



# NEWSLETTER

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**Volume 20 Number 78**

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## **Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting of ASAUK, held at University of Sussex, 11 September 2014**

**1. Members Present:** Anuli Agina, Karen Barber, William Beinart, Mohamed Ben-Madani, Inge Butler, Reginald Cline-Cole, James Currey, Allison Drew, Simon Heap, Martin Evans, James Fairhead, Debby Gaitskell, Gemma Haxby, Ben Knighton, Reuben Loffman, Joann McGregor, David Maxwell, Adelina Na Dum, Jose Lingna Natate, Ben Page, Nici Nelson, Steph Newell, Insa Nolte, George Ogola, Deborah Potts, Charlotte Ray, Keith Shear, Bolanle Sogunro, Ola Uduku, Marion Wallace, Michael Walls, Wendy Willems, Gavin Williams and Rosa Williams.

**2. Apologies:** Clara Arokiasamy, Jonathan Harle and Ranka Primorac.

**3. Minutes of 50th ASAUK AGM held at SOAS, University of London, 23rd October 2013**

Approved.

**4. Matters arising**

None.

**5. Report by the Honorary Secretary (Dr Nici Nelson)**

As a joint collaboration managed by ASAUK and the British Academy, the Directories of Africanists and African scholars are working well. The site is for all of those involved in African social sciences and humanities research and can be used to identify scholars to invite for conferences, or with scholarships and fellowships to advertise, for journals looking for peer reviewers, for researchers looking for funding and fellowships, or who want to identify new collaborators or track down colleagues, and for anyone with an interest in African studies. Members are encouraged to put in their details at: [www.africadesk.ac.uk](http://www.africadesk.ac.uk)

In October 2013, Kabba Bangura (Geography Department, University of Sierra Leone) presented the Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture, 'Adapting to Climate Change: Coping with the Effect of Weather Changes in Rural Sierra Leone'. The talk was attended by a substantial audience and was followed by a reception. Bangura also gave presentations at the Universities of Birmingham and Bath.

### ***ASAUK Biennial Conference, 2014***

We have had a full and vibrant conference at the University of Sussex, with a record 600 participants. The ASAUK president, Professor Steph Newell, and the Conference Administrator, Dr David Kerr, are to be congratulated, along with the Council, for their hard work.

### ***ASAUK Biennial Conference, 2016***

Plans for the next conference, to be held at Robinson College, University of Cambridge, 7–9 September 2016 are well in hand. ASAUK's New President, Professor David Maxwell, is coordinating with the Centre for African Studies, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

### ***50th Anniversary Celebrations of ASAUK***

It was a very enjoyable and varied programme of events which were organized by the ASAUK Council to celebrate the ASAUK 50th Anniversary. The events ranged from the serious academic presentation of the Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecture, through a vivid and intriguing art event by Leo Asemota, called the 'Sash of Fulfilment' at the British Museum, to a purely social event of a drinks reception with kora music at the October Gallery.

### ***Small Conference Grants***

The Council is grateful to the RAS for the amount it provides to the ASAUK for the support of general conference activities. Generally in a Biennial conference year this subvention is used to enable the participation of members from Africa in the conference. This year the Council decided to make a minor exception.

Two grants were made between December 2013 and summer 2014 on the basis of an underspend in 2013: to a conference entitled '1994-2014: 20 years of African Democracy' at the African Studies Centre, Oxford University in April (organized by Jason Robinson); and to a conference organized by Mandy Banton at the Institute for Commonwealth Studies, University of London in May, called 'Secrets and Lies: 1.2 Million Withheld Government Files'. It was decided to spend some of the 2014 subvention to support a small grant to another Conference to be held at the University of Dodoma, Tanzania, and organized jointly by the Universities of Dodoma and Manchester (conference organizer, Dan Brockington), entitled *The Green Economy in the South*.

### ***Writing Workshops***

A successful Writing Workshop was organized by Izabela Orłowska at Mekelle University, Ethiopia, in September 2013. Other Writing Workshops will be held in the coming year in The Gambia and in Tanzania. As Writing Workshop Officer, Insa Nolte wrote an excellent report to the British Academy while applying for a £10,000 grant and they gave £17,000! As Insa retires from this post this year, the Council would like to thank her for an excellent job. ASAUK will be putting out a call for more workshops in the future.

### *Teaching Fellowships*

To celebrate our 50th Anniversary, it was decided that we would fund two grants to support two teaching fellowships in the Social Sciences or Humanities for a UK-based academic to work in an African university. The possibility of running a Writing Workshop was also a factor. ASAUK asked for applications from early career academics who had finished doctoral degrees on African topics in British universities. The award covers 3-4 months' subsistence and travel expenses.

After full deliberations of seven impressive proposals, the ASAUK Council was pleased to announce the award of two Teaching Fellowships: a 3-month teaching fellowship to Dr Stylianos Moshonas (University of Bristol) at the Faculty of Social, Political and Administrative Sciences, University of Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo, September to December 2014; and a 5-month teaching fellowship to Dr Machiko Tsubura (Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex) at the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, October 2014 to February 2015.

### *Membership (Figures from January to September 2013)*

<b>RAS/ASAUK Combined membership</b>		<b>ASAUK membership numbers</b>	
Joint Member UK	734	ASAUK Individual UK	162
Joint Membership Overseas	110	ASAUK Individual Overseas	21
Joint Student UK	178	ASAUK Student	55
Joint Student OS	33	ASAUK Student Overseas	8
RAS Life Members UK	7	ASAUK Associate	26
RAS Hon Life UK	2	ASAUK Hon Life UK	5
Joint Hon Life UK	28		
RAS Life Overseas	11		
RAS Hon Life Overseas	11		

Membership numbers in all categories are worryingly down: we need to recruit younger members to replace the old guard. This is due to a combination of factors including the economic downturn and the fact that many new, young Africanists are working outside of academia. Recruitment in difficult times must be the responsibility of everyone to convince people what membership in ASAUK has to offer is worth the membership fee. It would be appropriate to repeat my request put forward in my 2013 report: all members should commit themselves to spreading the word. Those members who are lecturing and supervising students are urged to make a concerted effort to recruit their postgraduate students as members to ASAUK/RAS. Academics could also ensure that any Africanist colleagues in their institutions are aware of the many advantages of being a member of ASAUK/RAS. Members who have contact with Africanists outside of academia (working in NGOs or in business) might explain the advantages of belonging to ASAUK/RAS. Copies of the new advertising leaflet are available.

### ***Council for the year 2013-2014***

Officers:

President: Professor Stephanie Newell (retires)  
Vice-President: Professor David Maxwell (becomes President)  
Honorary Secretary: Dr Nici Nelson (standing again)  
Honorary Treasurer: Dr Lynne Brydon (retiring)  
Projects Officer: Dr Insa Nolte (retiring)  
Newsletter Editor: Dr Simon Heap (standing again)  
Co-opted Council Members: James Currey, Nic Cheeseman (*African Affairs*),  
Stephanie Kitchen (IAI), Richard May (RAS), Clara Arokiasamy and Marion  
Wallace (SCOLMA).

### ***Elected Council Members***

*Retiring in 2014:* after First Term: Dr Toby Green and Dr Anna Mdee; after  
Second Term: Dr Debby Potts.

