

African Studies Centre

2014 Newsletter



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Professor Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian Nobel Prize laureate, at the African Studies Centre before delivering the Annual Lecture at the Sheldonian Theatre.

Welcome to the African Studies Newsletter 2013–2014

The last academic year was an exciting one for the African Studies Centre. One of the highlights was our hugely insightful run of talks and seminars. Beginning in October 2013, we co-hosted a “policy meets the academy” workshop on the impact of extractive industries in Africa with OXFAM. Speakers included Winnie Byanyima, the International Executive Director of OXFAM International, Morgan Tsvangirai, the former Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, and Sam Kutesa, the Ugandan Foreign Minister. For many of our MSc students, the debate between these African leaders and representatives of major international oil and gas companies was one of the highlights of the year.

Following this in February 2014, Professor Dennis Goldberg, the legendary anti-apartheid activist, gave the Bram Fischer Memorial Lecture, an annual event that remembers the Afrikaner lawyer who defended Nelson Mandela during the Rivonia Trial in 1963–4. In a deeply personal and moving account of his friend and colleague, Dennis recalled first being inspired by Bram’s courage and personality, and later caring for him when he became ill with cancer during their incarceration at the hands of the apartheid regime. The South Africa focus continued in April, when Professor William Beinart and doctoral candidate Jason Robinson organized a spectacular conference on “20 Years of South African Democracy” at St Antony’s College. Both the former leader of the Democratic Alliance, Tony Leon, and the former President of South Africa, Kgalema Molanthe addressed conference delegates.

A month later, Professor David Pratten, Professor Ramon Sarró, and Fyssen Fellow Laurent Gabail, organized a workshop on “Technologies of Transformation: African Perspectives”. The event attracted a set of excellent speakers from as far afield as Bayreuth and Boston. The same month, we were honored to welcome Professor Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian Nobel Prize laureate, who gave the African Studies Annual Lecture to a packed Sheldonian Theatre, rounding off a remarkable year of events.

As usual, seminars and conferences went hand-in-hand with our research and publications. David Pratten published a thought-provoking chapter on the “Precariousness of Prebendalism” in *Democracy and Prebendalism in Nigeria*, edited by Wale Adebawo and Ebenezer Obadare (2013, Palgrave). For my part, I edited a special issue of the *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, 8, 1 (2014) on the Kenyan elections of 2013 and published an article with Paul Chaisty and Tim Power on presidentialism in Africa, Latin America and post-communist Europe in the journal *Democratization*, 21, 1 (2014). Miles Larmer and I collaborated on a piece in the same journal on “Ethnopolitics in Africa”, which draws on our research on Zambia and Kenya respectively. Miles also released two articles from his new research project on the history of Katanga. The first, on the Katangese *gendarmes* and the Shaba wars of 1977–78, was published in the journal *Cold War History*, 13, 1 (2013). The second, in which Miles and Erik Kennes rethink the Katangese Secession, was published in the *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* (2014) and is available online.

Neil Carrier had a busy year, producing an article on ethnicity and electoral politics in northern Kenya for the *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, 8, 1 (2014), co-authoring a piece on Somali trade networks with an African Studies MSc alumni, Emma Lochery, also in *JEAS*, 7, 2 (2013), and co-editing a pathbreaking book on *Drugs in Africa* with Gernot Klantschnig and Charles Ambler (2014, Palgrave). William Beinart co-authored an article on “The Historical Context and Legacy of the Natives Land Act of 1913” in the *Journal of Southern African Studies* with Peter Delius, 40, 4 (2014). He also released a co-authored book with Karen Brown that explores a major area of African local knowledge and provides valuable new insights into African conceptions of cattle disease and treatment in South Africa entitled *African Local Knowledge and Livestock Health* (2013, James Currey). He co-edited, with Karen Middleton and Simon Pooley, *Wild Things: Nature and the Social Imagination*. Finally, Jonny Steinberg wrote important articles on policing and state power in *African Affairs* 113, 451 (2014), sexual culture in South Africa in *JSAS* 39, 3 (2013), and “The Labyrinth of Jewish Security Arrangements in South Africa” in the *British Journal of Criminology* 54, 2 (2014). In addition to these, Jonny also published a fascinating article in *Granta* magazine, in which



Wole Soyinka and Nic Cheesman

he revisited the site of his 2002 book, *Midlands*, which investigated the murder of the son of a white farmer in 1999. You can read the article here: <http://www.granta.com/Archive/126/The-Defeated>.

The African Studies MSc continues to go from strength to strength, and this year we had a record number of applications. Our MSc students are the lifeblood of the Centre and this year’s cohort contributed a great deal to the University during their short time here. As well as organizing a wider range of fascinating social and academic events, MSc students were at the forefront of the Oxford Africa Society (Afrisoc), which with the Saïd Business School organized the 2014 “Oxford Africa Conference: African Transformations” one of the world’s leading student-led Africa conferences. As in previous years, the event drew a range leading policy-makers, business leaders and academics.

We are proud of the academic success of our MSc students. A number of MSc dissertations have gone on to be published in leading journals, and many former MSc students have now completed doctorates and are beginning their own academic careers. We are equally glad to hear about former students that are enjoying careers in the policy world, or working as journalists, or who have entered the private sector. Do check out the alumni updates featured in this newsletter to see what a varied and interesting set of trajectories our students have followed after graduating. Please make sure that you all keep in touch with us and send us all of your news!

Looking ahead, the Centre remains committed to sustaining and creating scholarships to bring students from around the world to Oxford. Having made Kenya my second home for the past eight years, I am particularly pleased that St Antony’s College and the Oxford and Cambridge Society of Kenya have recently announced a scholarship for a student ordinarily resident in Kenya to study a one-year Masters degree at St Antony’s College. As ever, we rely on our alumni to help us spread the word about these opportunities.

We are also delighted to announce the launch of two new research prizes this year. The Royal Air Maroc Africa Oxford Awards will provide three Oxford students a year with free air travel to Africa. The Winihin Jemide Series Research Prize for Women in African Government and Politics will provide research grants of £2,000 to two graduate students conducting research on gender and politics in Africa. We are very grateful to Royal Air Maroc and the Winihin Jemide Series for their support.

This year, the Centre welcomed two excellent administrators, Anniella Hutchinson and Siobhan Coote. It was their energy and dedication that made it possible to organize such a vibrant set of events while ensuring that the Centre ran smoothly. At the end of the year, Siobhan left the Centre to pursue a career in accountancy and I would like to thank her for all her efforts over the past twelve months: she made the African Studies Centre a more efficient and more enjoyable place to be.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Andrea Purdekova has agreed to extend her contract with us for another year and so will stay on as Departmental Lecturer in African Politics. Her enthusiasm, insight and commitment have made her a firm favorite with MSc students and colleagues alike, and we are delighted that she will be part of our team in 2014–2015.

I will be on research leave next year to write and conduct fieldwork in Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa. Happily, Professor William Beinart will take over as Director for the next academic year, and so I can leave Oxford safe in the knowledge that the Centre will be in an even stronger position when I return next September.

Dr Nic Cheeseman
Director, African Studies Centre



Visitors

Dr Emmanuel Akpabio (JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow, Kyoto University, Japan), visited the Centre in July 2014 and developed his research on healthcare access among the Nigerian diaspora in the UK.

Dr Laurent Gabail (Fyssen Postdoctoral Fellow affiliated to the African Studies Centre), is a member of the research team TIP (Traitement Informatique de la Parenté/Kinship and Computing), which develops analytical tools and methods for the study of empirical kinship networks. During his time at the Centre in 2014, he pursued his post-doctoral research agenda, which explores the links between certain modalities of initiatory organisation and the recurrence of distinctive choreographic forms. Laurent also co-organized and presented at a workshop on "Technologies of Transformation: African Perspectives" with David Pratten and Ramon Sarró.

