



NEWSLETTER

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ASAUK Biennial Conference

The ASAUK Biennial conference, '*What can we learn from Africa?*', will be held on 9-11 September at the Manor House, University of Birmingham. In addition to over twenty panels, Ennie Chipembere of the University of Zimbabwe, will deliver the RAS Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture. Full details of the programme, plus the booking form, are available and can be obtained through the society's website, www.ASAUK.net. Enquiries about conference booking should be directed to Lindsay Allan at asa@soas.ac.uk, or telephone +44 (0)20 7898 4390. Contact the Conference Administrator, Katharine Collier, for discussion of changes to the programme, composition and organisation of panels, deadlines, audio-visual requirements etc., at katharinecollier@hotmail.com, or telephone +44 (0)7940 399 861 or +44 (0)1865 469884.

ASAUK Online

ASAUK is now online, with its own website at www.ASAUK.net. The site gives information about the society's officers, membership, sponsorship, awards, the 2002 Biennial Conference, news and events, and has links to the Royal African Society and other African websites.

Richard Dowden appointed RAS Executive Director

The Royal African Society has created a new post of Executive Director to lead the Society and, in the first instance, to arrange special purpose meetings on Africa with a view to assisting NGOs, Government and businesses to address key policy issues relating to the continent. Richard Dowden, until recently Africa Editor of *The Economist*, has been appointed to the post with effect from September 2002. The role has been defined on a part time basis initially, but with the intention of moving to a full time basis as soon as necessary funding is in position.

Funding for Conferences & Symposia

The ASAUK Council has some funds still available to support lectures, conferences, symposia and workshops during 2002. Applications for funding should be sent to the President, Karin Barber (email: barberkj@hhs.bham.ac.uk).

Meetings, Lectures and Events

June – Aug: The Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, St. Philip's and James Church, Church Walk, Oxford, will continue its regular Wednesday research seminars from 19 June through 28 August. Seminar papers are available in advance for those attending. Contact: Ben Knighton, Registrar & Research Tutor, Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, St. Philip's & St. James' Church, Woodstock Road, PO Box 70, Oxford, OX2 6HB; tel: +44 (0)1865 556071 X207; fax +44 (0)1865 510823; email: BNknighton@ocms.ac.uk; website: <http://www.ocms.ac.uk>.

14 Sept: Britain Zimbabwe Society dayschool, 'What can we learn from Zimbabwe? People planning and working for a positive future', 11am-4.30pm (registration from 9.30am), Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Sq., London WC1. Programmes for all age groups and levels of interest in Zimbabwe. Contact: Margaret Ling, 25 Endymion Road, London N4 1EE; email: margaret.ling@geo2.poptel.org.uk; tel 020 8348 8463.

14 Nov – 8 Dec: 'The AA in Africa 1940-1970', exhibition on modern architecture in West Africa, at the Architectural Association, London, curated by Ola Uduku and Hannah Le Roux. For more information contact ola.uduku@strath.ac.uk.

Conferences Future. . .

Conference listings may appear twice: one short and one long, the second notice appearing in the nearest quarterly number prior to the conference date. Organizers are invited to keep the Newsletter up-to-date with any changes or additions to earlier notices.

UNITED KINGDOM

12-14 July: 'The imaginary homeland: has Commonwealth literature had its day?', Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park. Salman Rushdie wrote a famous essay entitled 'Commonwealth Literature Does Not Exist', published in his collection of essays *Imaginary Homelands*. Though still used by a prestigious journal and occasionally in other circumstances, the term 'Commonwealth Literature' has been largely displaced by the politically less contentious though historically inaccurate 'post-colonial writing', with blander options such as 'international literatures in English' and 'Anglophone literature' occasionally preferred. But is this re-naming of the brand anything more than terminological musical chairs? Does the discipline exist at all? Does the uncertainty over the last forty years about what to call itself betoken a lack of substance in the concept itself? This conference asks whether the notion of a post-colonial literature has imploded, too large and catch-all, too unfocussed and too readily admitting any text within its purview. Contact Sandra Willson, email: sandra@cumberlandlodge.ac.uk

4-5 Sept: 'Malawi after Banda: perspectives in a regional African context', a conference organized by the Centre of Commonwealth Studies, University of Stirling, Scotland, to mark the retirement of Dr John McCracken. Offers of short papers from postgraduates are welcome. Papers should consist of a 10 minute account of a relevant research interest. They will be followed by a round table discussion. Proposals of around 200 words, and all other queries, should be sent to Prof Angela Smith, Department of English Studies, University of Stirling, UK FK9 4LA; tel: 01786 467503; email: ams1@stir.ac.uk.