*Retiring in 2015:* after First Term: Dr George Ogola, Dr Ola Uduku and Professor  
David Killingray; after Second Term: Dr Martin Evans, Dr Gabrielle Lynch and  
Dr Claire Mercer.

*Retiring in 2016:* after First Term: Dr Maxim Bolt, Dr Carli Coetzee, Dr Jonathan  
Harle, Dr Zachary Kingdon, Dr Reuben Loffman and Dr Wendy Willems; after  
Second Term: Dr Ranka Primorac.

To bring the Council up to full strength the AGM must elect seven new members.

### ***Newsletter***

Council should like to thank Simon for his sterling and tireless work as  
Newsletter editor, and for maintaining its crucial role as a major organ of  
communication within the Africanist community.

### **Relationship between ASAUK and the Royal African Society (RAS)**

Throughout the past year, Council has continued to maintain a good close  
working relationship with the RAS. ASAUK and RAS officers have a joint  
meeting once a year. In addition, Richard May has become a co-opted member of  
the Council. The President of ASAUK is also committed to attending RAS  
Council meetings and the AGM. Gemma Haxby in the ASAUK/RAS office  
maintains the ASAUK e-mail list and it provides a convenient means of  
communicating with the bulk of the membership. Council would like to convey  
its sincere gratitude to Gemma Haxby and the other RAS staff for their constant  
work and support for ASAUK.

### **6. Report by the Honorary Treasurer (Dr Toby Green)**

The ASAUK's finances are currently in a reasonably healthy state. The annual  
report signed off by the ASAUK President in July 2014 showed that at the end of  
the previous calendar year we had a balance of £97,215. This was £15,029 less  
than the preceding year; however, as there had been no profits from the biennial  
conference in that year, this was broadly in line with expectations.

However, 2014 has seen some unbudgeted expenses. An unexpected decision by the British Academy not to fully finance the writing workshops at the University of Sussex and the University of Central Lancashire saw us open to potential liabilities of several thousand pounds. However, generous support from journals for these workshops ensured that they were able to proceed, at a cost to ASAUK of only £2,000 in the end. We also awarded two teaching fellowships at a total cost of £9,000. Given the current reserves and the importance of these programmes, this was a good use of funds.

There is a fall in subscription income, down £1,500 in 2013 because it was not a conference year and some members did not renew. Subscriptions are to increase to £75 next year, with no change for three years, owing to an increase in our dues to the RAS, who perform a huge amount of tireless work on behalf of the ASAUK.

The current biennial conference should see the state of the finances improve in the next financial year. Our current projected profit is in the region of £24,000, with an increase of around 33% in the number of delegates attending compared to Leeds 2012. This should see our books continue at a healthy level in the coming next year.

- **The Accounts for 2013 were submitted and approved.**

#### **7. Subscription Fee**

The subscription has been £60 for regular members for three years (2012-14). The student rate has remained £25 for a number of years. As a result of increased costs including a rise in the annual fee that RAS must pay for members' use of the SOAS library, the RAS/ASAUK fee will need to rise in 2015. A rise in the regular member's subscription to £75 for the next three years (2015-17) was proposed, while the student subscription will remain at £25 for the same period.

- **The proposal was approved.**

#### **8. President's Report (Professor Stephanie Newell)**

##### *ASAUK Conference 2014*

This year's conference has been successful with 600 delegates and seven streams. David Kerr has done an outstanding job as conference administrator: this was the largest ASAUK conferences to date, and the Association would like to record its gratitude to him, and to the student helpers who volunteered their time.

The stream leaders and panel chairs deserve special thanks for their hard work to secure keynote speakers and to arrange such a wide variety of papers and discussions. The panels on the Maghreb, Egypt, Sudan and Lusophone Africa were particularly welcome. The Association is grateful to Walter Bgoya for his enjoyable plenary lecture and to the Sussex Africa Centre, *African Affairs* and OUP for hosting their reception, with an additional donation from the School of English (Sussex).

Generous donations from African Studies journals, IAI and RAS have enabled us to support African delegates at the conference, including stream keynotes, ordinary delegates and participants in the Writing Workshop. We could not continue initiatives such as the writing workshops without the support of the journal publishers and editors, not only in terms of their input to workshops, but also in terms of their sponsorship of African delegates. We really value the ongoing support of our donors.

At the conference dinner yesterday, the recipient of this year's Distinguished Africanist Award was announced: the Association is pleased to celebrate the scholarship of Gavin Williams and to recognize his contribution to African Studies, particularly his support for early-career scholars.

The Audrey Richards Dissertation Prize for the best recent Ph.D in African Studies went to Sarah O'Neil for 'Defying the Law, Negotiating Change: The Futanke's Opposition to the National Ban on FGM in Senegal'. There were three runners-up: Zoe Marks ('The Internal Dynamics of Rebel Groups. Politics of Material Viability and Organizational Capacity, RUF, Sierra Leone'); Holly Porter ('After Rape: Justice and Social Harmony in Northern Uganda'); and George Karekwaivanane ('Legal Encounters: Law, State and Society in Zimbabwe, c. 1950-1990'). The Association is grateful to David Maxwell, Toby Green and Christopher Clapham for reading and judging all the theses submitted for the prize this year. The sheer number of excellent theses submitted for the prize testify to the healthy state of African Studies in the UK.

### *Teaching Fellowships*

We are pleased this year to award two Teaching Fellowships to early-career scholars who completed their doctoral theses in the UK: Dr Stylianos Moshonas (University of Bristol) and Dr Machiko Tsubura (University of Sussex).

### *Writing Workshops*

Our programme of writing workshops continues apace in cooperation with African Studies centres, African universities and Africanist journals. Significant support for the writing workshops has been received from the journals, publishers and the British Academy Africa Panel. Unfortunately we were obliged to reduce the size of the Sussex workshop this year due to funding constraints, but we remain committed to the writing workshop programme and will apply to the British Academy for support for the workshops planned for 2015.

### *Open Access*

The ASAUK continues to monitor developments in the HEA's Open Access policy, with regular reports to Council from Stephanie Kitchen of the IAI. The Association is most grateful to Stephanie for her work in this area, and for reporting back to the ASAUK from the HEA, the British Academy and the AHUG/Arts and Humanities Alliance.

### ***Administration***

Since our loss of a budget for an administrator two years ago, Gemma Haxby of the RAS has taken on a large portion of administration tasks for the ASAUK. We are enormously grateful to her for her work, and to Nici Nelson for her hard work as ASAUK Honorary Secretary.

### ***General Comments***

In order to properly represent the UK and to enhance membership, I think we could make a greater effort to hold ASAUK Council meetings outside London.

It has been an honour to serve as President of the ASAUK and to work with such an energetic group of Council members. I look forward to participating in the organisation's future initiatives, and to the success of David Maxwell as incoming President.

### **9. Election of Officers and Council Members**

The AGM approved the following Officers: Professor David Maxwell as President, Dr Insa Nolte as Vice President, Dr Nici Nelson as Honorary Secretary, Dr Toby Green as Honorary Treasurer, Dr George Ogola and Dr Reuben Loffman as Joint Workshop officers; and Dr Simon Heap as Newsletter Editor.

The AGM approved the following Members of Council:

*Co-opted Members:* James Currey, Nic Cheeseman, Stephanie Kitchen, Marion Wallace and Richard May.

