



NEWSLETTER

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ASAUK Conference 2010

The ASAUK Biennial conference will be held in Oxford at St Antony's College and other venues in the University. The conference will run from 2pm on Thursday 16th September to 1pm on Sunday 19th September 2010.

We are not attempting to give the conference a single theme. However, we have encouraged journals, Centres, networks and individuals to offer panels, or series of panels, on particular topics so that there can be sequential debate through the conference. Strong themes include Land, Elections and Representation, Heritage, Environmental History and Politics, Southern African History and African Literature. We hope in this way to attract linked papers that will facilitate discussion and which may form the basis for a variety of conference publications. Established scholars as well as the next generation of academic voices will be represented at the conference.

A series of plenary addresses will run through the conference, including Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza, Department of Sociology at the University of Cape Town, and Dr Kwadwo Afari-Gyan, Chair of Ghana's Electoral Commission. The Audrey Richards Prize for the best doctoral thesis in African Studies, the Distinguished Africanist Awards and the *African Affairs* author prize will all be announced at the conference. Africanist journals and publishers will have a strong presence at the conference with stalls where delegates can purchase monographs and journals.

The deadline for paper and panel submissions is 30th April 2010. To submit a paper or panel for the conference please follow the advice on the ASAUK website: <http://www.asauk.net/conferences/asauk10>

Accommodation is available for those attending the conference and can be booked when registering for the conference on the above website. Rooms are limited and so we advise anyone requiring accommodation to book early.

There will be the option to register for the conference:

1. with bed and breakfast accommodation and all meals.
2. without accommodation, but with all lunches and dinners included.
3. for the conference only, including tea and coffee.

ASAUK and Royal African Society members are offered a preferential rate for conference registration, which represents a reduction of £40. Membership forms (current rate £49, including a free subscription to *African Affairs*) are available on the ASAUK website.

To register for the conference please use the online system and instructions on the ASAUK website by 30th June 2010.

ASAUK Directory of British Africanists

A new edition of the ASAUK Directory of British Africanists is being produced. While the previous three editions of 1986, 1990 and 1996 have all been paper editions, the new directory will be online, regularly updated and constantly renewed with additional names.

You will have received an email asking you to add your details to the directory, if you have not yet entered your details in the directory please go to the website: www.africadesk.ac.uk For the purposes of the directory the editors, have adopted this definition of a British Africanist: "Anybody resident within the United Kingdom, other than a research student, who is currently contributing, either through active research or through teaching in the tertiary sector, to the study of Africa." All records on the directory will be edited by Anne Merriman prior to becoming viewable live on the website.

The directory is part of the new Africadesk website jointly managed by the ASAUK and the British Academy. In addition to the Directory of British Africanists, it will host a new directory of African scholars who have, through scholarships, fellowships or collaborative research projects, established and wish to maintain links with UK social sciences and humanities scholars.

In due course, there will also be a SCOLMA-managed directory of UK and European library collections, information on UK-based African studies centres, as well as African studies journals published in the UK on the website.

ASAUK is committed to enhancing academic links between the UK and Africa and we hope that the Africa Desk will help scholars in the UK and Africa identify partners for future research projects and build strong, enduring relationships. The Africa Desk will also be a central point of information on the UK Africanist community featuring information on scholarships, fellowships and research opportunities, as well as information on other initiatives to support research and collaboration.

If you are aware of British Africanists not currently in the directory, in order that they may be invited to join, then please pass their name to: contact@africadesk.ac.uk

ASAUK is deeply indebted to Professor Richard Hodder-Williams (President ASAUK 1996-1998 and Honorary Treasurer 1998-2008) for the work that he has put into setting up the directory of British Africanists. Without his commitment and perseverance the current directory would not have been produced.

Treasurer's Report

Honorary Treasurer's Report for the Year ended 31 December 2008, presented at the ASAUK AGM, 10 August 2009

Our expenditure rose to £56,662 in 2008 with greater activity last year and will do so more in 2009. We made a surplus of £10,552 in the year to 31.12.08.

Reserves at the beginning of 2009 stood at £83,756, which nearly cover our whole budget for the current year. This meets the existing policy of the ASAUK, that reserves cover one year's expenses. In a year of global financial turmoil our reserves, as our finances as a whole, remained steady, while our level of spending for the future depended largely on external funding, being only a membership society with income from subscriptions.

The greater activity has been led our President, and besides its own inherent worthiness, is necessary to justify the receipt of the grant of the British Academy secured by Graeme Furniss, which in 2009 is also to be augmented by a special grant for Teaching Fellowships. Because of budgetary constraints the British Academy has given notice that our basic funding in 2010-11 will reduce from £31,000 a year to possibly £23,000. This puts further pressure on us to justify our grant-worthiness.

I am most grateful to Gemma Haxby for providing me with many kinds of information, as well handling and recording the receipts and payments of the Association.

Ben Knighton, Honorary Treasurer, ASAUK

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'Predictability and Unpredictability in Africa', 11th Researching Africa Day Workshop, St Antony's College, Oxford, 15 May 2010. Organised by the African Studies Centre, Researching Africa Day provides graduate students with the opportunity to network with fellow researchers, exchange information, discuss research strategies and develop ideas in a constructive, stimulating and engaging environment. The workshop is open to all graduates working on Africa. A common issue of complaint and/or appreciation about everyday life and major events in Africa is their unpredictability. That said, continuity of norms and practices is often readily evident. While 'change and continuity' is often used as a relatively benign framing tool for general analyses, questions of what is predictable and what is unpredictable may politicise the role of researchers. Researchers can be expected – usually implicitly, but occasionally explicitly upon requests of research 'subjects', funders or employers – to predict what research findings mean for the future. Yet there have been significant failures among researchers to predict major changes in Africa. The workshop will allow students to present original research that contributes to a dialogue on predictability and unpredictability in Africa. The deadline for papers has passed, but those wanting to attend should contact Elizabeth Cooper: elizabeth.cooper@sant.ox.ac.uk and Michelle Osborn: michelle.osborn@exeter.ox.ac.uk