Professor Karl von Holdt (Director of the SWOP programme at the University of the Witwatersrand), visited the Centre during Trinity term on an Oppenheimer fellowship. He participated in the conference on '20 Years of Democracy in South Africa' and gave a number of valuable presentations at the South African discussion group and elsewhere. Professor von Holdt's major focus was on contemporary social issues in South Africa: mining, strikes, the changing position of workers, popular protest and violence.

Øystein H. Rolandsen (Senior Researcher, Peace Research Institute Oslo), spent most of the first half of 2014 at the Centre, working with a team of research assistants on violence, conflict and state survival. Øystein also organized a major workshop on "Violence, legitimacy and governance in the Greater Horn". The presence of speakers such as Professors David Anderson (Warwick), Christopher Clapham (Cambridge), and William Reno (Northwestern) – in addition to Øystein himself – ensured that it was one of the highlights of the year.

Dr Mats Utas (Head of the research cluster on Conflict, security and democratic transformation at the Nordic Africa Institute), visited the centre during Michaelmas and Hilary Terms 2013-14. The purpose of his fellowship was to write and conduct library studies on two projects with focus on West Africa: 'The Informal Realities of Peacebuilding – Military Networks and Former Mid-Level Commanders in Post-War Liberia', and 'Between Big Man Politics and Democratisation: Local Perceptions and Individual Agency'.



Wole Soyinka visit

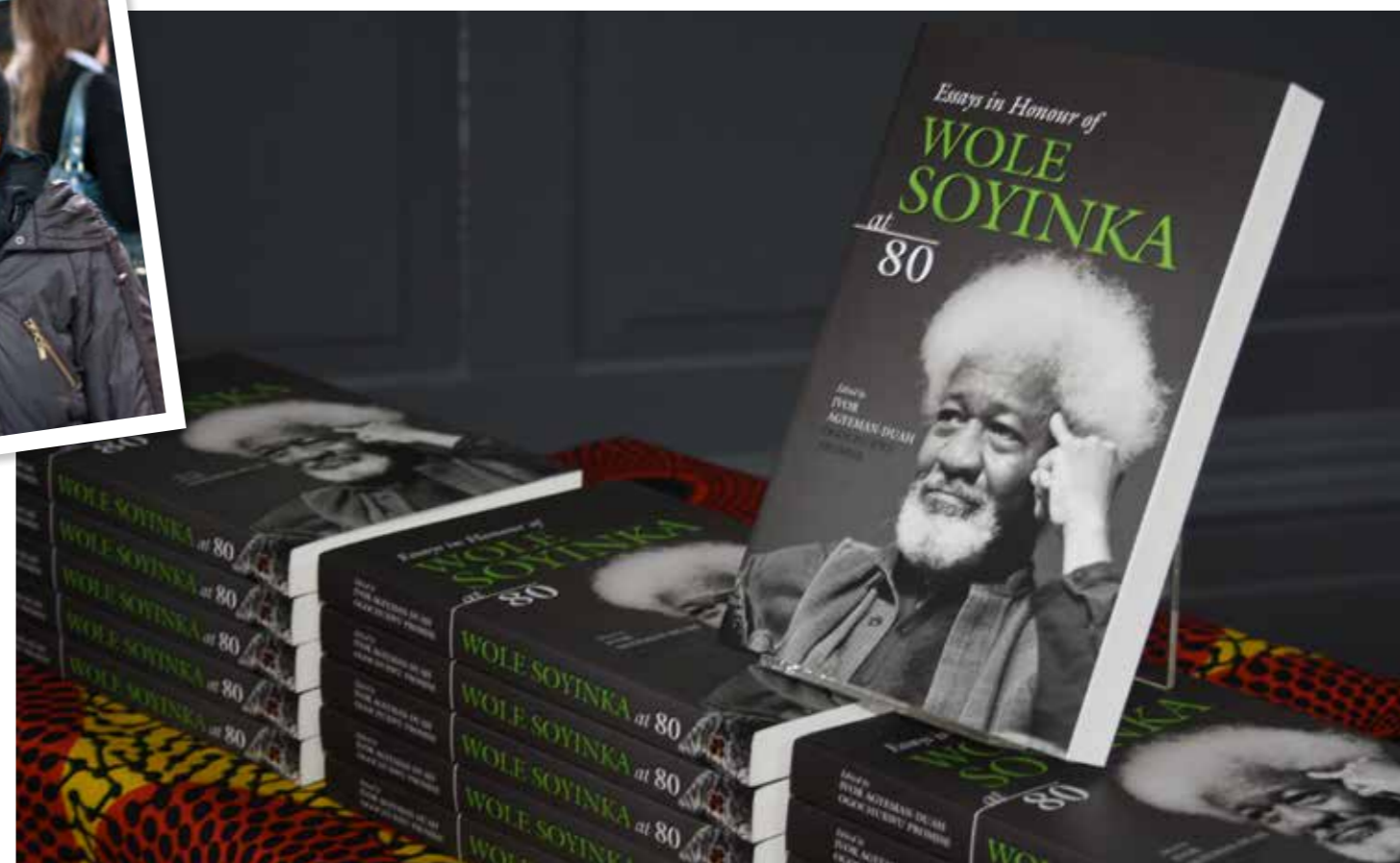
Lighting the African Canon: Wole Soyinka discusses politics and literature with Oxford students

In addition to giving the annual African Studies lecture, Wole Soyinka, the Nobel prize-winning playwright, author, and political activist, met students for lunch.

Prior to the lunch, Tiziana Morosetti and Dan Hodgkinson led the workshop that explored the work of one of the most prominent twentieth-century African writers and political activists who, along with Chinua Achebe and Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, established a world respected African literary canon. The group discussed how Soyinka addressed issues of 'tradition' and cultural interpretation, colonial and post-colonial education, his experience of prison, and the ways in which he, as playwright, used obfuscatory language as a mode of political engagement.

There was no such obfuscation during lunch. Soyinka spoke directly about the current state of Nigeria and reflected on his history of involvement in the country's politics. Boko Haram's violent Islamist insurgency in the north of the country, he said, had become a military situation requiring a military answer and humanitarian aid. The government – many of whom, he suggested, were 'incapable of walking and chewing gum at the same time' – had failed to act and been unwilling to uphold secular institutions, highlighted by the institution of sharia law in nine of Nigeria's northern states. Asked if the artist had a role in politics, he responded that by reading poetry, people are able to restore their minds and so contribute in meaningful ways. He also recalled the ideologically charged days of his student activism in the 1950s as a 'criss-crossing period of ideas', in which the rise of apartheid in South Africa was 'a burden that had to be exorcised' and one 'had to work hard to not just parrot the slogans of others'. Asked what he would do differently if he had his time again, he mentioned he would 'drink more wine, listen to more music, do more hunting.'

The group's discussion was based upon three of his works: the play, *Death and the King's Horseman*; the novel, *The Interpreters*; and his collection of poems written during his time in prison during the Biafra war, *The Shuttle in the Crypt*.



Denis Goldberg gives the Bram Fischer Memorial Lecture 2014

Nic Cheeseman

The annual Bram Fischer Memorial Lecture was given by Professor Denis Goldberg, who spoke on *Bram Fischer: Lawyer, activist, freedom fighter*. The memorial lecture is in honour of Bram Fischer QC (Rhodes scholar, Orange Free State & New College 1931), who defended Nelson Mandela and other leaders of the liberation movement when on trial for their lives, and who himself died in imprisonment in 1975. Before the Bram Fischer lecture started, Stephen Clingman, the biographer of Bram Fischer, set the scene by speaking on the theme of *Bram Fischer and the Democratic Transition in South Africa*.