*Newly Elected Members:* Dr Dan Brockington (Manchester), Dr Gus Casely-Hayford (SOAS), Dr Stacey Hynd (Exeter), Dr David Kerr (Birmingham), Dr Ambreena Manji (Cardiff), Dr Anna Mdee (Bradford) and Dr Phia Steyn (Stirling).

### **10. ASAUK Newsletter (Dr Simon Heap)**

I have been the ASAUK newsletter editor for precisely ten years. Four newsletters have been issued over the past year. I hope you found them interesting and useful. I want to stress that it is YOUR newsletter and it relies on YOUR news on forthcoming workshops and conferences, new doctorates and publications, awards and fellowships, even deaths. So don't be shy in sending me your information. As part of the 50th anniversary of ASAUK, older newsletters have been put on the website – especially useful for obituaries and events in ASAUK's history. I receive many thanks at this meeting, but I do want to thank those who send me contributions and the printer who does such a professional job.

### **11. ASAUK Website (Gemma Haxby)**

We are currently looking into redesigning the website to bring it up-to-date and approaching web-designers that the Royal African Society have used and would recommend. The new website will be easily updated in-house rather than waiting for a while for it to be updated externally. The proposals will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

### **12. RAS (Richard May)**

Richard, who is RAS's representative on the ASAUK Council, tabled a detailed report, of which highlights are given here. The RAS has a new Chair, Zeinab Badawi. She has a wealth of media experience and we are really excited about the appointment. We have a good programme of events for the autumn including six Business Breakfasts including one with President John Mahama of Ghana. Our Annual Lecture will feature Ali Dangote, Africa's richest businessman. We are arranging roundtable discussions over the next few weeks on a number of subjects/countries including Ebola, South Sudan, CAR and Mali. We are also doing another media roundtable in parliament which will be part of a broader project looking at the relationship between media and Parliament on Africa – creating a database of parliamentarians with interests in Africa. We also want to arrange a meeting in parliament on granting of visas to Africans, both for work/business purposes and family visas with the Immigration Minister. We are also beginning to plan for the Film Festival, *Film Africa 2014* which will run from October 31st to November 9th. And we are now working more closely with the other African film festivals in the UK – *Africa in Motion* in Edinburgh, *Afrika Eye* in Bristol, the Cambridge Film festival and the Cardiff African film festival.

### **13. SCOLMA (Marion Wallace)**

Marion, who is SCOLMA's representative on the ASAUK Council, tabled a detailed report, of which highlights are given here. SCOLMA'S annual conference at the University of Birmingham focused on 'African Trajectories: Travel and the Archive'. Over the last year SCOLMA has also held two seminars. SCOLMA is delighted to announce the publication of *African Studies in the Digital Age: DisConnects?* Published by Brill, the book is being launched at this conference. SCOLMA's journal, *African Research and Documentation*, continues to thrive under the editorship of Terry Barringer. We continue to be active on the web (<http://scolma.org/>) and on Twitter and encourage you to follow us (@SCOLMA) for African Studies news.

SCOLMA and ASAUK continue to develop a close and cooperative relationship. During the year we discussed ASAUK representation at SCOLMA meetings, and agreed that ASAUK would send different representatives depending on the location of our meetings: Ranka Primorac and Toby Green. At this year's SCOLMA AGM in July, Lucy McCann took over from me as Chair, and therefore be taking over as SCOLMA representative on the ASAUK Council. I'd like to thank Council for making me so welcome at ASAUK meetings.

### **14. Any Other Business**

There was a suggestion from the floor to consider a reduced membership fee for early career researcher/academic (within 5 years of a Ph.D).

It was announced that Dr James Milner (University of Malawi) died while travelling to attend this conference. The AGM would like to tender its condolences to his family and friends.



## **Conferences Future. . .**

UNITED KINGDOM

**“There Came a Darkness”: Africa, Africans and World War I’, SCOLMA UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa Annual Conference, The British Library, London, 17 July 2015.** The first shot fired for Britain in the First World War was from the rifle of an African soldier in West Africa. The last German troops to surrender did so on African soil, in today’s Zambia. In between African soldiers and civilians paid a heavy price in blood and lives and their societies and outlook were changed for ever. Recent scholarship reflected in the commemorations and publications for the centenary of the outbreak of the war recognises that Africa was much more than a sideshow in a truly global conflict. This conference will consider the role of scholars, libraries, archives and information sources in documenting and interpreting the African experience of World War I. Topics may include, but are not limited to: campaigns in Africa; African soldiers on the Western Front; the impact of the war on African societies; memory and memorials; and literature, images and ephemera. Abstracts up to 500 words by 31 January 2015 to Terry Barringer: [tabarringe@aol.com](mailto:tabarringe@aol.com)

**‘Decolonisation and Colonial Legacies’, Senate House, University of London, 21–22 October 2015.** The implications of their imperial pasts continue to affect the contemporary internal and external policies of six European Union member states (UK, France, Portugal, Belgium, The Netherlands and Spain). These connected, entangled historical legacies manifest themselves most obviously in the diverse diplomatic associations which draw together countries formerly colonised by these states: the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa and the Cumbre Ibero-Americana; but all six European states maintain varying institutional links. A comparative analysis of these institutions is timely, as that there has been too little integrated, policy-relevant academic research into the ways in which European policy makers continue to contend with the enduring legacies of the process of decolonization. These legacies also play into the EU as a political space where the long impact of the endings of empires is being played out, between the national and international spheres.

Organised by the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, in conjunction with King’s College, London, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa and Universite Paris Diderot, this conference will focus on the complex web of post-imperial legacies for these EU countries and their societies, in terms of political institutions, immigration and community relations, trade, investment and aid, culture and education. It is intended to highlight new research on critical process of transition for these former imperial powers, as well as to bring historians, political scientists and international relations scholars into contact with

contemporary actors and policy-makers. Papers are sought on the following aspects of colonial legacies and processes of transition for the UK, Portugal, France, Spain, the Netherlands and Belgium: political institutions and policy making; trade and investment relationships and organisational modes; cultural relations (including education and training; media and memory); legal frameworks and discourse; aid and development policies; and the national dimension versus supranational organisations. 250-300 word abstracts and 150 word biodata by 15 March 2015 to Dr Sue Onslow: sue.onslow@sas.ac.uk

**'Rhodesian UDI – 50 Years On. Change and Continuity in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. The Record since UDI in 1965', Senate House, University of London, 11–12 November 2015.** November 2015 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the illegal declaration of independence by the Rhodesia Front government of Ian Smith, against the British crown. Internationally recognized independence under black majority rule was only achieved in April 1980, after a sustained radical national liberation struggle and brutal civil war, external economic isolation in conjunction with repeated attempts at international mediation. The importance of the colonial legacy remains contentions in domestic and regional politics, as do other aspects of political culture and legitimacy, societal trauma and national reconciliation. Yet how much can current internal developments and regional politics be traced back to events of 1965? How far did the failure to achieve accelerated independence at the same time as the rest of British Southern Africa, leave a lasting and complicated legacy for Zimbabwe politics, governance and society today?

