



NEWSLETTER

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Presidential Report

I took over from William Beinart as ASAUK President in September. Thanks to William's energy and commitment (and that of other office-holders) over the past two years, the activities of the Association have expanded and, for a small organization, we are also in relatively good financial shape. There are some challenges on the horizon, however. Over the last few years we have benefitted greatly from British Academy funding (via their BASIS programme) which has enabled us to employ David Kerr as a part-time research administrator. David has carried out important research on Africanist publishing, has played a central role in the establishment of the Africa Desk portal (www.africadesk.ac.uk), and has been critical in supporting our expanded activities, including the writing workshops, the postdoctoral teaching fellowships and the organization of the biennial conference. We have just made a new application to BASIS for funding for the year 2011-12, but this is the final year of the BASIS programme, and so one of our central tasks in the coming year will be to ensure that we can sustain our expanded activities through alternative sources of funding.

The cut in the British Academy budget is of course just evidence of a larger context of rapid and radical changes in higher education and research funding. The precise consequences of these changes remain to be seen, but those of us working in the arts and humanities have particular cause for concern if higher education is no longer viewed as a public good. Perhaps we could learn from South Africa where recently the Minister for Higher Education and Training, Blade Nzimande, announced a government initiative to "regenerate and strengthen the social sciences and humanities." If you are concerned about the future of the Humanities in this country, please consider signing the petition at:<http://humanitiesmatter.wordpress.com>

As our own institutions work through the consequences of new policies, there is a renewed anxiety that interdisciplinary area studies centres and programmes will be seen as easy targets for budget cuts. In some ways this is strange.

Research funders stress the importance of interdisciplinarity, of creating networks across institutional and national borders (on which, see more below). But frequently our own university costing models seem unable or unwilling to support such work. In the months to come, we need to be ready to convey the importance of work in African Studies in the academy and beyond. Fortunately, as an Association, we benefit from an active membership and from the involvement of organizations outside the university sector. Undoubtedly we will need to mobilize to defend our collective interests, but I am optimistic that we are in a good position to demonstrate the worth of our activities. Like many other voluntary organizations in this country, we were *a* Big Society long before anyone mentioned *the* Big Society.

In the months to come our writing workshop programme will continue, with one workshop (jointly with the British Academy Africa Panel) planned to take place in Johannesburg in February and another in Nigeria in April. The success of the workshops rests very largely on the generosity of the journals in our field. Editors have willingly given their time and, in some cases, editorial boards and publishers have also pledged financial support. This is particularly welcome and important as we seek to ensure the sustainability of the programme. We are also actively seeking funding to support the Teaching Fellowships, possibly in a modified form, and we are also evaluating the programme. Council decided at its meeting on 10th December that, subject to the outcome of our BASIS application, we would fund at least one fellowship from our reserves in the coming year.

Preliminary preparations are underway for the 2012 biennial conference which will take place at the University of Leeds. The 2010 conference held in Oxford in September was a huge success and generated important income for the Association. I would like to express our collective thanks to William Beinart and David Kerr for all their hard work in making this such a dynamic and memorable occasion. This cannot be said of all conferences! We were particularly fortunate that, with the financial support of the RAS and of a number of journals, there was a good representation of scholars at the conference from African institutions. Ideally, of course, there would be many more. We have had occasional discussions in Council about the possibility of holding a conference in an African institution, and I intend to pursue this idea.

On a more downbeat note we must all be deeply concerned by government immigration curbs which threaten to render our collective efforts at 'partnership' and 'collaboration' with African academics meaningless. It is vital for the health of UK African studies that we not only maintain but deepen our intellectual and institutional exchanges with our African colleagues without having to wage lengthy battles with the immigration authorities.

Professor Megan Vaughan, ASAUK President
For correspondence re ASAUK, contact David Kerr: d.kerr@bham.ac.uk

Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting of ASAUk, held at St Antony's College, Oxford, 16 September 2010

Present: William Beinart (President), Megan Vaughan (Vice-President), Ben Knighton (Honorary Treasurer), June Bam-Hutchison (Honorary Secretary), Rita Abrahamsen, Tony Burns, Ray Bush, James Currey, Jan-Georg Deutsch, Sara Dorman, Shane Doyle, Deborah Gaitskell, Simon Heap, David Kerr, Shula Marks, Stephanie Newell, Kees Maxey, David Maxwell, Nici Nelson, Isabella Orłowska, Anne Pitcher (Board of Directors, ASA), Joshua Rutere, Michelle Sikes and Alfred Zack-Williams.

Apologies: Karen Brown, Saul Dubow, Gemma Haxby, Lotte Hughes, Insa Nolte.

1. Minutes of the 46th ASAUk Annual General Meeting

The minutes were accepted and signed by the President.

There were no matters arising.

2. Report by the Honorary Secretary (Dr June Bam-Hutchison)

Throughout the past year, Council has continued to consolidate its current strategic working relationship with the Royal African Society (RAS), particularly in the area of consolidating new interdisciplinary networks and in building institutional and organisational capacities. New relationships are also being formed and sustained in geographical areas in the UK not reached before and also with the heritage sector (museums) and the Africa Unit. The work of the part-time Research Administrator (David Kerr) has been made possible through the award of the British Academy grant of £23 000 for the past financial year. Mr Kerr continues to add immense operational and strategic value to the academic development and outreach work of the ASAUk and particularly in its status as a recognised Learned Society and as part of the BASIS group. Mr Kerr has now returned to the UK from his doctoral research studies in Dar es Salaam and continues to work for the ASAUk.

The Directory of Africanists and a directory of African scholars is up and running, as a joint collaboration managed by the ASAUk and British Academy. Delegates and members are encouraged to enter their details to this directory, www.africadesk.ac.uk Dr James Muzondidya from the Zimbabwe Institute was the Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecturer for 2010 and was to speak at ASAUk on the 'The Zimbabwean Crisis and the Unresolved Conundrum of Race in the Post-colonial Period'.

All ASAUk members are reminded that the ASAUk seeks nominations for the Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture for 2011; suggestions to Professor Megan Vaughan, President, ASAUk, c/o Gemma Haxby: ras@soas.ac.uk

The ASAUk is appreciative of the sponsorship received for the 2010 biennial conference: from the Royal African Society (RAS); Routledge; *Journal of Southern*

African Studies; African Affairs/Oxford University Press; African Studies Centre and Rhodes Chair of Race Relations, University of Oxford; PLAAS, University of the Western Cape and IDS Sussex (for land panels). Speakers at the conference included Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza, Professor Rufus Akinyele, Dr Tim Kelsall, Dr Veronique Tadjo and Johnnie Carson, US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Affairs. Council is grateful to the RAS for the amount it provides to the ASAUK for the support of general conference activities, which has enabled the participation of members from Africa.

In 2010, Journal Writing Workshops were held in Cambridge, Nairobi and Birmingham supported by ASAUK funds, the British Academy, the BIEA, JSAS and the IAI and *Africa*.

| Membership | 2009 | 2010 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Ordinary | 794 | 769 |
| Overseas | 139 | 161 |
| Corporate and Institutional | 12 | 23 |
| Student | 138 | 137 |
| Honorary and Life | 49 | 57 |
| Total | 1,132 | 1,147 |

Membership numbers, which remained stable, were kindly supplied by Gemma Haxby and Pat Jensen.

ASAUK Council for the year 2009-2010

Four Office-Holders:

- President: Professor William Beinart, University of Oxford
- Vice President: Professor Megan Vaughan, University of Cambridge
- Honorary Secretary: Dr June Bam-Hutchison, Kingston University and University of York
- Honorary Treasurer: Dr Ben Knighton, Oxford Centre for Mission Studies.

