

# African Studies Centre

2015 Newsletter



*Winnie Byanyima,  
Oxfam, delivering annual  
African Studies Lecture*



# African Studies Newsletter 2014–2015

## Director's Report

I took over as Director of African Studies in September 2014 and this coincided with my last year as Rhodes Professor of Race Relations at Oxford. It has been an exciting year, but more demanding than I had hoped. Oxford has been a wonderful place to work: supportive and stimulating colleagues; excellent students; and a stream of interesting seminars and visitors. We have built up a thriving African Studies Centre as part of a wider School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies (SIAS). The Centre has been highly successful, in both academic and financial terms, and I believe that it has made, and will continue to make, a significant impact on the University as a whole.

Our masters and doctoral students are at the heart of our enterprise. This year's masters intake was, as always, diverse in their backgrounds and challenging in their approach. We probably had more students from African countries than ever before, thanks to their competitiveness for scholarships and the generosity of donors. In addition to those from the UK, US, Germany, France and the Netherlands, there were students from the Caribbean, Turkey, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, the DRC, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Their research topics were equally varied and interesting. Marco Mills and Sa'eed Husaini, who jointly did best in the degree, wrote respectively on the Sleeping Sickness epidemic in early twentieth-century Uganda and electoral politics in Nigeria. Others researched everything from female DJs in Gauteng, South Africa to the politics of Katangese identity.



*Prof William Beinart and Winnie Byanyima*

Simukai Chigudu and Dan Hodgkinson, both former masters students, acted as our doctoral representatives this year – co-ordinating the masters mentorship scheme, cosponsoring events, and connecting with Afrisoc and other student organisations. Researching Africa Day, an annual event organised by doctoral students since 1999, was convened by Sishuwa Sishuwa (History), Beth Vale (Social Policy), and Sacha Hepburn (History). This year it focussed on welfare in Africa and attracted about 70 students from within Oxford and beyond. Students organised an extraordinarily ambitious and successful conference on 'Africa – a Continent on the Move'. It attracted nearly 500 delegates with packed events and intense discussions. President John Mahama gave the introductory keynote. I had the privilege of chairing an excellent session on agrarian issues, with Calestous Juma as speaker. This is also now an annual event, organised jointly by Afrisoc and students at the Business School with an interest in Africa. Some of our masters students – Yasmin Kumi, Kukuwa Manful, and Sa'eed Husaini – played a key role. It now ranks as a major national event for students and others interested in Africa.

Student numbers declined a little last year because the University has placed a cap on post-graduate student intake. We have been forced, against our will, to reduce our masters intake and there is increasing competition within the big disciplinary departments for doctoral places. SIAS does not yet have its own doctoral programme but we very much hope to start one in 2016–7.

My colleagues have been, as always, energetically engaged this year, and it has been a very fruitful period. Our teaching loads are quite high because so much of our work involves individual supervision of graduate students. Everyone also participates enthusiastically in organising our wonderfully rich programme of events. In addition to the weekly Thursday African Studies Seminar, which acts as the closest thing we have to a plenary academic meeting, colleagues contribute to organising many other regular events – the African history and politics group, the Horn of Africa seminar, the South African discussion group, Oxford Central African forum, the Zambia discussion group, the China-Africa network, Afrisoc events and others. Despite this proliferation, and we may have become too ambitious and dispersed, we regularly have over 40 people for seminars, much more for major events, and all of the groups thrive. It is a very participatory, verbal academic culture. This, together with the scale of our programme, makes African Studies at Oxford distinctive.

Amongst many additional special events, Miles Larmer organised with Oxfam a workshop on Rising Inequality in the Global South; David Pratten did a workshop on second-hand cars in Africa; Nic Cheeseman convened the



*Oxford Africa Conference (Left to right: John Munge, Denis Galava, Stanley Wairuri, Tobias Erbert and Isaac Mpyana)*

Bram Fischer lecture by Edwin Cameron, in cooperation with the Rhodes Trust; Jonny Steinberg arranged a workshop for contributors to the SAGE Handbook of Global Policing; Neil Carrier curated an exhibition of photos from Northern Kenya; and I organised the annual African Studies lecture by Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of Oxfam, on: Is Africa Rising? A Personal Reflection (a filmed version is available via the African Studies webpage).