'Celebrating Gavin' Conference, Oxford, 9–10 July 2010. In 1975, Gavin Williams took up the post of Fellow and Tutor in Politics and Sociology at St Peter's College, Oxford. From 1975 to date, Gavin has been an important part of many intellectual journeys by his students and colleagues. The organisers wish to celebrate the contributions of Gavin to the enrichment of many lives: his unflinching commitment to his students, his generosity and collegiality, his support for various academic institutions inside and outside of Oxford, and his exemplification of the academic life as a committed moral vocation. This event provides an opportunity not just to demonstrate the breadth and reach of Gavin's intellectual journeys with students and colleagues, but also the global connections established in the process. All colleagues, former and present students, and friends of Gavin are welcome to participate. Registration by 2 July 2010 is required and further details are available at www.orenga.politics.ox.ac.uk/events/index.asp

'Preventing Witchcraft Related Abuse Conference' [see previous newsletter] has been postponed until 23 July 2010. Announcements about the venue and programme will be made on the WHRIN website: www.whrin.org.uk

‘1960: the “Year of Africa” and French Decolonisation Re-visited. A “French Solution” for Sub-Saharan Africa?’, University of Portsmouth, 6–7 September 2010. Fifty years on, 1960 is an impressive turning-point. Ten years before this crucial year, in 1950, only outsiders would have imagined a rapid transition to independence for France's sub-Saharan colonies. Yet 1960 saw the declaration of independence of all these territories. The events of this so-called 'Year of Africa' meant that the transfer of power in the remaining colonial territories on the African continent was only a question of time.

According to the many of those involved in the process, including politicians, officials and former French administrators, decolonisation in French sub-Saharan Africa was a success story, a smooth transfer of power that was peaceful and well-intentioned. Indeed there was great enthusiasm at the time and African statesmen enjoyed widespread sympathy, both within Africa and on the international stage. Economists specialising in modernisation theories foresaw success for the new African national economies. Pan-African initiatives swept across the continent and solidarity was paramount in intra-African relations.

We now know how disappointing the outcomes were. Self-styled liberators became the proponents of authoritarian regimes. Post-colonial economies, which were frequently built on the export of a small number of primary products, crumbled only slightly more than a decade after independence. The newly created national armies overthrew civilian governments. In many cases, the former colonial powers did not leave the African continent. In the French case in particular, the former colonial power sought to remain an important actor in the sub-region. Only in a few ex-colonies, such as Guinea-Conakry or Congo-Brazzaville, would French influence and the French presence quickly dwindle. Other postcolonial governments, like those of Ivory Coast and Gabon, built their whole strategy for survival on the maintenance of a French military presence and support.

Many questions about the decolonisation process remain unanswered: what was the exact nature of the 'nationalist' and 'anti-colonial' movements in francophone sub-Saharan Africa? How far were the distinct and sometimes contradictory objectives of the different parts of these movements responsible for the discrepancies between the rhetoric of the leaders and the policy outcomes following the transfers of power? How did France maintain its links with sub-Saharan Africa after independence? What were the connections involved, and how did the diffuse motivations of the active participants in those networks feed into concrete policy outcomes? These particularities of the French decolonisation process make the French case a particularly interesting one for comparative study with Britain, Belgium, and Portugal and with similar processes in Asia. While scholars have long formulated the demand for more comparative and transnational research, this dimension remains poorly represented in the studies on the final decades of the colonial states and on decolonisation. The experience

of decolonisation in francophone Africa also influenced European engagement in sub-Saharan Africa in various ways. What was the significance of the notion of 'Eurafrique'? What was the role of former French colonial administrators in shaping European Community development policy? Finally, how has political independence been represented and commemorated in francophone sub-Saharan Africa since 1960?

The organisers would welcome panels and papers on the following themes: the French decolonisation process in sub-Saharan Africa: motivations, processes, actors; nationalist movements in French-speaking Africa: militants, agendas, internal dissensions, support base; from Union Française to Françafrique: friendships, networks, informal links; French and other decolonisations as part of a world-wide process; political violence, or its lack of; towards neo-colonialism: aid policy after 1960; and representations and public commemoration of 'The Year of Africa' over the last fifty years. 300-word abstracts for papers or panels of three papers in English or French by 30 April 2010 to Alexander Keese: queijo@gmx.de and Tony Chafer: tony.chafer@port.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL

'Mediating Democracy in Africa', The Africa Media and Democracy Conference, Accra, Ghana, 18–20 August 2010. Recent developments of the growing influence of the media in Africa's fledgling democracies, in particular radio and television in monitoring, pollstering, 'nuancing' election results ahead of the Electoral Commissioner, has been contested by politicians, constitutional experts and media practitioners. The conference aims to address and examine among others the location of such media practices, their constitutional legitimacy and in relation to freedom of information in a democratic dispensation. It will seek to address media practices such as the 'announcing of elections results' ahead of an Electoral Commission or the 'deployment of press conferences' by political parties as political posturing during voting and ballot counting period of an election. The conference will provide context for comparison, dialogue and analysis between media practices situated in different cultural-political environments. When does 'announcing' becomes 'endorsement' of a particular political party contesting a democratic election? What is the impact on the electorate of such early announcements of election results from electoral constituencies? What are implications for social and national cohesion of such practices in fiercely contested elections? What is the way forward?

Papers are invited on the following sub-themes: media, democracy and governance; media, ethnic identity and democracy; media ownership, democracy and governance; media, media and the concept 'good of governance'; media and political communication; media, political rhetoric and political violence; media and coup d'états; media, democracy and political education; media, democracy and traditional governance; media, political activism and governance; media,

conflict and crises management; media, democracy and aid; media law and regulation; media, gender and democratization; digital media and the renewal of local democracy; media and cultural politics; and new media, democratic theory and the public sphere. One page abstracts and short biodata by 30 April 2010 to: info@amdmc.org

‘Cross-border Trade in Africa: The Local Politics of a Global Economy’ ABORNE Conference, University of Basel, Switzerland, 8–11 September 2010. ABORNE, the African Borderlands Research Network (<http://www.aborne.org/>), is an interdisciplinary network of over 100 academic researchers and institutions in Europe, Africa and North America. Its members are from all disciplines of the social sciences, with an emphasis on anthropology and history. They share a long-term interest in all aspects of international borders and trans-boundary phenomena in Africa. The emphasis is largely on borderlands as physical spaces and social spheres, but the network is also concerned with regional flows of people and goods as well as economic processes that may be located at some distance from the geographical border. ABORNE is funded by the European Science Foundation as an ESF networking programme since April 2009.

