

## **Black Lives Matter**

In line with its mission and its commitment to further knowledge of Africa's past and present, the African Studies Association UK expresses its solidarity with our academic colleagues and communities in the US and the UK following the murder of George Floyd. The scholarship of our members is fundamentally concerned with inequality, with histories of racism and with the legacies of the Atlantic slavery. For these reasons, we recognise the historic and present-day connections between struggles for justice across the globe. We speak out against racism, police brutality and state violence in Africa, the UK and the US, and express solidarity with the individuals and movements working for racial, political and economic justice. In our scholarship, we reiterate our commitment to interrogate and challenge the histories of racism and epistemic inequality that have marked the field of African Studies.

You can also find the statements by our sister associations the African Studies Association of Africa and the African Studies Association by going to:

*African Studies Association of Africa:*

<https://as-aa.org/index.php/in-the-news/8-news/139-statement-by-the-african-studies-association-of-africa-on-the-brutal-killing-of-mr-george-floyd-in-the-united-states-of-america-and-its-aftermath>

*African Studies Association:*

<https://africanstudies.org/advocacy/statement-by-the-african-studies-association-on-police-violence-and-racism-in-the-united-states/>

## **ASAUK 2020**

It was with a heavy heart that decision was made to cancel ASAUK2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We would like to thank our colleagues who were preparing to organise the diverse streams that would have been held in Cardiff in September and to those who had already submitted abstracts for consideration. Although the bulk of the conference has been cancelled, there are several aspects that will still take place during the days earmarked for ASAUK2020. Please do keep an eye on the ASAUK website and Twitter Account @ASAUK\_News for the updated information.

## **Keynote Lecture**

We are delighted that Dr Sada Mire, a world authority on the archaeology of Northeast Africa, will be recording her Keynote lecture entitled 'The Archaeological Heritage of the Somali Horn of Africa' and this will be made available online on Tuesday 8th September 2020.

## **President's Address**

Outgoing President, Professor Ambreena Manji will give an address on the role and work of the African Studies Association. This address will be made available on Wednesday 9 September.

## **Prizes**

The winners of the three prizes will be announced via our online channels on Wednesday 9 September:

### ***Fage and Oliver Prize***

This is awarded to the author of an outstanding original scholarly work published on Africa during the preceding two years. We are extremely grateful to the reviewing committee, who having considered the 85 nominations agreed on a shortlist of nine titles:-

- *Silenced Resistance: Women, Dictatorships, and Genderwashing in Western Sahara and Equatorial Guinea* by Joanna Allan (USA, University of Wisconsin Press)
- *The Revolution's Echoes. Music, Politics, and Pleasure in Guinea* by Nomi Dave (USA, The University of Chicago Press)
- *The Man Who Killed Apartheid. The Life of Dimitri Tsafendas* by Harris Dousemetzis (South Africa, Jacana Media (Pty))
- *Modernist Art in Ethiopia* by Elizabeth W. Giorgis (USA, Ohio University Press)
- *A Fistful of Shells: West Africa from the rise of the slave trade to the age of revolution* by Toby Green (UK, Allen Lane)
- *At the crossroads: Nigerian travel writing and literary culture in Yoruba and English* by Rebecca Jones (UK, James Currey, Boydell & Brewer)
- *Mūkami Kĩmathi: Mau Mau Woman Freedom Fighter* by Wairimu Nderitu (Kenya, Mdahalo Bridging Divides)
- *An Ethnography of Hunger. Politics, Subsistence, and the Unpredictable Grace of the Sun* by Kristin Phillips (USA, Indiana University Press)
- *Africa's Gene Revolution. Genetically Modified Crops and the Future of African Agriculture* by Matthew A Schnurr (Canada, McGill-Queen's University Press)

### *Audrey Richards Prize*

This prize is for the best doctoral thesis in African Studies which has been successfully examined in a British Institution of Higher Education.

### *Distinguished Africanist Award*

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

### **ASAUK Annual General Meeting**

The Association's AGM will take place on Thursday 10th September, 11am-12:30pm. The paperwork and meeting details will be circulated in due course.