Colleagues have also been highly productive. Nic Cheeseman, Director last year, published his book on Democracy in Africa and continued as editor of African Affairs; David Pratten edited Africa and brought out a collection on Ethnographies of Uncertainty in Africa; Jonny Steinberg published Man of Good Hope; Neil Carrier published Drugs in Africa and completed his book on Eastleigh in Nairobi; Andrea Purdekova finished her first book on post-conflict nation-building in Rwanda. Miles Larmer, in addition to a number of articles has edited two special issues for the Journal of Southern African Studies on Mobile Soldiers in Southern Africa and on Post-Colonial Zambia. The latter, based on a conference in Lusaka, is a major collection of articles on that country.

One major reason why this was a demanding year for me was that I completed, with the help of former doctoral student Ed Teversham, but for too tight a deadline, an A-level textbook. Entitled South Africa 1948-94: From Apartheid State to 'Rainbow Nation' it is part of the new A-level stream, including the United States, South Africa and India, on Searching for Rights and Freedoms in the Twentieth Century. This will be the first time that South African (or African) history is taught in detail at A-level in England. I was also involved as expert witness in a fascinating land restitution case in South Africa: the restoration of land from which a rural community was displaced by the construction of the Wild Coast Sun casino.

African Studies has thrived although we have hit some difficult problems over the last couple of years. One major issue has been the future of the Rhodes Chair of Race Relations following my retirement in September 2015. We submitted that it should be fully recognised as

a Chair in African Studies, as it has in fact largely been over the last sixty years since it was endowed in 1954. The chair has no formal connection to the Rhodes Trust and Rhodes scholarships but the original endowment did also come from southern African mining capital (Rhodesian Selection Trust). All three post-holders, Kenneth Kirkwood, Terence Ranger, and I have been specialists on southern African, thus recognising that the donors were particularly interested in 'race relations' in this region. The chair has been at the heart of teaching and research on Africa at St Antony's College and in the university more generally – both before and after the formal establishment of an African Studies Centre in 2004. Unfortunately, not all in the university have supported our view and in any case, changing the name of an endowment is complex. These were major reasons why my replacement has been delayed. The chair has in fact been advertised as an Africanist position, but the issue has not yet been settled in the long term. We believe that there are overwhelming arguments for the chair to remain in our successful African Studies Centre and hope that the University commits itself to this in the future.

I would like to thank especially Anniella Hutchinson, our administrator, who has taken a great deal of the burden of administering our busy Centre, and Emma Darwall-Smith, her assistant for the year, who took special responsibility for events. I would also like to thank generous scholarship donors – the Orisha fund, ENI, Mitsui, Standard Bank, Canon Collins, the Eldred fund and the Duncan family. Together with the established university and college scholarship funds, they make it possible for African students to study at Oxford.

I am very sad to leave the Centre, St Antony's and the University, which have been a central part of my life for the last eighteen years. It has been a privilege to work at Oxford. Jonny Steinberg will be taking over as Director and I am sure that African Studies – and the many related networks in which colleagues are involved – will thrive.

**Prof William Beinart**  
**Director, African Studies Centre**



# Visitors 2014-15

**Andrew Bank** - (University of Western Cape) joined us during Trinity term 2015 as an Oppenheimer Visiting Fellow. He researched on the papers of the anthropologists, Philip and Iona Mayer and presented a paper at the African Studies Seminar Series on 'Historical Ethnography and Ethnographic Fiction: The South African Writings of Hilda Beemer Kuper (1911-1992)'.

**Anninka Claassens** - (UCT Centre for Law and Society) was an Oppenheimer Visiting Fellow during Trinity 2015. She participated in the South Africa discussion group, developed her own project on chieftaincy and land rights and presented a paper titled: Land Rights in the former Bantustans - Mining, Chiefs and the Law.

