



# NEWSLETTER

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Volume 19 Number 76

July 2014

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## President's Report

The forthcoming biennial conference looks set to be one of our biggest yet, with approximately 600 delegates expected to attend. Our conference plenary speaker will be Walter Bgoya, the managing director of Mkuki naNyota, an independent scholarly publishing company in Dar es Salaam, and chairman of the international African Books Collective. To parallel the ASAUK's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which we celebrated last year, Walter Bgoya will reflect on his involvement in fifty years of African intellectual production. Several conference theme streams have their own keynote speakers: Professor Audrey Gadzekpo for the culture stream, Dr Yossa Way for the Congo Research Network stream, Professor Peter Alexander for the Labour, Insecurity and Violence in the South Africa stream and Billy Kahora for the literature stream. We are happy, additionally, to be supporting a number of African delegates at the conference.

At the conference dinner on 10<sup>th</sup> September, we will announce the two recipients of ASAUK Distinguished Africanist Awards, and the winner and runners-up of the Audrey Richards Dissertation Prize for the best recent doctorate in African Studies. A Writing Workshop will be held on the afternoon of 11<sup>th</sup> September, sponsored by the British Academy with the generous support of a number of African Studies journals.

The ASAUK continues to monitor developments in the HEA's Open Access policy, with regular reports to Council from Stephanie Kitchen of the International African Institute. We continue to promote the representation of African Studies, and African academics, in British universities.

As my term as President comes to an end, I should like to say how much I have enjoyed being a part of Council, and look forward to the success of the ASAUK in coming years.

**Professor Stephanie Newell**

### **ASAUK's Origins: A Personal Memoir**

I was flattered by the *newsletter* editor's invitation to write a short piece on the origins of the ASAUK. Although I was – to quote Dean Acheson's famous phrase "present at the creation" – I hope readers will accept that memory can play tricks after a lapse of 50 years.

What I do remember is a small group of scholars meeting at Imperial College, London, in the summer of 1963 to plan the establishment of a professional association focussing on the academic study of African affairs. We all agreed that the structure of the new body had to be interdisciplinary, both in terms of membership and field of scholarly enquiry – a tradition that has been maintained.

At the inaugural meeting there were a number of distinguished scholars present, including Dame Margery Perham (elected the first President of the Association, 1963/64), Professor Audrey Richards (1964/65) and Professor Roland Oliver [see *obituary* later in this *newsletter*], the doyen of African historians (1966/67). Successive presidents included such academic luminaries as Professors A. N. Allott, John Hargreaves, Walter Elkan, Shula Marks and Terence Ranger.

Initially, Presidents served for one year and were followed in office by the Vice-President; this practice was, however, changed to a two year term in 1980. In those early years of the Association Executive Committee meetings were mercifully short and were mostly concerned with planning the programme for the three-day conference or the one-day seminar held in each intervening year. The constitution was simple enough, largely I suspect, because political scientists had little to do with its formulation!

The Association gatherings were increasingly well attended and young scholars were encouraged to present papers on their research. Because of its interdisciplinary nature, members learnt much about the work of their counterparts on a variety of fields. But it was not all 'high thinking and plain living'; evenings in the bar were jolly affairs and a source of renewed friendship and collegiality.

To put the establishment of the Association in a wider context, it is worth stressing that the development of African studies in universities and polytechnics occurred at a time of much discussion of the academic utility of area studies in general. The 1960's saw a proliferation of such scholarly enterprises: for example, Russian Studies; American Studies, Latin American Studies, and European Studies. All became integral features of university and polytechnic offerings, often combining in joint honours degrees with the more traditional studies of history, English literature, geography and political science.

The Centre of West African Studies at Birmingham University under the benign administration of Professor John Fage was a pace-setter in this regard. I recall that the Centre also produced the annual Bulletin listing the activities of the Association and the text of Presidential addresses.

I, for one, owe the Association much and wish it continued success. Its link with the Royal African Society has been entirely successful and one must acknowledge the debt to its Director, Richard Dowden, who has done much to promote Africa's importance on both the domestic and the international political scene.

**Professor Jack Spence OBE, King's College London**

### **ASAUK Teaching Fellowships**

ASAUK offered to support a teaching fellowship in the Social Sciences or Humanities for a UK-based academic to work in an African university. A possibility of organizing a Writing Workshop during the fellowship was also a consideration. 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 with additional travel expenses provided for one international airfare.

After full deliberations of the seven impressive proposals under consideration at their May 2014 Council meeting, the ASAUK Council is pleased to announce the award of two Teaching Fellowships.

They awarded a three-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, from September to December 2014.

The council also awarded a five 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, from October 2014 to February 2015.

### **Notice: 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the African Studies Association of the UK, to be held at the Large Lecture Theatre, University of Sussex, 5:15-6pm, 10 September 2014**

ANNEX 1: Nominations of Members for Election as Officers and as members of the Council of the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom. Members are asked to bear in mind Standing Order No. 1 (18 April 1966, amended 23 February 1979) reproduced below:

Standing Order No.1: Nomination of Members for Election to the Council:

- 1. Not less than three weeks in advance of the day of the Annual General Meeting, the Honorary Secretary shall invite nominations from Members for election to fill*

- the vacancies occurring on the Council at the Annual General Meeting at which election is to take place.*
2. *For a nomination to be valid, it should be in writing, bear the signature of not less than two Members as nominators and also the signature of the Member nominated to confirm that he would be willing to serve if elected, and be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary before the start of the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to take place.*
  3. *The Council shall have the duty, after considering the nominations submitted, to make such further nomination as may seem to it needful to secure a due balance of disciplinary and regional interests on the Council.*

In accordance with this Standing Order, the Honorary Secretary, now invites nominations for election to the Council at the AGM to be held on the 10th September.