### **Publishers' Offers**

In lieu of sponsoring the conference, we are delighted that a number of publishers have kindly agreed to provide a wide range of offers over the coming months. As discussions continue to what that will include, please keep an eye out in the members section to see these coming online.

## **Conferences Future...**

### UNITED KINGDOM

**'Comparing the Copperbelt: Social history and knowledge production in Central Africa, St Antony's College, University of Oxford, 11–13th February 2021.** Comparing the Copperbelt is an ERC-funded research project, running at the University of Oxford from 2016-2021. The project aims to examine the Copperbelt (in both Zambia and the DR Congo) as a single region divided by a (post-)colonial border, across which flowed minerals, people and ideas. It analyses how academic knowledge production (e.g. by the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute and CEPSI) shaped understanding of Copperbelt societies and it seeks ways to explore Copperbelt political culture and popular perceptions from a historical perspective.

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

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

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

The conference will be held in English where possible. Presentations can be made in French and translation will be available. Funding is available for some speakers' travel and accommodation: priority will be given to Congolese and Zambian participants and final decisions on the allocation of this funding will be made at a later date. 150-250 word abstracts in either English or French by the deadline 17th July 2020 (with apologies for late posting, please contact Claire Phillips: copperbelt@history.ox.ac.uk with expressions of interest).

#### INTERNATIONAL

**'Nigeria and Technological Advancement: 60 years After Independence', University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria, 23–26th November 2020.** Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Science and Technology was created on 1st January 1980, with the vision of making "Nigeria one of the acknowledged leaders of the scientifically and technologically developed nations of the world". Sixty years after independence, and forty years after the Science and Technology Ministry was created, Nigeria is neither a regional nor global technological power. Despite the advancements recorded in the country during the Civil War years (1967-70), Nigeria remains a largely import economy, now dependent on countries that were once rated on the same pedestal or below her. That Nigerians in diaspora continue to make globally acknowledged strides in diverse fields of endeavour (including science and technology) presents the Nigerian state with an irony that consistently stares her in the face.

The African Humanities Research and Development Circle (AHRDC) and Professor B. I. C. Ijomah Centre for Policy Studies and Research at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, therefore, announce their second international and

interdisciplinary conference to engage with different aspects of this very important theme. The goal of the conference is to provide scholars and other participants with a platform to critically discuss the prospects and challenges of technological advancement in Nigeria. Technology is at the heart of the fourth industrial revolution. It is hoped that this conference will chart the way forward for science and technological development in Nigeria.

Sub-themes for papers include: technology: whose technology?; education, research, and technological development; human capital and technological development; strategic curriculum and technology; leadership, policy, and technology; corruption and technology; the Nigerian Civil War and technology; technology, development, and underdevelopment; Nigeria and the fourth industrial revolution; politics and technological development; medical science and technology; case studies: lessons for Nigeria; religion and technological development; terrorism, insecurity, and technological development; brain drain and technological development; Nigerian youth and the future of science and technology; economic diversification and technological development; the private sector and technological development; the humanities and technological advancement; gender in science and technology; technology and gender roles; history of science and technology in Nigeria; the downsides of science and technology; technology and the environment; technology and poverty; Ministry of Science and Technology; and Public-Private Partnership and technological development. 250 word abstracts, specifying the sub-theme, by 31st August 2020 to: [ahrhc.unn@gmail.com](mailto:ahrhc.unn@gmail.com) and [elizabeth.onogwu@unn.edu.ng](mailto:elizabeth.onogwu@unn.edu.ng)

## **...Conferences Past**

### **Report from the ASUK Writing Workshops Officer**

In 2019 the ASUK, in collaboration with a range of partners (CODESRIA, African Studies Association of Africa, African Humanities Program, African Peacebuilding Network, Journal of Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies and Lagos Studies Association, and many others) held a number of mentoring and professional development workshops. It is fortunate that we were able to have so many successful meetings last year, before Covid19 made it impossible for us to gather together.