Goldberg's talk was wide ranging, deeply personal and very moving. He recounted his early meetings with Bram Fischer, and his memories from the Rivonia Trial and later as a fellow prisoner for nine years until Bram Fischer's death from cancer. Goldberg spoke about Bram Fischer's life of great contradictions and of strong personal convictions, describing a man who suppressed his emotions but who had a 'twinkly sense of fun'.

Denis Goldberg aimed to describe the whole man, focusing both on his political activism, but also his love of classical and formal jazz music. He recounted memories such as Fischer's reading from *Alice in Wonderland* during one Christmas in prison. It was an account of captivity and a fight for freedom; not for individual freedom but the freedom found within social justice.

The Warden of Rhodes House, Charles Conn (Rhodes scholar, Massachusetts & Balliol 1983), commented: "It was a remarkable speech and I found the reflections on their shared time in prison very evocative. The historical context of the time was brought to life and it was an honour to hear Professor Goldberg's memories and insights."

Professor Goldberg



Denis Goldberg grew up in Cape Town and took part in forming the Congress of Democrats, of which he became leader. This in turn allied itself with the African National Congress (ANC) and other congresses and in 1961 when the underground armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe was founded, Goldberg became a technical officer. In 1963 he was arrested at their Rivonia headquarters. He was sentenced in 1964 at the end of the famous Rivonia Trial to four terms of life imprisonment. In 1985, after 22 years in prison, he was released and moved to London where he resumed his work in the ANC in its London office from 1985 to 1994. He was a spokesperson for the ANC and also represented it at the Anti-Apartheid Committee of the United Nations. A large group of US organisations presented Professor Goldberg with the Albert Luthuli Peace Prize in recognition of his work against apartheid.

This year's Bram Fischer Lecture also supported the work of the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk, and was dedicated to the memory of Wanyama Wanyonyi, a lawyer in Kenya who was assassinated in September 2013.

We are delighted to announce that the Bram Fischer Lecture 2015 will be given by Edwin Cameron, the respected human rights lawyer, activist, and justice of South Africa's Constitutional Court. The Lecture will be held at Rhodes House on Tuesday 16 June 2015 at 17:00.

Academic Staff Research

Jonny Steinberg

In January 1991, when civil war came to Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, two-thirds of the city's population fled. Among them was eight-year-old Asad Abdullahi. His mother murdered by a militia, his father somewhere in hiding, he was swept alone into the great wartime migration that scattered the Somali people throughout sub-Saharan Africa and the world.

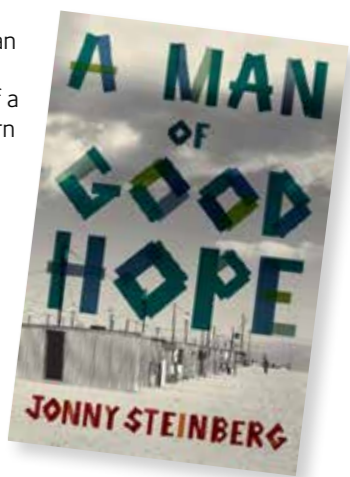
I've just completed a book on Abdullahi's life story. It is called *A Man of Good Hope* and will be published by Jonathan Cape in January 2015. Serially betrayed by the people who promised to care for him, Abdullahi lived his childhood at a sceptical remove from the adult world, his relation to others wary and tactical. He lived in a bewildering number of places, from

the cosmopolitan streets of inner-city Nairobi to the desert towns deep in the Ethiopian hinterland.

By the time he reached the cusp of adulthood, Abdullahi had honed an array of wily talents. At the age of seventeen, in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, he made good as a street hustler, brokering relationships between hardnosed businessmen and bewildered Somali refugees. He also courted the famously beautiful Foosiya, and, to the astonishment of his peers, seduced and married her.

Buoyed by success in work and in love, Abdullahi put \$1200 in his pocket and made his way down the length of the African continent to Johannesburg, South Africa, where he was caught up in the xenophobic violence that gripped that country in April 2008.

Through Abdullahi's life history, *A Man of Good Hope* examines a host of African questions: state collapse in Somalia, the mercurial place of clan loyalties in everyday Somali life, statelessness and undocumented international travel, nationalism and xenophobia. Above all, it is an exploration of the meaning of a human life shorn of foundations.



SIAS garden party

African Studies Prizes 2012-13

Kirk-Greene Prize for Best Overall Performance:
Alexandra Letcher

Terence Ranger Prize for the Best Dissertation Performance:
Amelia Kuch

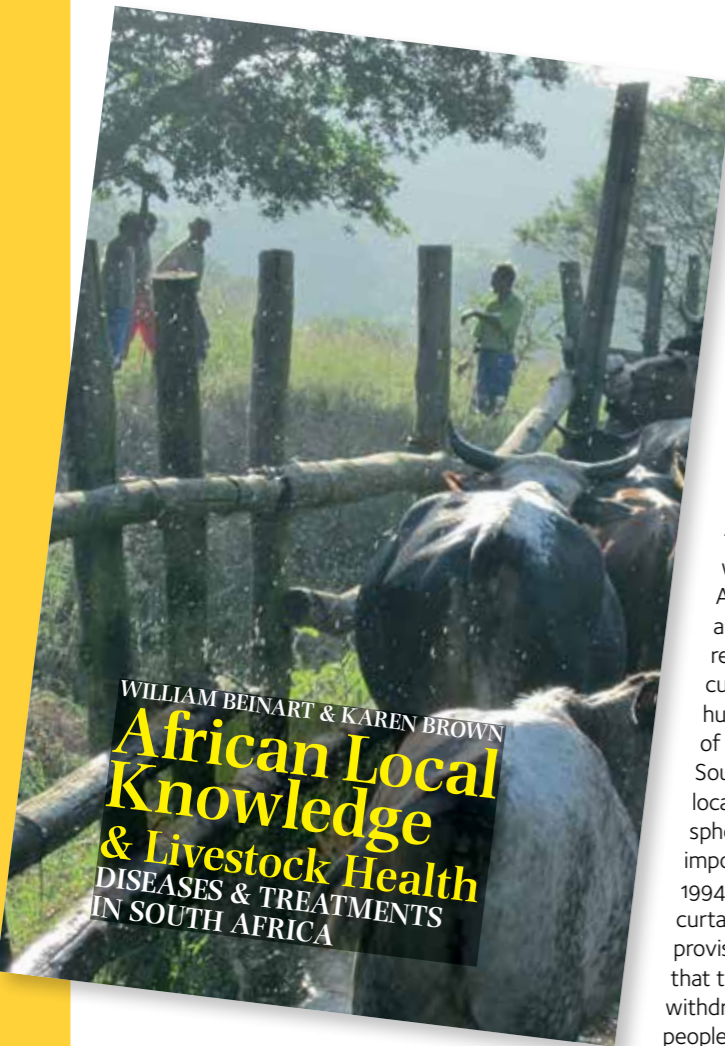
African Studies Prize for the Most Innovative Dissertation:
Bennett Collins

Thursday 27 February 2014

THE
BRAM FISCHER
MEMORIAL
LECTURE

African Local Knowledge and Livestock Health: Diseases and Treatments in South Africa

William Beinart and Karen Brown



So we decided to embark on interviews. It has been a fascinating experience for both of us and our research required a particularly steep learning curve because we had to gain greater familiarity with veterinary science as well as local knowledge.

