devoted to standard panels composed of papers that were based on empirical research from across the continent. The four panels for the second day focused on historical perspectives, the intersections between different legal systems or normative orders, the practices and experiences of everyday policing, and finally the place of the state in the making and unmaking of legal and social orders.

Thanks to the conference grant of £500 from the ASUK, we were able to bring over Mr Kamau Wairuri, a Kenyan scholar who is currently based at the Strathmore University's Institute of Public Policy and Governance in Nairobi. Mr Wairuri was part of our panel on everyday policing and justice. His paper was based on rich empirical data on crime, insecurity and policing in Githurai, a low income neighbourhood in Nairobi. Among other things the paper shed light on the punitive populism that arose in such urban contexts and explored the ways that the 'contestation over citizenship and sovereignty within the community generates a localized order.' We are very grateful to the ASUK for awarding us the conference grant, which is an invaluable resource help to involve African scholars in conversations within the UK academy. We are also grateful to the Leverhulme Trust and the British Academy for they generous support for the conference.

Dr George Karekwaivanane, University of Edinburgh

**'Legacies of Biafra: Reflections on the Nigeria-Biafra War 50 Years On' Conference, SOAS, London, 21-22 April 2017.** The conference sought to explore the on-going impact of the Nigeria-Biafra war locally and globally, considering how the first civil war in independent Africa has influenced the perception of the continent internationally in addition to its impact on the political and social structures within Nigeria. As 2017 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of war, this conference provided a timely reflection on the war as a watershed moment in contemporary African history.

The Nigeria-Biafra war was the first civil war in post-independence Africa, and sparked strong reactions from around the world. British participation in the war was informed by the desire to maintain the colonial entity they had created, as Biafra's declaration of independence presented a challenge to the legitimacy of African nations created during the colonial era. Global media coverage presented the first images of children starving in Africa, which became the dominant visual representation of the continent in the international press.

The conference was attended by approximately 300 people over three days, with speakers flying in from countries all over the world including Nigeria, America, Pakistan, Germany, Belgium, Sweden and Switzerland. The conference also provided a platform for contributions from survivors of the war, people in the community, filmmakers, playwrights and musicians in addition to the academic contributions.

The £750 grant from the African Studies Association UK/Royal African Society was used towards the flight costs of Professor Akachi Ezeigbo, Federal University Ndufu-Alike, Ikwo, Nigeria. Professor Ezeigbo is the author of *Roses and Bullets*, a novel on the Biafra war as well as *Fact and fiction in the literature of the Nigerian civil war*, a critical study on war literature. Professor Ezeigbo contributed the paper 'War Without End: Visions and Versions of Remembrances

of Biafra' to our plenary panel on Trauma, Memory and Re-Membering and she also chaired a parallel panel on Women's Writing on the War. In our tribute to the late Buchi Emecheta, Professor Ezeigbo performed an Igbo dirge and read one of her own poems in honour of Buchi Emecheta. After the conference Professor Ezeigbo and I were invited to speak on BBC Radio 3's 'Free Thinking' show about the conference. The conference was also covered in the Nigerian newspaper *The Vanguard* and selected talks from the conference are being released via our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/igboconference](http://www.youtube.com/igboconference)

On behalf of the organising committee, I would like to extend our thanks to the ASAUK and the Royal African Society for their support in making the 'Legacies of Biafra' conference a great success.

Dr Louisa Uchum Egbunike, Manchester Metropolitan University

**Sierra Leone Writers' Workshop, 3–6 May 2017.** This writers' workshop at Fourah Bay College was organised in collaboration by Professor Joe Alie and Dr Stephen Ney (Fourah Bay College) and Dr Toby Green (King's College London/ASAUK). 16 participants had articles accepted for the workshop; and there were a number of other attendees from Fourah Bay College's departments of Gender Studies, Chemistry, and Mass Communication who also attended various plenary training sessions of the event. The following journals were represented: *African Economic History* (Toby Green); *African Leadership Centre Journal* (Dr Olawale Ismail, ALC/King's College London); *Journal of West African History* (Professor Nwando Achebe, Michigan State University); *Review of African Political Economy* (Dr Reg Cline-Cole, University of Birmingham).