The networks of peer reviewers who participated in these workshops have provided feedback on the submissions, and many of the papers are making their way to journals and into edited collections. The workshop organisers have remained in contact with participants, and during this time have been able to support Africa-based scholars who do not have library access due to lockdown restrictions. All workshops and conferences planned for 2020 have been cancelled, but we are able to continue much of the work of the workshops through our existing networks.

Since the announcement of the cancellation of the ASAUK2020 conference, some stream organisers and the writing workshops coordinator have been in touch with panel convenors to discuss ways of taking forward the work. We set up Skype and Zoom conversations and have now put in place a range of activities. For some panels, we have worked with participants to create networks that will function as on-line reading groups. The lead researchers in these networks have been invited to compile core bibliographies, and we are supporting them in identifying relevant readings and introducing them to people in our own networks who could become members of the reading groups. Continuing the work of the Journal Work Academy, we have been working with a range of early career scholars who are interested in learning how to put together a special issue proposal for submission to a journal.

The Lagos Studies Association has a very active Publications Committee, and in together with them we have prepared a memorandum that went out to all LSA@ASAUK stream participants inviting those interested (many of whom are early career scholars) to submit 4,000 word versions of the presentations they were going to give at ASAUK.

The LSA regularly convenes a network of mentors and peer reviewers, who comment on the presentations and make interventions at an early stage of the research, advising authors on how to frame their work and making recommendations about supplementary reading. The same invitation has gone out to all who have had abstracts accepted for LSA2020 which was meant to take place in June. The ongoing work of the mentoring networks and peer reviewers of the LSA is having a significant impact on early career scholars, and it has been important to carry on (and even expand) this work during the Covid19 lockdown.

Through our existing networks and using various technologies we have managed to keep our communities connected, and to find new ways of working together. But the pleasure of co-presence and the conviviality of being with colleagues cannot be replaced.

Carli Coetzee, Editor, *Journal of African Cultural Studies*

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

Omotola Ayisat Adeoye (2020), 'Bridging the Gap between Electricity Demand and Supply in West Africa: The Role of Renewable Energy and Interconnections', Ph.D thesis, University College London, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Catalina Spataru.

Fiona Katharine Allan (2020), 'East Coast Fever and Vaccination at the Livestock/Wildlife Interface', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Dr Liam Morrison, Professor Ivan Morrison, Dr Ian Handel and Dr Harriet Auty.

Folashade Alloh (2020), 'Exploring Diabetes Management with West-African Immigrants Living in the UK: A Constructivist Grounded Theory Study', Ph.D thesis, Bournemouth University. Supervisors: Professor Ann Hemingway and Dr Angela Turner-Wilson; <http://eprints.bournemouth.ac.uk/33853/>

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

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

Zachary Marcus Derrick Baynham-Herd (2020), 'Behavioural Interventions in Conservation Conflicts', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Dr Aidan Keane, Dr Thomas Molony and Dr Casey Ryan.

Philip T. Burnett (2020), 'Music and Mission: A Case Study of the Anglican-Xhosa Missions of the Eastern Cape, 1854-1880', Ph.D thesis, University of Bristol. Supervisors: Professor Robert A. Bickers and Professor Emma Hornby.

Henry Dee (2020), 'Clements Kadalie, Trade Unionism, Migration and Race in Southern Africa, 1918-1930', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Professor Paul Nugent and Professor Emma Hunter; <https://hdl.handle.net/1842/37022>

Goitom Gebreluel (2020), 'Strategies for Managing Regional Conflicts: Ethiopia's Foreign Policy in 1991-2018', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Devon Curtis.

Peter Griffith (2020), 'Late Quaternary Palaeoenvironments and Middle-Late Stone Age Habitat Preferences in the Nakuru-Naivasha Basin, Kenya: Phytolith-based Evidence from the Site of Prospect Farm', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Robert Foley; <https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/handle/1810/301269>

Roeland Hemsteede (2020), 'The Implications of Power Relations at the National and International Level on the Design and Implementation of Social Cash Transfers in Southern Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Dundee. Supervisors: Professor Lorraine van Blerk and Dr Fiona Smith.