30 Nov-1 Dec: A colloquium on 'Evans-Pritchard's anthropology: French connections, English contexts, and African realities' is being organized jointly by the Institute of Social & Cultural Anthropology, Oxford University, the British Centre for Durkheimian Studies, and the Maison Francaise, Oxford. Contact: Knut Myhre: email: knut.myhre@sant.ox.ac.uk.

30 Nov-1 Dec:, St Antony's College, Oxford, 'Rhodes: his networks, and their legacies'. 2002 is the centenary of Cecil John Rhodes's death. His legacy is a difficult one, but still important. The conference aims to critically assess this legacy. Contact: Karen Brown, Wadham College, Oxford OX1 3PN; email: Karen@oxfordwebwise.com.

7 Dec: The 2002 conference of the African Studies Association of Ireland will be held at University College, Dublin. The keynote lecture will be given by Prof Richard Rathbone of SOAS to mark 45 years of Ghana's independence. Further details from the Secretary of ASAI, Dr Martin Lynn: m.lynn@qub.ac.uk.

7-9 April 2003: International conference, 'Staying poor: chronic poverty and development policy', will be hosted by the Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester. Themes will include: social protection and the chronic poor; the intergenerational transmission of poverty; understanding poverty dynamics; operationalising multidimensional concepts of poverty; social exclusion, rights and chronic poverty; financing chronic poverty reduction policies; chronic poverty and rural development; panel data set analysis: issues, methods & findings; integrating quantitative & qualitative analyses of poverty; political perspectives on chronic poverty. Deadline for paper proposals and abstracts (250 words), 2 December 2002. Deadline for papers, 28 February 2003. Contact: David Hulme, IDPM, tel: +44-(0)161 275 2803; fax: +44-(0)161 273 8829; email: david.hulme@man.ac.uk; or Andrew Shepherd, Overseas Development Institute; tel: 44-(0)207 922 0325; fax: +44-(0)207 922 0399; email: a.shepherd@odi.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL

18-20 Sept: Ph.D. & Post-doc African seminar, 'Terms of trust: the dynamics of old and new moralities', National Museum of Ethnology, Steenstraat 1, Leiden, organized by the ASC (African Studies Center, Leiden), ASSR (Amsterdam School for Social Science Research, University of Amsterdam), CNWS (Graduate School for Asian, African and Latin American Studies, University of Leiden), National Museum of Ethnology (Leiden). Registration by 1 September, using the ASC website: <http://asc.leidenuniv.nl/specials/termsoftrust.htm>.

2-5 Oct: The 25th Annual Conference of the African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific, 'Africa challenging globalisation', will be held at

Mcquarie University, Sydney, New South Wales. See the AFSAAP website: www.flinders.edu.au/global/afsaap.

February 2003: 'Images of "Motherhood" – African and Nordic Perspectives', to be held in Dakar, Senegal. Issues of reproduction range from issues of 'motherhood' to 'sexual and reproductive rights' and 'population policies'. This important area of social and personal life has been conceptualized by moral philosophers, demographers and development theorists - but only sporadically in contexts of gender and feminist theory. The over all aim of the conference is to open up an unconditional, creative and intrepid dialogue between researchers from the South and from the North concerning 'motherhood'. The conference aims at establishing an arena for comparative studies and discussions, looking at 'motherhood' in African or Nordic contexts, or both, according to the researcher's particular interests. Deadline for submission of abstracts is on September 15, 2002. Abstracts should be sent to signe.arnfred@nai.uu.se Reply regarding acceptance of proposed papers will be given before October 15. Deadline for finalized papers is January 15, 2003. Funding is solicited from SIDA for accommodation in Dakar for everybody and for travel for African participants. Participants from the Nordic countries are encouraged to seek their own funding for traveling. Contact: Signe Arnfred, Research programme co-ordinator: Sexuality, Gender and Society in Africa, The Nordic Africa Institute, PO Box 1703, Kungsgatan 38, SE 751 47 Uppsala, Sweden; tel + 46 18 56 22 00 exchange, or + 46 18 56 22 41 direct; fax + 46 18 56 22 90; email: signe.arnfred@nai.uu.se.