The workshop was timed to coincide with a meeting of a group of scholars from Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and The Gambia who are collaborating on producing an online History textbook for West African senior secondary schoolchildren sitting the WASSCE exam. WASSCE textbook meetings took place in the mornings, during which time Writing Workshop participants received general training on resources available in Sierra Leonean universities, delivered by Dr Ney. The core writing workshop sessions then took place in the afternoon.

It is worth noting that the workshop took place at quite an important moment in the evolution of Sierra Leonean universities. Following a good period of growth in the 2000s, and the establishment of new universities in towns such as Makeni and Njala, the Ebola outbreak had a negative effect on academic development. All those who attended the workshop said they had been in sore need of this type of concerted programme of academic training, as they attested in the final closing session of the workshop.

There were nine core sessions of the workshop:

1) Inaugural Lecture by Nwando Achebe, Michigan State University, who represented the *Journal of West African History* at the workshop: "Nigerian

Marriage in Crisis". This took place in Fourah Bay College's Mary Kingsley Auditorium, following opening speeches, and was attended by approximately 200 students and members of the public. Professor Achebe was interviewed later that week by Sierra Leonean television, where she discussed the programme that had taken place that week. There was a large number of questions asked afterwards, which was testament to the impact of the lecture.

2) Breaking Research Barriers, led by Joe Alie, Fourah Bay College: a plenary session which encouraged scholars to discuss what they felt were the main barriers to their progress as academic writers, and began to discuss about the ways in which these could be addressed.

3) Plenary session/1:1 session between participants and journal editors. The plenary session was led by Hassoum Ceesay of the University of The Gambia, on "The Importance of research for the future of Higher Education in West Africa". As with other parallel sessions, all participants attended the first hour, after which those with allocated one to one sessions left with their editors for a 45 minute discussion of their papers.

4) Morning training session on Thursday 4th May when participants were introduced to the resources available to staff at Sierra Leonean universities.

5) Plenary session/1:1 session between participants and journal editors. The plenary session was led by Dr Samuel Adu-Gyamfi of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, and was called "Current paradigms for Knowledge Production in West Africa".

6) Plenary session/1:1 session between participants and journal editors. The plenary session was led by Dr Ney and was called "Training in Academic Writing: From Abstract to Article".

7) Morning tour on Friday 5th May of historical Freetown for workshop participants led by Ishmael Kamara of Fourah Bay College

8) Plenary session/1:1 session between participants and journal editors. The plenary session, "Digital Resources for Researching and Writing in African Studies", was led by Dr Vincent Hiribarren of King's College London.

9) Closing session, led by Toby Green, where participants fed back and ways forward were discussed. During this session a WhatsApp group was created so that participants could easily keep in touch with one another after the workshop had finished.

On Saturday 6th May there was then a celebratory final afternoon and dinner on one of the beaches near Freetown.

The overwhelming response from participants was a positive one. There was much discussion of how to ensure that the energy was maintained, and all participating editors committed to working with the writers they had worked with to try and bring about publication of their pieces. Dr Ney set up a research group at Freetown with enough resources to meet and discuss papers regularly. There was also talk of how welcome a follow-up workshop would be in time.

**Dr Toby Green, King's College London**

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

Daniel Agbiboa (2016), 'Frontiers of Urban Survival: Everyday Corruption and Precarious Existence in Lagos', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Abdul Raufu Mustapha.

Stephen Bekoe (2017), 'A Critical Examination of Ghana's Community Information Centre Programme and Mobile Phones in Providing Connectivity and Overcoming Peripherality', Ph.D thesis, Royal Holloway, University of London. Supervisor: Professor David Simon.

Nicola Brandt (2015), 'Emerging Landscapes: Memory, Trauma and its Afterimage in Post-Apartheid South Africa and Namibia', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Anthony Gardner and Professor Daria Martin.

Olusoji James Daniel (2017), 'Spatial Distribution of Tuberculosis in Nigeria and Its Socioeconomic Correlates', Ph.D thesis, University of Lancaster. Supervisors: Professor Anthony Gatrell and Dr Eugenio Zucchelli; <http://eprints.lancs.ac.uk/85146/>

Clara Devlieger (2017), '"People Who Need Rights"? Disability and the Pursuit of Value in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo', Ph.D. thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Harri Englund.