The conference has room for about fifty speakers in both plenary and parallel panels. Papers are invited from scholars of African borderlands and borders at all levels. Financial support is available for a limited number of participants. Due to the restrictions of a funding scheme financed by European taxpayers, only speakers based in countries financing the networking programme will be eligible for funding (Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland and the UK). Additional funding for an equal number of scholars based in Africa should be available. 200-word paper or panel abstracts by 30 May 2010 to Gregor Dobler: gregor.dobler@unibas.ch and Wolfgang Zeller: wolfgang.zeller@ed.ac.uk

‘Global Africans, Pan-Africanism, Decolonisation and Integration of Africa – Past, Present and Future’, Abuja, Nigeria, 21–24 September 2010. Global Africans are children of mother Africa, irrespective of their nationalities and the passports they carry or where they live, but who accept and recognize that their ancestors are directly from Africa. They are persons of African descent resident in Africa and other Continents of the world either through forced or voluntary migrations. As a people, Africans have suffered the worst forms of degradation and dehumanisation. Pan-Africanism has been one of the ways of reversing this condition. The goals of Pan-Africanism, expressed at various times through ideals such as: ‘Back to Africa’; ‘Africans Unite’; ‘African Renaissance’ and ‘United States of Africa’ have not been achieved. The violent and non-violent struggles of Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora contributed significantly to the independence and freedoms of black people from the evils of colonialism and apartheid. New generation of pan-Africanists are building on the

gains of the past to tackle the challenges of the present and future. There is therefore the need for a careful re-examination, documentation, preservation and dissemination of the historical contributions of global Africans to African development.

Organised by the Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC) in conjunction with the Pan African Strategic and Policy Research Group (PANAFSTRAG), this conference seeks papers on theoretical and conceptual issues; historicising Pan-Africanism; Pan-Africanism's spiritual and cultural foundation; methodological and pedagogical issues in Pan-Africanism; Pan-African thinkers and thought; Pan-Africanism and economic development; Pan-Africanist organisations; Pan-Africanism and the African Union; Pan-Africanism and Globalization; and contemporary issues in Pan-Africanism. 300-word abstracts by 9 May 2010 to: tunde_babawale@yahoo.com and akinalao@yahoo.com and isholawilliams@yahoo.com

'The Public Understanding of Science in Africa', British Institute of East Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, 22–24 September 2010. With the spread of mobile phones and Internet technology, the expansion of medical research sites, the development of genetically modified crops, the growing food crisis, the threat of global warming, and the challenges of particular diseases and health care, the question of how science engages publics is becoming increasingly important in Africa, as elsewhere. The workshop brings together researchers, academics, journalists, policy-makers, and those working in science education to discuss public engagement with science, and the engagement of publics by science in Africa, in scientific controversies, and through various scientific projects – environmental, medical or technological.

Policy makers often assume that 'the public' lacks knowledge of science, and that its members are irrational, anti-scientific, and in need of education. More recently there has been a move to understanding the public as more differentiated and more capable of engaging with science. However, such moves continue to conceive 'the public' as lay citizenry separate from scientists and policymakers. Science does not necessarily engage with a freestanding public, but also creates certain publics; while some publics emerge through relations with science. Thus a public may be a group of people that forms around a particular issue, for example, a conservation project, a health issue, or an issue of access to particular resources. Science gains legitimacy through public engagement, but what is the nature of this engagement, and what ethical issues arise?

Organized by the Centre of African Studies, University of Cambridge, together with the British Institute of East Africa and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine's Anthropologies of African Biosciences Group, the workshop will discuss the following questions: What debates are African publics engaging in, in relation to science and policy-making and scientific debates? How is science

in Africa engaging with publics, whom do these publics consist of and how are they conceived? Are particular publics emerging in relation to scientific issues? What do public engagements with science in Africa tell us about opportunities for participation in decision-making, policy and public debates? What relationships exist between the various publics involved and various actors, from the state to international scientific research groups, pharmaceutical companies, NGOs and UN agencies? What do these reveal about the meanings of citizenship and the development of networks of concerned actors in relation to scientific issues, as well as the ability of particular communities to shape or affect scientific policies that concern their livelihoods?

There are three themes. First, science, medicine and public health: media reports on health and medicine; medical research and the engagement of publics; public health campaigns; and global disease programmes and their publics. Second, conservation and the environment: public engagement with conservation projects; public understanding of climate change; water resources; deforestation; foreign states buying land in Africa to cultivate food; environmental degradation and migration; and media reports on climate change issues in Africa. Third, science, technology and development: implications of expanding mobile phone technology and Internet access; debates about genetically modified crops; development of sustainable energy sources; and development of sustainable technology. Abstracts by 1 May 2010 to Dorian Addison: conference@african.cam.ac.uk

‘Shifting the Map of Innovation and Reason: Focus on the Africana World’, Africana Studies Second Annual Interdisciplinary Symposium, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA, 8 October 2010. Africa and its diaspora as a space has been a centre of research on political and economic crisis since 1960s, but seldom do we pay attention to it as a locale for educational, political, social, scientific, creative and other innovations. As a result, such innovations by and about Africana peoples of the world and particularly on the African continent have suffered colonial opulence and Westocentrism. Innovation in and on the Africana space can be discerned or contested in its culture: music, dance, stories, festivals (harvest, rites); political advancement: social justice, democratization and constitutionalism; aesthetics: fabric and designs, hair and ornaments; social existence: community relations, relations between seniors and juniors, familial relations and responsibilities; religion; the ability to exist within multiple religious spaces at the same time and reinvention of or birth of new belief systems; economic sustenance and survival: partnerships, agricultural, commercial and subsistence; and global placement, especially in the realms of technology and health. 200 word abstracts by 15 May 2010 to: muhonjbx@jmu.edu

'Africa for Sale: Analysing and Theorizing Foreign Land Claims and Acquisitions', Groningen University, The Netherlands, 28–29 October 2010.

This conference is sponsored by the Netherlands African Studies Association (NVAS) and the African Studies Centre (ASC), Leiden. While the nature and scope of large-scale, foreign land acquisitions has been taken up by NGOs, very little academic scholarship has addressed these deals both analytically and theoretically, from [comparative] historical and contemporary perspectives. In turn, several important questions remain unanswered. What are the implications of foreign land leases for local populations? How are these deals mediated, structured and legitimized? What is the role of multinational corporations and foreign actors in the economic, political, social, and environmental governance of 'developing' countries in Africa? The organisers seek papers from all disciplines analysing these large-scale foreign land acquisitions in Africa. Contributions addressing the following four fields are particularly welcome: food security: foreign (government or company) investments in 'unused' arable land for large-scale agricultural production; large-scale mining: multinational claims to land for mineral exploitation; conservation projects: international environmental NGO acquisition or control of land for biodiversity conservation and/or protected area management; and land acquisitions for purposes of tourism development. 400-word abstracts by 15 May 2010 to: nvasconference2010@hotmail.com

'African Churches in Europe: Mediating Imaginations', International Conference, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, 8–10 December 2010.