There are 7 vacancies on the Council to bring it up to full strength. There is one member who has only served one term, and who is willing to stand for a second term (2014-2017). So we seek nominees from the membership for 6 Council seats; send nominations by 31 August 2014 to Nici Nelson by: ana01nn@gold.ac.uk

Please note that at the 1995 Annual General Meeting it was resolved that Council members were eligible to serve two terms consecutively.

### **Current Council of the ASAUK at the time of the AGM Officers**

President: Stephanie Newell (retiring).

Vice-President: David Maxwell (to be President, 2014-16).

Honorary Secretary: Nici Nelson.

Honorary Treasurer: Lynne Brydon (retiring).

Projects Officer: Insa Nolte (retiring).

Newsletter Editor: Simon Heap.

### **Elected Council Members**

#### **Retiring 2014**

After First Term: Toby Green, Anna Mdee. After Second Term: Debby Potts.

#### **Retiring 2015**

After First Term: David Killingray, George Ogola, Ola Uduku.

After Second Term: Martin Evans, Gabrielle Lynch, Claire Mercer.

#### **Retiring 2016**

After First Term: Maxim Bolt, Carli Coetzee, Jonathan Harle, Zachary Kingdon, Reuben Loffman, Wendy Willems.

After Second Term: Ranka Primorac.

### **Co-opted Council Members**

Clara Arokiasamy; Nic Cheeseman (*African Affairs*); James Currey; Stephanie Kitchen (IAI); Richard May (RAS); Marion Wallace (SCOLMA).

## Conferences Future...

### UNITED KINGDOM

**'Violence, Colonialism and Empire in the Modern and Contemporary World', The British Academy, London, 29 June–1 July 2015.** Sponsored by The Centre for the History of Violence and the University of Newcastle, Australia, this conference will bring together scholars from across the world to explore innovative ways of critically engaging with the question of violence, repression and atrocity in imperial and colonial empires, its representations and memories, from the late eighteenth through to the twentieth century. The conference will explore the wide variety of means by which empire was maintained in the modern era, the politics of repression and the structures inherent in empire. The organisers want to explore broader trends in the direction and intent of imperial violence and state repression, including extra-legal sanctions, and how patterns of violence, embedded within other forms of colonialism and culture, created cultural, legal, social, or imperial spaces. The conference organizers encourage scholars to interpret the conference themes broadly in crafting their proposals and are not limited to European colonial empires made up of settler societies, but also empires of occupation.

The organizers have three interrelated aims. The first is to rethink assumptions about the imperial experience and to underline the types of violence that were used to initially impose power, and then to maintain it over vast stretches of land. By underlining this aspect of the imperial enterprise, this conference may help scholars begin to see more clearly the relationship of violence as a cultural norm, and the extent to which it was part and parcel of imperial social and cultural life. The second aim is to interrogate the relationship between various forms of violence and the construction of imperial spaces. In essence, this conference will explore the ways in which empires were and are constructed through violence, whether legal, political, cultural or religious. The conference aims to move beyond Western notions of violence and to see the ways in which attempts to create colonial empires were inextricably linked to violence. Third, the organizers hope to explore these questions in a way that connects national historiographies – including the British, French, American, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, Italian, Japanese, and Ottoman empires – to each other, as well as to world history.

Topics may include the forceful means employed to impose foreign rule, including legal and extra-legal means used to impose imperial structures; forceful contestations of the land, including patterns of violence and war on colonial frontiers; interpersonal violence between the colonizer and the colonized; the gendered nature of colonial violence in the building of settler colonial spaces and polities; the role of violence in maintaining social order in colonial societies; the political dynamics of colonial and imperial violence,

including ideological and political justifications of violence; representations of violence in either the empire or the metropole; resistance to the imperial enterprise by the colonized, including violent, anti-colonial struggles in exits from empire; and the aftermaths and legacies of colonial and imperial violence. Abstracts up to 500 words by 1 December 2014 to Professor Philip Dwyer: Philip.Dwyer@newcastle.edu.au

#### INTERNATIONAL

**‘Struggle and Swagg: South African Youth Today’, University of Helsinki, Finland, 12 September 2014.** This is an international symposium organized by the University of Helsinki’s discipline of Social and Cultural Anthropology in cooperation with South Africa’s Human Sciences Research Council. The symposium seeks to address current issues concerning youth cultures across Africa from an interdisciplinary perspective. The symposium approaches youth as a flexible and often prolonged period of life; according to conventional measures, such as establishing an independent household, many Africans remain reluctantly ‘youthful’ well into their 30s. Yet even by more basic measurements, Africa is experiencing a demographic ‘bulge’ with approximately 60% of the population under 24 years of age. Subject to high levels of unemployment and relatively low levels of education, Africa’s youth are alternatively depicted as a ‘ticking time bomb’ ready to explode if new opportunities are not made available, and a vital asset to be harnessed in rapidly developing economies.