Daisy Hill (2020), 'Damage and Womanhood in the Lives of Female Prostitutes in Zambia', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisors: Professor Alison Phipps and Dr Hannah Mason-Bish; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/id/eprint/91199/>

Uche Anthony Jude Igwe (2020), 'Exploring the Ethical Landscape of the Nigerian Parliament', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex.

Thomas James Lowman (2020), 'Beyond Idi Amin: Causes and Drivers of Political Violence in Uganda, 1971-1979', Ph.D thesis, Durham University. Supervisors: Professor Justin Willis and Doctor Jacob Wiebel; <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/13439/>

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

Sophie Rosenberg (2020), 'Deploying Accountability: The Strategic Use of the Anti-Impunity Norm in Internal Conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire and Mali', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisors: Professor Marc Weller and Dr Devon Curtis.

Jovia Haruna Salifu (2019), 'Dealing with Obligations: Debt, Microcredit and Gender Relations in Matrilineal Offinso', Ph.D thesis, University of Birmingham. Supervisors: Dr Kate Skinner and Dr Maxim Bolt.

Christine Adrienne Van Hooft (2020), 'Nearer to the People: The interaction between Decentralisation and the Political Economy in Uganda', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Shailaja Fennell; <https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/handle/1810/299011>

## **Recent Publications**

Jennifer L. Derr (2019), *The Lived Nile: Environment, Disease, and Material Colonial Economy in Egypt*. Stanford University Press. 264 pp. 978-1-5036-0965-5, £20.99.

Naminata Diabate (2020), *Naked Agency: Genital Cursing and Biopolitics in Africa*. Duke University Press, 272pp, 9781478006886, £20.99.

Ulf Laessing (2020), *Understanding Libya Since Gaddafi*. Hurst, 240pp, 9781849048880, £17.99.

Stephanie Newell (2019), *Histories of Dirt: Media and Urban Life in Colonial and Postcolonial Lagos*. Duke University Press, 272pp, 9781478006435, £19.79.

Sharon Adetutu Omotoso (ed), *Women's Political Communication in Africa: Issues and Perspectives*. Springer, 188pp, 9783030428266, £89.99 (Hardback), £56.99 (Kindle).

Reiland Rabaka (2020), *Routledge Handbook of Pan-Africanism*. Routledge, 548pp, 9780367030667, £190.

Richard Reid (2020), *Shallow Graves: A Memoir of the Ethiopia–Eritrea War*. Hurst, 296pp, 9781787383289, £25.

Anne Schiffer (2020), *Reframing Energy Access: Insights from The Gambia*. Routledge, 142pp, 9781138311695, £45 (Hardback), 9780429458699, £15.30 (Kindle).

### **New Open Access Journal: *Sources. Materials & Fieldwork in African Studies***

This new academic journal relies on the French network of research institutes based in Sub-Saharan Africa in association with the French research unit, Les Afriques dans le monde in Bordeaux. The Open Access biannual journal is trilingual (English, French and Portuguese) and can publish articles in other languages, especially all those in use in Africa. Its mission is original within the social sciences and humanities: it places field materials at the heart of theoretical insight. These field materials are defined as the empirical objects produced – and most often co-produced – by researchers in a particular research situation and by using specific methods that undergird reasoning and the elaboration of theoretical statements. ‘Sources’ provides access to, and storage of, such field materials.

The first issue can be accessed through this link: <https://www.sources-journal.org/76> We invite you to read the introduction as it theorises the editorial purpose of the journal and sets out its objectives. The six articles that make up this issue exemplify Sources’ editorial purpose. They take as their subject the most material sources, from bricks in Meroitic Sudan (Gabrielle Choimet) to written documents – such as letters to readers in the Nigerian press from the 1940s to the 1950s (Sara Panata), political prints distributed during an election campaign in Kenya in 2013 (Chloé Josse-Durand) and accounting writings of the Mahdist Sudanese administration in the 19th century (Anaël Poussier) – though digital sources in a contemporary Mozambican context (Rozenn Nakanabo Diallo) and musical material, here gospels, from the time of war in Burundi (Ariel Fabrice Ntahomvukiye). This first issue closes with an interview with the historian Vincent Hiribarren who analyses the challenges of the archival and digital turns in Africa.