Timothy Foster (2016), 'From Cash Flows to Water Flows: An Assessment of Financial Risks to Rural Water Supply Sustainability in Sub-Saharan Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Rob Hope.

Sacha Hepburn (2016), 'A Social History of Domestic Service in Post-Colonial Zambia, c.1964-2014', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Miles Larmer.

Jamie M. Lachman (2016), 'Building a Rondavel of Support: The Development and Pilot Randomised Controlled Trial of a Parenting Programme to Reduce the Risk of Child Maltreatment in Low-Income Families with Children Aged Three to Eight Years in South Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Lucie Cluver.

Wiseman Khela Magasela (2014), 'Citizenship and the Politics of Poverty Definition During the Segregation, Apartheid and Democratic Eras in South Africa, 1910-2010', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Michael Noble.

Stephen Massie (2016), 'The Imperialism of Cecil John Rhodes: Metropolitan Perceptions of a Colonial Reputation', Ph.D thesis. Oxford Brookes University. Supervisor: Dr Donal Lowry.

Tamara Moellenberg (2016), 'Fictions of Youth: "Childness" in Selected West African Novels, 1991-2009', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Elleke Boehmer.

Duncan Money (2016), "'No Matter How Much or How Little They've Got, They Can't Settle Down": A Social History of Europeans on the Zambian Copperbelt, 1926-1974', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Jan-Georg Deutsch.

Nelson Oppong (2016), 'Model or Mirage?: "Good Governance" Solutions and the Politics of Reform in Ghana's Oil Industry', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Abdul Raufu Mustapha.

Joseph Philp (2017), 'Interested Relations: Kinship, Money and Language in Southern Togo', Ph.D. thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Harri Englund.

David L. Poole (2016), 'Entrepreneurship and SME Sector Development in Post-Genocide Rwanda: A Search for the "Missing Middle"', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor(s): Professor Chris Cramer; <http://eprints.soas.ac.uk/23794/>

Alexandra Rowell (2017), 'Sand Ramps as Late Quaternary Palaeoenvironmental Archives: Analysis from Southern Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor David S.G. Thomas and Dr Richard Bailey.

Maria-Josep Cascant Sempere (2017), 'Political Action in a Campaigning Development NGO through a Social Movement Lens: The Case of Actionaid's Tax Justice Campaign in Nigeria and the UK', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisors: Dr Rosie McGee and Dr Patta Scott-Villiers; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/66701/>

Sishuwa Sishuwa (2017), "'I am Zambia's Redeemer": Populism and the Rise of Michael Sata, 1955-2011', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Nic Cheeseman and Dr Jan-Georg Deutsch.

## **Recent Publications**

Abou B. Bamba (2016), *African Miracle, African Mirage: Transnational Politics and the Paradox of Modernization in Ivory Coast*. Ohio University Press, 336pp, 978-0821422397, £28.99.

Martin Banham, James Gibbs and Femi Osofisan (2016), *African Theatre 15: China, India and the Eastern World*. James Currey, 264pp, 978-1847011473, £19.99.

Maurits van Bever Donker, Ross Truscott, Premesh Lalu and Gary Minkley (2017), *Remains of the Social: Desiring the Post-Apartheid*. Wits University Press, 304pp, 978-1776140305, £34.50.



Marc Epprecht (2016), *Welcome to Greater Edendale: Histories of Environment, Health, and Gender in an African City*. McGill-Queen's University Press, 336ppm, 978-0773547742, £28.99.

Ruth Ginio (2017), *The French Army and its African Soldiers: The Years of Decolonization*. University of Nebraska Press, 282pp, 978-0803253391, £50.

Pim Higginson (2017), *Scoring Race: Jazz, Fiction and Francophone Africa*. James Currey, 256pp, 978-1-84701-155-8, £17.99.

Vincent Hiribarren (2017), *A History of Borno: Trans-Saharan African Empire to Failing Nigerian State*. Hurst, 312pp, 978-1849044745, £45.

Paul Lovejoy (2016), *Jihad in West Africa during the Age of Revolutions*. Ohio University Press, 408pp, 978-0821422410, £28.99.

Stuart A. Marks (2016), *Life as a Hunt: Thresholds of Identities and Illusions on an African Landscape*. Berghahn Books, 518pp, 978-1-78533-157-2, £115.