It is in the cultural sphere that African youth are increasingly exercising their economic muscle and making their voices heard. Youth are the key producers of popular media and style, and the key market for information and communications technology. Youth culture, particularly popular music, has had an important economic and social impact on African society and the global African diaspora. It is therefore necessary to understand African youth cultures from perspectives that move beyond the familiar narratives of youth as a social problem or youth as an undifferentiated statistical cohort. This symposium seeks to work towards more nuanced understandings of the cultural lives of young people in Africa, taking into account not just factors such as ethnic and class differences, but questions of consumerism, gender, globalization, media, migration, music, sexuality, spirituality, technology, pedagogy and urbanization. Papers and panels of three papers are sought. 250-word abstracts by 21 July 2014 to: [struggleandstyle@gmail.com](mailto:struggleandstyle@gmail.com)

**‘Gender, Generation and Identity in African Studies’, Africa Network’s Annual Conference, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, USA, 17–19 October 2014.** 2014 marks the 20th anniversary of two very different events in Africa’s recent past. In April of 1994, the world witnessed both the historic end of Apartheid in South Africa as well as the horrific beginning of the Genocide in

Rwanda. Reflecting on these two events twenty years on, one can see the enduring legacy of the politics of identity in African studies. From the contested meaning of gender, race and ethnicity to the emerging studies of generational conflict, the social and political construction of African identities has been a significant theme of scholarly debate.

Transferring these academic discussions to the undergraduate classroom can be particularly challenging for faculty across the liberal arts curriculum. For instance, when students encounter Africa only briefly throughout their undergraduate career, how can faculty both dispel stereotypes and thoughtfully engage the contested meaning of 'identity' from an interdisciplinary perspective? What sources are available for students to debate these issues from a local perspective? And how are gender, generation and identity encountered in the African studies classroom, on campus or through intercultural experiences abroad?

Africa Network invites proposals on the challenge of teaching 'identity' in African Studies; interdisciplinary approaches to gender across the curriculum; youth and generation in African Studies; study abroad and intercultural engagement; sources and methods for undergraduate research; and fostering campus engagement and debates outside the classroom. 300word abstracts for papers and 500 words for panels by 1 September 2014 to James Pletcher: [pletcher@denison.edu](mailto:pletcher@denison.edu)

**'Validating Visual Heritage in Africa: Historical Photographs and the Role of the "Archive"', International Conference, Buea, Cameroon, 26–31 January 2015.** Organised by African Photography Initiatives in collaboration with the Universities of Buea, Cameroon and Basel, Switzerland, the aim of the conference is to stimulate discussions about, and set out an agenda for, the space(s), value, role and future of photographic collections within the broader framework of the 'archive'.

Papers are sought on three main themes. First, press photography. Having achieved independence, many African states created their own press agencies or took over existing colonial setups concerned with gathering, producing, processing and disseminating information. Young African nation states in obvious need of forging and promoting national identities, and being conscious of the crucial role political and cultural rites and iconography assumed in this process, relied heavily on the evidentiary power of photographic images. Transforming events into statements, and indeed, to paraphrase Foucault further, presenting the nation state as a unique event, the press photo agencies assumed an important role in the development of the postcolonial political order in Africa. Papers should deal with the genre of press photography, its actors and the media it serves; the role of state press photography agencies for the training of photographers and their subsequent activities as permanently employed or

freelance art photographers; and modes of collaboration between newly constituted African states and their respective press agencies and countries of the West and East, particularly during the Cold War era.

The 'living archive' is the second theme. Considering the establishment of museums, national archives and press agencies as fundamental (and foundational) acts in the creation of modern states and for the promotion of national identities, we are confronted with the visual legacy of the postcolonial state nowadays, both with the sites where that material is kept and the material itself. Interestingly, the state press agencies which remain after the tremendous technological and political developments of the last 30 years have themselves completely disconnected from their analogue past which they have turned into an archive. However, although decontextualized from its original operational purpose and now evidently transformed into products of history, press photo archives in Africa, as indeed other archives, too, continue to participate in the making of knowledge about the past, present and future. Papers should deal with the 'archive' as a process as opposed to a repository with distinct practices of collecting and archiving; roles of individuals (including scholars) and policies in an archive's operational life; how can artists and scholars critically engage with the archive as a socially and culturally embedded institution which generates and transforms realities and perceptions; and how did/do African state press agencies adapt to their changing technical and political environments?

The third theme is mobility of, and access to, images and archives. Movement is inherent both in photographic images and social practices which deal with their production, dissemination and location, as well as in situations of concealment and public display alike. Thus questions about how this material and accompanying phenomenological conditions are organized, who decides about the policies of movement/stasis, and about the reproduction and usage of photographic images need to be tackled. As such, collections of images require to be explored within the broader context of the 'archive' in its conceptual diversity. Papers should deal with the assessment and analysis of the provenance, placement and displacement of materials in archival holdings and setups; politics and practices of concealment and display; the role of archives in the formation of postcolonial African nation states; and the writing of national history/histories: archives and the shaping of collective memories. Abstracts by 15 August 2014 via the website: <http://african-photography-initiatives.org/index.php/>