Two thematic issues, one on Violence (2020) and the other on Environmental Knowledge (2021) are underway. A permanent call for papers is open. Information about the journal in French is at: <https://www.sources-journal.org/351> and in English: <https://www.sources-journal.org/350> For questions, contact the Editors in Chief: Marie-Aude Fouéré and Ophélie Rillon: [sources@services.cnrs.fr](mailto:sources@services.cnrs.fr)

**Call for Papers: Special Issue of *Tempo*: Resistance, Survival, and Associativism: Reinventing Life in the Spaces of Modern Slavery (16th-19th Centuries).** The journal *Tempo* is calling for contributions to this special issue to be published in 2021. All contributions must focus on original research and can be submitted in English, French, Spanish, or Portuguese. The submission deadline is 10th December 2020.

The resurgence of slavery at the beginning of the Modern Era led to the displacement of millions of individuals, forcing them and their descendants to extremely poor living conditions. Recent research has shown that the effects of slavery extended well beyond the economy, shaping society, culture, science, art, philosophy, linguistics, education, law, geography as well as many other fields of human relations.

This special issue invites researchers to share new findings of a research agenda that problematizes the dynamics of social relations – in all its complexity – discussing how enslaved and freed people developed strategies of survival and reinvention in spaces marked by modern slavery. Submissions focused on any region of the Atlantic are welcome, particularly contributions that approach how enslaved and freed people gave new meanings to varied forms of associativism, like in education, health, entertainment, law, art, and work.

While relevant in the past, broad interpretations can now seem overly simplistic. Authors are thus encouraged to deliver works that value the historical experiences of enslaved groups. The special issue is particularly interested in contributions that question the complexity of social relations through the prisms of race, aesthetics, gender, religion, law, economy, philosophy, education, gender, or the political or symbolic power. Submissions focused on case studies are welcome, as long as they establish a relationship between the local and the global. Subtopics to be developed include slavery, slave trade, abolition, post-abolition, associativism, maroonage, black activism, entertainment, health, art, law and legislation, gender, race, education, family, and property.

Launched in 1996, *Tempo* is a publication of the Department of History from Fluminense Federal University (Brazil) dedicated to the publication of new history research and its different fields – social, economic, political history, among others. Contributions must be submitted to *Tempo's* website and follow the journal's publication norms. At the moment of submission, please list the title of the special issue above the title of the article. Additional details are available at <https://www.scielo.br/revistas/tem/iinstruc.htm> Questions should be addressed to the special issue editors: Maria Renilda Barreto: [maria.barreto@cefet-rj.br](mailto:maria.barreto@cefet-rj.br) and Daniel B. Domingues da Silva: [domingues@rice.edu](mailto:domingues@rice.edu)

## News

### Award of British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship

Caroline Davis (Oxford Brookes University) has been awarded a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship for her project 'Book Empires: British Publishing in Africa, 1900-1965'. The one-year fellowship, which begins in September 2020, will enable her to undertake a project investigating the role of the British book trade in the colonial enterprise in Africa. It will lead to a monograph which addresses in depth the cultural, political and commercial significance of this transnational book trade, uncovering the close alliances that were established between the colonial government and British publishers, and revealing how educational and trade book publishers were co-opted in support of British imperialism. It will also shed light on the way British publishers collaborated with the South African government in the establishment of a racially-segregated book culture, especially in relation to the institution of Bantu education during the apartheid period. This builds on her previous research on publishing in Africa, including *Creating Postcolonial Literature: African Writers and British Publishers* (Palgrave, 2013), a monograph focusing on the work of Oxford University Press in Africa, *The Book in Africa: Critical Debates* (Palgrave, 2015), co-edited with David Johnson, and her forthcoming book, *African Literature and the CIA: Networks of Authorship and Publishing* (Cambridge University Press, in press).