In conjunction with Department of War Studies, Kings' College London, and the Centre for European and International Studies (CEISR), University of Portsmouth, the Institute of Commonwealth Studies is organizing this conference to evaluate lasting legacies of UDI, and to highlight new research on Zimbabwe's complicated inheritance. Presentations on the following topics, which emphasize the themes of continuity and change, are particularly welcome: land, class, models of development; sanctions, their uses and abuses; practices of insurgency/counter-insurgency; pace of democratization, elections in Zimbabwe, election monitoring; media and nationalism; nation-state construction; education, health and building the nation; ideology and leadership; the 'Bad Neighbour' effect? Zimbabwe's regional relations; evolution of Zimbabwe as regional security actor; gender; and protest and peacebuilding. 250-300 word abstracts and short biodata by 31 March 2015 to Sue Onslow: sue.onslow@sas.ac.uk

**'Landscapes, Sources and Intellectual Projects in African History: Rethinking Historical Evidence and its Interpretation', Symposium hosted by Department of African Studies and Anthropology (DASA) and Centre of West African Studies (CWAS), University of Birmingham, 12–14 November 2015.** What types of evidence, data, and sources can we use to expand knowledge of the African

past? How can different types of evidence be critically analysed – be they landmarks on African landscapes or faded texts produced by authors unfolding specific intellectual and political projects? These are some of the questions that have animated the work of Dr Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias for five decades. The symposium aims at confronting these questions and speaking to issues that have been central to Dr De Moraes Farias' scholarship.

As a very special opening to the symposium, Dr De Moraes Farias has accepted to give the third Fage Lecture. His lecture will be followed by a reception and the two subsequent days will feature workshop-style panels and plenary sessions. These panels will serve both as a broader reflection on Dr De Moraes Farias' engagement with these themes, and as an important opportunity for a renewed engagement with the sources for the African past at a moment of flux in African historiography.

There are six symposium themes. First, demythologising the African past: what are the enduring myths that distort the interpretation of Africa's history? What explains the existence and endurance of these myths? What are their consequences for historical reconstruction and for knowledge of contemporary African dynamics? Second, historicising African myth: myths are filled with clues. They reveal moral values, aesthetic judgments, and salient themes in the popular imaginary of African societies that provide insights into a past often left unrecorded. What are the historical and cultural dynamics that influence the production, circulation, and transformation of African myths? Third, accounting for context: beyond accounting for the language and culture of the authors of our sources, how can we integrate a consideration of other factors - such as the reckoning of time, awareness of landscapes, landmarks, and the material and immaterial world - in the study and interpretation of sources of the African past?

Fourth, revealing the projects behind the sources: Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias urges us to think of African sources - be they textual, oral, or epigraphic - as the products of the biographic, intellectual, and political trajectories of their authors. Can we use sources as avenues for reconstructing the intellectual projects of their authors, and the discursive fields in which these authors operated? Fifth, developing a historiographic ethics based on a genuine hermeneutical stance in historical exegesis: How can researchers write in a way that reveals the justification in the Other's point of view (and makes us doubt our own)? Sixth, but not least, contributions related to any of the regional and theoretical lines of inquiry that have animated Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias' work, including Yoruba, Tuareg, and Songhay oral history; epigraphy; research in medieval Mali, Benin, and Mauritania; jihadist and non-jihadist Islam; Afrocentrism; and critical reassessments of North and West African historiography. 200 word abstracts by 1 February 2015 to Dr Benedetta Rossi: [b.rossi@bham.ac.uk](mailto:b.rossi@bham.ac.uk)

**'A Sea that Links and Binds: Cooperation, Coercion and Compulsion across the Red Sea from the Eighteenth Century to the Present', Interdisciplinary Workshop, Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO), Berlin, Germany, 4–5 June 2015.**

The Red Sea links Africa and Arabia into a closely linked, multifaceted socio-economic system that has historically transcended ethnic, linguistic and political divides. Rather than act as a barrier, the sea has facilitated the movement of people, goods and ideas across the region. The creation, maintenance and evolution of this social system has been, and continues to be, dependent on the establishment and development of patterns of human-environment interaction. For example, maritime shipping is dependent on specialized climatological and geographic knowledge that allows ship captains to harness wind patterns and navigate the network of coral reefs and barrier near the African and Arabian littorals. Collective cooperation amongst diverse actors in the interior is required to exploit the region's natural resources, to move goods to the coast and to develop natural harbours into well used ports. Despite its multi-ethnic and cosmopolitan aspects, this social system has been and continues to be shaped by the forces of compulsion and coercion. Arms have been used to restructure social interactions, as well as patterns of production and trade. Social pressures have led some Red Sea communities to adjust their internal structures and to abandon or adopt specific cultural practices.

From the end of the eighteenth century to the present, the Red Sea social system rapidly transformed alongside other rapid political, economic, technological and environmental changes. In response to these changes, individual and collective strategies based upon cooperation, coercion and compulsion were adjusted. For some people, this meant improved personal security. Unfortunately, for others this meant further instability and an increase in the precariousness of everyday life. Suggested papers include: port cultures; social dynamics on board ships; migrations, forced and otherwise, and the integration of migrant communities in their new homes; relationships between ruling elites and their subject populations; the spread of religious beliefs and spiritual practices; the regional transmission of knowledge about the natural world; and the impact of climatological change and environmental hazards on inter- and intra-communal relations. Abstracts up to 500 words and short CV by 1 February 2015 to: [steven.serels@zmo.de](mailto:steven.serels@zmo.de)

**'Africa: Looking East or West', Second Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference, Kisii University (KSU), Kenya, 24–27 June 2015.** The rise of China and India is creating tensions and anxiety in the global arena largely because of the new financial opportunities for Africa. African countries are said to be looking to the East with a lot of interest and excitement. Chinese leaders are regarded very highly in Africa, in ways that Western leaders were regarded few decades ago, because they come with goodies for African countries. The purpose

of this conference is to allow scholars to compare the experiences that the two regions have had in the development partnerships with Africa. Japan has been an older partner, but China and India seem to have had greater ascendancy in the past twenty years in their relations with Africa. Is the relation between African and Western countries changing due to new friendships with China? What benefits are African countries getting from their relation with China and India? These are the type of questions that papers are invited to explore. The conference will consist of ten colloquia organized along East and West themes: social, economic and political changes in Africa; management of resources in Africa; education and development in Africa; East and West constitutionalism and human rights; science and technology in Africa; religions in Africa; peace and conflict in Africa; library and ICT; and interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research in Africa. 250-500 word abstracts by 30 March 2015 to Professor Maurice Amutabi: mauriceamutabi@gmail.com

**'African Art and Artists after the Millennial Turn', Faculty of Arts, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria, 24–27 June 2015.** African art today has become more visible and respectable in the global space both in theory and practice. The works of African artists at home and in the Diaspora have increasingly penetrated the global art world through landmark exhibitions and have become the subject of important symposia and publications. While many African artists in the Diaspora have worked their way into major museum collections and other formal art establishments in the West, a number of African artists (such as El Anatsui, Bruce Onobrakpeya and Abade Glover) have continued to work at home, establishing themselves as celebrated figures who brought fresh and exciting artistic vocabularies to the making and discourse of global art. Eminent African curators, such as Okwui Enwezor, are now playing the game at the highest level, manning such high profile global art presentation and discursive platforms as the Documenta and the Venice Biennale. Major international auction houses are turning their gaze at African artists, and strong auction houses have now emerged within the continent itself. Art schools have multiplied.

