



NEWSLETTER

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ASAUK 2008

**'The Presence of the Past? Africa in the Twenty-First Century',
African Studies Association of the UK Biennial Conference,
University of Central Lancashire, Preston, 11-13 September 2008**

The ASAUK Conference represents an excellent opportunity to meet colleagues working at other institutions in the UK and across the world. The conference facilitates discussions between Africanist scholars who ordinarily would have few opportunities to talk, despite working on similar themes, either because they are working on different geographical areas or within different academic disciplines.

At the ASAUK 2008 Conference there will be over 50 panels with papers being given by academics from across the UK, Europe, Africa, North America and Asia. The panels at the conference also represent the disciplinary spectrum of work being carried out by Africanist scholars.

The organisers are very pleased to announce a plenary address will be given by Professor Emeritus and Research Director of the Nordisk Afrikainstitutet Fantu Cheru. Many of the Africanist publishers located in the UK will have stalls at the conference including James Currey, Edinburgh University Press, Oxford University Press and Zed Publishers. A number of the Africanist journals published in the UK will also have a presence at the conference.

On the evening of the first day of the conference some food and refreshment has kindly been provided by the University of Central Lancashire and the Conference dinner will be held on evening of the second day with entertainment afterwards. The ASAUK Conference will also see the announcement of the Distinguished Africanist Awards, the Audrey Richards Prize and the giving of the annual Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture.

Further details about the ASAUK Conference, including registration forms, can be found on the ASAUK website: www.asauk.net/conferences/asauk08.html

Comment

My term as President of ASAUK is drawing to a close and what a hectic two years we have had! As I write, plans are far advanced for the biennial conference to be held at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, from the 11-13 September 2008. At the conference we will announce the winners of the Distinguished Africanist Awards for 2007 and 2008, the winners of the Audrey Richards Prize for the best recent doctoral dissertation on Africa and finally we will also listen to the Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture to be delivered by Dr Garnette Oluoch-Olunya of the Department of Literature, Kenyatta University, Kenya. Her lecture, 'Letter of James to the People of Limuru Mutigatume Ngari Imuriithirie Mhuri,' is a reading of Ngugi wa Thiong'o's interventions regarding the elections, focusing on his endorsement of the incumbent, Mwai Kibaki.

The conference promises to be a truly international gathering of Africanists (of which more presently) from within and outside the academy with the sole aim of discussing and debating a variety of issues relating to Africa historically and contemporaneously. The large number of abstracts received to date (over 160) confirms my observation in a lecture I recently delivered at SOAS to a group of postgraduate students from the various colleges in London, entitled, 'The State of African Studies in the United Kingdom'. In the lecture I observed: "...that there has never been a more opportune moment to study Africa". Pioneers like Basil Davidson, Audrey Richards, Mary Kingsley, Eldred Jones and Kenneth Dike have paved the way for what we now call African Studies. Not only have we seen the growth in the number of Centres of African Studies and Institutes, but also the study of Africa and the Diasporas has proliferated through out British higher education. The recent elevation of ASAUK to the status of a learned society of the British Academy has come as a shot in the arm for those working on and study Africa. In my view, such people are usually referred to as Africanists, just as we have Europeanists, Latin Americanists, more narrowly, Egyptologists and more contentiously Orientalists. However, in the SOAS meeting the use of the term 'Africanist' attracted critical questions. A section of the audience favoured the term 'Pan-Africanist', though it was promptly noted that the latter is a political project not a discipline; others feared that Africanists in the 'academic Diaspora' may be disadvantaged unless they are prepared to tag on to the mainstream of their departments or schools. It was also pointed out that the *raison d'être* of ASAUK was to provide professional support for all those interested in the study of Africa and the African Diaspora.

There were a number of points that emerged both from the lecture and the subsequent methodological workshop, which I shared with Professor David Simon of Royal Holloway University of London. I offered a definition of African studies as the study of Africa and African Diaspora, a definition, which begs the question whether the study of African development can be separate from

those of the African Diaspora, given the role the Chinese Diaspora has played in China's recent resurgence.

Thanks to our new status as a learned society of the British Academy, the resources and functions of the ASAUK have grown tremendously. ASAUK's President is now a member of the British Academy Africa Panel, which among other functions acts as a selection committee for the Africa Partnership Visiting Fellowship and post-doctoral Fellowship applications [*see later in this newsletter*]. In late September ASAUK will participate in the Frameworks for UK-Africa Collaboration Meeting to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, with partners including the British Academy, the Association of Commonwealth Universities and other major funding bodies. Among issues to be discussed in Nairobi will include: examining existing research capacity and flexibility; donor collaboration; staff development, scholarships and mentoring; making the most of existing facilities; sharing access to UK resources; developing professional networking and access to regional and continental networks and associations; equality of partnership and finally the dissemination of research through publication in professional journals and other media.

This last point is also central to the new role of ASAUK, as funds have been received from the British Academy to undertake research into the difficulties faced by African academics wishing to publish in international journals, the publishing of scholarly journals and the state of book publishing in Africa. This work has already begun and is led by David Kerr, ASAUK's new part-time administrator and the outcome will be published in the form of a report in ASAUK's website, soon be linked to that of the British Academy. These discussions will also continue at the Preston conference, where we hope to continue the dialogue with publishers and editors of journals.

Work has also continued on the Directory of Africanists by ASAUK's Honorary Treasurer, Professor Richard Hodder-Williams; and a Research Committee of the ASAUK has been set up and is chaired by Professor William Beinart of St Antony's College, Oxford. William is also my successor as ASAUK President, with handover at Preston in September.