Honorary Member

Professor Thandika Mkandawire, London School of Economics

Ordinary Members

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Dr Hassan Arero | British Museum |
| Dr Karen Brown | University of Oxford |
| Professor Raymond Bush | University of Leeds |
| Dr Ama De-Graft-Aikens | University of Cambridge/University of Ghana |
| Dr Jan-Georg Deutsch | University of Oxford |
| Professor Saul Dubow | University of Sussex |
| Dr Harri Englund | University of Cambridge |
| Dr Martin Evans | University of Chester |
| Dr Diane Frost | University of Liverpool |
| Dr Lotte Hughes | The Open University |

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dr Francesca Locatelli | University of Edinburgh |
| Dr Gabrielle Lynch | University of Leeds |
| Professor Roy May | University of Coventry |
| Dr JoAnn McGregor | University College, London |
| Dr Claire Mercer | London School of Economics |
| Dr Insa Nolte | University of Birmingham |
| Dr Debby Potts | King's College, London |
| Dr David Pratten | University of Oxford |

Co-opted Council Members

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| James Currey | Oxford |
| Dr Sara Dorman | University of Edinburgh |
| Jonathan Harle | Association of Commonwealth Universities |
| Dr Simon Heap | Plan International |
| Stephanie Kitchen | International African Institute |
| Dr Nici Nelson | Goldsmiths, University of London |
| Dr Ben Page | University College, London |
| Mrs Barbara Spina | School of Oriental and African Studies |
| Professor Myles Wickstead | The Open University |

Council should like to thank Simon for his work as Newsletter editor, and for maintaining its role as a major organ of communication among members.

Gemma Haxby in the ASAUK/RAS office maintains the ASAUK e-mail list and it provides a convenient, fast and cheap means of communicating with the bulk of the membership. Members who change their e-mail addresses or who have not yet given us their email are urged to pass them on to Gemma: ras@soas.ac.uk

Council would like to convey its sincere gratitude to both Gemma Haxby and David Kerr for the tremendous amount of work and support they have done and given to the ASAUK.

3. Financial Report tabled by the Honorary Treasurer (Dr Ben Knighton)

Accounts were approved as tabled.

Subscriptions: the AGM noted that the RAS was keen to increase subscriptions in the coming year. There has been a significant increase in membership since 2005, though also a high turnover. The new executive is to consider ways in which to increase and stabilise growing membership numbers.

4. President's Report (Professor William Beinart)

In the report tabled, the President noted the strategic achievements of the ASAUK over the last few years with transformation leadership initiatives that were undertaken by the executive, and new networks and relationships formed. The challenge was funding for teaching fellowships and journal workshops. The President thanked the office bearers (Megan Vaughan, June Bam-Hutchison, and Ben Knighton) for their respective roles in the ASAUK executive during his term.

The President also thanked James Currey for sustaining and supporting the relationship with the Royal African Society and for representation on both Councils; he also noted Sara Dorman's key role and support in this relationship and as editor of *African Affairs*, as well as Simon Heap's voluntary services for the past six years as editor of the Newsletter.

5. Election of Officers and Council Members, 2010/2011

President: Professor Megan Vaughan.

Elected to office:

Vice President: Professor Stephanie Newell, University of Sussex.

Honorary Secretary: Dr Nici Nelson, Goldsmiths, University of London.

Honorary Treasurer: Dr Lynne Brydon, University of Birmingham.

Projects Officer: Professor David Maxwell, University of Keele.

Re-elected: Dr June Bam-Hutchison, Dr Karen Brown, Professor Raymond Bush, Dr Diane Frost and Dr Lotte Hughes.

Not available for re-election: Dr David Pratten.

Retired after second term: Dr Jan-Georg Deutsch, Professor Roy May and Dr JoAnn McGregor.

New members elected to Council:

Clara Arokiasamy OBE Commission on African & Asian Heritage Task Force

Dr Chris Low University of Oxford

Professor David Maxwell

Dr Sada Mire University College, London

Dr Ranka Primorac University of Southampton

Co-opted: Dr Simon Heap (newsletter editor), Dr Tim Kelsall and Dr Ben Page (*African Affairs* editors), Barbara Spina (SCOLMA).

6. Teaching Fellowships: The AGM noted their mutually beneficial value to both the ASAUK and to the recipients; and also its impact on the host institution in Africa. Joint Teaching Appointment Programmes at universities were a viable option to consider for the future.

7. Anne Pitcher of the African Studies Association in the US shared ideas with the AGM on their corporate marketing and recruitment drive strategies. ASA has 488 institutional members, with around 300 panels at conferences. Institutional membership pays huge subscriptions. The journal earns \$20,000 a year from online revenue. The Association should like to explore a working relationship with regarding to collaborative conferences with the ASAUK in future. ASA publishes two journals: *African Studies Review*, a multi-disciplinary scholarly journal, publishes original research and analysis of Africa and book reviews three

times annually and *History in Africa*, which focuses on historiographical and methodological concerns.

The AGM noted the need for journal editors to take cognisance of new standardised formats, for example, with regard to footnotes.

8. ASAUK Newsletter: Simon Heap called for news for members to be sent in for inclusion in future newsletters. He also reported a change in printers last year had resulted in a 30% saving in printing costs, and was happy to continue for another year as newsletter editor.

9. ASAUK Website: The second version will be launched pending funding.

10. SCOLMA reported that it had a successful conference on the use of private papers.

AOB: Shula Marks thanked William Beinart on behalf of Africanist scholars in the UK for transforming the ASAUK in a significant way from the early days.

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More from the ASAUK 2010 Conference

ASAUK's Distinguished Africanist Awards

This annual award was launched in 2001 as a way of recognising academics and others who have provided exceptional service to the African Studies community. Two awards covering 2009 and 2010 were announced at the biennial ASAUK conference at St Antony's College, Oxford, last September.

ASAUK Council has elected **James Currey** as a Distinguished Africanist. James has done immense service to African Studies in the UK and internationally as a publisher and participant. He cut his teeth working for Oxford University Press in South Africa. He then played a key role (1967-1984) in the success of the Heinemann African Writers Series. The series brought the work of many African authors to an international readership, helped to create opportunities for them, and fed back into literary cultures in African countries. We should not underestimate the scale of this achievement; James has recorded it in *Africa Writes Back*.

Most important for the academic community, James established his own imprint in 1984 publishing very largely scholarly research on Africa. It has for some time been the single most impressive list globally on African Studies. Many of us can say that without James Currey publishers, our work would not have been published, or it would not have been published so well, or it would not have been distributed so effectively. James and his collaborators, Clare Currey,

Douglas Johnson and Lynn Taylor have not only given us an outstanding stream of books over a long period of time, but worked hard to get them into bookshops, libraries, and to display them at conferences. African Studies is a passion for them, as it is for most of us, and they really do make a point of getting to the key gatherings. The James Currey stall is always that most interesting at African Studies conferences and workshops. James has helped to connect the worlds of publishing, writing and research, meeting authors at many gatherings, giving academics a perspective on what can be published successfully and always pushing the boundaries by supporting new fields. African Studies would be immensely poorer without the output of the James Currey publishers.

James has been a major participant in African Studies in many other contexts. To mention just one example of particular relevance to ASAUK, he has served for a long period on the ASAUK and RAS councils and made a valuable contribution in keeping the two organisations in touch. Since the publishing house has been based in Oxford, Africanists here have maintained a particularly close relationship with them. It has been our privilege that James has attended many of our events, launched books, or enhanced workshops with a desk of his latest volumes. James is one of those wonderful people who is able to combine great optimism, humour, sociability and openness with an acute sense of professionalism and an understanding of the academic field in which he publishes. He is part of the larger scholarly community, rather than simply a publisher. Some of us have had books rejected by James Currey publishers, but all of us, collectively have benefitted greatly from his energy, engagement, and judgement.