'African Churches' have been present in Europe for some decades now, but their developments have taken a new dimension with the intensification of African migrations to Europe in the 80s and 90s. Beyond their doctrinal and institutional diversity and divergences, these churches have in common to be carried by African populations who all too often remain stigmatized and marginalized at the social, political and juridical levels. Simultaneously, they now compete in an explicit way with historical mission churches, however, and attract an important proportion of Africans living in Europe. Depending on the perspective, these churches can alternatively be viewed as a globalized and particularly dynamic contribution to the edification of contemporary Christianities, or as the refuge of ethno-religious communalisms not entirely compatible with European public spaces.

'African Churches' in Europe are today at the very heart of transformations of both the imaginations of Europe in the African worlds, and the imaginations of Africa in Europe. They are simultaneously new faces of Africa installed in the heart of European towns and cities that question the Western contemporary ways of (dis)connecting religion and the public sphere, as well as places of significant reinterpretations of European secular values and practices. As key sites in reshaping European representations of Africa, as well as in remaking African

paradigms of Europe, these churches play a crucial role of mediation in the relations between the two continents.

The conference will be organized around four research themes. First, debated identities: the entanglement of religious, racial and ethno-national identities in African assemblies in Europe has already generated a series of scholarly debates in the last decade. What forms of (dis)connections between religious and ethno-national affiliations are at work in African Churches of Europe today? What roles do religious identities play in the lives of African Christians in Europe? Second, networks and circulations of religious actors: African Churches in Europe are regularly part of different forms of transnational networks where ethno-national identities are combined with religious affiliations. What are the logics of circulation of African ecclesiastical elites in Europe? How are transnational relations between pastors and between Churches made and unmade? What forms of transnational organization are at work in religious networks, and along which lines do concerns for centralization differ between Churches? Third, relations to the public sphere: what are the different dimensions of the relation to the public sphere in these Churches? Reciprocally, what spaces are carved out in European countries for African Churches? Fourth, gender issues: in European African Churches, how do questions of masculinity and femininity arise, and in what terms? Are gender relations in these Churches vowed to reproduce the forms of “masculine domination” at work in African societies more broadly? What types of feminine religious power are observable in these assemblies?

From the diverse issues of identity, networks and circulations of religious actors, relations to the public sphere, and gender, contributions to the conference will seek to show how African Christian worlds of Europe are now situated at the very heart of dynamics of reconfiguration of African imaginations of Europe, but also of European imaginations of Africa. The conference will be organised in four half-day thematic sessions, along the directions of the call for papers. There will be no parallel sessions. One page abstracts in English or French by 30 April 2010 to Maïté Maskens: mmaskens@ulb.ac.be and Joël Noret: jnoret@ulb.ac.be

‘The Upper Guinea Coast in Transnational Perspective’, 3rd Conference of the Research Group ‘Integration and Conflict along the Upper Guinea Coast’, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany, 9–11 December 2010. Whereas previous conferences concentrated mainly on the comparative exploration of processes of integration and conflict within the region of the Upper Guinea Coast (Halle, 2006) and on the region’s role in the ‘Making of the Atlantic’ (Lisbon, 2008), the upcoming conference focuses on the region’s connectedness with all societies – irrespective of regional concerns – which are linked with it as the result of the expansion of colonialism and the Atlantic slave trade, processes which are, of course, interconnected in manifold ways. Luso-Creole identity, for example, constituted an early ‘travelling model’ that spread

across continents and the understanding of which would benefit from comparative research not restricting itself to criteria of mainly regional concern, but including societies, which are interconnected with the Upper Guinea Coast through historical and contemporary processes of interaction – involving people and ideas as well as social practices and ideological models. Thus, the conference aims to investigate the external encounters and exchanges the societies of the Upper Guinea Coast were and are part of and which have shaped their social configuration and have generated – and continue to generate – specific (new) identities and alliances. By paying particular regard to the transnational dimension, it will deepen our understanding of the involvement of the Upper Guinea Coast in contemporary processes of regional and global interaction and exchange. The presence of Upper Guinea Coast alumni in different diasporas and the latter's interactions with their 'home' societies and the role of Creole identities and "Eurafrican" groups (Brooks, 2003) in interethnic relations, in the construction of transethnic identifications, in processes of ethnic and religious differentiation and postcolonial nation-building will be just two of the important issues to be discussed. 200-300 word abstracts by 1 June 2010 to Dr Jacqueline Knörr: knoerr@eth.mpg.de

'Linking Ghana and the Caribbean: Legacies, Memories and Belongings', University of Cape Coast, Ghana, 12–19 December 2010. Organised by the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples, York University, Canada through its MCRI Project ("Memory, Slavery and Citizenship") and the University of Cape Coast, papers are invited which focus broadly on the historical and contemporary connections between Ghana and the Caribbean. Using the Atlantic Slave trade as the progenitor of this link, the organisers seek papers which explore the memories of displacement and loss, the rituals of reconnection, and the claims for belonging on both sides of the Atlantic. The conference aims at bringing together scholars who are working on the archived as well as the lived and/or imagined connections between those Africans who were deported from the general area known as Ghana (the Gold Coast) and their descendants in the African Diasporas of the Caribbean. A major scholarly concern of this conference is the examination of the ways in which these connections have shaped ideas of historical belonging and contemporary citizenship.

The following themes are suggested but are not exclusive: establishing the link; histories of departure and arrival; cultural production and the African diasporic imagination; spirits across the waters: connections in the religious sphere; reproducing history and memory in diurnal ritual; the political strategies of decolonization; and reconnecting: historical and contemporary repatriations and reconnections. 300-word abstracts and short CV by 1 May 2010 to the Ghanaian-Caribbean Diasporas Conference Organizers: tubman@yorku.ca

'Women and Gender in Colonial Contexts', International Conference Université Paris I-Panthéon Sorbonne, Paris, 19–21 January 2012. For decades, colonizing was perceived and analysed as a masculine undertaking. This is probably why historians of colonisation (and decolonisation), who themselves were mostly men, paid little attention to the study of women, of gender relations, or of how gender identities and sexualities were constructed in colonial contexts. Women were seen as negligible actors in colonial wars (both during and after the conquest), even though they were important actors within and victims of such conflicts. Moreover, as primary agents of the European 'civilising mission', whose alleged principles were to 'educate, cure, moralise and convert', women (both colonisers and the colonised) took part in the process of national assertion and of colonial domination. Last but not least, the colonial process created, and was constantly reshaped by, tensions as well as new forms of racial or social hierarchies and gender roles. Thus, the colonial making of gender proved to be a powerful vector of social transformation, both in metropolises and in colonies, as recent stimulating historical research has demonstrated.