I want to express our gratitude to the British Academy for the new support and to the Royal African Society for on-going support, which has enabled ASAUK to support conferences and symposia on Africa, as well as to enable African scholars to attend such meetings. On behalf of the Council, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to the members of the RAS and family and friends of the late Lord Holme, until his untimely death Chair of the RAS. I also want to convey our congratulations to the new Chair Baroness Valerie Amos. Finally, I want to wish my successor William and the ASAUK Council and members all the best for the future.

Professor Tunde Zack-Williams, President, ASAUK

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'Zoë Wicomb: Texts and Histories', a Colloquium jointly organised by SOAS and University of York, SOAS, London, 11-12 September 2008. To coincide with the publication of Zoë Wicomb's new book of interconnected short stories, *The One That Got Away*, the Africa Department at SOAS and the Department of English and Related Literature at the University of York are jointly hosting a colloquium to address – for the first time – her cumulative contribution to South African literature and criticism. Following on the success of her most recent novel, *Playing in the Light* (2006), which was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writer's Prize in 2007, her hugely ambitious and innovative *David's Story* (2001), and her stunning debut, the collection of short stories *You Can't Get Lost in Cape Town* (1987), this latest work from Random House (July 2008) shows the author once again on home ground: straddling the two sites of her native Cape and Glasgow, where she has spent much of her working life as a professor at the University of Strathclyde. Wicomb's fiction and criticism, with their attention to gender, race, and history and their exploration of the processes of language and narrative, engage with many of the most pressing issues of our time. Among the questions to be pursued are: what is the significance of Wicomb's theorising on race and hybridity, her interest in genealogy and local geographies, and her own acknowledged interest in and affiliation with J. M. Coetzee's work? How does her fiction engage with the visual arts, and with issues of language, identity, home, and landscape? How might we read her 'South African' fiction in light of the various infiltrations of Scotland in her work?

On the evening of Thursday, 11 September, Zoë Wicomb will give a public reading from her new work followed by a launch and reception at the Brunei Gallery of SOAS. The Colloquium will be held next day with a series of invited speakers, and the day will end with a round table discussion. Dorothy Driver will deliver the keynote address. Contact convenor Kai Easton for details: ke@soas.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL

'Constructive Engagement with the Homeland: Issues and Challenges for Diaspora Africans' International Association of Nigerian Studies and Development (IANSD) 20th Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon, USA, 18-21 September 2008. Diaspora engagement has become a critical policy and budget issue in several countries around the world. In developing countries, such as Nigeria, India and China, programs are in place to lure diaspora talent and resources to help develop the homeland. In the developed world, the UK, for example, is funding grant programs through DFID to help Diasporans engage with their homelands. What are the dynamics and intricacies of diaspora

engagement with homelands in different parts of the world? What best practices exist to show specific methods of engagement? What challenges exist in and outside the homelands for diasporans interested in engaging with their homelands? The conference is open to all those interested in diaspora issues from any part of the world. The aim is to dialogue across country and culture lines, as these lines have become blurred by events such as 'brain drain,' globalization and the knowledge economy. Proposals are invited on all pragmatic dimensions of diaspora engagement, such as political, economic, cultural, technological and otherwise. 250 words abstracts by 1 August 2008 to Osita Afoaku: osafoaku@indiana.edu

'Religion and Religious Identities in Africa and the African Diaspora', Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, 9-12 October 2008. Religious beliefs and identities have among other things shaped the nature of human experience in Africa and the African Diaspora. It is also a known fact that religious beliefs and identities have influenced human behaviour in both religious and non-religious ways in different societies. These influences have included positive and negative consequences in the ordering of society in Africa and the African Diaspora. Another critical aspect in trying to explore the concept of religion is what constitutes religion and religious beliefs? To date, scholars of religion have divergent views on this issue. To what extent is this applicable to Africans and peoples of African descent? What roles have religion and religious identities played in nation-building efforts in Africa and the African Diaspora? This conference will explore these and other related issues: religion, gender and sexuality issues; religion and conflicts; religion, health and wellbeing; religion, State and political participation; religious denominations and community development; current scholarship on religion and religious identities; African religious identities in the diaspora; religious identities in immigrant communities; Pentecostalism in Africa and the African Diaspora; inter-religious encounters in Africa and the African Diaspora – Islam, Christianity and African Traditional Religions; religion, education and the making of the nation. 300-word abstracts by 29 August 2008 to Joseph Bangura: bangura@kzoo.edu

'European Awareness of Sustainability in Africa: Issues of Pastoralism', Leuphana University, Lüneburg, Germany, 24-25 October 2008. The Leuphana University Lüneburg is organizing, in collaboration with the French NGO ACTED and with the support of the European Commission, an international interdisciplinary conference which forms part of the Europe-wide Karamoja campaign. In terms of Karamoja, the specific region of focus is North-Eastern Uganda, bordering Kenya and Sudan with Ethiopia nearby. The conference has two central themes of sustainable development in arid and semi-arid regions of Africa and pastoralism and sustainability. The first theme covers ecology, desertification and climate change; syndromes of unsustainable development; systems analysis of arid and semi-arid regions; the Sahel Syndrome; health and

food security in arid and semi-arid regions; issues of formal and alternative education; future prospects for arid and semi-arid regions; the polities, politics and policies of sustainable development; and the Millennium Development Goals and (semi-)arid, pastoral regions. The second theme highlights such topics as past and present forms of pastoralism, social structures (e.g. generation sets); pastoralism and gender, education or agricultural history, myths and controversies on pastoralism; the “tragedy of the commons”, desertification and pastoralism; viewpoints of pastoralists and viewpoints on pastoralism; clash of pastoralism vs. agriculture; resource competition; resource conservation, biodiversity and pastoralism; pastoralism and modernity; climate change and pastoralism; cattle raids in the horn of Africa; and pastoralism in East Africa, in Karamoja and in Pokot. The conference languages will be English and German. 400-word abstracts by 15 September 2008 to: karamoja.conference@gmail.com