James, we hope that you remain as youthful and engaged as advancing years make possible, and that you will continue to participate so constructively in African Studies.

Professor William Beinart, Outgoing ASAUK President

For over 30 years **Professor Robin Law** has been producing original and pioneering scholarship on the precolonial history of West Africa and the Atlantic Slave Trade and has more generally been contributing to the development of African Studies in the UK. His output has been extensive – and of consistently high excellence – very few scholars manage to combine the depth of Robin’s work with its breadth. His work has not only had a very major impact on the study of West African history, but it has also been central to the development of Atlantic history. He has produced seven monographs, beginning with his 1977 book on the Oyo Empire and his pioneering an imaginative 1980 volume on the *Horse in West African History*, through to his more recent and very important work on the Ouidah and the Atlantic slave trade and his editorship of the correspondence of the Royal African Company. His extraordinary scholarly output has been combined with a commitment to African Studies more generally. He was an editor of the *Journal of African History* for 8 years and has been a

member of the advisory board of History in Africa since 1974. He served on the Council of the ASAUk for two terms and was ASAUk representative on the European Council on African Studies 1991-9. He was a member of the Council of the Hakylut Society 1993-7, serving a series editor from 1997-2003 and again a member of the Council from 2003-2008. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and was a member of the Academy's International Policy Committee from 2003-9 and Chair of its Africa Area Panel from 2004-9. The ASAUk has great pleasure in awarding Professor Law the title of Distinguished Africanist.

Professor Megan Vaughan, ASAUk President

Personal Appreciation to *African Affairs*/Royal African Society

George M. Bob-Milliar, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, was awarded the *African Affairs* author prize, but was refused a visa to attend the ASAUk conference in Oxford in September 2010. This is an edited version of the message he sent to the conference.

15 September 2010 marked the 11th anniversary of the passing of my father. It was a unique day for me and my family. At 5.46 am, the exact time my father, Gaspard Bob-Milliar passed, I heard my name on the BBC Network Africa 05.30 programme. My interview with the BBC's David Amanor on my article was aired to the whole of the African continent! It was a humbling experience; a unique feeling I cannot describe. My phone has been ringing from the moment the interview was broadcast; it still rings. My mum said 'George, am so proud of you, your dad would be smiling in heaven'. The paramount chief of my village, Nandom in the Upper West Region, said 'Son, you have made us proud, you are the first from our community to have been interviewed by the BBC'. My supervisor, Prof, A.K. Awedoba said 'this is a fine achievement'.

I was shocked when the editors of *African Affairs* broke the news to me. Shocked because the article is my first academic publication ['Chieftaincy, Diaspora and Development: The Institution of *Nkɔsuohene* in Ghana', *African Affairs*, 108(443), 2009: 541-58]. All the attention I am receiving would not have been possible with *African Affairs* and the Royal African Society. The award means a lot to me. It is both an acknowledgement of fine scholarship (a major push for my academic career) and a challenge to work hard. I accept both challenges and I will continue to research and publish.

I would like to express my gratitude to the editors of *African Affairs*. In my 'native' dialect in Dagaare I would like to say, *barika yagaza*. The visa refusal has made it impossible to meet in person, nevertheless the noble idea of *African Affairs* has not been defeated. Several million Africans have heard of the award and the vision of the journal editors for African academics.

George M. Bob-Milliar: bobmilliar@yahoo.co.uk

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'The Millennium Development Goals: Directions and Results in Sub-Saharan Africa', Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge, 7 May 2011. The *Itupale Online Journal of African Studies* will host an academic writing one day seminar on the theme relating to Volume IV of the journal to be published in 2012. The morning session will involve an online virtual conference with Ugandan MDG specialists/editors and UK editorial expert panel. This will follow with small group editorial feedback for doctoral students, on draft papers that relate to the MDGs. The afternoon session will include an open floor discussion with African and UK scholars on challenges faced when publishing within international contexts. Itupale has received a Global Community Link Grant funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development (DFID) to carry out this event. Itupale also have small travel bursaries available to UK-based African PhD scholars living outside of Cambridge. For more details please email Dr Sacha DeVelle: itupale@cambridgetoafrica.org

'The American and British Relationship with Africa since 1960', University of Northumbria, Newcastle upon Tyne, 10 June 2011. In the fifty years since the climax of African decolonisation, there has been a considerable evolution, if not revolution, in British and American relations with the continent. Possible topics include: the evolution of Anglo-American relations and Africa; Africa and the Cold War strategy of the United States and/or Britain; civil rights, race and foreign policy; US Presidents, UK Prime Ministers and Africa since 1960; British and/or American reactions to African crises such as Rhodesia, Rwanda, South Africa and the Congo; US and/or UK responses to apartheid; UK and/or US relations with key African leaders such as Smith, Mugabe, Botha, Amin and Kenyatta; Western attempts to solve the problems of Africa from Biafra to debt; the impact of UK/US soft power – peacekeeping, missionaries, aid workers and international development; and the British and/or American media and Africa. Abstracts by 15 February 2011 to: ukusafricaconf@gmail.com and Dr Sylvia Ellis: sylvia.ellis@northumbria.ac.uk or Robert McNamara: rm.mcnamara@ulster.ac.uk

'Sport in Africa: History, Politics and the Archive', The National Archives, Kew, London, 29 June 2011. This conference is organized by SCOLMA, the UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa. The organizers are interested in proposals from librarians, archivists and academic researchers on any aspect of the history and politics of sport in Africa, from any period, particularly those that focus on sources, whether printed, manuscript or audio-visual, including memorabilia. 200-word abstracts by 1 March 2011 to Lucy McCann: lucy.mccann@bodleyan.ox.ac.uk

'Shadow Cities: Realities and Representations', Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London, 6–7 July 2011. More than a billion people live in improvised dwellings or shanty towns in the early twenty-first century. Whether in inner cities or on the outskirts of a metropolis, these settlements have been dubbed 'Shadow Cities' by Robert Neuwirth. Neuwirth takes a relatively positive view of the economic and cultural creativity of such places. In contrast, Mike Davis has a more apocalyptic vision of a fast developing 'Planet of Slums', where such habitations offer little hope and potentially cataclysmic danger in a post-industrial and neo-liberal world. Organized by Centre for Metropolitan History, in association with the University of Cape Town, this conference aims to investigate and explain the historical existence of Shadow Cities in different historical and geographical circumstances.

Some issues that the conference hopes to explore include: what factors have explained the emergence and form of shadow cities? What material conditions, economic activities, social organisation, political expression, and governance have been associated with shadow cities in different times and countries? How have shadow cities been perceived by their inhabitants? How have these insider perceptions compared to those of outsiders? What role has class, gender or ethnicity played in the experience of shadow cities? What have been the connections and boundaries between shadow cities and adjacent more formally established built environments or the countryside? What characterises the organisation of urban government (the State) in the different contexts where shadow cities are evident? Three speaker panel proposals of 200-word abstracts and short CVs for each paper and individual proposals with 200-word abstract and short CV by 31 January 2011 to Professor Vivian Bickford-Smith: Vivian.Bickford@sas.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL

'The Search for a Place: Marginalization, Community, and Empowerment in Africa and the African Diaspora', Southern Interdisciplinary Roundtable on African Studies (SIRAS), Kentucky State University, Frankfort, USA, 7–10 April 2011. Africans (as individual members of communities, ethnicities, nation-states, transnational networks, diasporas, and as a race) have experienced varied forms of marginalization across time and space. Such marginalization has assumed many forms, including but not limited to subjugation, oppression, exploitation, enslavement and trans-shipment, violence and genocide, exclusion, segregation, poverty, exile, powerlessness, racism and alienation. The question arises as to how, in light of such marginalization, Africans in the continent and across the diaspora have sought to reconstitute meaningful communities: slave communities during the trans-Atlantic trade era, religious movements and congregations, economic support networks, village and urban improvement associations, intellectual movements such as Pan-Africanism, political

organizations, expatriate communities, trade and professional associations, and virtual communities. How have such forms of community building sought to address marginalization and contribute to individual and group empowerment? What challenges have such efforts encountered in their different faces and phases? How are emerging African diasporas building community, retaining crucial ties to home, and forging positive rapport with older, new world African diasporas? How specifically have Africans sought to empower themselves and their communities in order to meet the challenges of the early twenty-first century? 250-word abstracts by 28 February 2011 to Dr Egbunam Amadife: egbunam.amadife@kysu.edu