The interviews certainly confirmed that animal health was a major sphere of African local knowledge and that livestock remain economically and culturally significant for hundreds of thousands of smallholder owners in South Africa. Understanding local knowledge in this sphere is all the more important because after 1994, the ANC government curtailed national veterinary provision. It is anomalous that the state has partially withdrawn just as African people have the opportunity to expand livestock holdings. Many perceived there to be a

crisis in livestock health, particularly in the control of ticks. Richard Msezwa, in his sixties, recalled “when I was a boy herding you seldom saw ticks in the veld. If you saw a tick you would get excited and call the other herdboys over. Now if you walk through grass your trousers become black with ticks.”

Karen worked largely in North Western Province with Barbara Kgari, who proved to be a wonderful research assistant. William interviewed in Mpondoland on the east coast, where he had researched on rural history and resistance in earlier years. Sonwabile Mkhanywa provided invaluable assistance. With our collaborators, we interviewed

over 250 people. Exploring local or indigenous knowledge has been at the heart of African Studies for a generation, particularly as part of the critique of centralised, top-down development. We hope that our book will be a significant contribution to this general field. We found that there was no overwhelming shift towards a biomedical understanding of animal diseases, even in areas colonised for well over a century. Our research suggests that natural, environmental and nutritional understandings of disease are still very significant, mirrored by the use of plant medicines. Treatments were more hybrid; many also used biomedicines, at least when they could afford them.

Respondents did not generally attribute disease to witchcraft. We heard more frequent reference to what we have called the ambient supernatural, often associated with words for footprints – the concepts of *mohato* and *umkhondo* respectively. Neither of these appears in the older ethnographies and we see them as hybrid supernatural concepts drawing both on older ideas of witchcraft and pollution, as well as newer ideas of infection. *Mohato* was associated with menstruating women and widows – an informant talked of ‘cross infection’ between women and cattle. *Umkhondo* was often associated with the deposition of disease in the dew to which animals would succumb if they crossed infected traces.

Our research determinedly sought a wide range of local knowledge but also points to its limits, as well as to local uncertainty about how to deal with many scourges of livestock. We conclude the book with recommendations (see the Outreach Report and summary under our names at africanstudies.ox.ac.uk). We don’t pretend to be veterinary experts and these are not directive. They propose that more effective strategies might emerge from a dialogue between scientific and local knowledge, between state and livestock owners.

We started research on this joint project in 2008 blessed with an ESRC grant. We felt that it had been a neglected theme in South African history and a central area of connection and contestation between the state and rural communities. Our separate writing included, over the years, discussion of African reactions to state interventions around epizootics from rinderpest to rabies. In the process, we became interested in African conceptualisations of animal diseases. There was little written in this field, even in the classic ethnographies.

Reports of conferences and specialist networks

The African Studies Centre meets Oxfam

Nic Cheeseaman

On 24 October 2013, the African Studies Centre held its first major joint event with Oxfam, the pioneering organization that has campaigned for social justice in Africa since 1942. The idea for the event emerged when Winnie Byanyima, the recently appointed Executive Director of Oxfam, approached me and suggested that there might be interesting and important ways in which the African Studies Centre and Oxfam could work together. I quickly agreed: although Oxfam was founded in Oxford (the name is a shortened version of “The Oxford Committee for Famine Relief”) and its international headquarters are still located here, there has not been as much contact between the Centre and the charity as you might expect.

The opportunity to hold a “the academy meets policy event” was too good to miss. It soon became clear that our shared interests converged on the question of extractive industries and how the proceeds from natural resources such as oil, coal, gas, gold can be used to reduce poverty and improve public service delivery in Africa. On the first panel, Heather Stewart, the Economics Editor of The Guardian moderated a discussion between Kevin Fox, the

Exploration Director of Rio Tinto and a number of other panelists including Dereje Alemayehu, Chair of the Global Alliance for Tax Justice, about how Africa’s natural resources can best be managed – and who should take responsibility for doing so.

In the second, Rupert Younger, the Director of Oxford’s Centre for Corporate Reputation managed an engaging debate over how to promote transparency in the boardrooms of multinationals and the cabinet meetings of African governments. Only when we know more about the deals that are being signed will it be possible to tell how fair they are, and how much they actually benefit ordinary citizens. Speakers weighing in on this important topic included Chris Austin from the UK Cabinet Office and our very own pair of experts, Ricardo Soares de Oliveira and Tony Venables. While opinions differed over exactly how to promote transparency, all speakers agreed that it would be a good thing if the policy community could work with companies and governments in order to increase the quality of information about resource extraction contracts that reaches the public domain.

Although both of these panels were lively and well attended, for many MSc students the highlight of the day came when Winnie Byanyima, the Executive director of Oxford, presided over a roundtable discussion that included Hon. Morgan Richard Tsvangirai, Former Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, and Hon. Sam Kutesa, Ugandan Minister of Foreign Affairs. The sight of senior African leaders debating the rights and wrongs of natural resource policy with each other, the representatives of multinational companies, academic experts, and influential NGOs, was one of the highlights of the year.

I was particularly pleased that we were able to host such a vibrant and vital debate in Oxford. The collaboration gave the African Studies Centre an opportunity to showcase the significant contributions that faculty in African studies make to policy debates around the world – something that often occurs out of the public eye to little fanfare. The opportunity to work with Oxfam made me realize just how much we can learn from them, and how much they are interested in learning from us. We hope to further strengthen our collaboration with further events on a range of different topics in the coming years.



Winnie Byanyima, Morgan Tsvangirai, African Development Bank vice-president and chief economist Mthuli Ncube, and Sam Kutesa

South African opposition leader visits Oxford

William Attwell (MSc 2009 now Africa Analyst at Oxford Analytica Ltd.)

Former South African opposition leader, Lindiwe Mazibuko, visited Oxford on June 16 to address a special session of the South African Discussion Group. Mazibuko had recently stepped down from her position as leader of the official opposition, the Democratic Alliance, in the National Assembly and was en route to take up a Mason Fellowship at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Her address to the packed seminar covered a wide range of topics, including her reflections on the results of SA's national elections in May, President Jacob Zuma's leadership, the oversight role of Parliament and her own future plans.

Students and faculty members were then invited to engage with Mazibuko during a Q&A. Many questions focused on voting patterns following the May elections, and specifically the Democratic Alliance's efforts to attract black voters, in a country where many people feel a strong affinity for the

ruling ANC. Mazibuko also answered questions about difficulties facing the implementation of the National Development Plan - the country's broadly centrist economic policy - given the factions and ideological differences within the ruling alliance.

On her own plans, Mazibuko spoke about her desire to 'take a step back' in order to develop her own expertise in public policy. She said she specifically wants to learn about how other countries have dealt with economic empowerment, redress and land reform-related issues and whether these present lessons for South Africa. Mazibuko strongly encouraged African students studying at Oxford to hone their skills and use them to contribute to the development of their home countries, whether in the fields of politics, government, civil society or business.

Mazibuko was the fourth youngest MP in the legislature and the first black woman to lead the opposition benches.

She has been touted as a possible successor to DA party leader Helen Zille. In 2012, Mazibuko was named South Africa's 'most influential woman' and, in 2013, was listed as one of Africa's top 20 'young power women' by Forbes and by CNN's Christiane Amanpour as one of the world's 'bravest women' for her campaigns against rape and domestic abuse.