How might we critically engage African visual art through the multiple lenses of mass communication, theatre and film studies, linguistics, literary studies, music, economics, anthropology, history and international relations, archaeology, tourism and museum studies and political science? What range of fresh views and interpretations are possible in the critical interrogation of the life and work of important contemporary African artists who have worked or are working at home or in the Diaspora? How have curators re-thought or not re-thought the long-drawn criticism over their representation or construction of the form and content of African contemporary artistic production based on its few Diaspora artists? In view of rising concern surrounding ownership of Africa's cultural patrimony and the call for the restitution of Africa's art objects looted by the West and held in their museums and galleries, how are the leadership of African

countries joining the discourse and how prepared are they to handle the objects should they be returned? What is the relevance or role of the available national museums and galleries in African countries to the increasing visibility of African art and artists in the global art world? Who actually benefits from the current surge in the display and commoditisation of African art through the political and economic networks that define global and regional biennales and auctions? 200 word abstracts by 15 February 2015 to Dr Ozioma Onuzulike: ozioma.onuzulike@unn.edu.ng

## **. . .Conferences Past**

**ASAUK Writing Workshop for Early Career African Scholars, University of Dodoma, Tanzania, 7 July 2014.** In collaboration with the University of Dodoma, and the support of the British Academy and ASAUK, I organised a Writing Workshop which took place at the University of Dodoma's campus. It was deliberately and specifically tied to a three day international conference, *Green Economy in the South*, which was sponsored by UNEP, the University of Copenhagen, PLAAS (University of the Western Cape), as well as the ASAUK and was also held at, and organised by, the University of Dodoma. Participants at the workshop went on to present their work and attend panels at the conference.

One of the workshop's goals was to provide extra support, feedback and preparation to scholars presenting their work at such international gatherings, a number of whom were doing so for the first time. Others were to enhance links between the University of Dodoma and international universities, and provide general advice on publication strategies, as well as specific support to individual papers.

On the UK, and international, side the workshop was attended by the following editors, associate editors and editorial board members of the following journals: *Conservation and Society* (represented by Dan Brockington and Maano Ramutsindela), *Environment and Society*, *Environmental Conservation* (represented by Dan Brockington); *Review of African Political Economy* (represented by Sarah Bracking) and *African Affairs* (represented by Stefano Ponte). In Dodoma the workshop and conference was supported by the Head of Department of Geography (Professor Abiud Kasuamila) and the Vice Chancellor of the University (Professor Idris Kikula).

Setting up the workshop piggy-backed upon conference preparations. That had been advertised internationally, with some 120 papers accepted from all over the world (India, Indonesia, New Zealand, USA, Europe) and diverse African countries (Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, South Africa, Swaziland, Ghana, DRC, Rwanda). Papers were presented in both English and French. Special focus for the advertising had been given to Tanzanian scholars with announcements circulated on the wazuoni list serve. The conference

organising committee sifted through the original applications to attend the conference, selecting some 80 papers which showed sufficient quality. From these a number of junior African scholars, and senior African and European-based scholars with good writing and publishing experience were invited to attend the one day workshop prior to the conference. In addition to food, the workshop paid for international travel of some attendees, the travel of others was already covered by sponsorship of the conference, in which case we simply added an extra night's accommodation. Travel-funding was only awarded to African scholars based at African Universities. 22 people attended from 20 different Universities, as well as one from an activist pressure group (*Haki Ardhi*).

Our main purpose was to give as much feedback as possible to junior scholars on the actual details of their writings and arguments. We were fortunate in that all the attendees were coming because they had research findings to which they wanted to speak, and papers in some form which they had prepared for this conference, with a view to getting them published eventually.

But we had other agendas too. We wanted everyone to observe that feedback in process. We also wanted people to take part in giving each other feedback, and learn from doing. We also wanted more senior scholars to receive feedback on their papers, and junior scholars to watch them doing this, as part of that learning process. Finally we wanted to ensure that the more senior and less senior scholars were not also Europe-based and Africa-based respectively. In that respect we were quite fortunate with Ramutsindela (UCT), Bracking (University of Kwa-Zulu, Natal) Ferreira-Meyers (Swaziland), Ntale (Makerere) and Noe (University of Dar es Salaam) all providing that insight while also working from African-based institutions.

To that end we divided the meeting into small reading groups (5-6 each), among which papers were pre-circulated. Each group comprised a mixture of senior scholars, editors and junior scholars. These sessions were bracketed by plenary discussions in the morning and evening.

The first plenary discussion concerned the general perils and problems of publishing. We talked through different forms of publication strategy, how to target journals and how to respond to feedback and reviews, as well as considering bounce strategies. Much of this was practical, personal and based on case-studies of previous experience.

We then split into our smaller reading groups where we dissected each other's work. This could cover all manner of topics, including data quality and methods, but the thrust was upon the quality of the work as material for publication. Thus we were thinking about presentation of data, introductions, paragraph flow, and clarity of arguments. These reading groups were intensive and lasted several hours split by lunch.

The final plenary session of the day provided feedback on the groups. We shared what we had learnt, and also thoughts on the general organisation of workshops such as these. This, personally, was the most rewarding part of the day, as the feedback was exceptionally strong. Every participant who had submitted work was delighted with the opportunity of getting all this feedback. There were strong requests to hold further workshops. Indeed, an attendee of this workshop is helping to organise a second writing workshop that will be based in the University of Dar es Salaam.

The feedback process however did not end with the day of the writing workshop. That day provided bespoke and detailed feedback to all participants on their written work. It initiated the process of networking and discussion that continued over the next few days. Moreover all participants then got a second round of feedback and questions about their work when they participated in the panel sessions of the conference. The important point here is that, particularly for the more junior scholars, the writing workshop gave them a headstart. This was especially valuable to scholars who had not had the opportunity to take part in such networking and conferences before.

Ultimately the outcome of this sort of workshop needs to be measured in its publications. Noe's paper was, subsequent to the revisions suggested at that workshop, accepted for further review at *Conservation and Society* (I am not the handling editor in this instance). There are also three sets of publication aimed at *Journal of Peasant Studies*, *Conservation and Society* and *Third World Quarterly* which have arisen out of the conference as a whole. Currently nine of attendees of this workshop have their papers included in these submission plans. There is still a long way to go yet. But there can be little doubt as to the long-term value of this writing workshop in supporting the publication of this work.

Finally a note as to the financial support provided. We were particularly grateful for the support of the logistician that funding provided. Dodoma is not an easy place to get to, but because of the funding we were able to employ someone based there who liaised with all the people attending to confirm travel arrangements. We also had people stationed at Dar es Salaam airport to get people to the bus station, and at Dodoma bus station to get them to the University. Again this came from the same fund. I was also supported by Gemma Haxby of RAS/ASAUK, who paid for some flights directly, and was invaluable in arranging instantly the travel which we collected. Finally our colleagues at the University of Dodoma (Thabit Jacob, Mathew Buhki and Abiud Kasuamila) were simply wonderful to work with. There was universal praise from all the participants as to the quality of the venue, food and the hospitality. My profound thanks to all who have made this possible.

Dan Brockington, University of Manchester

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



Muhammad Danial Azman (2014) 'Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding in Africa: In Search of Justice and Reconciliation Following Post-Election Violence in Kenya', Ph.D thesis, University of St Andrews. Supervisor: Professor Ian Taylor.

Dominic Burbidge (2014), 'Trust and Social Capital in Urban Kenya and Tanzania', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Nic Cheeseman.

Bet Caeyers (2013), 'Social Networks, Community Based Development and Empirical Methodologies [Ethiopia and Tanzania]', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Stefan Dercon.