**'Roots/Heritage Tourism in Africa and the African Diaspora: Case Studies for a Comparative Approach', Florida International University's African and African Diaspora Studies Program, Graham Center Ballrooms, Miami, USA, 12–14 February 2015.** The organisers are particularly interested in papers about diverse sites of African and African diaspora roots/heritage tourism in continental Africa, the Americas, Europe, and elsewhere that have the following



foci: multilateral and international agencies, nation-state and other governmental agencies' involvement, or lack thereof, in the transformation of sites of memory into roots/heritage tourist attractions; involvement of identified stakeholders in the construction of specific narratives to be served to roots/heritage tourists in specific sites; tourists' and local populations' reception of the narrative; roots/heritage tourism as a sustainable pro-poor or poverty reduction tourism initiative; and ethnographic history of specific roots/heritage tourism sites. Abstracts up to 600 words in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese by 30 September 2014 to: 2015ht@fiu.edu

**'Currencies of Commerce in the Greater Indian Ocean World', Indian Ocean World Centre (IOWC), McGill University, Montreal, Canada, 22–24 April 2015.**

Establishing and maintaining a national currency is widely perceived to be a central prerogative of modern, independent nation-states. The value of these currencies are recognized as dependent on policies of central banks and on transactions in transnational currency exchanges. Local prices and national economic statistics are commonly presented in terms of the national currencies. However, this has not always been the case. Until the second half of the twentieth century, there were a number of widely-used, competing currencies circulating throughout the greater Indian Ocean World (IOW), including, for example for the western IOW, the Indian rupee, the Maria Theresa thaler, the British pound, the French franc, the East African shilling, the Italian lira, the Turkish lira, the Egyptian pound, the Ethiopian dollar and the Iranian rial. In addition, there were a number of commodity currencies including salt bars, cloth squares, grain, beads and shells; as well as, paper money, promissory notes, bills of exchange and other drafts. Both buyers and sellers had flexibility in terms of determining the currencies used in market transactions. The prevailing currencies in ports, inland depots, trade centres and local markets frequently differed from the official currency used by government officials to chart trade statistics and to record official prices.

Until the post-independence period, market values were often dependent on two simultaneous calculations – the relative demand/scarcity of the good to be traded and the perceived valuation of the set of currencies available in the market, notably in relation to higher value coins, their relative gold and silver content. Large-scale merchants, small-scale peddlers and individual consumers had to be knowledgeable about both the local worth of any commercial good and the relative value of currencies both locally and regionally. Without formal, regulated exchange markets, merchants, peddlers and consumers were required to both think globally and locally in order to make these simultaneous calculations.

This conference seeks to interrogate the social, political and economic implications of this multi-currency economic system. Papers are welcome on any

region of the greater IOW, which is taken to include Eastern Africa, the Red Sea, the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, South Asia, East Asia, and the western Pacific Ocean. Suggested topics include: the economics of currency exchanges; the history of individual currencies; the development and impact of mints; the role of commodity currencies; the practice and impact of hoarding; the social structures that underpinned currency valuations; government efforts to control currency flows; communities of knowledge around currency values; and the effects of adopting a national currency. Abstracts up to 500 words by 1 October 2014 to: [iowc@mcgill.ca](mailto:iowc@mcgill.ca)

**‘Collective Mobilisations in Africa: Contestation, Resistance, Revolt’, Sixth European Conference on African Studies (ECAS-6), Sorbonne, Paris, 8–10 July 2015.** The historic turn embodied by the Arab revolutions, whose repercussions are felt throughout the Sahel; anger, expressed in a range of ways, at the rising cost of living; mobilisations around issues of citizenship; manifold forms of religious revival: all seem to attest to a profound political reconfiguration underway across Africa. These and associated forms of contestation have pushed new actors to the front of the stage, at the crossroads of local and global dynamics. To fully appreciate the complexity of these developments, we must consider longer-term histories of uprising, stand-taking and engagement on the continent, casting a renewed gaze on jihads, slave uprisings, mass conversions and dynastic conflicts. We must also reflect in novel ways on the social trajectories of actors involved in present-day contestations and on the responses that the latter elicit from those in power. This, in turn, should bring us to pay close attention to repertoires of collective action, to modes of transgression and subversion, to takes on activism, and to ways in which all of these intersect with social, generational and gender statuses.

In many settings, associations, religious groups and trade unions, all of which play a central part in the articulation of ‘civil society’, a concept whose pertinence as an analytical category is open to debate function as mediators and manifest as forms of counter-power. In this capacity, however, they commonly entertain ambiguous relations with the powers that be. It remains to be seen whether political parties, beyond strategies they deploy to capture power and given their oft-observed role as clientelistic electoral reserves, can viably counter established authority. In parallel, attention needs to be focused on the increasing visibility of human rights associations, advocacy groups and related, cause-driven organisations seeking to position themselves as watchdog of state action. Also requiring particular attention are international and transnational logics, notably of professionalisation, to which many emergent modes of collective action are intimately linked.

To understand mobilisation processes, a focus on violence is required as well; the proliferation of militias, their modes of socialisation and politicisation, and the

shift to armed protest that their action frequently entails require close scrutiny. The same is true of religious movements, new prophetic teachings, moralisation campaigns, processes of evangelisation and re-Islamisation, and the boom in faith-based NGOs, all of which play a key role in the construction of social imaginaries. Such imaginaries must be considered too in light of less explicitly political mobilisations. This is so, notably, in the realm of urban cultures or, more generally, of artistic and cultural expression. Here, rituals of inversion and rebellion, carnivals, music (Hip-Hop and Kuduro, to cite but two examples), literature, theatre and performance are of particular relevance.