Lindiwe Mazibuko, second from left, with Sebatso Manoeli, William Beinart, William Attwell, Khumisho Moguerane, Jonny Steinberg



Kgalema Motlanthe, Deputy President of South Africa, with Colin Bundy, William Beinart and Jason Robinson

1994-2014: 20 Years of South African Democracy

Jason Robinson

Coinciding with the 20 anniversary of South Africa's first democratic elections, 1994-2014: 20 years of South African Democracy proved an opportunity to analyse the transition in the 1990s, the subsequent consolidation of democracy and the nature of political authority in South Africa.

Taking place at St. Antony's College between 24-26th April 2014, the Conference consisted of over thirty-two academic panels, a day-long roundtable session on Provincial Government (hosted in conjunction with the Gauteng Legislature Core Business Division) and a performance of Matthew Hahn's *The Robben Island Bible* (sponsored by Brand South Africa). The Conference also was host to a number of book launches (including texts by current and former members and visitors of the Centre, such as Colin Bundy, Tim Gibbs, Adam Habib and Hugh Macmillan) as well

as two very special sessions on the opening day of the Conference. The Centre was proud to host the then-Deputy President of South Africa Kgalema Motlanthe who delivered the keynote address, *Building a Democratic and Inclusive Society: the Journey of 20 years of Freedom*. Professors Anthony Butler, Ruth Hall and Xolela Mangcu acted as respondents, putting hard-hitting questions to the Deputy President on the content of his address and ANC rule in South Africa since 1994; what followed was a fascinating engagement between the speaker and the respondents (one which was covered in pieces in *Business Day*, *The Financial Mail* and *The Times*). Later that evening, a plenary session chaired by Dr. Jonny Steinberg saw a lively debate between Adam Habib, Tony Leon and Xolela Mangcu. The final session of the Conference saw Professor William Beinart chair a session on the 'ANC, Capital and Labour' involving Colin Coleman, Adam Habib and Jeremy Seekings.

The Conference proved a truly engaging affair with fascinating interactions and dialogue between participants from South Africa, the UK and further afield. A number of publications are planned to reflect debates and discussions that emerged during the three days of the Conference.

The Conference would not have been possible without the help of Professor William Beinart, as well as the Conference Steering Committee and the conference assistants who helped on the days itself. Thanks also to those from outside the university who supported the Conference: The Journal of Southern African Studies, African Studies Association UK (ASAU), Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI), Sumaridge Estate Wines, The Africa Report, Brand South Africa, the Gauteng Provincial Legislature (GPL), Wits University Press, Ohio University Press and James Currey.

Oxford University China Africa Network

The OUCAN conference on African Development, *The China Model and the Politics of Industrialisation*, which was jointly organised with Fudan University, was attended by scholars, graduate students, NGO representatives, media professionals, diplomats as well as the Ambassadors of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Through social media, conference participants also brought highlights of the key note speech and the panel discussions to cyberspace, continuing the debates there.

A first emerging lesson of the conference was that Chinese diplomats and business elites still lack the confidence and the political will to actively promote or export a "China Model". Moreover, the contradictions between Western approaches to the global political economy and Chinese economic policies overseas should not be overstated- there is more continuity and similarity than change and difference. Whether in Africa or elsewhere, China is increasingly seen not as a radically unique partner or threat, but as a normal great power involved in the multifarious, complex and often ambiguous activities and practices that characterise states of its systemic importance.

Put differently, most conference participants showed themselves rather sceptical about the existence of a coherent, clearly identifiable China model that holds unambiguous, specific lessons for African states as they try to pursue industrialisation and navigate the international system. While most, if not all, participants welcomed the salutary effects for African countries of the multipolar order to which the continent too has been transitioning, the question of the future of Chinese economic, political and possibly military involvement on the continent generated both excitement and apprehension. That very fact seems to gainsay any claims to Chinese exceptionalism- whether in Africa or elsewhere.

Please visit
www.africanstudies.ox.ac.uk/events
 for details of future events

Oxford Central Africa Forum

With twenty-one lectures and seminars, the 2013–14 academic year was nearly as eventful as the Oxford Central Africa Forum's (OCAF's) inaugural 2010–11 year.

Thanks to the support from the African Studies Centre, Balliol College, the Centre for International Studies, Lady Margaret Hall, and Nuffield College, we were able to host several distinguished speakers, including Dr Marielle Debos (University Paris West Nanterre), who discussed the role of combatants in Chad's "inter-war," Professor Koen Vlassenroot (Ghent University), who spoke about public authority in the eastern DRC, and Professor Andreas Mehler (GIGA, Hamburg), who examined the deeper governance issues undergirding on-going violence in the CAR. Other events covered Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and – to inspire cross-subregional comparisons – Liberia and Sierra Leone, with Professor Mats Utas (Nordic Africa Institute) discussing commander–soldier networks in post-conflict reconstruction. Our biggest event was a lecture to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide, given by Johan Swinnen (Belgium's ambassador to Rwanda from 1990 to 1994), with a Rwandan government delegation in attendance. As always, we also hosted many doctoral students and early-career scholars from all over the UK.

We wish to thank all those who co-organized some of these events, and – last but certainly not least – everyone who attended and participated in them.



African Transformations (Afrisoc)

Sebatso Manoeli

Leading African political, business and social figures converged at Oxford University in May 2014 for one of the world's premier student-run Africa-focused conferences: the 2014 Oxford Africa Conference. Titled 'African Transformations', the conference was co-convened by the Oxford University Africa Society and SaDd Business School with the aim of engaging with African current affairs.

This year's event merged the Oxford University Pan-African Conference and the Oxford Africa Business Conference into a two-day event. The impressive list of 68 distinguished speakers from all across Africa included:

- ▶ Valentine Rugwabiza, CEO of the Rwandan Development Bank;
- ▶ Yusuf A. Nzibo, Commissioner, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, Kenya;
- ▶ Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, Oxfam International;
- ▶ Hakeem Belo-Osagie, Chairman Etisalat Nigeria;
- ▶ Kizza Besigye, Politician and former presidential candidate, Uganda;
- ▶ Kennedy Bungane, CEO Barclays Africa (outside South Africa);
- ▶ Bob Collymore, CEO, Safaricom;
- ▶ Koos Bekker, Former CEO, Naspers;
- ▶ Ian Goldin, former Vice-President of the World Bank.

This interactive and intellectually stimulating conference drew approximately 450 delegates ranging from students to professionals, and it culminated with a party featuring Lagos-based DJ Caise.

In previous years, the Oxford Africa conferences have attracted leading figures including His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho, Rwandan President Paul Kagame, and the former governor of Nigeria's central bank, Sanusi Lamido.

Horn of Africa seminar

Jason Mosley

During 2013-14, the Horn of Africa seminar brought together academics, post-graduates and policymakers/practitioners with an interest in the region. Our presentations covered the range of the region's countries – including Somalia, Somaliland, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan and Kenya – and encompassed a variety of disciplinary approaches, as well as both policy and academic research.

Speakers on the seminar covered a wide range of topics, including state-building through business and infrastructure, business practice in the health care sector, the evolution of guerrilla movements into professional armies, the experiences of diaspora returnees in development, the hydropolitics of the Nile, the intellectual history of reform, the practice of the 'protection of civilians' framework, links between piracy and local political economy, changes in framing of friend and foe, and refugee perceptions of home country political developments.

In addition to our seminar presentations, the series hosted three significant events during the year:

In October, we launched the seminar with a panel discussion, Remittances - Somalia and beyond. The speakers - including Abdi Abdullahi (SOMSA), Edwina Thompson (Beechwood International), Laura Hammond (SOAS), Farhan Hassan (Somali Heritage Academic Network) and Anna Lindley (SOAS) - addressed the impacts of UK regulation on remittance companies and on livelihoods in Somalia and beyond. Following on from the panel, Anna Lindley and Jason Mosley co-authored a briefing for the Rift Valley Institute, Challenges for the Somali Money Transfer Sector.