Honita Cowaloosur (2014) 'Reinscribing Dependency: The Political Economy of Mauritius JinFei Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone', Ph.D thesis, University of St Andrews. Supervisor: Professor Ian Taylor.

Gillian Davies (2014) 'Rethinking Market-Based Development Approaches: Increasing Access to Energy Goods and Services for Households in Sub-Saharan Africa', Ph.D. thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Dr Thomas Molony and Professor Donald MacKenzie.

Marta Iñiguez De Heredia (2013), 'Everyday Resistance in Post-Conflict Statebuilding: The Case of Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisors: Mark Hoffman and Dr George Lawson; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/708/>

Alice Evans (2013), 'Women Can Do What Men Can Do: The Causes and Consequences of Growing Flexibility in Gender Divisions of Labour in Kitwe, Zambia', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Sylvia Chant; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/752/>

Sean Fox (2013), 'The Political Economy of Urbanisation and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisors: Professor Jo Beall and Professor Tim Dyson; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/807/>

Juliet Gilbert (2014), 'Destiny is Not Where You are Now: Fashioning New Pentecostal Subjectivities among Young Women in Calabar, Nigeria', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr David Pratten.

Julian Graef (2014) 'Peacebuilding as Capacity-building in Rural Liberia', Ph.D thesis, University of St Andrews. Supervisor: Professor Ian Taylor.

Sarah Grosso (2013), 'Extraordinary Ethics: An Ethnographic Study of Marriage and Divorce in Ben Ali's Tunisia', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisors: Dr Laura Bear and Professor Emeritus Martha Mundy; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/885/>

Wifak Houij Gueddana (2013), 'A Biography of Open Source Software: Community Participation and Individuation of Open Source Code in the Context

of Microfinance NGOs in North Africa and the Middle East', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Nathalie Mitev; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/632/>

Agnes C. E. Hann (2013), 'An Ethnographic Study of Family, Livelihoods and Women's Everyday Lives in Dakar, Senegal', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisors: Professor Rita Astuti and Professor Matthew Engelke; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/722/>

Mariana Kriel (2013), 'Loose Continuity: The Post-apartheid Afrikaans Language Movement in Historical Perspective', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisor: Professor John Breuilly; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/863/>

Giulia Liberatore (2013), 'Transforming the Self: An Ethnography of Ethical Change Amongst Young Somali Muslim Women in London', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisors: Professor Henrietta Moore and Dr Mathijs Pelkmans; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/743/>

Eveliina Lyytinen (2014), 'Spaces of Trust and Mistrust: Congolese Refugees, Institutions and Protection in Kampala, Uganda', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Patricia Daley and Professor Roger Zetter.

Angelina Mattijo-Bazugba (2014), 'The Politics of Gender Quotas: What Accounts for the Relative Success of the Gender Quotas in the First Southern Sudanese Elections?', Ph.D. thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Professor Fiona Mackay and Dr Thomas Molony.

Charles Riziki Majinge (2013), 'The United Nations, the African Union and the Rule of Law in Southern Sudan', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisors: Dr Chaloka Beyani and Professor Christine Chinkin; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/845/>

Sitna Quiroz (2013), 'Relating as Children of God: Ruptures and Continuities in Kinship among Pentecostal Christians in the South-east of the Republic of Benin', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisors: Professor Deborah James and Dr Matthew Engelke; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/821/>

Helga Rainer (2013), 'The Political Ecology and Economy of Protected Areas and Violence: A Case Study of the Conflict of the Kivus in the Democratic Republic of Congo', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Eric Neumayer; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/969/>

Clara Rubincam (2013), 'Alternative Beliefs about HIV/AIDS: Re-examining Distrust among Young Adults in Cape Town, South Africa', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisors: Professor Tony Barnett and Dr Hakan Seckinelgin; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/790/>

Edward Teversham (2014), 'Representations and Perceptions of the Kruger National Park and the Manyeleti Game Reserve, 1926-2010', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor William Beinart.

Mohamed Zaki (2013), "'And they Say There Aren't any Gay Arabs...": Ambiguity and Uncertainty in Cairo's Underground Gay Scenes', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisors: Dr Matthew Engelke and Dr Catherine Allerton; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/927/>

## **Recent Publications**

Saheed Aderinto (2014), *When Sex Threatened the State: Illicit Sexuality, Nationalism, and Politics in Colonial Nigeria, 1900-1958*. University of Illinois Press, 264pp, 978-0-2520-08042-5, £19.99.

Stanley B. Alpern [translator, Christiane Owusu-Sarpong] (2014), *Les Amazones de la Sparte Noire: Les Femmes Guerrières de l'Ancien Royaume du Dahomey*. Paris: Éditions L'Harmattan, 340pp, 978-2-343-04802-4, €32.78; E-book: 978--2336362731, €26.99.

Acacio Barada (ed) (2014), *Agostinho Neto, An Unremitting Life: 1922-1979*. 222pp, 978-989-97163-3-9, £20; order from Central Books: [mo@centralbooks.com](mailto:mo@centralbooks.com)

Paul Clough (2014), *Morality and Economic Growth in Rural West Africa: Indigenous Accumulation in Hausaland*. Berghahn, 468pp, 978-1-78238-270-6, £75.

Daniel Conway and Pauline Leonard (2014), *Migration, Space and Transnational Identities: The British in South Africa*. Palgrave Macmillan, 224pp, hardback, 978-0230346574, £60; E-book, 978-1137319135.

Deborah James (2014), *Money from Nothing: Indebtedness and Aspiration in South Africa*. Stanford University Press, 296pp, 978-0-8047-9267-7, £16.99.

Elizabeth Mamukwa, Ronnie Lessem, Alexander Schieffer (eds) (2014), *Integral Green Zimbabwe: An African Phoenix Rising*. Gower, 306pp, 978-1-4724-3819-5, £58.50; <http://www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9781472438195>.

Abdul Raufu Mustapha (ed) (2014), *Sects and Social Disorder: Muslim Identities and Conflict in Northern Nigeria*. James Currey, 256pp, 978-1-84701-107-7, £50.

Ebenezer Obadare and Wendy Willems (2014), *Civic Agency in Africa: Arts of Resistance in the 21st Century*. James Currey, 256pp, 9781847010865, £45.

Jeggan C. Senghor (2014), *The Very Reverend J. C. Faye: His Life and Times, A Biography*, Author House Publishers, 388pp, 978-1-4918-6954-3, £12.

Kaye Whiteman (2014), *An African Journey: Essays, 2011-2014*. Business Council for Africa; £10; order through: [info@bcafrica.co.uk](mailto:info@bcafrica.co.uk)

## **News**

### **African Author Prize**

*African Affairs* awarded its 2014 African Author Prize to Dr Peace Medie, Research Fellow at the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy of the University of Ghana for her article, 'Fighting Gender-based Violence: The Women's Movement and the Enforcement of Rape Law in Liberia'. The 2014 African Author Prize runner-up was Euclides Gonçalves, Lecturer in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Eduardo Mondlane University for his article, 'Orientações Superiores: Time and Bureaucratic Authority in Mozambique'.