Thomas Molony (2016), *Nyerere; The Early Years*. James Currey, 302pp, 978-1-84701-150-3, £16.50.

Malyn Newitt (2017), *A Short History of Mozambique*. Hurst, 256pp, 978-1849048330, £16.99.

Holly Porter (2016), *After Rape: Violence, Justice and Social Harmony in Uganda*. Cambridge University Press for The International African Library, 268pp, 978-1107180048, £56.

Miroslava Prazak (2016), *Making the Mark: Gender, Identity, and Genital Cutting*. Ohio University Press, 304pp, 9780896803107, £24.99.

Jonathan E. Robins (2016), *Cotton and Race across the Atlantic: Britain, Africa, and America, 1900-1920*. James Currey, 312pp, 978-1580465670, £90.

Blair Rutherford (2017), *Farm Labor Struggles in Zimbabwe: The Ground of Politics*. Indiana University Press, 294pp, 978-02530224039, £28.99.

Kathleen Sheldon (2017), *African Women: Early History to the 21st Century*. Indiana University Press, 352pp, 978-0-253-02722-1, £33.

Anders Themnér (ed) (2017), *Warlord Democrats in Africa: Ex-Military Leaders and Electoral Politics*. Zed, 264pp, 9781783602483, £24.99.

Olufemi Vaughan (2016), *Religion and the Making of Nigeria*. Duke University Press, 336pp, 978-0822362272, £21.

Frédéric Volpi (2017), *Revolution and Authoritarianism in North Africa*. Hurst, 232pp, 9781849046961, £25.

**Call for Papers: Afropolitan Literature as World Literature.** Afropolitanism currently inflects many academic and popular conversations about African literature. The term is mobilised to celebrate African influence in the world and to characterize the proliferation of African literature that is disconnected from the daily lives of average people residing on the continent. It refuses victimhood for Africans in the wake of patronizing representations by the likes of CNN, BBC, and KONY 2012 and sells a version of Africa ready-made for Western reading tastes. It represents a formidable ideology formulated by Achille Mbembe, among others, and a way to sell \$30 novelty T-shirts to American hipsters. In short, Afropolitanism is contradictory and controversial: it is liberating but confining, African but western-orientated, and academic but steeped in popular culture.

This collection intends to intervene in numerous debates about Afropolitan literature, especially in relation to its worldliness and cosmopolitanism. By addressing the theoretical foundations established by Mbembe and Gikandi, as well as popular usages by writers like Helon Habila and Taiye Selasi, *Afropolitan Literature as World Literature* will address a variety of discourses that have thrust Afropolitanism into a vital role in discussions of both African literature and World Literature, the latter itself a persistent and controversial contemporary interlocutor.

The editor welcomes articles on the most prominent Afropolitan authors, such as Chimamanda Adichie, Teju Cole and NoViolet Bulawayo, but also invites papers that consider less prominent or emerging writers and texts. Papers that explore the following questions are particularly sought: how do the concerns of Afropolitanism intersect and depart from considerations of World Literature? World Literature at its worst is unmoored from local contexts and Afropolitanism is often accused of being disconnected from the lived realities of Africa. While detractors and supporters of both Afropolitanism and World Literature abound, how do these fields meaningfully intersect? How should the issue of translation, whether linguistic or cultural, as a major preoccupation of World Literature, inform discussions of Afropolitanism? Afropolitanism is criticized at times for commodifying Africanness for easy consumption. Many authors who write about Africa balk at being characterized as an 'African writer' because of the restrictions they see inherent in the term. Is the term Afropolitan a similar constraint or does its global pretensions, while maintaining a connection to Africa, provide a broad enough framework to overcome the fear of narrow pigeonholing? Afropolitanism is often accused of being non-political and eschewing previous ideologies, such as Pan-Africanism and Afropessimism. However, Wole Soyinka and others have pointed out that an African literature that is ideology-eschewing is itself ideological. How can we reimagine the so-called non-political nature of Afropolitan literature as explicitly political?