In January, the seminar hosted a South Sudan Crisis Roundtable including Douglas Johnson (Independent), Annette Weber (SWP, Berlin), Peter Biar Ajak (Cambridge), and Ahmed Al-Shahi (Oxford). The panel discussed the December outbreak of violence in South Sudan, to put events in historical context and assess the outlook. The roundtable was organised in cooperation with the African Studies seminar.

In May, the series hosted a half-day conference, Revisiting the politics of state survival: Violence, legitimacy and governance in the Greater Horn of Africa. The conference included presentations from Jason Mosley (Oxford), Amanda Poole (Indiana University of Pennsylvania), Øystein H. Rolandsen (PRIO), William Reno (Northwestern University), David Anderson (Warwick), and Sandrine Perrot (Sciences Po) with responses by Christopher Clapham (Cambridge), John Markakis (SOAS) and Sally Healy (Rift Valley Institute). Presentations covered Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya and Uganda. The conference was held in conjunction with the African Studies Seminar.

The seminar was convened by Jason Mosley, research associate at the African Studies Centre, Toni Weis, doctoral candidate in Politics, Julianne Weis, doctoral candidate in the History of Medicine, Emma Lochery, doctoral candidate in Politics, Alpha Abebe, doctoral candidate in Development Studies and Grant Brooke, doctoral candidate in Theology and Religious Studies.

Teaching at the University of Fort Hare, South Africa

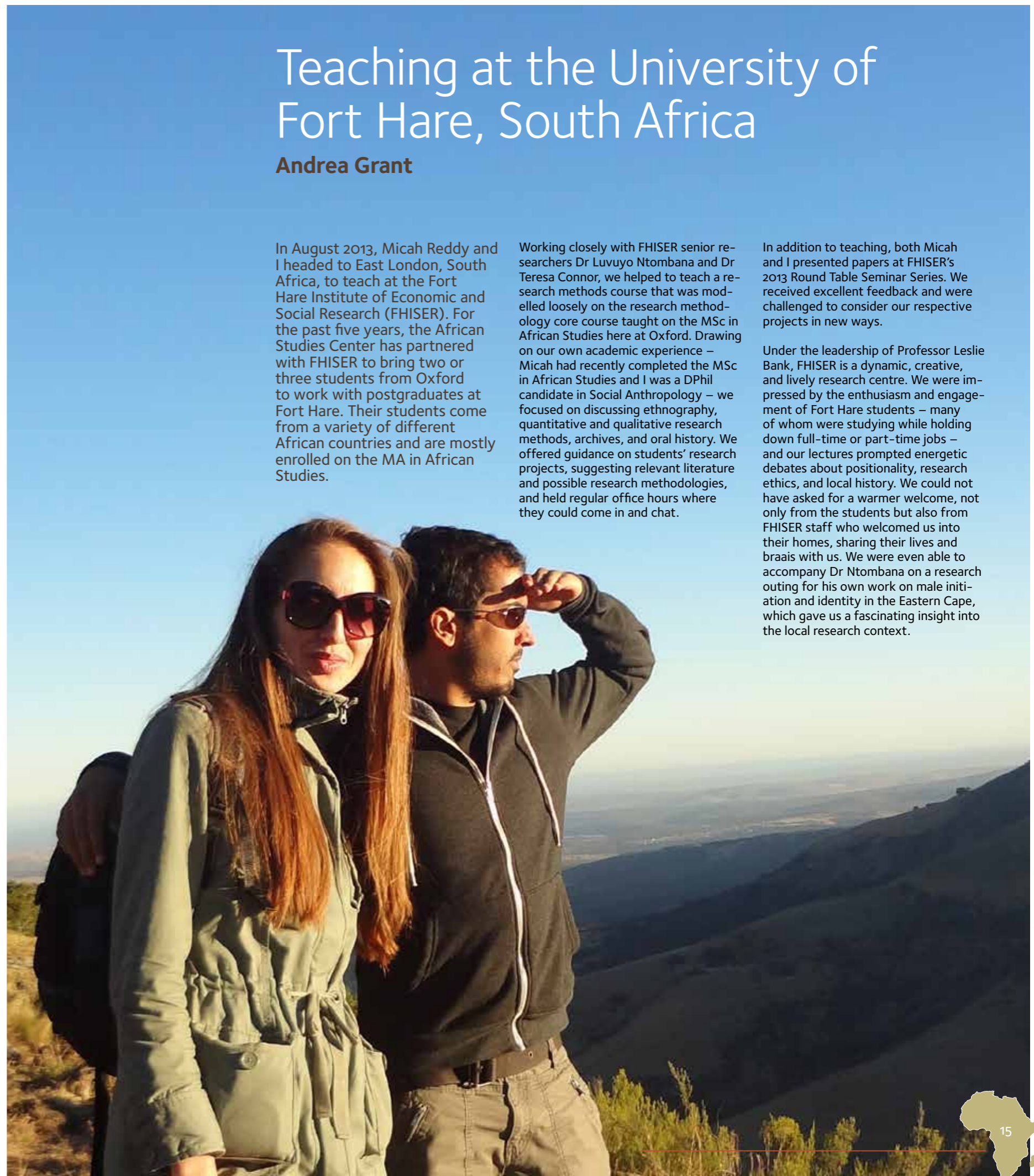
Andrea Grant

In August 2013, Micah Reddy and I headed to East London, South Africa, to teach at the Fort Hare Institute of Economic and Social Research (FHISER). For the past five years, the African Studies Center has partnered with FHISER to bring two or three students from Oxford to work with postgraduates at Fort Hare. Their students come from a variety of different African countries and are mostly enrolled on the MA in African Studies.

Working closely with FHISER senior researchers Dr Luvuyo Ntombana and Dr Teresa Connor, we helped to teach a research methods course that was modelled loosely on the research methodology core course taught on the MSc in African Studies here at Oxford. Drawing on our own academic experience – Micah had recently completed the MSc in African Studies and I was a DPhil candidate in Social Anthropology – we focused on discussing ethnography, quantitative and qualitative research methods, archives, and oral history. We offered guidance on students' research projects, suggesting relevant literature and possible research methodologies, and held regular office hours where they could come in and chat.

In addition to teaching, both Micah and I presented papers at FHISER's 2013 Round Table Seminar Series. We received excellent feedback and were challenged to consider our respective projects in new ways.

Under the leadership of Professor Leslie Bank, FHISER is a dynamic, creative, and lively research centre. We were impressed by the enthusiasm and engagement of Fort Hare students – many of whom were studying while holding down full-time or part-time jobs – and our lectures prompted energetic debates about positionality, research ethics, and local history. We could not have asked for a warmer welcome, not only from the students but also from FHISER staff who welcomed us into their homes, sharing their lives and braais with us. We were even able to accompany Dr Ntombana on a research outing for his own work on male initiation and identity in the Eastern Cape, which gave us a fascinating insight into the local research context.



Alumni Updates

Please contact us with your alumni updates. Email: alumni@africa.ox.ac.uk

Oliver Aiken: I am starting a PhD at Harvard in African and African American Studies and the proposed project is a continuation of my master's research on the connections between African Americans and black South Africans through Black Power.

Katy Bruce-Lockhart: I recently published an article in the *Journal of Eastern African Studies* based on the master's research I did at Oxford. I am now registered for a doctorate at Cambridge.