**Peter Delius** - (University of Witwatersrand) joined us on an Oppenheimer Visiting Fellowship. He presented to the African Studies Seminar on 'Bokoni - Life and Death amongst the Terraces, 1700-1830' and to the South African Discussion Group on 'Mala Mala: A Billion Rand Land Scam? Land Restitution on the Lowveld'. He also showed a new film, *Forgotten World*, on the Bokoni project - a major advance in pre-colonial history.

**Allen Isaacman** - (University of Minnesota) gave a paper on 'Extending South Africa's Tentacles of Empire: The Deterritorialisation of Cahora Bassa Dam' and also held a valuable session with postgraduates on how to develop research projects.

**Jay Naidoo** visited from South Africa to give the keynote for our joint conference with Oxfam on global inequality and spoke to the South African discussion group.

**Luvuyo Ntombana** - (University of Fort Hare) visited on an Oppenheimer Fellowship to write up publications from his doctorate on changing patterns of initiation in Xhosa-speaking communities of the Eastern Cape. He presented a paper on his research, participated in the South Africa discussion group and also connected with Oxford students and colleagues involved in the teaching exchange between African Studies and FHSER.

**Hennie van Vuuren** (Open Society Foundation, Cape Town) visited on an Oppenheimer Fellowship and presented to the South African Discussion group on 'The Legacy of Apartheid-Era Economic Crime'.

## Introducing Martin Rosenfeld

I joined the African Studies Centre as a post-doctoral fellow thanks to funding from the Wiener Anspach Foundation. This Belgian Foundation aims at encouraging contacts and exchanges between the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and Oxford. We were blessed with funding allowing two post-docs to work together on a common project for two years under the supervision of academics from both institutions. I have the opportunity to work with Neil Carrier at the African Studies Centre while Emma Lochery, a doctoral student in Oxford, is doing her post-doc at ULB under the supervision of Andrea Rea.

Our research project is called "Border crossing, Trade and Trust". In an age of economic globalisation, it is reflecting on how business exchanges take place in situations of uncertainty, when the state is missing or unable to guarantee basic institutional trust. This research project seeks to answer this question by following one commodity, clothing, through the supply chains bringing clothing to two African business hubs: Eastleigh, which has become the vibrant economic centre of Kenya thanks to the Somali diaspora fleeing conflicts in their country; and Cotonou, the heart of Benin's "warehouse-state", specialising in re-exporting goods to neighbouring Nigeria.

Last year, we launched our fieldwork and organised a joint seminar taking place alternatively in Oxford and at ULB. This allowed us to invite prestigious academics to talk on topics such as trans-border exchanges, informal economy or second-hand business. Next fall, the 5th and 6th November 2015, we will be organising an international conference on African Diasporas at ULB. Working on trade diasporas in West Africa, our research project was also affiliated to the Oxford Diaspora Program. With over 20 academics working on a common theme, this program is a formidable network of researchers.

Joining the African Studies Centre, and more broadly Oxford University, has been a great opportunity for me. There are only very few places in the world where you can meet such a mix of brilliant academics. The numerous seminars and events allow as well an incredible exchange of persons and thoughts. I am looking forward to this new academic year promising exchanges, encounters and ideas.