14-18 July 2003: The 15th International Conference of Ethiopian Studies, focusing on the humanities, will be held at the Asia-Africa Institute of Hamburg University. Contact: Ethiopian Studies, ICES Office, Hamburg University, Asia-Africa Institute, Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, D-201 46 Hamburg, Germany; tel: +49-40-42838-7474; fax: +49-40-42838-5675; email: ices2003@uni-hamburg.de; website: www.rrz.uni-hamburg.de/ICES2003.

... Conferences Past

The Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and the Commonwealth Annual Conference 2002, Arusha, Tanzania 8-12 April 2002, '*Perspectives on time and society: experience, memory, history*'.

The 2002 conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth (ASA) was held at the training centre of a Danish NGO (MS-TCDC) in Arusha, Tanzania. Attracting 110 participants from almost twenty countries, the conference had a packed schedule, with 75 papers in 14 different themed panels over the course of five days. The conference convenors were assisted in the planning of the event by a local advisory panel of twelve academics from the universities and research institutions of Eastern Africa.

In her introductory presentation, Wendy James signalled the different ways in which anthropologists have discussed time; David Mills in his sought to historicise forty years of anthropology and anti-colonial critique in Africa. Keynote speeches were given by George Abungu, director of the National Museums of Kenya, on 'The museum and its changing audiences in Africa'; by Richard Fardon, current chair of the ASA, on 'Present problems, past treasures'; Johannes Fabian on 'Remembering and forgetting Africa'; and Christine Obbo,

with the title 'But we know it all! African perspectives on anthropological knowledge'.

One aim of the conference had been to develop links between the ASA and sister organisations. Dr Mwenda Ntarangwi spoke on behalf of the East-African Anthropological Association (EAAA), and also stepped in for Professor Paul Nkwi to lead a workshop on the work of the Pan African Anthropological Association (PAAA). Paul Lane spoke about the British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA), and Dr Mustafa Babiker made a short presentation on the work of OSSREA (Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa).

Financial support from the Ford Foundation and OSSREA enabled the participation of almost forty African-based scholars. A British Academy grant supported the travel of sixteen participants from Britain, and others were assisted by the Swan Fund at Oxford University and the Royal Anthropological Institute.

A significant number of publications are planned, including a general volume provisionally entitled 'The Qualities of Time', which has been proposed to Routledge, and three volumes based on papers relating specifically to Africa: 'Lifetimes Intertwined: Grandparents and Grandchildren in Africa' edited by Paul Geissler, Susan Whyte and Erdmute Alber; 'Practising Anthropology in Post-colonial Africa', with Mustafa Babiker, David Mills and Mwenda Ntarangwi as editors; and a volume on nationalisms and regional identities edited by Richard Reid and Uoldelul Chelati.

International Network for Economic, Social & Cultural Rights Website

The International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net) has announced the launching of its new website. The escr-net.org website is designed to serve as an information-sharing resource for groups and individuals around the world active in advocating for and promoting economic, social and cultural rights. On the site are four interactive, searchable databases of organizations and individuals, projects and activities, case law, and events relevant to economic social and cultural rights. These databases will serve as a growing resource of comprehensive, up-to-date information on ESCR. Visit ESCR at www.escr-net.org. For general inquiries regarding the International Network for ESCR, contact the Secretariat at escr-net@escr-net.org.

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

The Newsletter depends on supervisors and successful candidates to supply us with details of new theses.

Fiona Johnson Chalamanda 'Interpretations in transition: literature and political transition in Malawi and South Africa in the 1990s', PhD, University of Stirling (Angela Smith and John McCracken supervisors, April 2002).

Audrey Sitsofe Gadzekpo, 'Women's engagement with Gold Coast print culture from 1857 to 1957', Centre for West African Studies, University of Birmingham (2002).

Jenny Hammond, 'The social construction of revolutionary change in Tigray, Ethiopia, 1975-1997', D.Phil Social Anthropology, University of Oxford (Wendy James supervisor, 2001)

Mark Leopold, 'The roots of violence and the reconstruction of society in north western Uganda', D.Phil Social Anthropology, University of Oxford (Wendy James supervisor, 2001)

Rose Mensah-Kutin, 'Gender and rural electrification in Ghana', Centre for West African Studies, University of Birmingham (2002).

Rita Nnodim, 'Ewi. Yoruba neotraditional poetry: the poetics of a genre', Centre for West African Studies, University of Birmingham (2002).