### ***African Affairs***

*African Affairs* improved its impact factor and ranking in the latest results released by Thompson-Reuters in summer 2014. Its annual impact factor improved from 1.474 in 2012 to 1.554 in 2013, while our five year impact factor increased from 1.657 to 1.825. This is the highest 5 year impact factor *African Affairs* has ever achieved! As a result, *African Affairs* placed first in the whole of Area Studies for 2013 – in addition to being the number one journal in African Studies for the fifth year running. The editors want to thank all the readers, reviewers, and authors for their continued support of the journal, which has been so important to the efforts to grow and strengthen *African Affairs*.

### **Africa Bibliography wins 2014 Conover Porter Award**

The International Africa Institute's *Africa Bibliography* has been recognised through the Conover Porter Award, which was presented to the Bibliography's compiler, Terry Barringer, during the 2014 US African Studies Association conference. The Conover-Porter Award is presented every two years by the Africana Librarians Council of the US African Studies Association. The award recognises outstanding achievement in Africana bibliography and reference tools among works published in the preceding two years.

### **Open Access Update**

#### ***Journal copyright licenses***

UK publishers are introducing new copyright licences intended to cover 'green archiving' widely mandated by HEFCE for the REF, and RCUK. The new licence introduced by Cambridge University Press, for example, gives authors the right to post their revised accepted manuscript in institutional and non-commercial subject repositories immediately on acceptance (thus meeting HEFCE's requirement that such deposits are made within 3 months of article acceptance). It however restricts authors' rights to post the publisher's final pdf ('version of record') to such repositories. The policy intends to strike a balance between providing access and meeting policy requirements, and protecting subscription models, thus the financial sustainability, of such journals in humanities and social science subjects in which it is anticipated that paid open access will play a limited role. (All the major publishers also offer authors a separate licence covering 'gold'

or paid open access.) One problem with this accommodation of the various interests at stake is the likelihood of multiple article versions being available and cited. A question for future REF assessment remains which version of the manuscript will be considered: the deposited 'author accepted manuscript' or the published pdf.

### *Monograph open access consultation*

HEFCE and the British Academy are conducting a consultation about open access academic book publishing: 'to develop an evidence-based understanding of the scale and nature of the difficulties that are thought to be facing monograph publishing...of the purpose of the scholarly monograph within the overall ecology of scholarly communication in the HSS...to examine the role that innovation and access models can play...'. There is as yet no open access requirement for monographs submitted to the REF. This consultation will form the basis of future policies. The International African Institute (IAI) and ASAUK made a submission drawing on the presentations at the ASAUK Publishing stream at the ASAUK Conference last September, which included a panel on 'book publishing in African studies', and on the IAI's experience of publishing the International African Library monograph series. We were also asked to provide some background context about the effects of open access in developing countries, which are widely evoked in the UK debate but about which less is actually known. The report, being published in January 2015, is set to be 'inconclusive', laying out the various open access books models available and associated problems.

**Stephanie Kitchen, IAI, and ASAUK Council Member**

### **The African Collection at World Museum Liverpool**

The African collection at World Museum Liverpool is one of the most important and complex in Britain. It has suffered partial destruction and damaging neglect, during its more than 160 years of existence, and has also received major contributions from other institutions with varied histories. The museum was bombed in 1941 and gutted by a fire in which many significant objects in its holdings were destroyed or lost. After World War II acquisitions from other regional institutions helped the museum to rebuild its African collection to the more than 10,000 objects that make up its present holdings.

Among the earliest and most important African items in the museum's African collection are those that came with the large collection of "art treasures" donated by the Liverpool goldsmith and antiquarian, Joseph Mayer, in 1867. Significant African items from Mayer's gift include two royal ivory bracelets from the kingdom of Owo in Southwestern Nigeria, a masquerade costume from Southeast Nigeria, a pectoral disk in gold from Asante in Ghana, and a rare 16th Century Sapi-Portuguese ivory horn from Sierra Leone.

Much of the museum's African collection reflects Liverpool's shipping and commercial geographies. This is especially the case with the 1,300 extant West African items that constitute the Ridyard Collection. Arnold Ridyard was a Chief Engineer on the steamers of Elder Dempster and Company's West African service. His collecting operation, which spanned the last years of the nineteenth century and the first fifteen years of the 20th century, involved a network of 222 collaborators based along the length of the western coast of Africa. As well as European traders, missionaries and colonial officers, Ridyard's collaborators included at least eighty West Africans. Among the highlights of the Ridyard Collection are a series of Kongo minkisi (sing. nkisi) or "power figures" from Cabinda; Igbo, Ijo and Ibibio masks and shrine figures from southeast Nigeria; colourfully painted Duala masks from Cameroon; Fang headdresses and reliquary guardian figures from Gabon; Hausa leatherwork from Nigeria; Ewe textiles and Ga ceramics from Ghana; and Sande society masks performed by Mende and Sherbro women from Sierra Leone. In 1899 Arnold Ridyard gave the World Museum a beautifully cast 16th century bronze head of a Queen Mother from the Edo Kingdom in Southern Nigeria, which is the best-known piece in a group of about forty Benin artefacts in the African collection.

After the destruction of 1941 the World Museum was refurbished in 1966 and allocated a War Damage Fund to help it rebuild its collections. Purchases made for the African collection with the fund included about seventy-one masks and sculptures from the Dogon, Mossi, Lobi, Senufo, Bamana, Bobo, Malinke, Kurumba, Dan, Guro, Baule, Akan, Luba, Teke, Songe, Kuba, Chokwe and Makonde.

World Museum Liverpool was renovated again with the help of a Heritage Lottery grant secured in 1998. It reopened in April 2005 with new Africa displays exhibiting over 600 key African pieces and occupying one-third of a permanent gallery titled, *World Cultures: Africa, the Americas, Oceania and Asia*. The new displays emphasize the links between Liverpool and Africa and are arranged to follow the shipping route down the African coast.

The World Museum Liverpool is located at William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EN, and more can be read online at: [www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml/](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml/)

Dr Zachary Kingdon, Museum Curator and ASAUK Council member

## **Obituaries**

**Professor Ali Mazrui**

Ahmed Rajab

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**Professor Jacob Festus Ade Ajayi**

Not many academics are awarded a state funeral, as has happened to Professor Jacob Ade Ajayi of Nigeria, who died on the 9th August 2014, aged 85 – eulogised by President Jonathan as having “a lasting place of honour as one of Africa’s greatest historians”. He lived long enough to receive, on his 85th birthday an extensive festschrift, *J. F. Ade Ajayi: His Life and Career* (Bookcraft, 2014) edited by two of his former students, Professors Jide Osuntokun and Michael Omolewa, with contributions from nearly 40 other students, colleagues and friends.

Jacob once said: “People of my generation learned how Britannia ruled the world” and in his youth, the Oxford historian Trevor Roper could remark that African history was only about “the meaningless gyrations of unmemorable tribes”. The crassness of this was exposed as African nations regained independence and home-grown scholars uncovered new knowledge. Jacob was not the absolute pioneer, but the leader in using meticulous research methods to revolutionise African historical studies and enable serious study of indigenous African history. His work reflected his character – judicious and calmly thoughtful.

Working mainly at the University of Ibadan, Jacob’s life had a threefold importance: as chief architect, with the late Kenneth Dike, of the Ibadan History School; as an influence in the community, following his conviction that historical knowledge should serve the everyday world; and as a university reformer, with a fierce belief in university autonomy. Additionally, he took a lead in many international bodies, including the International Africa Institute in London.