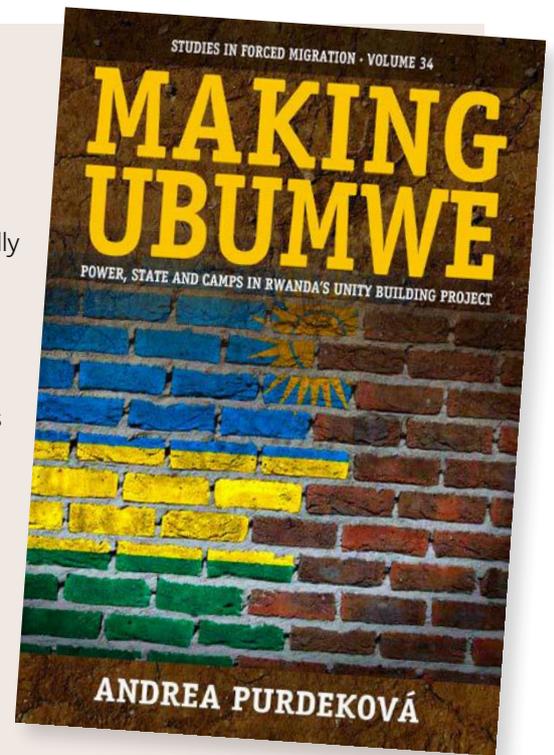
# Making Ubumwe

Andrea Purdekova's book *Making Ubumwe: Power, State and Camps in Rwanda's Unity-Building Process* came out in 2015 with Berghahn Books. Across eleven chapters, the book explores how, since the end of the Rwandan genocide, the new political elite has grappled with the challenge of building a unified nation. Taking the concept of unity as its organizing theme, the book asks what type of social togetherness has been envisioned and is being enacted in Rwanda, why, and with what effect. The book outlines the productive ambiguity underlying the concept of ubumwe—unity— by tracing its deployments in diverse arenas from rhetoric and office work, to street talk and ingando camps, showing in detail how politics and state power interlace with the nation-building project. Specifically, the book investigates whether, and if so how, unity's ambiguities service state building and regime building in post-genocide Rwanda.

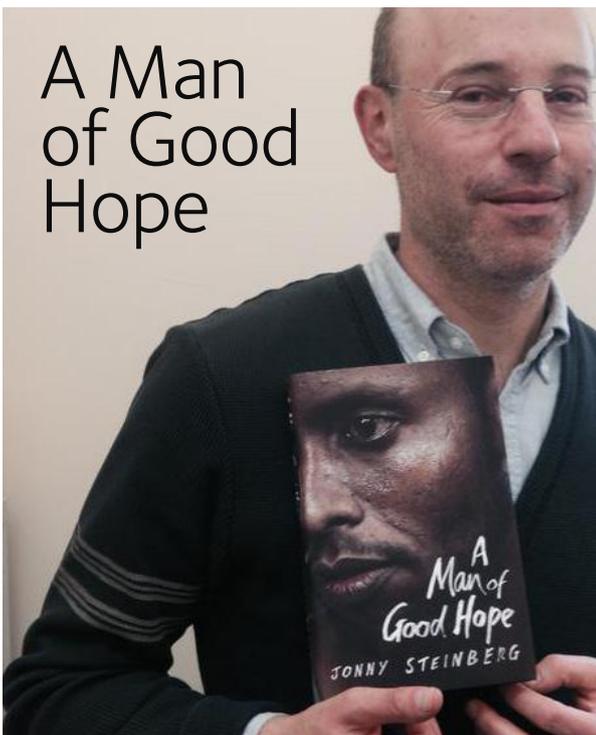
Reaching beyond the more well-studied topics of post-conflict justice and memory, the book investigates the project of civic education, the explosion of state-led, neo-traditional institutions and activities, and particularly the uses of camps and retreats to shape the 'ideal' Rwandan citizen. As the book hopes to show, Rwanda's ingando camps offer unique insights into the uses of 'dislocated temporalities' in an attempt to anchor identities and desired political roles. These are designed to practically orientate and symbolically place individuals in the new Rwandan order. The book traverses different forms of ingando: a city-based camp for the street children; remote camps for the ex-combatants and university students; church-organized retreats; and labor camps for released prisoners serving commuted sentences in 'TIG' (public interest works).

Camps are typically studied for their attempts to separate and exclude. My analysis reverses the analytical lens and considers incorporation and 'sovereign inclusion'. In this respect, post-genocide Rwanda presents a unique case study.

The RPF-led government, reaching for inspiration in history and across borders, has crafted and deployed mass, often camp-based education for purposes of social and political re-engineering in the wake of community-based violence. Rwanda is certainly unique in terms of the extent and elaboration of such education, but it is hardly the only exemplar, historical or contemporary, thus opening potentially interesting avenues for comparative study. On a broader level, the book critically considers the prospects for nation building in Rwanda when the project is placed within its political context—the dynamics of an authoritarian regime and the development-first framework of a 'coercive eutopia.' Finally, the book discusses the prospects for social justice, stability and long-term peace as Rwanda approaches its critical elections in 2017.