‘Historical Constructions of “Race” and Social Hierarchy in Muslim West and North Africa’, Dakar, Senegal, 10-12 December 2008. The various systems of social hierarchy that have existed historically in Muslim West and North Africa have generated a distinct set of ideological justifications for inequality. The meanings ascribed to positions of social inferiority, including that of slaves, or to wider issues of difference more broadly, appear at times to be “racial” in nature. Ideas of social hierarchy and “racial” difference were often developed within a larger Muslim semantic framework. The region’s history of European colonial conquest has also shaped these concepts.

In order to generate discussion of these understudied topics, the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa (ISITA) at Northwestern University (USA), the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples, York University (Canada), and Le Pôle d’Excellence Régional sur les Esclavages et les Traites – Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) de Dakar (Senegal) invite papers focusing on a specific historical and geographic context and use specific and concrete primary sources to explore the relationship between at least two of the following three themes: “race” (notions and practices that invoke innate human difference in some way); social hierarchy (slavery, servility, dependence, clientage, “caste”); and religion (Islam). Possible topics include the ways in which West and North Africans have historically defined social inferiority (servility, “caste”, slavery) in terms of “racial” difference; the historical meanings of such colour-coded binary terms in local languages such as *bidan/sudan*, *wodeebe/baleebe*, or *korey/bibi*; Muslim scholarly discourse about racial or ethnic difference; Muslim scholarly discourse about slavery and/or emancipation; the religious experiences of Muslim slaves; and the racial or ethnic identities of slaves and former slaves and/or masters and former masters. Papers should be based on original research focused on specific and concrete primary sources from the region. These sources may be oral or written; they may be in African (including Arabic) or European languages. Selected participants will be

asked to provide both papers (in French or English) and selected primary source material (with translation or synopsis in French or English), so that they can be circulated to all participants before the workshop. Abstracts up one page by 31 July 2008 to Bruce Hall: ouagadoo@yahoo.com

'Science, Technology and the Environment in Africa', The University of Texas at Austin, USA, 28-30 March 2009. In the past few centuries, many foreigners have brought to the continent their notions of science and technology to harness both the African environment and often also its people. How have these schemes changed the landscape of Africa? How have locals resisted the imposition of these changes? While local knowledge has often been derided as the antithesis of science and technology, how has Africans' knowledge of their land changed over time, and how has it changed their environments?

Scholars of Africa must frame the reality and rhetoric of the current environmental crisis within the larger historical context of how Africa has often mistakenly been seen by outsiders as both an Eden and a wasteland. Science and technology have been brought to bear in both of these extremes as a way of engineering abundance and avoiding disaster, to varying success. This conference aims to consider these events and topics within an historical, global and local context. The organisers are also interested in papers examining citizen reaction and perception to these topics through the lens of popular culture, literature, art, and music. As global climate change continues to gain worldwide attention and concern, the role of Africa and the role of the world in Africa will only become an increasingly timely topic for investigation. Potential topics include: the role of science and technology in development schemes; environmental impact of resource conflict; pre-colonial environment, science and technology; environmental devastation from wars; environmental impact of refugees and displaced populations; urban environmental problems such as sanitation and slums; the history of science, health and disease in Africa; the environment and health; and the role of foreign investment and aid. 250-word abstracts by 1 November 2008 to Toyin Falola: toyin.falola@mail.utexas and Emily Brownell: ebrownell@mail.utexas.edu

'Africa and Blackness in World Literature and Visual Arts', African Literature Association 35th Annual Conference, University of Vermont, USA, 15-19 April 2009. The past two ALA conferences focused on various ways African and African Diaspora literature has functioned as a cultural catalyst that nurtures black people's subjectivity in the age of globalization. As a conclusion to the series, this conference will focus on the ways creative writers and artists from other cultural traditions imagined Africa and blackness in the past as well as the extent to which that imagining has evolved and can be said to foster inter-subjective dialogue in the age of globalization. The conference organizers would welcome papers on the following themes: Africa and Blackness in classical,

modern or contemporary literature and visual arts; Africa in African immigrant writers' literature and visual arts; Africa in African-American and African-Caribbean literature and visual arts; Black artists and reconstitution of Black people's subjectivity; cosmopolitanism in African and African diaspora literature; African and African diaspora literary criticism and global cultural dynamisms; postcolonialism and postcoloniality in relation to Africa and Blackness; and approaches to teaching African and African diaspora literature. Plenary speakers include Wole Soyinka, Kwame Anthony Appiah, Maryse Conde, Michael Echeruo, V.Y. Mudimbe and Zakes Mda. Abstracts by 30 October 2008 to: ALA.conference@uvm.edu

'Creating Knowledge in Sub-Saharan Africa: Players, Sites and Uses over Time', Université Paris 7-Diderot, Paris, France, 13-15 May 2009. Using as a starting point a certain number of perspectives opened up by Christian Jacob in *Les Lieux de savoirs* (2007), this conference would like to consider the construction, forms of appropriation, handling and uses of knowledge in Africa over the long term. The organisers are interested in studying the incorporation and the context setting by players of a corpus of knowledge and specific practices in varying historical, political, social, and cultural contexts. The notion of knowledge is not limited to the written word, the world of the learned and of scientists. It is considered here in a much broader scope integrating skills, which determine the modes of belonging to a community as soon as these skills constitute a cultural, political and social capital perceived and transmitted as such.