The co-organisers are IMAF (Institut des mondes africains) and LAM (Les Afriques dans le monde). The ECAS 6 website will go live in June 2014: <http://www.ecas2015.fr> Proposals in English, French or Portuguese for 4-5 panelists in 1½ hour panels will be accepted up to 23 July 2014. The list of accepted panels will be posted on the website in mid-September 2014; all accepted panels will be open to paper proposals through the website.

### **...Conferences Past**

**‘The Secret Archive: What is the significance of FCO’s “Migrated Archives” and “Special Collections”?’**, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, 29 May 2014. Despite rumours and half-truths long in existence, the official line that no locally created records of former colonial governments were transferred to London at independence was generally accepted. In 2011, however, legal proceedings brought against the British Government by elderly Kenyans abused and tortured during the Mau Mau insurgency forced an admission that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office held not only a huge cache of papers ‘returned’ from Kenya, but also comparable collections from another 37 former dependencies, 15 of them in Africa. The context demonstrated that such ‘migrated’ records are of importance not only to the historian; they may provide a basic source of evidence needed to assert the rights of individual citizens.

This well-attended one-day conference, convened by Dr Mandy Banton and Dr Susan Williams, senior research fellows at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, brought together historians, archivists, lawyers, journalists, civil servants and High Commission representatives to examine the background to the decades-long concealment by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of two archival collections. First, the ‘migrated archives’ of about 20,000 files which were released on transfer to the UK National Archives in 2012-13 (<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/SearchUI/Details?uri=C12269323>), and second, so-called ‘special collections’ of internally created FCO documentation amounting to over 600,000 files, volumes and microform materials held contrary to UK public records legislation until the belated grant of a legal instrument

regulated their status. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foreign-offices-archive-inventory>).

Consideration of the best means of securing the future survival and release into the public domain of this second collection was facilitated by a round table discussion between Ian Cobain, *Guardian* senior reporter, Patrick Salmon, Chief Historian at the FCO, David Anderson, author of *Histories of the Hanged*, and Maurice Frankel, Director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, which was chaired by Wm. Roger Louis, University of Texas.

Jonathan Bloch, co-author of *Spies, Lies and the War on Terror* (2007), *Global Intelligence: The World's Secret Services Today* (2003), *KGB/CIA: Postwar Intelligence Operations* (1987), and *British Intelligence and Covert Action* (1983) gave the keynote address. Dan Leader, barrister, and Martin Plaut, former BBC Africa Editor, examined the significance of Kenyan 'migrated archives' for the successful legal case brought by former detainees; Nathan Mnjama of the University of Botswana presented results of a survey examining African perspectives on the importance of the migrated archives, and Vincent Hiribarren, King's College London, compared the archival policies of other European colonial powers.

During the afternoon Mandy Banton described the evolution of Colonial Office policy on the disposal of the records of colonial governments as independence approached; Richard Drayton, Kings College London, examined the place of public archives and the impact of continuing state secrecy in a democratic state; Martin Tucker, head of archives at the FCO, described planning for the future release of the 'special collections'; and Tony Badger, University of Cambridge and FCO's independence reviewer, asked to what extent a 'legacy of suspicion' continues to surround FCO's handling of the collections.

Convenors and participants are anxious that the impetus demonstrated by these contributions should not be lost and are exploring means of ensuring a continuing scholarly oversight of developments. Publication of papers is under consideration.

The convenors are indebted to ASAUK for a travel grant which enabled them to bring Professor Nathan Mnjama from Botswana to provide an important African perspective on our deliberations, and also to the publishers Hurst who sponsored the reception which ended the day.

Dr Mandy Banton, Institute of Commonwealth Studies

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

Alicia N. Altorfer-Ong (2014), 'Old Comrades and New Brothers: A Historical Re-examination of the Sino-Zanzibari and Sino-Tanzanian Bilateral Relationships in the 1960s', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Joanna Lewis; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/811/>

Peter Arthur (2014), 'The Textuality of Contemporary Hiplife Lyrics [Ghana]', Ph.D thesis, University of Birmingham. Supervisors: Professor Karin Barber and Dr Kate Skinner; <http://etheses.bham.ac.uk/4889/>

Nalini Asha Biggs (2014), 'HIV/AIDS Education in Kenyan Schools for the Deaf: Teachers' Attitudes and Beliefs', Ph.D thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr David Mills.

Nikia Clarke (2014), 'Of People, Politics and Profit: The Political Economy of Chinese Industrial Zone Development in Nigeria', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Abdul Raufu Mustapha.

Jeremy Cunningham (2014), 'Schooling for Conflict Transformation: A Case Study from Northern Uganda', Ph.D thesis, Open University. Supervisors: Professor Alcinda Honwana and Dr Helen Yanacopoulos.

Grace Ekwo (2013), 'Corruption Risk Factors: An Analysis of Public Procurement in Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, Northumbria University. Supervisor: Dr Jackie Harvey; <http://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/14787/>

Natacha Filippi (2014), 'Deviances and the Construction of a 'Healthy Nation' in South Africa: A Study of Pollsmoor Prison and Valkenberg Psychiatric Hospital, c.1964-1994', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Jan-Georg Deutsch.