'Questions Around the Extraction of Natural Resources in Africa', Grupo de Estudios Africanos, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain, 14–15 April 2011. This AEGIS Thematic Conference discusses the following issues: resources, borders and sovereignty; extraversion in a context of extraction (States, corporations and the management of rents); extraction enclaves and the labour question; and conflicts and natural resources. The conference is organized around three segments, each one consisting of a keynote lecture, a panel with three-four presenters, and a debate. Abstracts by 7 February 2011 to Aloia Alvarez Feans: aloia_alvarezfeans@yahoo.es

'Multiple Identities in Postcolonial Africa', Sixth International Conference on African Studies, University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, 5–6 May 2011. The fifty years since most African colonies became independent has been marked on the group and personal level by the emergence and shift of multiple identities. Africans have become workers, traditionalists, employers, employees, party members, voters, politicians, migrants, tribalized and detribalized, literates, illiterates, HIV positives, allochthons, autochthons and 'havebeens'. Often people were suffering or profiting because of these new identities. By putting forward the question of acquiring and shifting identities in the life of today's Africans, the organizers intend to turn attention to that aspect of African social and political life which has often been simplified or ignored. The conference is organized by the Department of Politics, University of Hradec Králové in co-operation with The Metropolitan University Prague and the Department of Anthropology and History, University of West Bohemia. The conference language is English. 300-word abstracts by 10 February 2011 to: vivaafrika2011@gmail.com

'Africa Here; Africa There', Canadian Association of African Studies Conference, York University, Toronto, Canada, 5–7 May 2011. The Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples, with support, amongst others, from the African Studies Program and Founders College, hosts this conference in recognition of 2011 having been proclaimed by the UN General Assembly as the International Year of People of African Descent.

During the modern era, the movement of African peoples has taken place under three major contexts: various trades in human beings, economic hardship emanating from natural and non-natural factors, and political, ethnic, religious and other types of persecution. Whether internal or external, the displacement of African peoples has always led to greater complexities within the host societies. Africans and people of African descent, free, freed or enslaved, made up a sizeable proportion of the population of Évora and Lisbon during the late 1400s and early 1500s and performed much of the most menial manual work while speaking various West and West-Central African languages and supplying characters and speech patterns to the works of contemporaneous playwrights like Gil Vicente. The same was true of London, not to mention other places in the UK, from at least the time of Shakespeare to the early 19th century. By the mid-1800s, their presence and influence was even more pervasive in Brazil, as well as Cuba. Similarly if Africans and the descendents of Africans attempted to recreate their homelands, imagined or not, amongst host societies, as was the case of the marooned Zanj in Iraq (869-883 AD), the great Bantu state of Palmares in 17th century Brazil, or later the Igbo in Maryland and Virginia, Jamaica and Barbados, the process today is no less omnipresent as exemplified by the existence of Little Angola in Rio de Janeiro, Little Nigeria in Houston, or the current attempt to establish a Little Ethiopia in Toronto.

In other words, Africa has long existed within the old continent and beyond as well. This reality, far from signifying solely an African presence, points to a series of new ways of moving across and exploiting space stemming from an evolving division of world labour, distribution of resources, and production of modes of living together. The expanding recognition of African contexts and initiatives to a growing range of transnational practices (from humanitarianism to peacebuilding; markets to social movements; climate change to food security; religious dynamism to health and education policies; sports to music, theatre and cinema; truth and reconciliation processes, migration and diasporas to the forging of the world) has meant the continent is taking on a greater prominence in the attention, imagination, and actions of more and more publics. Abstracts for panels and papers in English and French by 1 February 2011 via www.arts.ualberta.ca/~caas/en/2011conference.html

'Détente and Social Revolution in Southern Africa', IPRI/LSE IDEAS, Lisbon, Portugal, 6–7 May 2011. The 1970s was a decade of profound transformation in Southern Africa: faltering nation-building projects based on a variety of socialist models of development post independence intersected with a growing crisis of White constructs of nationalism and increasingly militant liberation movements. These dynamics of change cannot be analysed separately from the international environment of détente, which proved both an enabling and distorting factor in the process of change in the region. This conference seeks to explore comparisons and difference in the dynamics and impact of détente in Southern Africa, and

local sources and understandings. It adopts a deliberate multi-disciplinary approach to combine social-psychological discussion of international and regional perception and motives, analysis of contemporary high politics and explanations for the changing structure of the international system in the region. Its themes are national and transnational actors and agencies; personalities, ideologies and opportunities. Panels include the Superpowers and détente: new findings; Lusophone Africa and the mirage of détente; South Africa/Rhodesia: détente and its detractors; détente and the Front Line States. 500 word abstracts and short CV by 31 January to Dr Sue Onslow 2011: s.onslow@lse.ac.uk

'Development, Geopolitics and Cultural Exchange in the Indian Ocean', Zanzibar Indian Ocean Research Institute (ZIORI) and the Research Network on 'The Indian Ocean as Visionary Area: Post-Multiculturalist Approaches to the Study of Culture and Globalisation', ZIORI, Zanzibar, 26–29 May 2011. Over the last century the Indian Ocean region has experienced social, political and cultural reconfigurations that are the outcomes of distinct regional circumstances, but also mirror broader global transformations since the colonial era. Regional resources – notably fossil fuels – have positioned the Indian Ocean rim as a critical arena for both the global economy and geopolitics. At the same time, recent scholarship has traced how colonialism, independence and the Cold War engendered novel forms of collaboration across the Indian Ocean region, while evolving communication technologies contributed to new cultural imaginations.

The tensions of decolonization, and the different paths pursued by littoral societies in the context of Cold War rivalry, created postcolonial legal edifices – entailing new definitions of the citizen and the political actor – and systems of governance, that had profound effects on modes of identification, and in some cases spurred foreign intervention. Furthermore, frustration with the lack of rapid economic growth brought about instabilities, which paradoxically contributed both to state fragility and more robust regimes of control.

The restructuring of the world capitalist order in recent decades has created opportunities for new powers to emerge from within the Indian Ocean – most notably China and India – that pose economic and, perhaps in the long run, political challenges to older global powerbrokers. This has established possibilities for the emergence of a more multi-polar world in which economic development and geopolitical alignments in the Indian Ocean are taking centre stage. The heightened US military presence in East Africa, the Persian Gulf, South Asia and on Indian Ocean islands in the context of the 'global war on terror' has fuelled tensions between local concerns and transnational regimes of control. At the same time a new and more multi-polar power structure may help to bring about new forms of cultural connectivities and agendas for political collaboration and exchange.

These issues have deep historical resonances. Work by historians of the Indian Ocean has shown how questions surrounding piracy, jurisdiction, non-state networks and governance were prominent throughout the region's history, from the rise of Islam to the age of empires. Just as important, historical reflections have demonstrated how a range of groups contributed to shaping the legal, political and cultural contours of the Indian Ocean region.

This workshop aims to explore how systems of power and approaches to development have shaped the societies of the Indian Ocean rim both in the past and the present. Further, the workshop will address the significance of the combination of economic transformation and changing modes of human connectivity for the region as well as what such developments may mean for the future of the Indian Ocean and the world.