The conference seeks to examine how Africans incorporate and mobilize, simultaneously and alternatively, different levels of knowledge (intellectual, ritual, corporal) towards specific ends. The focus will be on the following three themes. First, a social approach of knowledge producers. Taking into account the diversity of knowledge (trade, agricultural, religious, craft), papers should identify different producers and/or mediators with an analysis of the way in which they are integrated or not into networks or communities in their broadest definition (families, circles, schools, universities, administrations, companies, diasporas). Without excluding the learned, papers should privilege less visible players: migrants, minorities, craftspeople, delinquents, shop keepers, traditional practitioners, musicians and warriors. A series of papers could deal with the way in which individual "knowledge" is legitimized, constructed and perpetuated. Second, spatialization, bases and modes of circulation of knowledge: places that encourage the elaboration and transmission of knowledge in Africa: schools, but also local radios, urban and village social spaces, political or festive meeting grounds. Thought will be given to the way historical transformations have pushed aside previously central place of knowledge and allowed others to emerge. Different levels and scales must also be taken into account: in what measure does locally produced knowledge attain or not a "universal" or "global" dimension? Thought may also be given to the

transmission, the circulation and axes of diffusion as well as how knowledge is incorporated. Third, the uses and functions of knowledge. By questioning the status, the legitimacy and the opportunities that the acquisition and mastery of knowledge offers to individuals, to groups, to organizations or States, we will question how these knowledge economies are created. We will also question notions of “norms” and “official” knowledge, their variability, the forms of resistance or, on the contrary, of adhesion of social actors. The analysis of uses and functions of knowledge will allow reflection on the production and manipulation of social, political, geographical or gender identities and to return to the ancient yet central question of the links between knowledge and power through a multi-level exploration.

This conference is open to all approaches and all periods. Papers must be in either French or English. Abstracts up to 2,500 characters, and accompanied by a short biography, by 30 August 2008 to: colloque-savoirs-afrique.sedet@univ-paris-diderot.fr

...Conferences Past

‘Belonging in Europe: The African Diaspora and Work’, The Equiano Centre for Research on the African Diaspora in Britain, Department of Geography, University College London, 8-9 November 2007. This two day conference was organised by Caroline Bressey who runs The Equiano Centre at UCL. The meeting brought together historians, art-historians, novelists and activists with an interest in the Black Presence in Europe before the Second World War. New research on the early African presence in the Netherlands was presented by Dienne Hondius, who has been working in particular on Africans in Amsterdam in the 17th century. In an important and provoking paper based on family reconstruction Katherine Chater challenged the established view that Africans in England and Wales in the 18th century were predominantly servants in the great aristocratic houses or part of an urban underworld. Rather, she argued, there were many more individuals of African heritage occupying essentially very ordinary positions in urban society, but that they go unnoticed in the historical record, often because of name changes and (by implication) a degree of prejudice amongst historians.

The 19th century was covered in more detail by Caroline Bressey (using evidence gleaned from classified adverts requesting work placed by black men and women) and Jan Marsh (drawing on collections in the National Portrait Gallery). A paper by Diane Frost provoked heated debate about the use of sources, and in particular the dangers of over-dependence on familiar but not representative sources. Sean Creighton gave a paper about John Archer, who was England’s first elected black mayor in Battersea in 1913. In a fascinating account from the early 20th century, Robbie Aitken analysed the dilemmas faced by Cameroonians

in Germany during the Weimar Republic. These men had arrived in Europe when Cameroon was a German colony but found themselves to be stranded in Europe and stateless after the First World War when it became a League of Nations Mandate. Responsibility for their welfare was sloughed off both by the French and (initially) the German governments, though ultimately limited payments were made in Germany to ensure their survival.

The second day of the conference was held at the Museum of London in the Docklands, in connection with the Sugar and Slavery exhibition. A session on 'Life in the Docks' featured research by Fabian Tompsett, Jonah Albert, Hakim Adi and Ayodeji Olukoju. Professor Olukoju's fare from Lagos was kindly paid for by the ASAUK. His research based on newspaper accounts and other archival sources followed the fates of African seamen who were stranded in British ports in the 1920s. The final session looked at the 'Politics of Labour' and in four closely related papers that looked at social relations between African workers in Britain and other groups of workers and their representatives. The conference successfully illustrated both the diversity of interesting debates to be had about Africans in Europe before 1945 and the extraordinary array of opportunities for further research within this field.

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'Exploring Religious Spaces in the Africa State: Development and Politics from Below', Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, in collaboration with WISER, University of the Witwatersrand, Edinburgh, 9-10 April 2008. Every year the Centre of African Studies at the University of Edinburgh year organises an international conference to address relevant issues underpinning African societies. This year the conference focused on four elements that have been prominent in recent African history: religion, the state, politics and development. Often excluded from political and developmental analyses, the conference papers demonstrated that religion is taking an increasingly central and vibrant role in African political and developmental life. The conference investigated Islam, Christianity and African traditional religions. There were 18 speakers, eight of whom were from African universities, one from Canada, one from North America and the rest from Europe. The Centre of African Studies and WISER are particularly grateful to the ASAUK, the British Academy, the Binks Trust, Moray Endowment Fund, College of Medicine and Veterinary (Edinburgh University) and the School of Social and Political Studies (Edinburgh University) for the generous financial assistance offered by each institution to support the general costs of the conference, and in particular the travel and accommodation costs of African speakers.