Nara Muniz Imbrota França (2014), 'Producing Intellectuals: Lagosian Books and Pamphlets between 1874 and 1922', Ph.D thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisor: Professor Stephanie Newell; <http://sro.sussex.ac.uk/47489/>

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 Dr Matthew Engelke; <http://etheses.lse.ac.uk/722/>

Robert Stewart Heaney (2013), 'Culture, Context and Theology: The Emergence of an African Theology in the Writings of John S. Mbiti and Jesse N.K. Mugambi', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Christopher Rowland.

Tilman Heil (2013), 'Cohabitation and Convivencia: Comparing Conviviality in Casamance and Catalonia', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Helene Neveu-Kringelbach and Professor Steven Vertovec.

Paul Femi Johnson (2014), 'Developing the Mortgage Sector in Nigeria Through the Provision of Long-term Finance: An Efficiency Perspective', Ph.D thesis, Cranfield University. Supervisors: Dr Catarina Figueira, Professor Joe Nellis and Dr Ronny Manos; <https://dspace.lib.cranfield.ac.uk/handle/1826/8418>

Elise Klein (2013), 'Psychological Agency in a Neighbourhood on the Urban Fringe of Bamako', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Sabina Alkire.

NisrineAmellLamamra (2013), 'Protracted Conflict in Africa: The Social Construction of Sovereignty and War in Western Sahara', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge.

Emanuel Lartey (2014), 'The Role of Workplace Culture in Incidental Learning: A Study of a Ghanaian Manufacturing Firm', Ph.D thesis, University of Leicester. Supervisors: Dr Daniel Bishop and Dr Richard Courtney; <https://lra.le.ac.uk/handle/2381/28559>

Gabriel AdeoluwaOnagoruwa (2013), 'Cross-border Bank Resolution: Legal and Institutional Underpinnings for a Regional Approach within Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor EilisFerran.

Samuel Nana Yaw Simpson (2014), 'Public Sector Reform and Disclosure Practices of State-owned Enterprises: The Case of Ghana', University of Birmingham. Supervisors: Professor Mathew Tsamenyi, and Dr George Georgiou; <http://etheses.bham.ac.uk/4902/>

Joanna Kay Skelt (2014), 'The Social Function of Writing in Post-war Sierra Leone: Poetry as a Discourse for Peace', Ph.D thesis, University of Birmingham. Supervisors: Dr Stewart Brown and Dr RegCline-Cole; <http://etheses.bham.ac.uk/4990/>

Christopher James Skinner (2013), 'Ensemble-Characterisation of Satellite Rainfall Uncertainty and its Impacts on the Hydrological Modelling of a Sparsely Gauged Basin in Western Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Hull. Supervisor: Dr Tim Bellerby; <https://hydra.hull.ac.uk/resources/hull:7199>

Samuel DanjumaWapwera (2014), 'Spatial Planning Framework for Urban Development and Management in Jos Metropolis, Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, University of Salford. Supervisor: Professor Charles OditaEgbu; <http://usir.salford.ac.uk/30802/>

## Recent Publications

Andrew Arsan (2013), *Interlopers of Empire: The Lebanese Diaspora in Colonial French West Africa*. Hurst, 452pp, 978-1849042970, £30.

James Copnall (2014), *A Poisonous Thorn in Our Hearts: Sudan and South Sudan's Bitter and Incomplete Divorce*. Hurst, 272pp, 978-1849043304, £19.99.

Lucy Corkin (2013), *Uncovering African Agency: Angola's Management of China's Credit Lines*. Ashgate, 244pp, 978-1-40944-865-5, £65.

Alex Cuoco (2014), *African Narratives of Orishas, Spirits and Other Deities - Stories from West Africa and the African Diaspora: A Journey into the Realm of Deities*. Outskirts Press, 990pp, 978-1478724513, £27.95.

Peter Geschiere (2013), *Witchcraft, Intimacy, and Trust: Africa in Comparison*. Chicago University Press, 293pp, 978-0-22604-761-4, £17.50.

Piero Gleijeses (2013), *Visions of Freedom: Havana, Washington, Pretoria, and the Struggle for Southern Africa, 1976-1991*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of Northern Carolina Press, 672pp, 978-1-46960-968-3, £24.70.

Maria Grosz-Ngaté, John H. Hanson and Patrick O'Meara (eds) (2014), *Africa*, Fourth Edition, Indian University Press, 424pp, 978-0253012920, £22.99. Only £17.24 for ASAUK members – 25% off *Africa, Fourth Edition*, when you order from Combined Academic Publishers using discount code CS0414AFRI by 30 September 2014. Order online at: [www.combinedacademic.co.uk](http://www.combinedacademic.co.uk) or call Marston Book Services: 01235-465500.

Luke Patey (2014), *The New Kings of Crude: China, India, and the Global Struggle for Oil in Sudan and South Sudan*. Hurst, 224pp, 978-1849042949, £25.