## Obituaries

**Paul Kennedy**, who has just died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 78, had a long and productive engagement with African Studies. Though in later years he moved into Global Studies, his work was always informed by his research into West Africa and in particular Ghana. Paul was born in Hayes, Middlesex, attended Drayton Manor Grammar School in Ealing and went on to study sociology at Birmingham University, where he graduated in 1963. His early interest in travel led him to spend two years as a VSO in Ethiopia teaching English. This experience reinforced two of his major interests – the study of African societies and birdwatching.

On his return from Ethiopia he began his doctoral studies at the newly established Centre of West African Studies at Birmingham University. It was here (along with Robin Cohen and me) where he developed his key ideas – we were all stimulated particularly by Ken Post. Paul's doctoral research on patterns of indigenous enterprise in Ghana was carried out whilst attached to the University of Ghana, Legon, from 1967-69. On his return to the UK he spent some time at the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University before joining the Sociology Department of Manchester Polytechnic where he remained until his retirement in 2014. He also spent a rather difficult year at Cape Coast University conducting further research in 1976-77, whilst afflicted with tropical illness.

Paul wrote prolifically. While it is difficult to give a full flavour of his work, its range can be intuited by referring to his five books. The first, *Ghanaian Businessmen: From Artisan and Capitalist Entrepreneur in a Dependent Economy* (1980) was a rewrite of his Ph.D thesis for Birmingham University. He argued that despite the incentive to accumulate capital through non-productive means, including illegal trading, a significant Ghanaian industrial capitalist class had emerged – a finding flatly contradicting the prevailing left orthodoxies. He extended this analysis in his Africa-wide book *African Capitalism: The Struggle for Ascendancy* (1988), showing both how dependency analysts and those who looked at class formation among the workers and peasants had failed to grasp that African capitalists had made considerable strides, in commerce and distribution, in profiting from government contracts and in import-substitution industries.

Paul moved away from purely African themes in joining Robin Cohen as co-author of *Global Sociology* (2000). The book was reprinted many times, with subsequent editions and translations and Paul had completed his contribution to the forthcoming 4th edition when he sadly died. His contributions to the Global Studies Association and his two final books indicated that, while he was no longer doing empirical work on Africa, some of his early preoccupations never left him. His research in Ghana had showed him how global trends were always mediated and recast by local social actors, who did not behave like automata in the face of outside forces. This is the theme of *Local Lives and Global Transformations* (2010).

His final book, *Vampire Capitalism* (2017) took a darker turn, excoriating the destructive force of selfish, predatory capitalists, who did not even have the foresight to protect their long-term interests by reducing at least some of the inequalities they had fostered. Typically, he refused to leave it there, concluding this pessimistic account with an insightful discussion of an alternative future based on solidarity, cooperation and local sustainable initiatives.

Paul was a dedicated teacher who gave a lot to his students, reflecting his broad range of friends and interests. We spent many hours in wide-ranging discussions in his house in Manchester or in his cottage in France usually accompanied by red wine. He had a strong interest in politics and was involved in CND in Glossop and was arrested in for his involvement in student protests during his time at Cape Coast. He also branched out in later years into writing a couple of novels. A great nature lover, Paul was a keen ornithologist, gardener and advocate of sustainable living before it came fashionable. He was a brilliant cook famed among his Ph.D students for his annual Ghanaian curry nights, a member of Altrincham choral and allotment societies and a volunteer at his local wildlife centre.

He is survived by his wife Sue, his children Anna, Danny and Rebecca, and two grandchildren, Jasmine and Camille.

**Professor Roy May**

**Thandika Mkandawire, 10th October 1940–27th March 2020: An Independent and Pioneering Intellectual, an obituary by Michael Chege**

With the death in Stockholm on 27th March of Professor Thandika Mkandawire of the London School of Economics, the continent has lost a leading thinker and author on economics, politics and governance.