As Dr Stephen Ellis (Afrika-Studiecentrum, Leiden), the keynote speaker, asserted at the very beginning of the conference, there are different ways of perceiving development that have not been understood by western academics

and western analyses. Perhaps it is the case to start to understand development as a cultural and local construction with techniques and values that could be accepted or refused by local communities. Along the same line Dr Ellis invited the speakers and the other attendees to reflect on the idea that development and politics are categories with multiple meanings when brought into African contexts, much as religion assumes different meanings in non-western contexts. The invisible world, Dr Ellis asserted, pervades the visible and the line between these two is not always clear.

The conference was organised around six panels. The focus was on the relationship between development and religion, religion and its relationship to the state, how religion can promote or oppose development creating tension or collaboration with political actors and how the notion of development is something broader than the usual definition adopted by international donors or western countries. As Professor Ter Haar (Institute of Social Studies, the Netherlands) expressed in her presentation, there has been increasing attention to faith-based organisations as motors of development, but rather little has been written about the ideas that motivate such organisations, nor is much attention given to local perceptions of development, in which public action is often inspired by some form of religious belief.

Dr Graveling (University of Bath) and Dr Meagher (University of Oxford) in particular demonstrated the techniques adopted by religious organisations to negotiate power in West African contexts focusing on the economic dimensions of development, which have significant implications for our understanding of political change in contemporary Africa. Dr Vaughan (Addis Ababa University and University of Edinburgh) showed how religious networks in recent years have taken on a new role in the liberalised economy of the Ethiopian federation, in the context of rapid urbanisation and an expanded education system. Vaughan clearly demonstrated that religious affiliation plays an important role in terms of access to employment, trading and commercial groups, and a range of other social networks. This is one of the most important 'new phenomena', reflecting also changes in the Ethiopian economy.

Great emphasis was given to the role played by religious organisations in addressing health care issues. While Dr Akintunde (University of Ibadan) and Dr Adogame (Edinburgh University) presented two case studies on how Christian congregations address HIV and AIDS, Professor Cochrane (University of Cape Town) offered a broader analysis on the tension created between different health care providers, such as the state and faith-based organisations. The reality is the non-secular in Africa is often pervading the spaces that the secular has for various failed to address. There is an irony for religion to play a role in recovering the unfulfilled space left by the lack of delivery from the state, given the widely influential secularist vision that has propounded the exclusion of religion from the public space.

At the end of the second day the floor was opened to the audience for a general discussion. One of the main outputs from the final open discussion, was a consensus of the need the elaborate models that could incorporate all the different case-studies and provide theoretical explanations of the important role played by religion in contemporary African contexts. The conference organisers very much hope that the conference will lead to longer-term, tangible links that will help take this project forward and have been actively pursuing this since the conference.

The next Centre of African Studies conference in Edinburgh will be held in Spring 2009 on the theme, 'Scotland in Africa, and Africa in Scotland'. This conference will focus on Scotland's long and complex relationship with Africa, particularly pertinent as the Scottish Government builds links with Malawi and 2009 being the 150th anniversary of the European "discovery" of Lake Malawi.

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'Reflecting on Africa's Riches: Resources, Conflict and Exploitation', Canadian Association of African Studies annual conference, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, 1-4 May 2008. This year's CAAS conference was hosted by the Middle Eastern and African Studies programme at the University of Alberta, forming part of a series of events to celebrate the University's centenary. Some 130 people attended, coming from Canada, the US, Africa and Europe, and the diverse programme of over thirty panels included a strong participation by graduate students. The conference theme ran through a number of panels covering not just the familiar intersections of resources, politics, economics and conflict, but wider social and psychological dynamics including human displacement, return and post-conflict reconstruction, and 'truth and reconciliation'. There was also a prominent focus on the application of research in policy, a characteristic of CAAS conferences. The tone was appropriately set with an opening keynote address by Andy Knight (University of Alberta) on the effects of conflict on children, and how children living in conflict zones can be protected. A lively pair of panels on 'International Finance and Resource Conflicts' tackled current key interests in research and policy on Africa: the exploitation of oil and other mineral resources by the US, China and other external powers; geostrategic issues, particularly the security architecture emerging in Africa under renewed American engagement and the US Africa Command (AFRICOM); and the 'resource curse' as it plays out on the ground in parts of West Africa.

Elsewhere many other topics in African Studies were covered. Panels on slavery and its legacy represented this area of strength in Canadian scholarship on Africa. Policy issues were further explored through discussions of rights, justice and international cooperation, particularly in a roundtable on 'Reparations to Africa' (with Rhoda Howard-Hassman of Wilfred Laurier University) and in a

keynote by Molly Kane (Inter Pares Canada, an NGO concerned with international social justice) on 'Canada and Africa: prospects for internationalism and common cause'. The effects of the AIDS pandemic formed the subject of a number of papers and a moving account by Carol Baker Hofmeyr (Keiskamma Trust) of her experience, as a medical doctor and an artist, of establishing a project combining community art and AIDS prevention, care and education in the Eastern Cape. The programme was further enriched by the involvement of Edmonton's African communities in a roundtable on 'Re-establishing Selves at Home and Abroad', at which representatives of community groups reflected on their complex experiences of migration/flight, citizenship, identity, self-help in the diaspora and support for development projects at home. One final point of note was the decision made by CAAS to start current-issue publication of the *Canadian Journal of African Studies* in electronic format, hopefully from 2009 – a welcome improvement on existing online access arrangements.

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Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Alexander H. Arnall (2008) 'Development Interventions in Mozambique: Human Agency and the NGO-Community Interface', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor David S. G. Thomas and Professor Diana Liverman.