The conveners welcome papers directed at diverse perspectives and time periods, and hope to spark a lively conversation across disciplines. Accommodation will be offered to paper presenters for four nights. 500 word abstracts and one-page CV by 22 January 2011 to both Abdul Sheriff: asheriff@zitec.org and Preben Kaarsholm: preben@ruc.dk

'African Culture in the Making of the Modern World', First Biennial Faculty of Arts International Conference, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 6–9 June 2011.

The conference seeks to understand the place, position and role of African culture (broadly defined) in the making of the modern world. It further seeks to interrogate the frameworks within which African culture has been represented in the expanding global circulation of people, ideas, knowledge, objects, texts, fabrics, songs, practices, values and beliefs. The conference will focus on the following sub-themes: philosophical and intellectual thoughts; the African Diaspora; Africa in global sports and recreation; visual arts and aesthetics; film, video, crafts, songs, dance and music; popular culture and youth sub-culture; religion and religious diversity; peace and conflict resolution; democracy, political civil-military relations; poverty and wealth; nature, indigenous knowledge and natural resources; gender; food and food security; science, technology, diseases and disease control. 250-word abstract by 15 February 2011 to: artsfacultyibadan2011@gmail.com

'Creativity and Cultural Expressions in Africa and the African Diaspora', The Toyin Falola Annual International Conference on Africa and the African Diaspora, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria, 4–6 July 2011.

The concept of creativity is a staple notion within liberal humanism. Closely allied to the idea of genius, the discourse of creativity has privileged the individual subject whose promethean determination and passion bring into being art, innovation, and excellence. This humanist understanding of creativity still has considerable currency in disciplines such as literature and the arts, psychology, mathematics

and the sciences. Related accounts of creativity have emerged in numerous other areas, including business, popular psychology, the social sciences, and engineering and technology. The discourse of creativity that surfaces within multiple fields reveals that the notion of the individual creator is not simply widespread, but omnipresent; indeed, it is a fundamental ideology of Western culture. Challenging the individualist and depoliticized ideology of creativity, the conference calls for papers that present alternative accounts of the social and political dimensions of creativity as they relate to invention, technology, work, artistic and cultural production, the body, desire, pedagogy and social change.

The conference promises a provocative space for comparative critical dialogue between scholars and dancers, actors and writers, song writers and singers. The conference invites papers on all aspects of creativity, from the scientific to the humanistic: creativity profile: what is new among Africans and Black people generally; are Blacks different from others; globalized modernity and its consequences on music, dance, performance and home video culture; African traditional religion; indigenous African clothes and textile designs; indigenous African philosophies, wise sayings and general thought processes; the creative process in Africa and the African diaspora; how do the diviners work or masquerades perform; creative thought processes: what do texts in divination represent; how do we interpret works of literature; is creativity dangerous; and how do historians study creativity? 250-word abstracts by 30 March 2011 to Professor Ademola Dasylva: a.dasylva@ibadanculturalstudiesgroup.org

‘Civil Spaces in Africa: Past, Present and Future’, ISTR Africa Civil Society Research Network Conference, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 23–27 August 2011. Past and present narratives of civil society in Africa have been, by and large, about ‘space’ – political, material and symbolic. Inspired by stirring Eastern European examples of anti-State mobilization, the earliest discourses focused on the modalities of reclaiming space for civic agency from authoritarian state forces. Yet, contestations for space are, by definition, always ongoing. Thus, gains and losses are hardly ever permanent, with strategic positionality always subject to the thrust and parry of local, regional and, increasingly, transnational political, cultural and economic forces. Current developments in various parts of Africa provide a vivid illustration of this. They create a backdrop for much needed reflection on the current history of space, spaces and space-making in African contexts. Moreover, because of the external normative characteristics of much research on Africa, they also invite a more careful examination of the endogenous nature of civil society and civic agency.

It is against this background that the organizers invite papers that attempt to deepen scholarly understanding of African civil spaces in their cultural, social, demographic, economic and political pluralities and particularities. Papers may be guided by the following questions: what characterizes civil spaces in

Africa? What, if anything, is distinctive about such spaces? How have spaces metamorphosed within globalizing geo-political movements and dominant economic processes? How have these forces encouraged or thwarted the production of governable and/or ungovernable spaces across the continent? How can we understand fundamental and emergent forms of civic mobilizing – in primary associational life, in social movements, in mutuality, in charity, in philanthropy? How do we measure their presence and effectiveness on the social landscape? In what ways do virtual and material spaces interact, and how do they reinforce or contradict one another? What roles are women, underprivileged and oppressed groups playing in the marking and delimitation of new socio-economic and political spaces? 500-word abstracts by 28 February 2011 to Professor Ebenezer Obadare: obadare@ku.edu

‘100 Years of the ANC: Debating Liberation Histories and Democracy Today’, Wits University, Johannesburg, South Africa, 20–24 September 2011. Since 1994, a number of important books on the African National Congress have appeared and public engagement with this history remains lively. Histories of the liberation struggle have now become inextricably bound to the questions of post-apartheid politics and the ideology of state power. Discussions of the ANC's past separate themselves with great difficulty from debates over the meaning of 'liberation', the developmental state, non-racialism, equality and social justice in the present. There are also worrying signs that a simplistic and elitist version of liberation history has solidified in the media, in government rhetoric, and in state-funded institutions such as museums. The manner in which the government organizes commemorations – as celebrations of great figures or major events with little popular engagement over their meaning – has contributed to a growing cynicism about the significance of the past, especially among youth. This is also evident in the alarmingly low number of students pursuing historical studies at the secondary and university levels. But if there is increasing cynicism towards the grand narrative of the struggle, there has also been an explosion of historical interest in other areas. South Africa has seen a virtual flood of memoirs, biographies, and local histories by activists, family members, and community figures. This foregrounding of the local – whether it focuses on personal biography, family history, townships, or rural locations – has become the central mode of a post-apartheid struggle for visibility and, concomitantly, political recognition. It also has its own dangers, particularly a resurgence of race or ethnic-based histories under the aegis of historical recuperation.

Held just before the centenary of the ANC in 2012, South African History Online, the History Workshop (University of the Witwatersrand), and the Department of Historical Studies (University of Johannesburg) are organizing this conference to promote a critical evaluation of the production and utilization of historical narratives by the ANC and the State, academic historians, and sectors of civil

society and set the agenda for new energy and focus for further research into the past. This conference seeks papers addressing the full range of organizations that have, at various junctures, constituted the Congress movement. This conference also reflects on the importance of Africa and the international community in the shaping of South African freedom struggle. 250-word abstracts for papers or 500-word abstracts for panels by 28 February 2011 to Jon Soske: soske.jon@gmail.com *and* Omar Badsha: omar@sahistory.org.za

‘Crossing African Borders: Migration and Mobility’, Fifth Annual Conference of the African Borderlands Research Network (ABORNE), ISCTE-Lisbon University, Lisbon, Portugal, 21–25 September 2011. Since colonial times, African border regions have been characterised by high levels of mobility, as a result of migrant labour systems, resettlement and flight from taxation and labour demands, and more recently as a result of substantial refugee flows. Africans have experienced forced migration on a grand scale, historically related to slavery and, especially in recent decades, within and across sovereign state boundaries in the context of conflict and warfare. The most dramatic conflicts of recent times have all involved enormous human flows. The Rwandan genocide led to massive displacements into the Congo and Uganda; the Congolese crisis that ensued and the Liberian and Sudanese civil wars have led to the flight of millions of people into neighbouring states. All these examples of human flight have involved the use of borders as sanctuaries not only for victims but also for perpetrators, thus underlining the complexity of insecurity often associated with border zones. On the other hand, the search for opportunities in employment and commerce also serves to motivate Africans in the past and present to cross borders, thereby reconfiguring new and old social and economic contexts.