Organised by Université Paris-1 Panthéon Sorbonne (CEMAf et Centre d'Histoire du XIXe siècle), Ecole Normale Supérieure, Lyon (LARHRA) and New York University (Paris), this conference seeks to assess the current state of historical research on this subject in a longue durée perspective, from the late 18th century to the decolonisations of Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Participants are welcome to present research focusing on specific colonial contexts, both in terms of time and space. At the same time, studies of women's experiences or of gender construction through a comparative perspective between colonies or empires is strongly encouraged. The organisers encourage papers that investigate, within the conference framework, relevant aspects of the following: politics and policies, work, religion, education, health, family, mobilities, sexualities, body/bodies, war, slavery, violence and masculinities. 300-word abstracts and short CV in English or French by 15 June 2010 to: christelle.taraud@wanadoo.fr

...Conferences Past

'Democratization in Africa: Retrospective and Future Prospects', University of Leeds, 4–5 December 2009. This highly successful two-day conference at the University of Leeds attracted over 130 delegates on both days from all-over Europe, Africa and North America. It was organised by the School of Politics and International Studies and the Leeds University Centre for African Studies, in conjunction with the EADI Governance and Development Working Group, and with some financial support from EADI for travel bursaries for African delegates.

The conference reflected on the experiences of the last two decades of democratization in sub-Saharan Africa, and weighed up the future prospects for and constraints on democratization in the sub-continent. The conference was

organised in a series of parallel sessions around a variety of themes, inclusive of 'electoral authoritarianism', 'power-sharing', ethnicity and 'political mobilisation', 'crises of democratization', 'decentralisation and local democracy', 'democracy promotion and the role of external actors'. Over 70 papers in 25 panels were presented over the two days. Countries such as Kenya, Zimbabwe and South Africa received considerable attention, as well as less-well covered cases such as Somaliland and Madagascar. The journal *Review of African Political Economy* also participated in the conference and held a series of panels on 'imperialism and democracy' and 'local politics and democracy'. A highlight of the conference was the keynote lecture by Professor Patrick Bond from the School of Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Professor Bond's lecture was entitled *African democratic currents during extreme economic crisis: a view from South Africa* and was a public event attended by over 200 people in the Rupert Becket Lecture Theatre.

You can download an audio recording of this lecture, as well as the slides used: www.polis.leeds.ac.uk/research/events/democratization-africa/keynote-speaker.php

Selected papers from the conference will be published in early 2011 in a Special Issue of the journal *Democratization*, guest edited by Gordon Crawford and Gabrielle Lynch.

For details of the conference including presenters and paper abstracts see the conference website: www.polis.leeds.ac.uk/research/events/democratization-africa/

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Adedoyin Olabisi Abimbola (2008) 'Missionary Encounters and the Development of Yoruba Women's Spirituality, 1842-1930', Ph.D thesis, Liverpool Hope University.

Lillian Melinda Artz (2008) 'An Examination of the Attrition of Domestic Violence Cases within the Criminal Justice System in Post-Apartheid South Africa', Ph.D thesis, Queens' University, Belfast.

Joseph Senu Ashidi (2008) 'Investigation into Some Nigerian Medicinal Plants Used in the Treatment of Cancer', Ph.D thesis, King's College London.

Abu Bakarr Bash-Taqi (2009) 'Risk and Insurance in Rural Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisor: Dr Stephen Devereux.

Patty Chang (2009) 'The Demand for Small Arms and Light Weapons in Senegal', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Neil MacFarlane.

Matthew I. J. Davies (2009) 'An Applied Archaeological and Anthropological Study of Intensive Agriculture in the Northern Cherangani Hills, Kenya', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Peter Mitchell.

Victor Ayodele Bamijoko Davies (2009) 'Essays on Conflict Economies [Sierra Leone]', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Paul Collier and Dr Anke Hoeffler.

Boyie Dlamini (2009) 'Management of Educational Change on Mpumalanga Province in South Africa through the Implementation of Curriculum 2005', Ph.D thesis, University of Kent.

Wilberforce Sefakor Dzisah (2008) 'The News Media and Democracy in Ghana (1992-2000)', Ph.D thesis, University of Westminster.

Elizabeth Fortin (2008) 'Arena of Contestation: Policy Processes and Land Tenure Reform in Post-Apartheid South Africa', D.Phil thesis, University of Sussex.

Markus Haacker (2008) 'Economic Growth in Development: Health, Demographics and Access to Technologies [sub-Saharan Africa]', Ph.D thesis, LSE, London.

Rachel Hayman (2006) 'The Complexity of Aid: Government Strategies, Donor Agendas and the Coordination of Development Assistance in Rwanda 1994-2004', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Professor Kenneth King and Dr Neil Thin; www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/1766

Bruce Allen Hearn (2009) 'The Extent of African Equity Market Integration: A Source of Capital in a Global Marketplace', Ph.D thesis, King's College London.

Ryan Johnson (2009) 'Networks of Imperial Tropical Medicine: Ideas and Practices of Health and Hygiene in the British Empire, 1895-1914', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Mark Harrison.

David Kovara (2009) 'Saying No to Sex: US Central Funding, HIV/AIDS and Abstinence Promotion in Kenya', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Geoffrey Walford.

John W. McArthur (2009) 'Essays on African Economic Growth and Development', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Francis Teal.

Daniel J. McGahey (2009) 'Maintaining Opportunism and Mobility in Drylands: The Impact of Veterinary Cordon Fences in Botswana', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor David S.G. Thomas and Dr Patricia Daley.

Synne Movik (2008) 'Fluid Rights: South Africa's Water Allocation Reform', D.Phil thesis, University of Sussex.