Zoe Cormack finished her doctorate on Sudan and has a research post with Lotte Hughes at the Open University on an AHRC project focusing on Cultural Rights and Kenya's New Constitution.

Michelle Hay has a lectureship at the University of Witwatersrand, where she is doing a doctorate, and recently published an article in the *Journal of Southern African Studies*.

Anne Heffernan recently handed in her doctorate on student and youth politics in Limpopo province, South Africa, and has a postdoc at the University of the Witwatersrand.

John Hodges: I did some research for Generation Investment Management. The project centred on the Pay-As-You-Go solar market, specifically looking at investment opportunities in early stage growth companies. The market is most developed in East Africa, where electrification rates are extremely low - places like Uganda and Tanzania are around 20%. The biggest success story is Bangladesh, where almost 3m households have installed a solar home system in the last few years.

Dan Hodgkinson works on the history of student activism in Rhodesia and Zimbabwe, and is particularly interested in exploring how higher education has been used to constitute personal and political agency throughout the country's history. He is the African Studies Centre's current ORISHA D.Phil scholar and doctoral representative. He is on fieldwork through 2014/15 during which time Simukai Chigudu will take over as D.Phil rep.

Leanne Johansson: I'm currently writing up my DPhil Anthropology thesis on place-making in Bakassi, on the Nigeria-Cameroon border. I also work part-time as a Communications and Fundraising officer for a Cameroonian education NGO (COBI) and as a consultant for an ecoagriculture NGO (Food Basket For Africa) in South Africa. I recently married in March 2014 and we're expecting a new addition to the family next April.

Sebatso Manoeli is doing a doctorate at Oxford on the history of Sudanese liberation movements and taught the MSc methods course at Fort Hare. She was president of Afrisoc and co-organised (with Akin Iwilade, Sayeed Borat and others) the African Transformations student conference.

Tyler Mathews: This year I completed a second combat deployment to Afghanistan as an US Army Infantry Platoon Leader. My wife, Jordan, earned her credentials to begin practice as a Nurse. Together in our off-time during the last 18 months we hiked 20 summits over 14,000 feet in Colorado. This year we relocate from Colorado to Georgia where I will complete schooling in preparation to be a Company Commander in the Army.

Dalumuzi Mhlanga: I am currently enrolled in the 1+1 African Studies and MBA program at Saïd Business School, building on the foundation of the MSc. African Studies to connect ideas in social science with business practice on the continent.

Khumisho Moguerane, former D.Phil representative, who started the doctoral mentoring scheme, finished her doctorate and is teaching with Sebatso Manoeli at Fort Hare in August 2014. She starts a one year lectureship at Leeds in September.

Abigail Niebuhr: I'll be starting a doctorate in African Studies and Anthropology at Harvard. I am planning to look into xenophobia in South Africa and will be advised by Professors Jean and John Comaroff.

Alex Noyes is entering his second year as a doctoral candidate in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Oxford. He will be conducting fieldwork in Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Togo for his research, which focuses on the intersection of post-election power sharing and civil-military relations in Africa.

Qhelile Nyathi: I'll be with the World Bank starting January 2014, working with the Agricultural Insurance Development Program which aims to engage the public and private sector in developing countries to create sustainable insurance programs that mitigate risk and improve financial resilience of small holder farmers.

Dan Paget is embarking on the second year of his DPhil at the Politics Department at the University of Oxford. He has finally settled on examining the election campaign in Tanzania in 2015.



▲ **Julianne and Toni Weis** (both MSc 2008) welcomed a baby boy, Benjamin Peter Weis, on April 25th, 2014. They are currently finishing their DPhils at Oxford.



Wambui Kamiru writes:

One of the things I hated about graduating from Oxford was how many choices I had.

There were several directions I could have gone in but only one me who could travel in those directions.

It has been six years since I left my home off Wellington Square. Since I left the falafel sandwiches from Green's Café on St. Giles Street and the 2am chips with mustard and ketchup from the kebab vans. Six years since I gave my steel red bike to a Kenyan student who was about to embark on the crazy journey, that is being part of the University of Oxford community.

One month ago I finally collected my degree certificate, which I had vowed I would never collect. I was angry when I graduated from the University of Oxford. I was one of the many people who throughout history have fought against the life change that is schooling at Oxford. I fought against Oxford because I could not see how it was linked to the person I thought I was.

It was time to collect my certificate.

My greatest fear after graduating from the University of Oxford was failing to become the great things that I believed were expected of me. I embarked on becoming great, not sure at the time where I would need to place the greatness - just that I had to prove that I was every inch worth having gone to the University of Oxford.

In the time that I have been away from Oxford, I worked in public relations, telling the stories of an international organization that was changing the lives of small-scale farmers in the developing world. For a technology firm in Kenya, I undertook research on how a mobile application was linking families separated by war. I built the research protocol for a social media monitoring tool that analyses hate speech online. I had and I am raising two lovely children and I got divorced. Life happened to me in all its cycles of joy, love, sadness and loss.

At different times these cycles drove me from and to art, something that I love. I am now a full-time artist. Last year, I held my first installation here in Kenya on the subject that interests me most - African History. Through a conceptual installation, #Harambee63, I explored Panafricanism and how the Mau Mau War fits into a global

narrative of wars that were fuelled by the need for equal rights for all, regardless of race. #Harambee63 also travelled to South Africa in 2014 and was shown at the University of Wits. I have plans to have it travel to other parts of the world, which between 1948 and 1963 were part of the revolution against the oppression of Black and Coloured people. <http://wambuikamiru.wordpress.com/category/harambee63/>

This year, which coincides with Kenya's 50 years of independence from colonial rule, I am also focused on another art project that looks at Kenyan identity and if at all there exists a common identity. The project titled, "Who I Am, Who We Are" has so far through the Silent Room, collected over 600 voices answering questions on "Kenyaness." Through a bodymapping exercise, my partner on this project Xavier Verhoest and I are visually writing Kenya at 50 with all its representations of the past, present and future. We are asking, "What makes a Kenyan, Kenyan?" <http://whoweareke.wordpress.com/>

Next year, I will be working on a third installation around the topic of ethnicism.

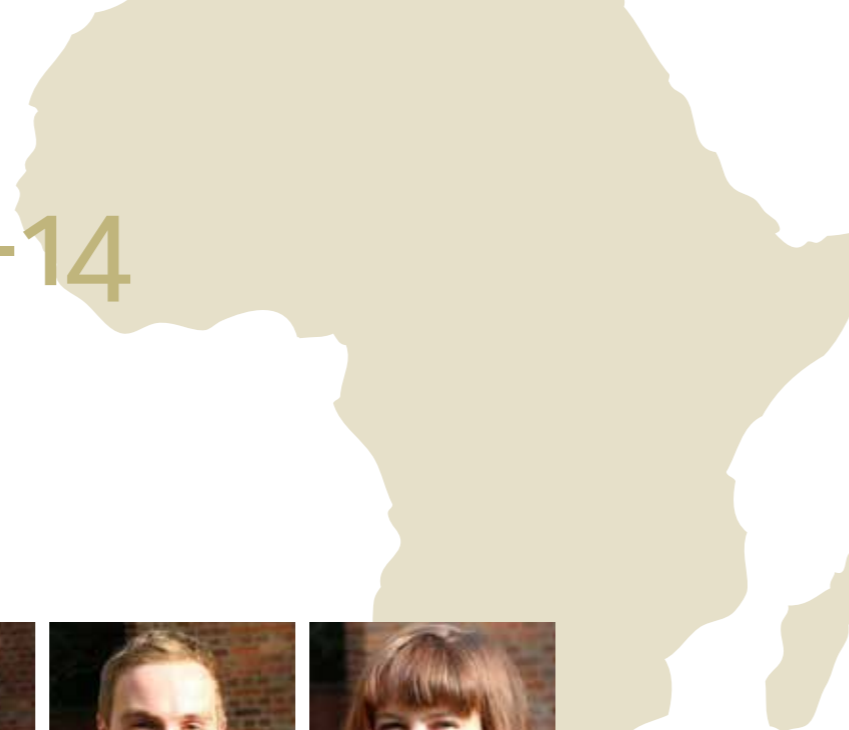
My schooling at Oxford has afforded me the tools to critically analyse topics around societal issues, politics and economics with the breadth of time. My character has found a unique way to explore these topics. They were never exclusive to each other as I originally thought.