It is therefore important to take into account the different kinds of boundary crossers, their motivations (labour migrants, refugees and displaced persons); the distance between origin and destination (long-distance migrants, regional migration, trampoline towns’ temporary migration); the social status of migrants (middlemen minorities, qualified workers) and the implications of these movements (brain-drain issues, citizenship, urban growth). ABORNE is interested in assessing the extent to which borders are themselves shaped by mobility.

200-word panel and paper abstracts by 21 January 2010 to both aborne2011lisboa@gmail.com *and* the panel coordinator: methodologies for studying cross-border movements (Tara Polzer: tara.polzer@wits.ac.za); rethinking hierarchies of borders and border crossings? (Giorgio Miescher: gm@baslerafrika.ch); the building of African territorial borders: the impact of pre-colonial and colonial migration on contemporary Africa (Camille Lefebvre: camillelefebvre@yahoo.fr); forced migration and the role of borders (Paolo Gaibazzi: pgaibazzi@yahoo.it); border crossings and economic circulation: trade,

smuggling, labour (Gregor Dobler: gregor.dobler@unibas.ch); border regimes and migrant practices: citizenship, belonging and the making of migrant subjectivities (Paolo Gaibazzi: pgaibazzi@yahoo.it); and partitioned Africans (Jordi Tomas Guilera: jtomasguilera@yahoo.com).

...Conferences Past

'Post-slavery, Post-imperial, Post-colonial? Contesting Historical Divides in Francophone Africa', Interdisciplinary Research Colloquium, University of Chester, 10 September 2010. Kindly supported by an ASAUK conference grant, the colloquium marked the 50th anniversary this year of political independence in francophone West Africa. A day of diverse presentations and lively discussion, the colloquium was attended by delegates from institutions in the UK, France, Germany and Australia, representing a range of disciplines including linguistics, francophone studies, development studies and international relations.

The welcome speech from Claire Griffiths (University of Chester) focused attention on the interrogatory title of the day's events. As issues of chattel slavery, child slavery, forced labour and human trafficking return to the regional research agenda in the first decades of the 21st century, the multiple legacies of French and British imperialism and colonialism continue to provide a historical frame for contemporary research in the region.

The first panel of the day, 'Contesting historiographies of francophone Africa', began with a presentation on the colonial histories of Senegal and The Gambia. Joint panellists Martin Evans and David Perfect (University of Chester) analysed how these histories continue to inform relations between these neighbouring states. This was followed by Simon Massey (Coventry University) who underlined the role of ongoing French involvement in the complex politics of the Comoros archipelago. Both presentations provoked discussion about the ways in which ordinary people struggle to make their voices heard within political spaces still profoundly circumscribed by colonial relationships.

The second panel, 'Mapping the colonial imprint on francophone African social policy and education', addressed issues of power in contemporary policy and practice. Claire Griffiths (University of Chester) discussed the imprint of colonial history on contemporary geographies of power in gender and development politics. Brenda Garvey (University of Chester) then showed how 'traditional' story-telling was being re-invented and incorporated into Senegalese nursery education as a vehicle for a social and political project under the guise of 'culture'. Edith Esch (University of Cambridge) ended the session by examining the legacies of French and English pedagogical cultures in Cameroon through the lens of professional values and national and local language use in schools.

The afternoon saw an imaginative set of presentations and short films delivered by three postgraduate students under the final theme, 'Re-imagining the past and re-thinking the present: postcoloniality and cultural production in francophone Africa'. Charlotte Arndt (Humboldt University, Berlin) compared the editorial preoccupations and marketing strategies of two journals, *Présence Africaine* and *Peuples Noirs, Peuples Africains* in the face of a changing cultural/multicultural landscape and Sarah Burnautzki (EHESS Paris/Heidelberg University) looked at the complex repositioning of the writer Sony Labou Tansi in relation to contested literary paradigms. Finally, Alice Burgin (University of Melbourne/Université de Paris X – Nanterre) investigated the financial difficulties threatening francophone West African cinema and questioned the role and effects of French aid on the industry, before introducing four contemporary short films.

The colloquium marked the first research event organised by francophone Africa researchers at the University of Chester. The group is also constructing a virtual research environment to serve as an international, interactive platform for francophone African studies due to go live in May 2011.

Martin Evans, Lecturer in International Development: m.evans@chester.ac.uk

Brenda Garvey, Senior Lecturer in French: b.garvey@chester.ac.uk

**Claire Griffiths, Professor of French and Francophone Studies: c.griffiths@chester.ac.uk
University of Chester**

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Elinor Breman (2010) 'Pattern and Process in Grass-dominated Ecosystems: Vegetation Dynamics at the Grassland-Savanna Ecotone in South Africa during the Holocene', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Lyndsey Gillson and Professor Katherine J. Willis.

Alistair Fraser (2010) 'Prefab Politics: Poverty Reduction Strategies and the Limits of Donor-built Civil Society in Zambia, 1999-2009', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Ngaire Woods and Gavin Williams.

Nestor Fylaktos (2010) 'The Effect of the Use of Solar Home Systems on the Income-Generating Capabilities of Rural Households of Developing Countries: Evidence from South Africa', Ph.D thesis, Imperial College London, University of London.

Leigh A. Gardner (2010) 'Making the Empire Pay for Itself?: Taxation and Government Expenditure in Kenya and Northern Rhodesia, 1900-1970', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor David Anderson.

Timothy Gibbs (2010) 'Transkei's Notables, African Nationalism and the Transformation of the Bantustans, c.1954-1994', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor William Beinart.

Lucy Valerie Graham (2010) 'States of Peril: Race and Rape in South African literature', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Robert Young.

Georgia Barbara Jettinger (2010) 'Unravelling Gender and Participation in Migrant Associations: An Ethnographic Study of a Senegalese Village Community in Paris, Dakar and Sinthiane', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Alisdair Rogers and Professor Steven Vertovec.

Erika Kraemer-Mbula (2010) 'Building Technological Capability in Developing Countries: A Study of ICT Firms in South Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Sanjaya Lall and Professor Adrian Wood.

Josias Sanou (2010) 'Optimizing the Productivity of Agroforestry Parkland Systems in West Africa using Shade-Tolerant Annual Crops', Ph.D thesis, University of Wales, Bangor. Supervisor: Dr Zewge Teklehaimanot.

Recent Publications

Ademola Abass (ed) (2010) *Protecting Human Security in Africa*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 400 pages, 978-0199578986, £70.00.

Tim Allen and Koen Vlassenroot (eds) (2010) *The Lord's Resistance Army: Myth and Reality*. London: Zed Books. 352 pages, 978-1848135628, £70.00 (hardback); 97801848135635, £19.99 (paperback).

William Beinart and Marcelle C Dawson (eds) (2010) *Popular Politics and Resistance Movements in South Africa*. Johannesburg: Wits University Press. 360 pages, 978-1-86814-5188, £26.95.

Daniel Branch, Nic Cheeseman and Leigh Gardner (eds) (2010) *Our Turn to Eat: Politics in Kenya Since 1950*. 312 pages, 978-3-8258-9805-2, €29.90; www.lit-verlag.de/isbn/3-8258-9805-2

Deborah Fahy Bryceson (ed) (2010) *How Africa Works: Occupational Change, Identity and Morality*. Rugby: Practical Action Publishing. 299 pages, 978-1-85339-691-5, paperback, £19.95, www.practicalactionpublishing.org/how-africa-works

Phil Clark (2010) *The Gacaca Courts, Post-Genocide Justice and Reconciliation in Rwanda: Justice Without Lawyers*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 250 pages, 978-0521193481, £55.00.

Daryl Glaser (ed) (2010) *Mbeki and After: Reflections on the Legacy of Thabo Mbeki*. Johannesburg: Wits University Press. 256 pages, 978-1-86814-502-7, \$34.95.