Kings M. Phiri, John McCracken and Wapulumuka O. Mulwafu (eds) (2013), *Malawi in Crisis: the 1959/60 Nyasaland State of Emergency and its Legacy*. Kachere Series, Malawi, 296pp, 978-9990887718, African Books Collective, £24.95. Contributors: Owen Kalinga, Hendrina Kachapila Mazizwa, Wapulumuka Mulwafu, Kings Phiri, Annie Chiponda, Jack T. Thompson, Phillip Murphy, John McCracken, Joey Power, Megan Vaughan, Zoe Groves, Ackson Kanduzi, Tim Stapleton, Rose Chibambo, Vera Chirwa, Terence Ranger, John Lwanda and Bryson Nkhoma.

Berny Sebe (2013), *Heroic Imperialists in Africa: The Promotion of British and French Colonial Heroes, 1870-1939*. Manchester University Press, 304pp, 978-0719084928, £75.

**The documentary film directed by Marie Rodet (SOAS), "The Diambourou: Slavery and Emancipation in Kayes – Mali" is now available on DVD.** The African slave trade was officially abolished in French Soudan (present-day Mali) by the colonial authorities in 1905, but effective emancipation of formerly enslaved populations was in fact a lengthy process, the repercussions of which were still felt long after Mali's independence in 1960. The documentary tells the story of those who resisted slavery by escaping slave masters and founding new independent and free communities in the district of Kayes in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The film presents a unique audio-visual archive of slave emancipation. Film in French, Bamanankan, Maninka, Sooninke with French and English subtitles. 23 minutes, £12. To order a copy, contact Dr Marie Rodet: [mrodet@hotmail.com](mailto:mrodet@hotmail.com)

## News

### **ESRC Grant Awarded to Research Elections in Africa**

The ESRC has awarded almost £800,000 to Dr Nic Cheeseman (Oxford), Dr Gabrielle Lynch (Warwick), Professor Justin Willis (Durham), and Professor Stefan Lindberg (Florida/Gothenburg) to research 'The impact of elections: voting, political behaviour and democracy in sub-Saharan Africa'.

The project aims to break new ground by addressing the role of popular ideas regarding the (im)morality of electoral (mal)practice. Seeking to move beyond a literature that has generally focused on the way in which ruling parties have sought to manipulate elections, Dr Cheeseman and his colleagues will investigate the extent to which electoral practice has been both driven and constrained by popular expectations and demands.

The project not just considers what legally counts as electoral malpractice in a given country – although this clearly represents an important framework of reference for candidates, donors, electoral commissions, and judiciaries – but focuses on what is regarded as legitimate and illegitimate by citizens. While the 'menu of manipulation' available to electoral contestants is broad – including ballot box stuffing, vote-buying, constituency gerrymandering, bias development spending, and the intimidation of party activists and voters – these acts are sometimes accepted or at least tolerated by people, and in certain circumstances some of these practices are even popularly supported and demanded.

Taking off from this insight, the project asks how individuals' political experiences of elections over time have shaped their own democratic attitudes and behaviour, and how this, in turn, has shaped the expectations and demands which they bring to the electoral process. The research will also investigate how election officials – at every level – have understood their role and sought to carry out their task and what have been the roles of executive pressure and popular expectation in shaping practice.

The project focuses on Ghana, Kenya, and Uganda. These countries were British colonies and all came to independence with a Westminster-style parliamentary system. But their subsequent histories embraced a range of electoral arrangements – single-party (Kenya), no party (Uganda), and military tutelage (Ghana and Uganda) – and while all currently have governments produced through multi-party elections, it is only in Ghana that the results have commanded widespread acceptance, while Kenya and Uganda stand as examples of increased violence and entrenched authoritarianism respectively.

In order to understand the evolution of democratic norms and practices the research will involve a wide range of methods including archival work, interviews, surveys, and games played under laboratory conditions. The research project lasts for three years.



## Obituaries

**Professor Roland Oliver**, who died on 9th February aged 90, was the most significant figure in the construction of what we today regard as African Studies in the United Kingdom.

Born in Srinagar in 1923, Oliver went to Stowe School and to King's College Cambridge where he read English. His undergraduate career was interrupted by World War II during which he worked as a cryptographer in Bletchley Park. After the War he returned to Cambridge, where he switched to history for the second part of his degree. After graduation he began research on the history of Christian missions in eastern Africa.

As his career progressed, SOAS, expanding rapidly in the face of the demands of the post-war era, created a new post in "the tribal history of Africa" to which Oliver was appointed in 1948. To familiarise himself with an Africa he had never visited, he and his wife Caroline made their first trip across Africa where he began research on Ganda royal traditions and burial sites. In this early period he embarked on a fruitful collaboration with John Fage, then teaching at Legon, Ghana. Together they drew together a wide range of scholars interested in the African past for the first international conference on the subject in 1953.

Methodologically this was revolutionary, insisting as it did that this new field of African historical studies rested not just upon documentary evidence but also upon that produced by linguists, archaeologists, specialists in oral traditions and the natural sciences.

Oliver's study of the impact of eastern African missions was published in 1952 and, in 1957 he completed his study of one of the pioneers of African studies, Sir Harry Johnson.

A further trans-continental journey followed during which he taught at the University of Ghana and, importantly, got to know that other great pioneer scholar, Jan Vansina, then working on oral sources in Rwanda.