Oxford is not for cowards and neither is the world. In the past six years I have learned that it is not about proving that I am smart but about using it. I have learned that there are people who will love the fact that I went to Oxford and there are others who will be intimidated and hate me for it. I have learned that it does not matter.

What matters is that I use all the resources that my experience at Oxford has given me. So, I value my relationships with my lecturers more. I value my friendships with my classmates and I value even more the community of eclectic souls who are collected there and then scattered across the world.

One of the things I loved about graduating from Oxford was how many choices I had.

African Studies Class of 2013–14



Nnesochi Ajukwu Nigeria/UK
BA African and Classical Studies
(University of Pennsylvania)

Expectations and barriers to reintegration in Nigeria. An analysis of real and imagined processes of integration by recent diaspora returnees to Nigeria



Christopher Appiah-Thompson Ghana
Mphil Public Administration
(University of Bergen)

Political Affiliation, Electoral Administration and Democratic Consolidation in Ghana: A case study of the Okaikoi South and Kpone Katumanso Constituencies in the Greater Accra Region.



Ruth Bookbinder Canada
BA African History
(University of Bristol)

Representing Animals: The production of Wildlife films featuring Crocuta Crocuta (Spotted Hyenas), 1990-2008



Rob Borthwick UK
BA History and Politics
(University of Warwick)

Iron Expectations: The resurgence of industrial mining in post-conflict Sierra Leone



Ryan Brown USA
BA African History
(US Duke University)

Scaling Upward? An Ethnographic Study of Ponte City, Africa's Tallest Residential Building



Simukai Chigudu Zimbabwe
Master of Public Health
Medicine and Dentistry (ICSTM)

Politics of the Body: The social Imaginaries of Women's Peace Activism in Eastern and Northern Uganda



Graeme Clements USA
BA International Relations
(Stanford University)

Moving beyond tradeoffs? A case study of shared value creation in Cape Town, South Africa



Bennett Collins USA
MA Scotland International Relations
(University of St Andrews)

The politics of indigeneity in post - 1994 genocide Rwanda: Examining the political space of Twa civil society organisations



Matt de la Hey South Africa
Bachelor of Accounting
(University of Stellenbosch)

An investigation into Changing Agricultural Behaviour in Mbotyi, South Africa



Tessa Evans UK
Politics
(University of Cambridge)

Ethnicity in the ANC



Tom Gardner UK
BA Modern History
(University of Oxford)

'Middle-Class' or 'Public'? Configuring cultural identity in the print culture of early twentieth century Gold Coast



Solyana Gebrehiwot Ethiopia
Master of Public Health
(Addis Ababa University)

'The Past is to be forgotten': Youth, Resettlement, and Survival in Jemo Addis Ababa



Mona Hakimi Malawi
Bachelor of Social Science
(University of Cape Town)

Becoming a Mokoti: changing perspectives on love and marriage in Swaziland



Ernie Honya USA/Ghana
BA Development Studies
(University of California, Berkeley)

Mainstreaming informal economies in sub-saharan Africa: The case of Ghana's SUSU Microfinance system



Aayan Hussein Sweden/Somalia
Master of Biochemistry
(University of Oxford)

Changing Political Culture through Education: the case of Ahfad University for Women



Ronnie Kawamara USA/Uganda
BA International Politics
(University of California, Berkeley)

In fire we trust: The 2009 Burganda Riots



Sami Kent UK
BA Politics
(SOAS)

The Assertion and Contestation of Nationalism through the Zambian Football Team



Hassan Kochore Kenya
BA Anthropology
(University of Nairobi)

The Road to Kenya: Understanding (under) development and the nature of the (Post) Colonial State in Northern Kenya through the lens of the Isiolo-Moyale highway



Amelia Kuch Poland
BA Museum Studies
(University of Utrecht)

Naturalization of Burundian refugees in Tanzania - The debate on deterritorialized identity and the meaning of citizenship revisited



Caitlin Landuyt USA
Juris Doctorate Law
(Boston University)

Criminalising consensual sex between adolescents in South Africa: Policing sexual behaviour in a constitutional state



Alexandra Letcher Netherlands
BA Modern History
(University of Durham)

'You expected racialism and you found it?' A Case Study of the Enkeldoorn and Schools Commission of Enquiry and its Framing of Juvenile Delinquency, 1944-1945



Simon Makokha Kenya
Bachelor of Education
(University of Kenyatta)

Framing Secession: Land, Deprivation and State (il) legitimacy in the secessionist discourse of the Mombasa Republican Council in Coastal region of Kenya



Richard McLaverty S Africa
BA Politics and Social Studies
(University of Cape Town)

Police Intelligence and the transition to democracy in South Africa



Sally Medley UK
BA Modern History
(University of Exeter)

Female Subsistence Framers in Malen Chiefdom: Navigating the Land Market in Post-Conflict Sierra Leone



Dalamuzi Mhlanga Zimbabwe
BA Social Studies
(Harvard University)

Accumulation from below: A case study of women informal currency traders in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe 2005 to 2009



Jonathan Millard Canada
BA Public Administration
(Carleton University)

Foreign Direct investments in Nigeria: Lessons from the real estate sector in Lagos State



Helen Morris Zimbabwe
BA History
(Yale University)

Exploring Alternative Zimbabwean Identities Through Art: The politics of The Harare International Festival of Arts



Michael Ndlovu South Africa
Economics for Development
(University of Oxford)

Cosmopolitanism and the seeds of Nationalism: The making of Pixley Kalsaka Seme, a Zulu Intellectual Leader of the early 20th Century



Belinda O'Donnell New Zealand
BA Politics
(Harvard University)

'We are fighting perception' - Exploring the dynamics of AFRICOM's 'Military development' discourse.



Olivia O'Malley UK
BA Modern History
(University of Durham)

The transformations of Society, Sex, and Self: Understanding the lived experiences of formerly abducted women in Gulu District, Northern Uganda



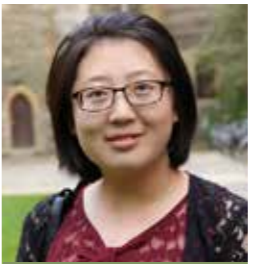
Catherine Reidy USA
BA Psychology
(University of Notre Dame)

Liquid Power: Natural Gas and Illiberal Statebuilding in Angola



Michael Scharff Jr USA
BA Politics
(Princeton University)

Regional Turbulence: East African (dis)integration and the demise of a once proud airline



Jodie Sun China
BA International Studies with French
(University of Nottingham Ningbo China)

The deployment of history in the exploitation of minerals: the past in the present of Chinese-Zambia relations



Nancy Tucker Sierra Leone/UK
BA African Studies
(SOAS)

From Rhetoric to Action: Assessing women's political participation in contemporary, Sierra Leone



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