# A Man of Good Hope



Jonny Steinberg's latest book, *A Man of Good Hope*, was published in South Africa late last year and in Britain and the United States early this year. It is to be published in Dutch translation in 2016.

The book is a biography of a young Somali man called Asad Abdullahi whom Steinberg met in a shack settlement outside Cape Town in 2010. It charts Abdullahi's flight from Mogadishu at the age of eight and his itinerant childhood in various cities and towns in the Horn of Africa. It examines the beginnings of his entrepreneurial success as a street broker in inner city Addis Ababa before following his southward journey to South Africa. The book uses one man's life to explore many themes ranging from state collapse in Somalia to the relationship between clan and identity in the Somali diaspora to xenophobia in South Africa. It also addresses a range of methodological questions about oral testimony and life history.

*A Man of Good Hope* is being adapted for the stage in a collaboration between the Young Vic Theatre in London and the Isango Ensemble in Cape Town.



Nic Cheeseman publishes

# Democracy in Africa: Successes, Failures and the Struggle for Political Reform

Earlier this year I published my first monograph, *Democracy in Africa*, with Cambridge University Press. As many former African Studies MSc students will know, this has been a labour of love that has taken me far too long to complete. What I initially hoped would be a two-year project eventually became a seven year trial of endurance. To say that I was relieved when it appeared on the shelves earlier this year would be an understatement. It is very much a book that could not have been written without the African Studies Centre – many of the ideas were tried out in my *Democracy in Africa* option class, and a number of former MSc students helped with data collection, proof reading and putting the index together – thanks to you all.

The book took so long partly because it covers more than 30 countries over 70 years, and partly because it tries to answer some of the biggest political questions facing the continent, including whether international actors should try and promote democracy abroad, how to design political systems that manage ethnic diversity, why democratic governments often make bad policy decisions, and whether Africa is getting more or less democratic.

One of the main reasons that I wanted to write the book was to persuade people that Africa should not be thought of solely as a place in which to analyse the fragility of democracy. Rather, it is a continent that has much to teach us about the different pathways through which even the poorest and most unstable countries can break free from authoritarian rule.

## Lessons Africa can teach

It is important to place democracy in Africa in its historical perspective in order to demonstrate how the experiences of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s shaped the kinds of political systems that we see today. In doing so, the book reveals an often overlooked fact: African democracies are distinctive not because they face so many challenges, but because they have managed to make so much progress despite the absence of many of the supposed “pre-conditions” of democratic consolidation.

Political scientists have identified a long wishlist of factors that make it easier to establish and consolidate a democracy. Topping the list are a coherent national identity, strong and autonomous political institutions, a developed and autonomous civil society, the rule of law and a strong and well-performing economy. Adam Przeworski, for example, has famously shown that countries that enjoy a per capita GDP of more than US\$6000 when they introduced democracy almost always succeed. Those where it is less than US\$1000 almost always fail.

Both in the 1960s and in the 1990s, few African countries fulfilled this – or any other – wishlist criteria. Yet many of them have nonetheless made significant progress towards establishing stable and accountable multiparty systems. Moreover, this set of countries is bigger than you might think. Roughly one-quarter of Africa’s 54 states are now “free” – meaning that they feature high levels of both political rights and civil liberties – according to the American think tank Freedom House. This includes Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, Ghana, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal and South Africa.

In other words, a significant proportion of the continent is democratising against the odds.

## How to avoid democratic disasters

While it is very important to recognise achievements of the continent’s success stories, it is also important to recognise the way in which elections have encouraged corruption and exacerbated ethnic tensions. This is a second major theme of the book.