Tracey Carson (2008) 'Black Trade Unions and Political Boycotts in the Cape Province, South Africa, 1978-1982', D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor William Beinart.

Marcelle Dawson (2008) 'Social Movements in Contemporary South Africa: The Anti-Privatisation Forum and Struggles around Access to Water in Johannesburg', D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor William Beinart.

Amalia Ribí (2008) 'Humanitarian Imperialism. The Politics of Anti-Slavery Activism in the Interwar Years', D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Jan-Georg Deutsch.

Samuel Seidu Salifu (2007) 'African Caribbean Educational Experiences in Preston: A Case Study', Ph.D thesis, University of Central Lancashire. Supervisors: Professor Tunde Zack-Williams and Dr Ebrahim Adia.

Tom Salter (2008) 'Rumba from Congo to Cape Town', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisor: Professor Paul Nugent.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Gertrud Boden (ed) *!Qamtee |aa #Xanya – The Books of Traditions. Histories, Texts and Illustrations from the !Xoon and 'Njohan People of Namibia*. Basel: Basler Afrika Bibliographien. 978-3-9055758-04-7, 108 pages, £12.40; orders@centralbooks.com

Patricia O. Daley (2008) *Gender and Genocide in Burundi: The Search for Spaces of Peace in the Great Lakes Region*. Oxford: James Currey. 978-1847013064, 256 pages; £12.95; www.jamescurrey.co.uk

Dorian Haarhoof (ed) (2007) *Seven Letters – HIV/AIDS Stories from Namibian Children*. Basel: Basler Afrika Bibliographien. 978-3-905758-01-6, 95 pages, £11.10; orders@centralbooks.com

Jürgen Zimmerer and Joachim Zeller (eds) (2008) *Genocide in German South-West Africa: The Colonial War of 1904-1908 and its Aftermath*. Translated and introduced by E. J. Neather. 337 pages; hardback: 978-0-85036-573-3; £50.00; paperback: 978-0-85036-574-0, £15.95; www.merlinpress.co.uk

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

Ireland, Education and Empire

Trinity College Dublin are launching a new collaborative research project that looks at the role of Irish institutes of higher education (including missionary colleges, engineering schools and so on) in shaping imperial and colonial processes both in Ireland and in the wider British empire. The project will include a symposium in Dublin this October, a conference next year, and an edited volume. At the moment, the research team is putting together a list of scholars who are working in this area. If you work in any way on Irish-African connections that relate in some way to education then contact the lead researcher, Dr Deana Heath: heathd@tcd.ie

Language and Linguistic Studies of Southern African Languages

The British Academy UK-Africa Partnership project on 'Language and linguistic studies of Southern African languages' is collaborative research between SOAS, the University of Botswana, the University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa) and the University of Namibia. The project provides a collaborative framework for research on the linguistics of Southern African languages with a particular focus on the description and theoretically informed analysis of Southern African Bantu languages. Topics include the description and analysis of grammatical agreement systems, verb phrase syntax and semantics, and complex clauses. The project also addresses the wider research context in which linguistic work on Southern African languages is conducted: questions of language and identity, language use and endangerment, as well as linguistic training, data collection and methodology. The project runs from 2007 to 2010, during which time four

workshops, one in each participating institution, are planned: January 2008 (SOAS), August 2008 (University of Namibia), August 2009 (University of Botswana) and August 2010 (University of KwaZulu-Natal). For further information contact: Dr Lutz Marten, Department of African Languages and Cultures, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, London, WC1H 0XG, or lm5@soas.ac.uk

Africa. Journal of the International African Institute: African Countries Initiative

The International African Institute and Edinburgh University Press are pleased to jointly announce that their flagship journal *Africa. Journal of the International African Institute* is henceforth to be available free of charge, in electronic format, to libraries and non-profit research and educational institutions in Africa.

Africa was first published in 1928, and is in its 78th volume. With a core orientation towards ethnographically rich, historically informed knowledge garnered through field work, it was and remains the central platform and reference point for Africanist field studies worldwide, witnessing more recent shifts to a greater diversity of approaches and interdisciplinarity.

This development comes at a time where electronic publishing and dissemination is offering opportunities to break with conventional models of research dissemination. Yet the African continent suffers lack of visibility for research output, and a chronic lack of financial resources in higher education and research institutions, including for journals subscriptions. Research seldom crosses borders within the continent, and there is a North-South divide in access to scholarly research and publication outlets. By opening the journal up to institutions in Africa, the institute is fulfilling its historic mission and highest priority to promote access to African research and publication internationally. It is hoped to widen readership in the continent, and encourage more contributions from African scholars. The IAI and journal editors are delighted that Edinburgh University Press, a wholly owned subsidiary of the university, is committed to the furthering of knowledge, learning and education, and promoting cultural and intellectual debate of the highest standards, is supporting the initiative through its newly launched EUP Journals Online platform: www.eupjournals.com To find out if your institution qualifies for this offer, contact the subscriptions department: +44-131-650-6207 or journals@eup.ed.ac.uk

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

British Academy Visiting African Fellowship Awards

A Visiting African Fellowship provides support for a research visit to Britain of between two and four months for an early-career scholar from Africa. In its 2008 competition, the British Academy Africa Panel awarded British Academy Visiting African Fellowships to the following seven academics.