Yuki Nakamura (2007) 'Supporting Self-Help Efforts: CanDo, a Japanese NGO in Kenya', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Dr Neil Fraser and Professor Kenneth King; www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/1967

Andrew Newsham (2007) 'Knowing and Deciding: Participation in Conservation and Development Initiatives in Namibia and Argentina', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Professor Alan Barnard and Dr Neil Thin; www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/2627

Godwin Uyi Ojo (2009) 'From Participation to Empowerment? Assessing NGO and TNC-led Community-Based Resource Management Schemes in Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, King's College London.

Obinna Okwelum (2010) 'Igbo Caste Practices: Persistence and Public Attitudes in the Media', Ph.D thesis, University of Birmingham. Supervisors: Dr Insa Nolte and Professor Karin Barber.

Eseosa Osazee (2008) 'Employee Referral in Developing Countries: A Case Study of the Nigerian Labour Market', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Ian Kessler.

Robert Palmer (2007) 'Skills Development, the Enabling Environment and Informal Micro-enterprise in Ghana', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Professor Kenneth King and Professor Paul Nugent; www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/1698

Carolyn Petersen (2008) 'Contesting Citizenship: Civil Society Struggles over Livelihood and Educational Access in Coastal Settlements of the Western Cape, South Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Professor Alan Barnard, and Professor Kenneth King; www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/2631

Catherine Porter (2009) 'Analysing Welfare Over Time: Three Approaches for Rural Ethiopia, 1984-2004', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Stefan Dercon.

Dobrota Alzbeta Pucherova (2009) 'Contested Boundaries: Race, Gender and Desire in Southern African Writing, 1960-2005', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Elleke Boehmer.

Miriam Prys (2009) 'Regions, Power and Hegemony: India and South Africa Compared', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Louise Fawcett.

Francisco De Lima Aires Parreira Roquett (2009) 'The Public Services Impact Approach: Towards a Management System Capable of Enhancing the Human Development Outcomes of the Public Sector – The Case of Ethiopia', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Simon Deakin.

Rebecca Louise Sampson (2008) 'The Changing Nature of Childhood in South Africa and Its Impact on the Street Child, with Social Reference to Domestic Legislation', Ph.D thesis, University of Reading. Supervisor: Professor Sandy Gandhi.

Hannes Schroeder (2009) 'African Slavery and Forced Migration to Barbados: An Isotopic Perspective', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Robert E. M. Hedges and Professor Chris Gosden.

Alexander Iain Shaw (2009) 'The Characterization of Calcrete Based on its Environmental Settings within Selected Regions of the Kalahari, Southern Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Andrew Goudie.

Alex Sienaert (2009) 'Labour Supply, Public Transfers and Household Welfare: Essays on South Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Margaret Stevens.

Mfaniseni Fana Sihlongonyane (2009) 'Invisible Urbanism in Johannesburg: A Scourge for Urban Planning?', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Jocelyn Alexander.

Joseph Kofi Teye (2008) 'Forest Resource Management in Ghana: An Analysis of Policy and Institutions', Ph.D thesis, University of Leeds.

Nidia Patricia Veitch (2009) 'Human Capital Investment in Post-Apartheid South Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Sheffield. Supervisors: Professor Sarah Brown and Dr Steven McIntosh.

Fiona Mary White (2008) 'Strengthening Democracy? The Role of Social Movements as Agents of Civil Society in Post-Apartheid South Africa', University of London.

Andrew Forrest Zeitlin (2009) 'Institutions, Innovation and Incentives in Rural Ghana', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Francis Teal.

Recent Publications

Stefan Andreasson (2010) *Africa's Development Impasse: Rethinking the Political Economy of Transformation*. London: Zed Books. 258 pages, 978-1842779712, £70; 978-1842779729 £18.99; www.zedbooks.co.uk/book.asp?bookdetail=4317

Jennifer Cole and Lynn Thomas (eds) (2009) *Love in Africa*. Chicago/London: University of Chicago Press. 280 pages, 978-226113524 (hardcover), £43.50; 978-022-6113531, £16.00 (paperback).

Hans Holmen (2009) *Snakes in Paradise: NGOs and the Aid Industry in Africa*. Kumarian Press, 978-1-56549-301-8, 320 pages, paperback £22.99; www.kpbooks.com

Pieter Hugo (2009) *Nollywood*. London: Prestel. 112 pages; 978-3791343129; £35.00; sales@prestel-uk.co.uk

Darren Newbury (2009) *Defiant Images: Photography and Apartheid South Africa*. Pretoria: University of South Africa (UNISA) Press. 345 pages; 978-1-86888-523-7, £19.95.

Jeggan C. Senghor *et al* (2009) *Going Public: How Africa's Integration can Work for the Poor*. London: Africa Research Institute, 100 pages, 978-1-906329-07-5; free and downloadable from: www.africaresearchinstitute.org/research-papers.php

E. Ike Udogu and A. B. Zack-Williams (2009) *African Mosaic: Political, Social, Economic and Technological Development in the New Millennium*. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing. 200 pages, 978-1443801843, £39.99; orders@c-s-p.org

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza (2009) *Barack Obama and African Diasporas: Dialogues and Dissensions*. Banbury: Ayebia Clarke; 978-0955507960, 240 pages, Paperback £16.99.

East Asian Transnational Flows in Africa and the Middle East

Guest Editor Nobuko Adachi of Illinois State University invites papers focusing on East Asian transnational flows in the cultural, social, political, and economic development of Africa and the Middle East. Ethnographic studies related to migratory flows will receive particular attention, though perspectives from all disciplines and theoretical perspectives will be considered. Topics include, but are not limited to, economic development, political empowerment, identity, ethnic community, education and acculturation, and internationalization and transnationalism. For further information: www.encounters.zu.ac.ae 5,000 to 10,000 word papers by 15 June 2010 to: encounters@zu.ac.ae and nadachi@ilstu.edu

Research in African Literatures

The journal is preparing a special issue on 'Asian African Literatures in Africa and its Diaspora'. It invites contributors to engage with the rapidly growing body of literature written by Asian African writers from all regions of Africa and the islands of the Indian Ocean, as well as by writers who may be considered to be part of the Asian African diaspora. Papers on canonical writers such as M.G. Vassanji, Peter Nazareth, and Ahmed Essop are welcome, but the editor particularly seeks articles on more recent writers such as (and this list is not exhaustive), Ronnie Govender, Imraan Coovadia, Praba Moodley, and Jameela Siddiqi. The Guest Editor, Gaurav Desai of Tulane University –

gaurav@tulane.edu – encourages potential contributors to establish an early contact so as to help fashion an issue that is broad in its scope. Full papers are due by 1 September 2010.