In Kenya, for example, it was the onset of multiparty politics, and the threat that this posed to Daniel arap Moi’s government, that led to the rapid escalation of graft and, ultimately, the Goldenberg scandal. Similarly, it was the threat of losing power in the 1992 elections, when the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy opposition had so much momentum, that led to the instigation of ethnic clashes to displace and intimidate the supporters of rival parties. That violence, we now know, was the forerunner of the post-electoral crisis of 2007-08.

We therefore need to think really hard about how to design political systems in such a way that minimises the risks of democratic disasters. One of my core arguments is that Africa has suffered from unbalanced political

systems that have been poorly designed to foster sustainable multi-party politics.

## The problem with winner takes all

History tells us that while elements of competition and inclusion strengthen multiparty systems, too much of either can be fatal to the process of democratisation. Let us start with competition. In places like Cote d’Ivoire and Kenya, winner-takes-all politics and the concentration of power around the president mean that losing parties could expect to be excluded from access to state resources.

Elections, therefore, encouraged the collapse of political order by exacerbating ethnic tensions and giving leaders an incentive to use irresponsible and destructive strategies to retain power – such as the exclusion of rival leaders from electoral contests and the deployment of militias. The experience of these countries was so harrowing that it is tempting to conclude that countries should try and be as inclusive as possible. This could be done, for example, by forming a permanent power-sharing government. But maximising inclusion is also problematic because it inevitably stifles political competition, which is the lifeblood of representative democracy.

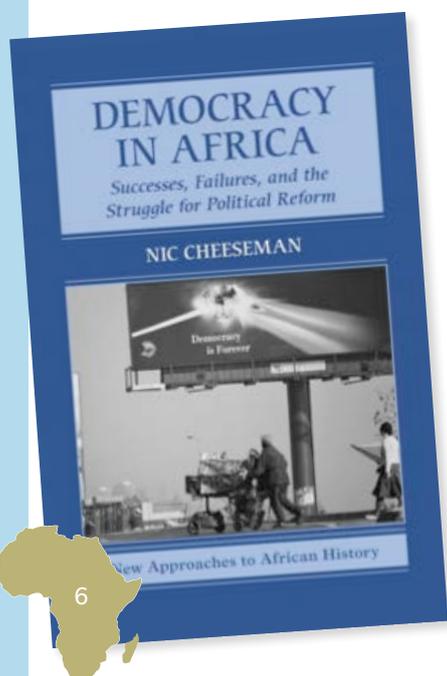
It is by kicking out bad leaders that voters can hold their governments to account. In Ghana and Senegal, democratic reform was driven by opposition parties, campaigning for freer and fairer elections to improve their own chances of winning power. Because power-sharing systems guarantee all parties representation in government, they threaten to undermine the very mechanism through which elections can drive democratisation. Excessive inclusion is therefore just as bad for democracy as excessive competition.

The task facing those who draft or adapt state constitutions is thus to decide on the appropriate balance between competition and inclusion. Such balance must allow for sufficient accommodation that all parties feel they have a stake in the system, while also maintaining as much competition as possible in order to promote accountability.

Unfortunately, there is no ideal constitutional template that can be deployed across the continent to achieve this goal. Different countries may require different degrees of inclusion in order to achieve political stability. Judging whether a political system can bear the strains associated with greater competition requires an intimate knowledge of a country’s demography, geography and political history.

Given this, it is remarkable – and worrying – just how few African countries feature inclusive political mechanisms that prevent certain communities from losing out systematically. For example, very few states feature meaningful decentralisation. Constitutional change, such as the new political system introduced in Kenya in 2010, is very much a step in the right direction. It locates the country in a reasonable middle-ground between majoritarian competition and forced inclusion.