His unremitting struggle to get the history of Africa recognised in university history departments demanded an appropriate literature and he and Fage collaborated on the first scholarly text book in the field, *A Short History of Africa*, published by Penguin in 1962 and the ultimate sign of disciplinary respectability, an Oxford History – volume one of the *Oxford History of East Africa* – which he edited with Gervase Mathew in 1963.

His eloquent and convincing arguments for the respectability of African historical studies which had been famously challenged by some distinguished "mainstream" historians, bore further fruit with Cambridge University Press's commitment to publish an eight volume *Cambridge History of Africa*; the first volume appeared in 1975, the last in 1986.

As importantly, he and Fage had persuaded Cambridge University Press to publish *The Journal of African History* and the first number of this seminal publication appeared in 1960.

From its earliest days it was a journal which welcomed contributions to knowledge from specialists in a wide variety of disciplines. Being excited by the insights of scholars working in fields other than history as well as those of historians was a hallmark of Oliver's scholarly personality and that enthusiastic openness has left its mark on the admirably catholic inter-disciplinarity of African historical studies.

Oliver's approach determinedly distanced itself from Imperial History and from ways of seeing the African past which were essentially accounts of European deeds in Africa which ignored or marginalised the history of Africans.

A valuable African history had to be first and last about the historical experience of Africans. His achievements were widely recognised but he drew most pleasure from his award of a prize for his contribution to research on Africa conferred upon him in 1966 by Haile Selassie in the Great Hall of the OAU in Addis Ababa.

SOAS proved to be a fine base for the conducting of his campaign. He was able to work closely there and the nearby Institute of Archaeology with colleagues who were linguists, anthropologists, art historians, musicologists, archaeologists while being subject to comparative bombardments by notable scholars of Middle Eastern, South and East Asian and Far Eastern history.

By the early 1960s he and the scholars he has appointed to be part of his teaching team including Richard Gray, Shula Marks and, before he left to found the Centre of West African Studies in Birmingham, John Fage were supervising the research of a remarkable cohort of doctoral candidates drawn from all corners of globe.

They met on a weekly basis in the African History Research Seminar to discuss pre-circulated seminar papers; the archive of these collected papers has, it seems, regrettably been destroyed.

These seminars were also social occasions in which enduring friendships, the basis of practical networks, were forged amongst an entire generation of young African, American, Middle Eastern and European scholars many of whom went on to establish African historical studies in their home departments. This collegial atmosphere was pleasantly encouraged by Roland and Caroline Oliver's generous hospitality.

Caroline Oliver sadly died after a long painful illness in 1983 tended throughout by Roland's care; he re-married, to a fellow historian, Suzanne Miers, in 1990; she received her Ph.D in African History in 1969 from SOAS as a student of Roland's.

As well as graduate studies, Oliver persuaded the large and somewhat conservative London University School of History to recognise an addition to the university's history degree – History with special reference to Africa; the first undergraduate students were admitted in 1961. By the end of the 1960s Oliver and colleagues in London University had also embarked on the provision of an extensive MA programme in African Studies.

Oliver was an enthusiastic – and multi-lingual – internationalist and an accomplished networker. He recognised the importance of personal contacts in the life of a relatively young subject.

He threw his support, time and considerable political skills into the Royal African Society on whose Council he sat from 1959 to 1965, a period of considerably troubled transition for the Society.

He was one of the founders of the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom and played a major role in the establishment of the British Institute in Eastern Africa.

From 1959-1969, he served on the Council of the Institute of Race Relations, a troubled decade, and was one of the founders of the Minority Rights Group. He continued to publish – *The African Iron Age* (with Brian Fagan) in 1975, *Africa since 1800* (1967) and *The African Middle Ages* (1981) both with Anthony Atmore and then the more reflective *The African Experience* of 1991 and his autobiography *In the Realms of Gold* in 1997.

He was a fine scholar who, unlike many fine scholars, wrote like an angel.

His commitment to the wider recognition of the importance of African Studies in a world which was more than merely sceptical about its viability was dogged as well as attractively presented.

He was an unselfish pioneer who gave time, effort and imagination to the creation of a sustainable future for this new field in the form of new Centres, new scholars, new posts, new works of reference and new libraries.

His own very successful scholarly career, recognised by his election to the Fellowship of the British Academy in 1993, was mirrored by his unmatched skills in institution-building without which today's African Studies would have been significantly poorer.

He is survived by his wife, Suzanne Miers Oliver, his daughter, Sarah Wilson, and his granddaughter, Caroline.

**Richard Rathbone**

**This obituary first appeared on the Royal African Society  
website: [www.royalafricansociety.org](http://www.royalafricansociety.org)**

My friend, the social anthropologist **P. T. W. (Paul) Baxter**, who has died aged 89,  
Hector Blackhurst  
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The legal anthropologist **Simon Roberts** (13 April 1941 – 30 April 2014)  
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**Richard Kershaw** (16 April 1934 – 28 April 2014)  
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**Martin Dent** (11 July 1925 – 2 May 2014)  
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The journalist and editor **Kaye Whiteman** (9 March 1936 – 17 May 2014)  
Kayode Soyinka  
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**Note to Contributors**

Send items for inclusion in the October 2014 *Newsletter* by 15 September 2014 to Dr Simon Heap, 76 Waynflete Road, Oxford, OX3 8BL or [effaheap@aol.com](mailto:effaheap@aol.com)

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