Sudhanshu Handa, Stephen Devereux and Douglas Webb (eds) (2010) *Social Protection for Africa's Children*. London: Routledge. Hardback: 272 pages, 978-0-415-58333-6, £85.00; eBook: 256 pages, 978-0-203-84281-2, £22.50.

Jennifer Browdy de Hernandez, Pauline Dongala, Tayo Jolaosho and Anne Serafin (eds) (2011) *African Women Writing Resistance: Contemporary Voices*. Oxford: Pambazuka Press. 337 pages, 978-0-85749-020-9, £16.95; first published in 2010 by University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, USA. 337 pages, 978-0-299-23664-9, \$26.95.

Jacqueline Knörr and Wilson Trajano Filho (eds) (2010) *The Powerful Presence of the Past: Integration and Conflict along the Upper Guinea Coast*. Leiden: Brill. 384 pages, 978-90-04-19000-9, €75.00.

Paul Stuart Landau (2010) *Popular Politics in the History of South Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 320 pages, 978-0521196031, £55.00.

Anna Lindley (2010) *The Early Morning Phonecall: Somali Refugees' Remittances*. Oxford and New York: Berghahn Books. 188 pages; 978-1-84545-644-3, £41.00.

Olukunle Ojeleye (2010) *The Politics of Post-war Demobilisation and Reintegration in Nigeria*. Farnham: Ashgate. 210 pages, 978-1-4094-0942-7, £55.00.

Deborah Potts (2010) *Circular Migration in Zimbabwe and Contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa*. Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer. 368 pages, 978-1-84701-023-0, £50.00; www.jamescurrey.co.uk/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=13473

Terence Ranger (2010) *Bulawayo Burning: The Social History of a Southern African City, 1893-1960*. Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer. 272 pages, 978-1-84701-020-9, £45.00; www.jamescurrey.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=13383

Elisha P. Renne (2010) *The Politics of Polio in Northern Nigeria*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. 192 pages, 978-0-253-22228-2, £16.99.

Steven Van Wolputte and Mattia Fumanti (eds) (2010) *Beer in Africa: Drinking Spaces, States and Selves*. Berlin: LIT Verlag. 336 pages, 978-3-8258-1257-7, €29.90; www.lit-verlag.de/isbn/3-8258-1257-7

News

University of Portsmouth launches a new MA: Francophone Africa

The largest concentration of countries in the world in which French is the official language is in Africa. Yet very little is known in the English-speaking world about the history, politics and society of those vast areas of the African continent that were previously under French colonial rule and that are today referred to under the generic term 'Francophone Africa'.

This innovative new Master's course offers a programme that focuses exclusively on Francophone Africa. It provides an opportunity to study in-depth France's relations with both French-speaking North Africa (focusing in particular on Algeria) and sub-Saharan Africa. A key feature of the degree is that it incorporates a study of the history of the very different approaches to French colonial rule in each of these regions with an analysis of how this historical relationship has shaped – and continues to shape – contemporary relations between France and its former African colonies. France's rapidly changing relationship with both North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa in the contemporary period and the impact of France's African empire on France today are key areas of study.

The first of its kind in Europe, this MA will be informed by three distinctive intellectual approaches. The first will be comparative. The focus will not be on a particular nation or area, but will examine connections and relationships across the whole of Francophone Africa. Second, the course will study Francophone Africa within a transnational context, underlining how Africans have engaged with, for example, decolonisation, nationalism, the Cold War, political Islam and globalisation. Third, the course will situate the region within its wider global context, with a view to analysing the singularity of the colonial and post-colonial experience of Francophone Africa. For more information, contact: humanities.admissions@port.ac.uk

Growing Knowledge: Access to Research in East and Southern African Universities

Good libraries and access to the latest literature are essential for research, wherever in the world it takes place. Researchers in sub-Saharan Africa commonly highlight poor journal access as a serious hindrance to their academic work. But thanks to partnerships between librarians, publishers and a number of access initiatives, academics and students in east and southern Africa – and across the wider continent – have an impressive range of high-quality peer-reviewed material available. This includes many of the most important journals from leading international publishers: the four universities studied had 79% of the top 20 journals across 15 subject areas in 2009.

But while availability and electronic access is improving dramatically in many universities, actual usage amongst staff and students does not appear to be keeping pace. The study explores a series of interrelated issues which help to explain why availability has not yet translated into high levels of access and use in some cases: technology and connectivity, the discovery of academic resources, library leadership and staff development, and relationships within the university. It offers a series of recommendations for librarians, ICT staff, university managers and external support and funding organisations, suggesting practical

ways in which they can help to strengthen research and teaching by encouraging greater use of available online resources.

The study was commissioned by Arcadia, a UK grant-making trust, and was undertaken in conjunction with the University of Nairobi, University of Malawi (Chancellor College), University of Dar es Salaam, and National University of Rwanda. Valuable support and advice was provided by INASP and the Open University. To access the report: www.acu.ac.uk/publication/download?id=291
For further details contact Jonathan Harle: libraries@acu.ac.uk

The British Academy's International Partnerships (Africa) Scheme

In an initiative developed by the British Academy's Area Panels, awards of up to £10,000 a year for up to three years are available to support the development of ongoing links between research centres or institutions, within the humanities and social sciences, in the UK and in Africa. The link would be built around a specific research theme of mutual interest. This could be carried forward through visits in both directions; workshops; seminars and lecture programmes; collaborative research; and joint publications. The programme might form part of either institution's training programme and will ideally involve participation from more than one overseas institution, and might also involve more than one department/university/group/research centre in the UK.

The scheme is intended to foster links between the UK and Africa, with an emphasis on helping scholars to develop research skills and to produce a joint research outcome. Priority will be given to projects with a training element, such as the support and development of staff or postgraduate students (in the UK and overseas). The scheme is intended to benefit early-career scholars from both the UK and overseas, and projects will be highly regarded where they include junior academics from both sides. Visits might be undertaken for staff exchange, supplying teaching elements to courses and developing joint curricula. Workshops and seminars should form an integral part of the programme, and involve both staff and postgraduate students. It is expected that each programme should produce papers or some other joint research outcome designed for publication. Applicants must be of postdoctoral or equivalent status (academic staff with at least one or two years of teaching/ research experience). Grants are offered up to a maximum of £10,000 per year for up to 3 years. Further information together with application forms and notes of guidance are available from the Academy's website: <http://www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/ip.cfm>
Applications via <https://egap.britac.ac.uk/> by 30 March 2011.

Omooba Yemisi Adedoyin Shyllon Art Foundation Fellowship Programme

The Omooba Yemisi Adedoyin Shyllon Art Foundation (OYASAF), a non-profit organization in Nigeria, welcomes applications for 2011 Graduate Fellowships in Nigerian art history and culture for non-Nigerian scholars. OYASAF is widely

acknowledged as Nigeria's largest and most balanced private art collection and offers an opportunity to study and research into Nigerian Art History. It holds over 6,000 works of art of different categories of Nigerian and other visual art of the world in its collection with works in areas of Nigerian art ranging from contemporary to modern paintings and sculptures, antiques, traditional and neo-traditional African art. The art works in OYASAF include the works of earliest Nigerian contemporary artists from Aina Onabulu, Akinola Lashekan, Ugorgi, Ben Enwonwu, Okaybulu, Nike Davis-Okundaye, to Charles Shainumi, Okpu Eze, Clary Nelson Cole, Kolade Osinowo, David Dale, Simon Okeke, Isiaka Osunde, Abayomi Barber, Moses Ajiboye, Olu Amoda, El Anatsui, Ben Osawe, Bruce Onabrakpeya, Lara Ige-Jacks, Susanne Wenger, Theresa Akinwale, Uzo Egonu, Jimoh Akolo, Lamidi Fakeye, Uche Okeke, Erhabor Emopkae, Kunle Filani, Tola Wewe and Adeola Balogun.