African Theatre 10: Media and Performance

African Theatre, an international annual journal, is seeking articles, reviews or reports in the field of performance and media. The editor interprets this topic in a broad sense. It could thus cover drama and performance embedded in the media, such as radio drama, TV drama/performance, documentaries, Reality TV, or cinema and video drama/performance. Alternatively it could involve the incorporation of mixed media techniques (such as slides, video clips or 'canned' music) into 'live' performance. The editor would be particularly interested in the use of New Media, such as cell-phone technology or the internet (through YouTube, performance clips in blogs or group emails, or drama downloads to cell-phones). Abstracts by 15 May, with accepted papers up to 5,000 words due by 31 August 2010 to Guest Editor, Professor David Kerr: kerrdavid42@yahoo.co.uk *and* kerr@mopipi.ub.bw

Sembene Ousmane and the Politics of Culture

Sembene Ousmane passed away in June 2007 leaving behind an extraordinary literary and film corpus. In a 1974 lecture, he underscored the centrality of culture in human society, noting that "Culture is political in all respects... the sum total of Man's spiritual and material needs... It is the link between the cradle and the tomb". In his works, Sembene sought to demonstrate the dynamic relationship between culture and the discourse of African liberation. More so than most artists of his time, Sembene challenged his audiences and readers to explore the internal dynamics of the relationship between Africa and its former colonizers. He often shed light on controversial aspects of indigenous traditions and was critical of emerging cultural formations that compromised the progressive transformation of African societies. He was therefore critical of racist and/or sectarian approaches in the quest for independence that disregarded the complicity of the traditional and contemporary African elite. Consequently, Sembene's legacy requires a critical reassessment of the ideological underpinnings of culture and its complex relationship in current discourses on Africa in the era of globalization.

The editors invite original contributions for a book on Sembene Ousmane to be published in 2011. They are interested in receiving proposals for substantial articles in English and French from scholars interested in re-evaluating Sembene's intellectual and artistic legacy framed around any of the following rubrics: globalization; gender; race and ethnicity; eco-consciousness; historiography; Panafricanism; women's rights; (im)migration; space and time; film music; aesthetics and ideological interventions. 300-word abstracts by 31

May 2010 to co-editors Lifongo Vetinde: lifongo.vetinde@lawrence.edu or Amadou Fofana: afofana@willamette.edu

Childhood in Africa: An Interdisciplinary Journal

This is a new online peer-reviewed journal launched by Ohio University's Institute for the African Child. "The journal is about bringing an Africanist perspective into childhood studies," said Andria Sherrow, assistant director of the Institute for the African Child and managing editor of the journal. The semi-annual publication is intentionally interdisciplinary; academic researchers as well as NGOs are encouraged to submit manuscripts. Collaborations between on-the-ground organizations and academic researchers are encouraged. It is an open access journal, meaning there is no fee to submit or to subscribe. All content is available online, including searchable PDFs of individual articles. The journal's copyright license allows for full reprints of articles as long as the author is credited. To access the journal directly: www.afrchild.ohio.edu/CAJ/index.html.

African Journal of Economic and Management Studies (AJEMS)

This is a new peer-reviewed journal published by Emerald Group Publishing Limited. AJEMS aims to advance both theoretical and empirical research, inform policies and practices, and improve understanding of how economic and business decisions shape the lives of Africans. AJEMS is a multidisciplinary journal and welcomes papers from all the major disciplines in economics, business and management studies including (but not limited to): management; marketing; strategy; finance and investment; organizational management; international trade; business economics; entrepreneurship; and economic development. AJEMS aims to place management and leadership at the centre-stage of business and organizational research in Africa and emphasizes an understanding of how theories and models support management practices. The journal offers its readers with insights into how African executives practice management. It therefore carries a section that stimulates practitioner-based dialogue. For more information, including details of how to submit papers for possible inclusion in AJEMS, see the website: www.emeraldinsight.co/ajems.htm

News

Nominations for Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecturer, 2010

ASAUK seeks nominations for the Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecturer for this year. The Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecture will be delivered at the ASAUK Conference in Oxford in September 2010. The lectureship award's purpose is to encourage and support a young African scholar at an African University. The candidate should be at the beginning of their career, and the content of the lecture should be on an African subject. South African, Ethiopian, Nigerian, Kenyan and Ugandan academics have delivered the lecture in recent years. The allowance

include an economy return air fare to London, a prize of £500, accommodation and food expenses up to £500 and up to £250 for travel expenses to allow the lecturer to travel to other Centres of African Studies in the UK. The proposed lecturer should be nominated by a colleague; no self-nominations please. CV and a short statement on the topic of the proposed lecture by 31 May 2010 to Gemma Haxby: asauk@soas.ac.uk

Leventis Nigerian Post-doctoral Fellowship in London

The Leventis Foundation supports collaborative research between the Centre of African Studies (CAS) based at SOAS, and colleagues in Nigerian universities. Successful applicant(s) will be attached to CAS, for a period of three months. CAS gratefully acknowledges its collaboration with Goodenough College, which provides our visitors with accommodation. Applications should include a CV and a 1,000 word statement of current research interests and aims to be achieved during the research period in London. This scheme might be particularly appropriate for scholars working up a doctoral thesis into publishable form. The two Leventis Scholars from 2009 were Dr Usman Ladan, Department of History, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria: 'Colonial Urbanisation in the West African Sahel: a case study of Maiduguri, 1907-1960', and Professor Ahmed Halliru Amfani, Department of Nigerian Languages, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, President of the Linguistics Association of Nigeria: 'Hausa Linguistics'. Applications by letter by 31 May 2010 to The Chair, CAS, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, UK, WC1H 0XG.

Scholarships for Postgraduate Study on Africa, University of Edinburgh

The Department of African Studies, School of Social and Political Science have three fully-funded DFID Shared Scholarships available for citizens of developing Commonwealth countries taking either of our taught Masters – MSc Africa and International Development (for students focussing on the complex dynamics of international development in the African context), and MSc African Studies (for students looking to pursue their interests in African politics, culture and society). Scholarships provide tuition fees, a living stipend and return air travel. Application deadline is 30 April 2010. More details at: www.sps.ed.ac.uk/aid and www.sps.ed.ac.uk/pgt/msc_african_studies

The French Institute for Research in Africa in Nigeria

IFRA Nigeria announces the reopening of its website: www.ifra-nigeria.org It will enhance IFRA's capacity to make its work more widely available both within Nigeria and internationally. The website contains information about IFRA's calls for papers, fieldwork grants, research programmes and publications. There is also online access to transcripts of events organised by the institute, past issues of the IFRA Newsletter and to a database of the Nigerian press in Hausa.