300-500 word abstracts for proposed articles by 1 August 2017 to the editor of the proposed collection, Dr James Hodapp: [jh53@aub.edu.lb](mailto:jh53@aub.edu.lb) The proposal for this collection was invited by Bloomsbury Publishing's "Literatures as World Literature" series (<https://goo.gl/ECdoFl>). Articles should be 6,000-8,000 words including notes, and are due 1 December 2017.

**Call for Papers: Archives, the Digital Turn and Governance in Africa.** This featured section of *History in Africa* journal will address the wave of digitisation of archives in Africa over the last fifteen years. With the rise of information technologies, an increasing part of public – and to some extent private - African archives are being digitised and made accessible on the internet. This wave of digitisation is usually seen as a progress with the help of ambitious initiatives applying new technologies to cultural heritage of humanity such as the rescue of the manuscripts of Timbuktu or the Endangered Archives programme at the British Library. Yet as much as these new technologies raise enthusiasm, they also prompt discussions amongst researchers and archivists, which go from intellectual property to sovereignty and governance.

In the digital era, the issue of the ownership of these documents is crucial since the very definition of an archive is being challenged: from unique hard copies of documents, they can now exist in a variety of formats reproducible at will. Technical and economic issues at stake are also key to the discussion and intertwined with that of sovereignty: institutions elaborating a digitisation programme may do so under the pressure of donors or non-African scholars. All in all, beyond the discourse of transparency, whether to the benefit of governance or that of scientific research, this matter is eminently political. These archives are thus concerned with negotiations which go far beyond their sole technical and scientific aspect.

In the field of history, archives are usually addressed as sources for research, and questioned as such because of their documentary aspect. More rarely are they approached as historically constructed systems combining intellectual and physical aspects, as archival science theorises it. Yet digital archiving disrupts archival norms and practices, opening up a field of reflection relatively little explored by historians. The digital turn of African archives is therefore an object of study in its own right, located at the crossroads of political and economic interests.

500-word abstracts and short CV by 29 September 2017 to the Guest Editors, Dr Marie Rodet, SOAS, Dr Vincent Hiribarren, King's College London and Fabienne Chamelot, University of Portsmouth: [digital.turn.africa@gmail.com](mailto:digital.turn.africa@gmail.com) Selected authors will be expected to send their full-length paper (up to 10,000 words, including notes) by 16 February 2018. Please address any query you may have to the Guest Editors.

## Obituary

**Dr Elizabeth Dunstan (Lady Mills) (1932–2017)** was born at Achimota College in the Gold Coast (Ghana), where her father was a missionary teacher (and son-in-law of a famous and learned Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Professor H. R. Mackintosh). She spent her first five years at Achimota, was sent back to Scotland during the Second World War, and rejoined her family in Basutoland (Lesotho) and South Africa from 1946–1951. She therefore came to adulthood with a strongly African grounding. Back in Scotland, she took her MA degree in Language and Literature at the University of Edinburgh.

In 1960, Nigeria's Independence year, she joined the University College of Ibadan (later University of Ibadan) as a Lecturer and later Senior Lecturer in Phonetics, working with John Spencer, Ayo Banjo and Ayo Bamgbose. She was popular with students and also took part in various university extra-mural programmes, including the training of senior literacy workers. While at Ibadan, she worked for a Ph.D with SOAS – which she was awarded in 1966 – and among her publications was *Twelve Nigerian Languages*, which she edited and contributed to. In 1968, she married Ian (later Sir Ian) Mills and they returned to England. From 1974, they lived in Blackheath, but she kept up connections with Ibadan and many Nigerian friends and colleagues until her death.

In Britain, she became well-known among Africanists for her work in the International African Institute between 1979 and 2006, as Publications Manager and chair of the Publications Committee. It was a lean time for the IAI and it should be said that without Elizabeth's steadfastness and African connections, it might not have survived; it was put on an even keel with the help of her husband, Ian, and the late Professors Jacob Ade Ajayi and Michael Crowder. Elizabeth was also a Council Member of the Royal African Society between 1998 and 2004.

She leaves behind her husband, a son and daughter and five grand-children, also her younger sister Anne and two nieces.

**Emeritus Professor Lalage Bown**

### Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the October 2017 *Newsletter* by 15 September 2017 to Dr Simon Heap, c/o Academic Office, Buckley 1.08, Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane, Oxford, OX3 0BP or [effaheap@aol.com](mailto:effaheap@aol.com)

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