Dr Gbemisola Adeoti of Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria, will be studying 'Aesthetics of adaptation in Nigerian literary drama' from 1 October to 14 December 2008 at the University of Leeds, hosted by Professor Jane Plastow: j.e.plastow@leeds.ac.uk

Dr Emmanuel Akpabio of University of Uyo, Nigeria, will be researching 'Indigenous water management and the challenges of state institutions in the Cross River Basin, Nigeria' from 1 May to 31 August 2008, and hosted by Dr José Castro, Newcastle University: j.e.castro@ncl.ac.uk

From 15 July to 15 September 2008, Dr C. H. Debena of University of Asmara, Eritrea, will focus on 'Mother tongue language policy in a globalising world: the case of Eritrea', at the University of Leeds, hosted by Dr John Holmes: j.l.holmes@education.leeds.ac.uk

Dr Alioune Diagne of IPDSR (Institut de Population, Développement et Santé de la Reproduction), Senegal, whose chosen field is 'The impacts of migration to Europe on family dynamics in African sending populations', will be hosted from 15 September to 24 November 2008 by Dr Sara Randall, University College London: s.randall@ucl.ac.uk

From 1 October to 30 November 2008, Dr Purity Kiura of the National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi, will be examining 'Human dietary and subsistence behaviour using fish isotope analysis and food residues in ceramics around and within Lakes Turkana and Victoria in Kenya: possible clues to the subsistence and economy of our ancestors', at the University of Bradford and hosted by Professor Julia Lee-Thorp: [J. A. Lee-Thorp@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:J.A.Lee-Thorp@bradford.ac.uk)

Historian Dr Olukoya Ogen of Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria, whose subject is 'Slavery, piracy and trade on the eastern coast of Yorubaland, 1870-1900', will be hosted by Dr Insa Nolte, University of Birmingham, from 1 October to 15 December 2008: m.i.nolte@bham.ac.uk

Dr Darshan Vigneswaran of University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, whose field is 'Migration policing in South Africa: policy and implementation', will be resident at the University of Oxford from 10 July to 10 November 2008, hosted by Professor Stephen Castles: Stephen.castles@qeh.ox.ac.uk

University of Cambridge Visiting Fellows for 2008-09

The Centre of African Studies at the University of Cambridge is happy to announce the election of five African scholars as Visiting Fellows for academic year 2008-09:

1. Adekeye Adebajo, University of Cape Town, South Africa
2. Margaret Angucia, Institute of Ethics and Development Studies, Uganda Martyrs University

3. Martha Cheo, Centre for Foundation Education, Bells University of Technology, Nigeria
4. Mwelwa Musambachime, Department of History, University of Zambia
5. Aderoju Oyefusi, Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Benin, Nigeria

These five scholars will spend six months in Cambridge, pursuing research on the theme 'Peace building and transitional governance in Africa'. Their particular projects vary considerably. Angucia, for example, will research government-sponsored efforts to reintegrate children affected by northern Uganda's long-running war; Musambachime will explore Zambia's role in the resolution of conflicts in Angola and the Congo; while Oyefusi will study the economics of natural resources in conflict zones. They will together participate in a seminar series on the fellowship theme, convened during Michaelmas 2008. In March 2009, the Centre will organize an international conference in Cambridge at which the Fellows will present the results of their research work. And in July or August 2009 the Centre will organize a conference at the University of Botswana, where the Fellows, together with a group of Cambridge academics, will discuss their scholarship. The Cambridge/Africa Collaborative Research programme is funded by the Isaac Newton Trust and the Leverhulme Trust. The 2008-09 fellowship group is coordinated by Dr Devon Curtis, of the Department of Politics, University of Cambridge: dc403@cam.ac.uk

ASAIB Award

The Association of Southern African Indexers and Bibliographers awarded their 2007 Prize to Abdul S. Bemath for his index of *Euro-Jews and Afro-Arabs: The Great Semitic Divergence in World History*, by Ali A. Mazrui. Lanham, MD: University Press of America.

Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship Award

Professor Paul Nugent, Director of the Centre of African Studies at the University of Edinburgh, has won a Leverhulme Research Fellowship (£34,266) to work on a research project entitled 'Race, Taste and Power: The Cape Wine Industry'. The project deals with changes within the industry since 1960 that have been nothing short of revolutionary. Central themes are the effort to define a captive local market through advertising directed at white and Coloured consumers, and the championing of the cause of fine wine that eventually led – via the vine smuggling scandal of the 1980s – to the uprooting of longstanding varietals and the planting of the noble cultivars like Chardonnay and Shiraz. The invention of the wine route is a part of this story that remains to be told. The role of farmers, workers, critics, regulators, and consumers will be examined, all within the shifting matrix of shifting power relations in South Africa in which race and ethnicity were fundamental. The project will mean that Paul will spend most of 2009 based in Cape Town.

Obituaries

Professor Alan Frederick Charles Ryder (1 August 1928 – 2 February 2008) was an important member of the pioneer generation of historians who, in the 1950s and 1960s, set out to write the history of the peoples of Africa as something other than an aspect of European imperialism.

Alan Ryder was educated at Bishopshalt Grammar School in Middlesex where he became the first student of the school to be awarded an open scholarship to Oxford University. Before taking up his place at Balliol College, he did national service as an education officer in the RAF, serving in Egypt, Libya and Malta.

At Balliol he read history and as a subject for his doctoral thesis he chose to study the career of the 15th century Spanish grandee, Alfonso the Magnificent, when his flair for learning languages stood him in good stead. On being awarded his doctorate, like a number of other members of his generation, he was attracted by the offer of a post in one of the University Colleges which were emerging in Britain's overseas dependencies under the direction of London University.