He was a polymath whose erudite pen also extended to essays on the state of African universities, appreciation of Afro-Jazz, the community of African intellectuals and the damage done to objective understanding of Africa by some opinionated Western intellectuals.

Thandika was no ideologue, rather a humane centrist. His life's objective was to ensure Africa was understood objectively and that its development policies would advance the lofty aims that motivated the struggles for independence and against apartheid: dignity for Africans and other oppressed people, poverty eradication and social welfare, respect for human rights and a saner, more caring world.

I first met Thandika in the mid-1970s when he was the deputy executive of the top pan-African research institute, the Council for the Development of Social Research in Africa (CODESRIA) in Dakar. Already, he had shown his mettle, taking an independent line from Marxist-grounded 'dependency' theories that were popular at the time without offending their adherents. At the same time, he could see the dangers of unfettered market economics that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were to peddle as Africa's cure. Theories mattered to him but in the end Africa mattered more.

The study of the political economy of African development was Thandika's stock in trade, and he stood above his peers in Africa and outside of the continent. Though highly knowledgeable about African development trends from the earliest nationalist days to the present, he was modest, even self-effacing.

Thandika was never condescending or brusque to his colleagues, students, or leaders who sought his opinion. To the end, he objected to learned publications in the West that traced African problems to racial stereotypes. With analytical verve, he argued that stereotyping African leaders as opportunity-plundering 'neo-patrimonial' types was inaccurate, and some African states had indeed delivered growth and widely-shared development.

A role model to younger African economists who aspired to policy development, Thandika was born in colonial Malawi to a Zimbabwean (then Southern Rhodesia) mother and Malawian father. As a young man, he was an eyewitness to racial discrimination in colonial Malawi, and Southern and Northern Rhodesia, where his parents worked.

After high school, Thandika started in journalism covering nationalist politics in the region. At the time, there were no university openings in the region for Africans worth the name, so he travelled to Ohio State University to take a Bachelors, and Master's degree in economics.

From there, Thandika's career took flight: a doctorate from Stockholm, Executive Secretary of CODESRIA (1985-96), who described him as: '...a brilliant economist and prodigious scholar whose works on African political economy challenged dominant ways of seeing the African on a wide range of issues including the structural adjustment and economic reform, democratic politics, neo-patrimonialism and insurgent violence.'

After CODESRIA, Thandika was director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in Geneva from 1998-2009, and then was appointed Chair of African Development and Professor of African Development at the London School of Economics. He was also awarded honorary degrees from the universities of Fort Hare, York, Helsinki and Legon in Ghana, where he was invited a guest lecturer.

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**Professor Emeritus George Albert ('Sam') Shepperson, CBE, BA, MA, HonDUniv Edinburgh, Dr hc York, DLitt hc Malawi, FEIS**, born in Peterborough 7th January 1922 and died also in Peterborough 2nd April 2020, aged 98.

George Shepperson was a pioneering historian of Africa, African America, Canada and the Commonwealth generally, and a teacher who inspired not only his own students at Edinburgh University but students of Africa and North America on both sides of the Atlantic. Typically, he was deeply touched to be elected a Fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland. His flagship undergraduate course, for which he was appointed to the University in 1948, was entitled 'Imperial and American History', and was amended to 'Commonwealth and American History' when he was appointed to the William Robertson Chair in 1963. It surveyed the impact of the British Empire on the countries which it colonised, including the United States of America, and was unusual in that it also looked the history of native peoples as well as that of the colonial settlers. Many of Shepperson's students had personal or family connections with the USA or with one or more member countries of the Commonwealth, and these were of great interest to him.