The fellowships includes 25 days lodging in Lagos near the foundation, stipend of N50,000 (about £200), open access to artworks and practicing artists, office space, and library and transport support for research. Candidates must be enrolled as graduate students in accredited universities pursuing studies in Nigerian art and culture. Grantees will be asked to make one presentation at an interactive session with scholars/artists during their stay at OYASAF. 1-2 page applications should include applicant's research interests and explaining how this fellowship will support the applicant's research. Each candidate must accompany their application with a letter of recommendation from a faculty member of their institution dispatched independently to OYASAF. Applications by 28 February 2011 to: fellowships@oyasaf.org

Obituary

Professor Kenneth Ingham, OBE, MC (1921-2010)

The Way through the Woods was one of my father's favourite poems. It reminded him of walking in the woods around Harden in West Yorkshire where he was born in 1921. He attended the village school where he was encouraged to explore English Literature and to take an intelligent interest in the world around him. He spent many hours walking across the moors reciting poems, and was still able to recall them in latter years. Encouraged by his mother, he took an active part in singing in the church choir and performing in local plays. All these influences pointed him in the direction of an academic career or ordination into the Anglican Church. Little did he know, too, when reading the adventures in 'She' and 'King Solomon's Mines' that his life would lead him to Africa.

He won a scholarship to Bingley Grammar School in 1932 where he captained the First XV, reached the final trial for the Yorkshire Schools team and was twice runner-up for the Victor Ludorum in athletics. He still found time for his studies and was awarded an exhibition to read history at Keble College, Oxford. He was

somewhat taken aback when, on proudly reporting this news to his headmaster, he was greeted with the words "You can always try for Cambridge in March".

However, the outbreak of war meant that his studies at Oxford were interrupted and in 1941 he went to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. The war took him to Egypt, Iraq, Burma and India.

While in Egypt with the 2nd Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment, part of the 5th Indian Division, he was wounded in the leg but as one of the officers put it, "Due to the heavy casualties one was only entitled to go sick when rigor mortis set in." The battle of Alam Halfa finally broke Rommel's dominance in the desert.

In Burma in the Arakan, he had a miraculous escape from death when he was shot through the neck at close range. The surgeon remarked that he must have been praying hard when he was hit and was lucky to be alive. A less sympathetic reaction was received from his nurse who, when Kenneth asked if he could have some sugar in his tea, replied frostily "Don't you know there is a war on?"

Once recovered, he reported back to his Commanding Officer in Burma, and was surprised to be accused of being a deserter. "How can I be, I am here" he said, to which the Colonel replied "You should be in India, but I am glad you are back with us". He had completely forgotten he had been posted to India.

Kenneth's Division was then moved to the northern front where there was fierce fighting in the Indian border towns of Kohima and Imphal. He was mentioned in dispatches after leading his platoon in an attack on the Japanese positions in the hills that dominated the towns. He once again had a remarkable escape from death when he was struck on the cheekbone by a sniper bullet.

Kenneth, now 23, was promoted to Major and was transferred, to his regret, to another company. Despite having very little time to knit his unit together, they were deployed to another area of fierce combat in Meiktila, the main supply depot for the Japanese forces in Mandalay in Burma. During a skirmish to drive out enemy troops, Kenneth was again shot, this time through the chest. He was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery in these battles.

After the war, despite pressure from fellow officers to apply for a regular commission, Kenneth was still intent on ordination and returned to Oxford to continue his studies. After taking his finals, he was awarded the Bartle Frere Exhibition in Indian Studies. He completed his D. Phil, which studied the work of Christian Missionaries in India in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. His thesis was later published under the title *Reformers in India*.

It was while writing his D. Phil that he met Elizabeth Southall, an undergraduate at Lady Margaret Hall. Having singled her out, plus one other young lady, he

decided to invite to tea the first one to arrive at the Bodleian library. It happened to be my mother and the rest is history. They were married in Oxford on their last day in June 1949. My mother's father drove her around the Keble chapel three times to give her time to decide whether she had made the right decision. He felt the future with my father might prove to be one of austerity, as his financial prospects were not impressive, but obviously my mother had already spotted my father's potential. Her father was unaware that they had already been married in a Registry Office as Keble Chapel was not licensed for marriages.

As life was rather austere in England after the war, Kenneth decided to look abroad. He accepted an appointment as a lecturer in History and as acting Head of Department at Makerere College in Uganda in East Africa. It transpired that there was only one other member of the Department. Kenneth travelled to Uganda by flying boat in January 1950, his wife travelling by sea. In consequence he became known as the man who travelled with his cats by air, while sending his wife with the heavy baggage by sea. Makerere in 1950 was an exciting place for a young academic, especially as most of the other members of staff were also young and enthusiastic. The College was soon to be promoted to the status of a university college under the aegis of the University of London. Concerned that, at that time the history of Africa was being taught as part of European imperial history rather than the history of Africans, and aware of the lack of written sources, Kenneth toured the country with an African lecturer, carrying an unwieldy portable wire recorder. The book *The Kingdom of Toro in Uganda* was the result of this research.

In 1954, Kenneth was invited by Sir Andrew Cohen, the Governor of Uganda, to become a member of the Ugandan Legislative Council, the country's embryo parliament. This brought Kenneth into frequent contact with many aspiring African leaders and he was invited to write a history of Britain's protectorate in Uganda – *The Making of Modern Uganda* and this was followed by *A History of East Africa*.

During this time he met Milton Obote, leader of the People's Congress, who was to become President of an independent Uganda. Kenneth was greatly impressed by Obote's reasoned approach to self-government and, some time later, became probably the first European to join the Ugandan People's Congress. In 1961 Obote invited Kenneth to stand as a UPC candidate for election to the National Assembly. It was with some regret that he had to turn down the offer because he had just accepted an appointment in the UK.

During his twelve years at Makerere University, Kenneth had overseen the introduction of single honours degree courses in History, had been appointed a professor, had served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and had received an OBE for services to the history of Africa. He felt it was now time for another challenge.

This challenge was to be a 5-year contract as Director of Studies at Sandhurst Military Academy. It was interesting for him to return to Sandhurst and he felt his wartime experiences equipped him well for this role. Recognizing the rapidly-growing complexity of international relations and of modern warfare, he produced, in co-operation with the then Assistant Commandant, Brigadier, later Major-General, Anthony Deane-Drummond, a proposal for an army university incorporating the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. The proposal was forwarded to the Ministry of Defence. It was taken up with interest and was expanded to include members of the Royal Navy and the RAF. However, the idea foundered because of the different training requirements of the three services. The Academy was later to recruit mainly university graduates.

As Kenneth's 5-year contract drew to a close, he was fortunately invited by the University of Bristol to be interviewed for the chair in the history of Africa and was offered the post. He moved to Bristol in 1967. The department wanted to revive interest in the history of countries outside Europe. Kenneth introduced a general course on sub-Saharan Africa and a specialist course based on South Africa. His research in Pretoria and Cape Town led to the publication of *Jan Christian Smuts: the Conscience of a South African*. In 1970 Kenneth became head of the history department and served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts for two years in the 1980s.

After Kenneth's retirement in 1986, he wrote *Politics in Modern Africa – the Uneven Tribal Dimension*. He also became active in the work of the Bristol branch of the Royal African Society, acting as Chairman for a number of years, as well as being a council member of the parent body in London. I know he would like me to thank Janet Kirk and Chris Parker for their tremendous support in running the Bristol branch. He was also a member of the committee of the British Institute in Eastern Africa in London and enjoyed his membership of the Bristol branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society.

Tribute by Kenneth's daughter, Clare Ingham

Note to Contributors

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