In 1956 he joined the History Department in the University College of Ibadan, Nigeria, where, encouraged by the example provided by the Nigerian scholar, Kenneth Dike, an important centre of African historiography was beginning to develop. Ryder joined the group with enthusiasm, his familiarity with the historical archives of the Iberian Peninsula enabling him to publish details of source material for early European contacts with Africa. At the same time, and in conjunction with an archaeologist, a sociologist and African students at the college, he began to make a study of African cultures, politics and economics. The hoped-for collaborative volume resulting from these joint researches did not materialise, but Ryder himself produced his *Benin and the Europeans 1485-1897*, a book which inspired many further studies in Nigerian history.

In spite of his intense involvement in this work, Ryder never regarded his teaching as an inconvenient intrusion upon his time for research. Lecturing, holding seminars or conducting tutorials were, for him, part of a scholar's duty, providing him with an opportunity to demonstrate to all students the importance of history, to encourage a new generation of history specialists and to subject his own developing ideas to critical appraisal. As he became more fully established in his post, he also took on the administrative responsibilities which come with seniority, becoming a professor, then Dean of the Faculty of Arts and, on occasion, acting as Vice-Chancellor.

In 1974 he returned to England where he took a temporary post in the University of Southampton before accepting a permanent appointment in the University of Bristol in the following year. In his new post his academic interest turned once again to the early modern history of Spain, learning to read Catalan in addition to the Castilian Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian and Latin in which he was

already fluent. These studies led to the publication of three important books in this field. He did not, however, lose his interest in Africa, offering tutorials and occasional lectures in African history as the University of Bristol required. He also became an enthusiastic member of the Bristol branch of the Royal African Society which was founded in 1977 and in due course he became Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the branch, duties which he fulfilled with his usual quiet efficiency.

Ryder's gentle, unassuming manner was never affected by his growing reputation as a scholar. He listened with polite distaste to the self-promoting utterances which were becoming, increasingly, a part of university life. Even his closest family only became aware of the extent of his achievements after his death. Always good-humoured and generous in his dealings with others, he was an inspiring example of a true scholar.

Emeritus Professor Kenneth Ingham: ingham615@btinternet.com

Rt. Hon. Richard Gordon Holme, the Lord Holme of Cheltenham PC, CBE (27 May 1936 – 4 May 2008), the Chairman of the Royal African Society, had a full and varied life, being active in politics, publishing, business and education. His interest in development issues dated back to his early management experience in Unilever when he started the Ludgate Group of young managers who, in their spare time, considered African and other trade and development questions. Latterly he served on the Advisory Board of Transparency International and continues to serve on the Board of the Overseas Development Institute and as Vice-Chairman of LEAD International, which trains young leaders around the world in sustainable development. On the business front as a main board director of Rio Tinto, he took a particular interest in the Rossing Foundation in Namibia and the Palabora Foundation in Johannesburg/Northern Transvaal, as well as the community programme of Richards Bay Minerals in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

Richard Holme took a leading role in Rio Tinto's adoption of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies, using the paradigm of sustainable development in the Third World. As an Executive Member of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development he attended the American African Summit in Accra in 2000 and subsequently put together the worldwide business coalition, Business Action for Sustainable Development, at the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development [WSSD] in Johannesburg in 2002.

He was a member of the International Chambers of Commerce Advisory Committee on Investment in Africa and an Executive Member of the All Party Parliamentary Africa Group. He had recently become Chairman of Globescan, the international polling company, currently engaged on a major survey of African opinion on key topical issues. He was elected Chairman of the Royal African Society in succession to Sir Michael McWilliam in January 2004.

Adapted from the RAS website, May 2008

Professor Richard Greenfield (10 January 1931 – 1 June 2008) was Professor Emeritus of Asmara University, Eritrea.

Richard completed secondary school in Louth and read Geography at Cambridge University. His interest in Africa and politics started as a young scholar in Cambridge and, after doing national service in the British army in Malaysia, he left for his first job in Tanganyika. This was the start of a prolific career in Africa. He went on to teach in universities in Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Sudan, Nigeria and Eritrea, with additional teaching spells in the United States.

In the early sixties he taught Geography at University College in Addis Ababa (later Haile Selassie University and now Addis Ababa University) and was later appointed dean of students with a special focus to foster the many African students who came to study on a special scholarship program established by the Emperor. It was no doubt his close contacts with the hopes and aspirations of these students that made him very interested in both the anti-colonial movements in Africa and the anti-Imperial struggle in Ethiopia itself. In 1964 he published *A New Political History of Ethiopia* which charted the factors behind the first military coup d'état in 1961 and also critiqued both the monarchy and very Orientalist perspective of Ethiopian history prevalent at that time.

Between 1977 and 1981 he was a Fellow at St. Antony's College Oxford and continued to travel to Africa and write about the many turbulent events affecting the continent at that time. In the nineties he served as Chairman of the Africa Centre in London, writing as well advising governments, donors and think tanks on African politics. Since his period in Ethiopia, where he helped save the lives of many students being harassed by the authorities, Richard Greenfield was a good friend and supporter of refugees and all those in exile from repressive regimes in their home countries. He spent the last years of his life in Eritrea teaching and helping to establish the Eritrean Research and Documentation Centre to which he donated his own personal library and many documents on the Horn of Africa.

A wonderful raconteur, he loved good food and travel and the company of his many friends from all over the world whose personal histories and trajectories he always remembered and supported and by whom he will now be missed.

Dr Angela Raven-Roberts: aravenroberts@unicef.org

Note to Contributors

Send items for inclusion in the next *Newsletter* by 15 September 2008 to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, Plan, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6JG, UK or simon.heap@plan-international.org Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK. For matters relating to membership of ASAUK contact: Pat Jensen, 36 Gordon Square, London, WC1H 0PD; telephone: 0203-073-8336; email: asa@soas.ac.uk

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