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Listings of recently published or forthcoming books by ASAUJ/RAS members. Members are invited to send in details, including number of pages, ISBN numbers, price and publication date (where known).

Colin Baker, *Sir Glyn Jones: a Proconsul in Africa* (London: I B Tauris, 2000) 352pp. ISBN 1 86064 461 9.

Colin Baker, *Revolt of the Ministers: the Malawi Cabinet Crisis, 1964-1965* (London: I B Tauris, 2001), 370pp. ISBN 1 86064 642 5.

Colin Baker, *Wild Goose: the Life and Death of Hugh van Oppen* (Cardiff, Mpemba Books, 2002), 256pp. ISBN 0 9542020 0 7. Available direct from Mpemba Books, 55A Lon y Deri Cardiff CF14 6JP, £10.50 + p&p UK £1.50

R. Fardon, W. van Binsbergen & R. van Dijk (eds), *Modernity on a Shoestring* (Eidos: distributed through the Centre of African Studies, SOAS, Thornhaugh St., Russell Sq., London WC1 0XG, and the Afrika Studiecentrum, PO Box 9555, 2300 RB Leiden, the Netherlands), £25 or \$30.

Clemens Gütl (ed.), Johann Ludwig Krapf: 'Memoir on the East African Slave Trade': *Ein unveröffentlichtes Dokument aus dem Jahr 1853. Mit einer Einleitung herausgegeben von C. Gütl.* (Veröffentlichungen der Institute für Afrikanistik und Ägyptologie der Universität Wien Nr. 98; Beiträge zur Afrikanistik, Band 73). Wien: Afro-Pub. (ISBN 3-85043-098-7, 130pp; €20. To be ordered directly through the publisher: AFRO-PUB, Spitalgasse 2 - Hof 5, A-1090 Wien, Austria; email: erich.sommerauer@univie.ac.at.

Kempe Ronald Hope, Sr., *From Crisis to Renewal: Development Policy and Management in Africa* (Leiden: Brill, 2002), 210pp, ISBN 90-04-12531-0, €42 or \$48.

Friedrich Stenger, *White Fathers in Colonial Central Africa - A Critical Examination of V.Y. Mudimbe's Theories on Missionary Discourse* (Hamburg/London: Lit-Verlag, 2001), 229pp. ISBN 3-8258-5129-x. Available from Africa Book Centre, London, £16.95.

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

RAINBO internships: RAINBO (Research, Action and Information Network for the Bodily Integrity of Women), an international not-for-profit organization working on issues within the intersection between health and human rights of women and girls in Africa and amongst African immigrant and refugee communities around the world, is offering ongoing internships, working on the issue of Female Circumcision/Female Genital Mutilation (FC/FGM). Those interested are asked to consult the website (www.rainbo.org), or contact Amanda Hewlett, RAINBO, Studio 5A Queens Studio, 121 Salisbury Road, London NW6 6RG, email: inforainbo@aol.com.

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

The Union of International Associations Doctoral Thesis Prize: The Union of International Associations (rue Washington 40B-1050 Brussels, Belgium) has announced that the second round of its Doctoral Thesis Prize was launched in April of this year. Candidates wishing to submit their work to the UIA Jury, which will be constituted shortly to select the laureats, are requested to refer to the web pages relative to the Prize and to follow the procedure indicated: <http://www.uia.org/prize/prizndx.htm>.

Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports (of around 2-300 words) on recent conferences, announcements of forthcoming conferences, symposia and workshops (giving topic, date, venue, and contact address), announcements of the awarding of grants, fellowships and prizes, news of appointments and visiting fellowships, recently completed theses, publication announcements of books by members, and brief articles or notices on matters of importance to Africanists in the UK. All items for inclusion in the *Newsletter* should be sent to Douglas H. Johnson, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, James Currey Publishers, 73 Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0BS (fax: (+44) (0)1865-246454), or e-mail: 106155.3441@compuserve.com (please send as text, not as attachments). NEW deadlines are 15 December (for the January Newsletter), 15 March (for April), 15 June (for July), and 15 September (for October). Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK.

For all matters relating to membership of either the ASAUK or RAS contact Lindsay Allan, RAS/ASAUK, SOAS, Thornhaugh St., Russell Sq, London WC1H 0XG; tel: +44 (0)20 7898 4390; fax: +44 (0)20 7898 4389; email: asa@soas.ac.uk, or ras@soas.ac.uk.