Cambridge to Launch MPhil in African Studies

The Centre of African Studies will launch a new nine-month MPhil course in African Studies in October 2010. The aim is to offer students a window into the cultural, intellectual, and political dynamism of African societies. At a time when Africa is often represented a place in need of outsiders' benevolence and direction, the course hopes to give students the linguistic and interpretive tools to study African societies on their own terms. The degree will provide an excellent foundation for those who wish to expand their knowledge of Africa, and particularly for students entering positions in the arts, the media, NGOs, and other professions.

There are four elements comprising the MPhil course in African Studies: a core seminar; a discipline-specific seminar in African History, Social Anthropology, Geography, African Politics or Commonwealth and International Literature; language training in Swahili or, by arrangement, in another African language; and, a dissertation of 15,000 words.

The course is organized in two parts. In the first part of the course, students will enrol in the weekly core seminar, where they will be guided through a body of literature concerning Africa's history, geography, politics and anthropology. Students will, at the same time, attend one of several discipline-specific seminars, chosen according to their particular interest. In Lent term students will write two 5,000 word essays based on their work in the core seminar and in the discipline-specific seminar.

In the second part of the course students will focus their attention on a research project. They will develop a topic in conversation with a supervisor, conduct research, and write intensely during Lent and Easter terms. Students will discuss their work regularly with a supervisor, and will present their research results in the core seminar.

Throughout the year students will attend biweekly classes in Swahili language. Other African languages may be taught by arrangement. Students who complete the degree to a sufficient standard may apply for admission to doctoral programmes in History, Politics and International Studies, Divinity, English Literature, Anthropology, Geography or in another field.

The Centre's 35,000 volume library, newly housed in the Mond Building, offers rich resources; and MPhil students will in addition have access to the University Library, which holds more than eight million volumes. MPhil students will make particular use of the Library's extensive archival holdings: the Royal and Commonwealth Society's papers and photographs; the Churchill College archives; the British and Foreign Bible Society's papers; and other collections. MPhil students will be made members of one of Cambridge's thirty colleges, where they will be provided with accommodation and meals. More information

and our course prospectus can be found on the centre website: www.african.cam.ac.uk/studying.htm The deadline for applications is 30 June 2010. Specific inquiries can be directed to the Centre: afrenq@hermes.cam.ac.uk

Recent Developments at the International African Institute

The IAI's flagship journal, *Africa*, is the premier journal devoted to the study of African societies and cultures, encouraging an ethnographical approach and interdisciplinary perspectives. It gives attention to African production of knowledge offering theoretically informed analysis of African realities. Published quarterly, each issue contains six or seven major articles, a review article and book reviews.

From 2011 the journal, and the associated *Africa Bibliography* and *International African Library* book series, will be published for the IAI by Cambridge University Press. *Africa Bibliography* is being digitized into a single searchable online database that will include over 120,000 bibliographic records dating from 1984. *Africa* is being digitized in entirety, dating from 1928.

The editorial team has been strengthened with the recruitment of a co-editor and an active Editorial Advisory Board. Editorial advancements include the 'African intellectuals' editorial strand, through which annotated texts are published as supplementary material in the electronic edition of the journal. The reviews section of the journal will include reviews of ethnographic films and exhibitions.

It remains the Institute's highest priority to encourage contributions from African scholars, and to increase the journal's availability in Africa. The journal is now largely freely available electronically to institutions and individuals in African and other low-income countries. Printed copies are distributed through Book Aid International. Low print subscriptions are available through the Association of Commonwealth Universities 'Protecting the African Library' scheme to ACU member universities.

The IAI has been working with the ASAUK on the programme of journals writing workshops, held both in the UK and Africa, to advise about presenting material, stimulate contributions, and widen readership. The next workshop will be held at CWAS, University of Birmingham, in April 2010 in conjunction with the AEGIS thematic conference 'Popular Culture and Urban Experience in sub-Saharan Africa'.

Africa continues to be available to ASAUK members at a discounted rate of £20.

Karin Barber's recent 'Editorial' published in *Africa* 78.3 on the policies, directions and activities of the journal is available on the IAI website. For further details, see www.internationalafricaninstitute.org

Stephanie Kitchen, Chair of the Publications Committee, International African Institute:
sk111@soas.ac.uk

Obituary

Robert S. Smith (1918–2009)

After Oxford University, the British Army and several years in government service overseas, during the later 1950s Robert Smith began a new career as a historian of Nigeria. Like many contemporaries he was eager to explore the African past through the methods of Western historiography. His first appointment was to be the West Nigerian Regional College in Ibadan, which became the University of Ife; he later moved to Lagos, and become a professor there. Young Nigerian scholars who were approaching the same task through the lens of their own culture and traditions came to appreciate the qualities which he brought to this work.

Following a series of short articles during the early 1960s Robert published *Kingdoms of the Yoruba* (1969/1976). Despite the reservations of some Yoruba specialists, this has retained its value as a broad introduction to a very complex subject. He then developed his interests in military and political history in *Warfare and Diplomacy in Pre-colonial West Africa* (1976/1987, with a second edition in 2005), another bold attempt to use accessible sources to draw on a broad canvas, which he would jokingly describe as his *War and Peace*. In 1978, *The Lagos Consulate, 1851-1861* was published under MacMillan's African and Caribbean Histories for Advanced Study series.

Robert's retirement home at Kew was within walking distance of the Public Record Office (now National Archives), and he retained a keen interest in historical scholarship (spending a year as Visiting Fellow at Aberdeen). But he did little more research; his mind was more concentrated on religious matters; and he converted from High Anglicanism to Roman Catholicism. He died in Charing Cross Hospital, London, on 29 November 2009, after years of declining health.

Professor Emeritus John Hargreaves, Banchory

Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the next *Newsletter* by 15 June 2010 to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASUK Newsletter, Plan, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6JG, UK or simon.heap@plan-international.org or effaheap@aol.com

Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASUK.

For all matters relating to membership of ASUK contact: Pat Jensen, 36 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PD; telephone: +44 (0)20-3073-8336; email: rasmembership@soas.ac.uk

Check the website: www.asauk.net