Seeing his discipline as a nation-building tool, Jacob was the first professional historian to write a history of 19th century Africa balancing Western and African institutions, *Christian Missions in Nigeria 1841-1891: The Making of a New Elite* (1965). He showed the colonial period as a relatively short episode, insisting that the colonial encounter was not just about outside imposition, he took a special interest in the work of the first Nigerian bishop, Samuel Ajayi Crowther, missionary, traveller and in Jacob’s words in a short biography, *A Patriot to the Core* (1992). He contended that the introduced religions, both Christianity and Islam, developed new local elites alongside the traditional ones and that this helped to explain modern political events.

Jacob was concerned that the results of research should promote Africa-centred curricula for both schools and universities and in 1970 produced, with Ian Espie, *A Thousand Years of African History*, still useful today. He believed history could also promote a sense of national identity and wrote extensively on Nigerian and Yoruba history, including a study of Yoruba warfare, with Robert Smith, and a number of papers in the *Journal of the Historical Society of Nigeria*, which Ibadan historians started to counter what they saw as neo-colonialist journals elsewhere. He was a founder of the *Ibadan History Series*, produced with Longmans, the first such venture in tropical Africa.

To give a context, he produced, with his great friend Michael Crowder, the magnificent *Historical Atlas of Africa* (1985). They also jointly edited the hugely valuable two volume collection, *History of West Africa*. Jacob was editor of the sixth volume of the UNESCO General History of Africa, *The Nineteenth Century until the 1880s*. He also wrote about development and culture, stressing the persistence of African cultural values. African and Nigerian identity did not mean glorification and Jacob was one of eight African scholars who in 2010, with Okon Uya as co-editor, published *Slavery and the Slave Trade in Nigeria from the Earliest Times to the Nineteenth Century* to take focus away from the Atlantic to trans-Saharan and Indian Ocean trafficking.

While the subjects of his research were new and engaging, Jacob's greatest importance to African history was in his rigorous research methodology, mentioned earlier. He was an innovator in the way he used oral sources, but insisted on thorough evaluation. University of London Professor John Peel called Jacob "the Moses of African historiography".

Outside the University, Jacob was a major player in reforming the school curriculum, to reflect Africa-focused research, working with the examination system and Government policy-makers, and helping produce appropriate textbooks. He also used his skills as a historian to assist traditional rulers in assessing their post-colonial roles and occasionally to mediate quietly between state governors, while never becoming involved in partisan politics.

Among his community contributions, Jacob solved a problem for national census-takers, who had to deal with non-literate people unaware of their age; he prepared a special handbook of important historical events, so that if, for instance, someone said she was born in the year of influenza, they could record 1918.

Jacob was born on 26th May 1929 in Ikole Ekiti, Western Nigeria. His strongly Christian parents were Ezekiel Adeniyi Ajayi, a postmaster and later private secretary to the area's ruler, and Comfort Bolajoko. He went to Igbobi College, Lagos, was a foundation student (and top of his generation) at University College, Ibadan, moved to University College Leicester and then University of London, and gained his Ph.D in African History in 1958.

In 1956 he married Christie Aduke Martins, a teacher and specialist in early childhood education. They had a lifelong strong partnership, forming a close-knit family with their five children: Yetunde, Niyi, Funlayo, Titi and Bisola and were famous for open and generous hospitality; their regular Christmas 'Sing for your Supper' was legendary and in Lagos they had open house on New Year's Day for all staff, from messengers to professors. I have personally been warmed by the family's friendship since 1960 and was given parties by them for two landmark birthdays.



He was able to apply his views on a university's role when he was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos from 1972 to 1978. He took over a demoralised institution; when he left, it was of international standing. He reorganised the ramshackle academic structures and bravely made redundant some 'dead wood' academics, putting in place a corruption-proof appointments system. But collision came with the military government, which faced student protests when it put up fees. Lagos University, being the nearest to government headquarters, was encircled by armed police and Army helicopters hovered overhead. A student was shot dead, for no apparent reason. Jacob reacted by organising a moving funeral on campus. He was summarily dismissed and went back to Ibadan. A colleague said: "I never heard him raise his voice".

He is survived by his widow and children and has left behind the Jadeas Trust, his personal educational charity.

**Professor Emeritus Lalage Bown**

**Michael Wolfers** (1938-2014) was one of the earliest journalists to bring serious news to Britain about the freedom struggles in imperial Portuguese Africa. His apprenticeship after leaving Wadham College, Oxford in 1960 was with Harold Evans, the campaigning Editor of *The Northern Echo* in Darlington.

This got him a job on *The Times* which was then the pre-eminent newspaper. He became editor of the Letters page when 'a letter in *The Times*' could have an immediate political effect on the establishment. He reported on the Biafran war and Frederick Forsyth asserted that it was *The Times* which provided 'a object lesson in the way that reporting should be done.' He left *The Times* in 1973 and became a reporter on the last phases of the independence struggle by FRELIMO in Mozambique and MPLA in Angola. *The Times* described him on 18 November 2014 as a "flamboyant *Times* journalist' who 'identified with the African underdog and whose Marxist sympathies led to his gaining rare access to certain African leaders..." His selection *Unity and Struggle* of the speeches of Amilcar Cabral (1980, African Writers Series 198) appeared with an introduction by Basil Davidson (it was to be selected as one of ZIBF's 100 best books on Africa). He worked briefly for the Foreign Office in London and then after Angola's freedom in 1976 he became adviser to the MPLA in Luanda on press and media matters. He turned to broadcasting as a more effective means of circulating news in Africa.

The representation of writing in Portuguese in Heinemann's African Writers Series (AWS) owed much to the encouragement of Michael Wolfers. He said in *The Guardian*, 2 March 1981, "Poetry is the most typical form of Angolan writing, but even the most admired prose writers have built their reputations on short stories and novellas rather than on long and leisurely novels." Outstanding among his translations from the 22 poets in his anthology *Poems from Angola*

(1979, AWS 215) were the poems by Agostinho Neto who became the first president of Angola in 1976. A cameo of resistance literature was his translation of Luandino Vieira, *The Real Life of Domingos Xavier* (1978, AWS 202). We hoped that works about the brutality of the Portuguese regime would have something to tell about how change would come in South Africa.

Michael Wolfers and Jane Bergerol published a book on *Angola on the Frontline* (Zed, 1983). His two books on Thomas Hodgkin, one edited with Elizabeth Hodgkin, *Letters from Africa 1947-56* (Haan, 2000) and a biography, *The Wandering Scholar* (Merlin, 2007), recorded the importance of that adventurous academic in the establishment of pioneering centres in further education in the 1950s in West Africa, thereby providing an alternative route when so few universities had been established.

Michael Wolfers departed this life on 15 October 2014 with a journalist's timing for maximum publicity at the dinner party being given at the Garrick Club to mark Melvyn Bragg's 75th birthday. At his funeral Lord Bragg told how Michael Wolfers had passed on to him, somewhat patronisingly in the street, his first job in journalism as theatre correspondent on the student newspaper *Cherwell*. He also quoted Michael, who had worked in 76 countries, as saying, "If there is a God, then she is Ghanaian."

**James Currey**

**Note to Contributors**

Send items for inclusion in the April 2015 *Newsletter* by 15 March 2015 to Dr Simon Heap: [effaheap@aol.com](mailto:effaheap@aol.com)

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