He had a passion for undocumented details, connecting the unconnected, and for researching the unremembered byways of history. His interest in them encouraged many of his students to continue their own researches, often in

academic departments in other universities and colleges, or simply out of personal interest. He was always available for consultation, generously giving advice and suggesting further sources to be searched, by his own current and former students, and also by other peoples' students, on both sides of the Atlantic and beyond. A list of all publications whose authors acknowledge help from George Shepperson would indeed be a formidable bibliography of Commonwealth and American history. His own book *Independent African: John Chilembwe and the Origins, Setting and Significance of the Nyasaland Native Rising of 1915* (Edinburgh University Press, 1958), co-authored with Thomas Price, with a second edition appearing in 1987, remains a seminal work, as does his later work on *David Livingstone and the Rovuma* (EUP, 1965), but much of his best writing is to be found in his many periodical articles and conference papers. Some of his early papers were accepted by editors of *Phylon* and other African American history journals who thought that he too was African and Black. His interest in this aspect of history had begun with the East African soldiers under his command in Burma.

Born in Peterborough on 7th January 1922, George Shepperson was educated at The King's School, Peterborough and at St John's College, Cambridge during which his degree course in English literature was interrupted by his active service in WW2. He enlisted in the Northamptonshire Regiment and, after officer training on the Isle of Man (during which he acquired his nickname 'Sam'), was seconded to the King's African Rifles with whom he commanded a platoon of the 11 East African Division of the Fourteenth Army in Burma, engaging in the defeat of the Japanese Army, 1944-1945. His experience with the African troops under his command, especially those from Nyasaland, changed his life. He sat down with them, talked with them, learnt their languages, listened to their stories, and sang their songs. At the end of the War, at demobilisation, he hoped to be able to travel back to Africa with them and be with them as they returned to civilian life. This, however, was not to be, and on his prompt return to Cambridge, he changed his degree course to African history. He took a first-class degree, trained as a teacher, and went to Edinburgh University in 1948 as a lecturer in African history.

In 1952 he married Joyce Cooper, a Peterborough teacher who (George was delighted to discover), had trained at Hockerill Training College in Bishop's Stortford, the town in which Cecil and Herbert Rhodes had been born, and travelled with her to Canada on his first visit there. Here he developed interests, typically unusual and unfulfilled, in an Edinburgh Professor of Rhetoric, Dr Andrew Brown who never completed his history of North America, and in a community of Gaelic-speaking African Nova Scotians.

He was appointed in 1963 to the William Robertson Chair of Commonwealth and American History, which he held until his retirement in 1986. His pursuit of the byways of Commonwealth history included the identification and biography of

the University's first Black African graduate, James Africanus Beale Horton (MD 1859), and the reminder to the University that the first President of the newly-formed state of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere, was an Edinburgh graduate (MA 1952) whom he had got to know while the latter was a student here. He noted and researched the visits to Edinburgh of the slavery abolitionists William Wells Brown and Frederick Douglass and, in 1949, with the then University Librarian Dr Lauriston Sharp, arranged for Paul Robeson to visit Edinburgh and to give a lecture and an informal concert in the University.

With colleagues he co-founded the Centres of African Studies (1962) and of Canadian Studies (1975) at Edinburgh, supporting them as they became world-class centres of excellence. He was Dean of the Faculty of Arts 1974-1977, and held Visiting Chairs and Fellowships in Chicago (1959) and at Makerere College, Kampala (1962), Calgary University, Alberta (1979), at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia (1968-1969), and at the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research at Harvard (1986-1987).

He was appropriately awarded a CBE for services to Commonwealth and American history and was awarded Honorary Degrees by the Universities of Edinburgh, York, and Malawi. He was a founder-member of the Friends of Edinburgh University Library, to which he was a generous donor of his own papers and books, and for whom he arranged the acquisition of many other notable collections of personal and professional source papers, especially on Africa. With Joyce he retired in 1986 to their home city of Peterborough where he revived an earlier interest in the local poet John Clare. Joyce pre-deceased him in 2006.

George Shepperson died on 2nd April 2020 in Peterborough. He is survived by their daughter, the author Janet Shepperson, son-in-law Dr Nick Acheson and granddaughter Catriona Acheson.

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#### **Note to Contributors**

Send items for inclusion in the October *Newsletter* by 15th September 2020 to the editor: Dr Simon Heap: [effaheap@aol.com](mailto:effaheap@aol.com)

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