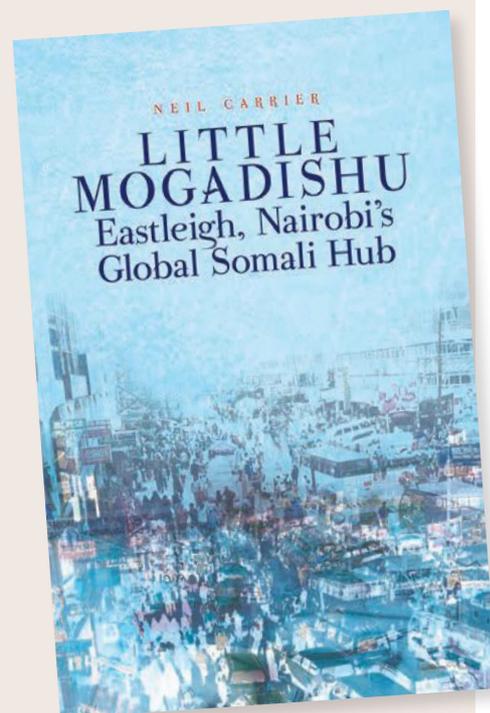
That this was possible despite Kenya’s challenging political context demonstrates the potential for constitutional reform to improve the prospects for political stability – so long as it is respected, of course. Given this, the book argues that it is far too soon to give up on democracy in Africa.



# Little Mogadishu:

## Eastleigh, Nairobi's Global Somali Hub

Neil Carrier



Nairobi's Eastleigh estate is located only a few kilometres from the centre of Kenya's capital. Until recently a residential area, Eastleigh is now a key centre of commerce for East Africa, housing over forty shopping malls where goods from all over the world – though mainly from China – are sold in an economy dominated by Somalis. Many of these are refugees who have come to the estate in large numbers as insecurity continues in their homeland; others are born and bred in Kenya, and have been attracted to an estate that offers many opportunities.

The status of Somalis in Kenya has long been contested. The militant Islamist group Al Shabaab has been responsible for a number of attacks within Kenya, including that on the Westgate shopping mall and Garissa University. This has further heightened suspicion of Somalis and led to oppressive state policies against them. Eastleigh has been the backdrop to a number of these policies, and police swoops targeting Somalis are common. The area is also itself held in suspicion. A vibrant economy in a place associated with refugees has raised questions about the origins of the capital underpinning its development. Most sensationally, some have linked its economic boom to piracy in the Indian Ocean, an explanation relying more on stereotypes of Somalis than on actual evidence. Thus, while thousands of Kenyans shop each day at the estate for its cheap clothes and electronics, it is seen as a place of exception, somehow un-Kenyan. This is reflected in how many

people talk about it: you would think that to visit it is to leave Kenya and enter Somalia, some give it the nickname *Little Mogadishu*.

I have been busy since 2011 with a project about Eastleigh entitled 'Diaspora, Trade and Trust: Eastleigh, Nairobi's Little Mogadishu'. This has set out to understand the origins and contemporary workings of its economy, as well as the legends that swirl around it, through ethnographic fieldwork and archival research. This project is based within the wider Oxford Diasporas Programme that has explored the impact of diaspora communities around the world, and understanding Eastleigh would be impossible without understanding its diasporic connections. Relatives based in the West and elsewhere have pumped much money into the estate in the form of remittances intended both to support their families and to help establish businesses. Somalis in cities in the UK, US, Scandinavia and even Australia are now tightly connected to this Nairobi estate, and see it as a prime place of investment. The estate is filled with people with British and American accents. Some are operating businesses and others are visiting relatives. These diaspora connections do not just spread to Western cities, but also to those of the East where many Somalis are now based. They visit to supply the estate with the cheap products through a transnational Somali infrastructure of freight and money-transfer companies.

I have now finished a book based on this project that explores these diasporic connections: *Little Mogadishu: Nairobi's Global Somali Hub* (Hurst Publishers). This title plays on the many different dimensions relevant to the Eastleigh story: the global, the regional, as well as the national and local. The nickname 'Little Mogadishu' reflects key aspects of the estate, while obscuring others, especially just how integrated into mainstream Kenya the estate actually is.

It is an ethnography, and relies on my many Eastleigh friends to bring it to life. For example, Mohaa (see photograph) is a key character in the book, one who guides the reader through the estate. A Somali entrepreneur (though one who prefers the grittier term of a 'hustler'), he was born in Kenya and operates a shop in one of Eastleigh's malls. His story of energy, perseverance and business acumen complements the book's focus on the wider structures within which Eastleigh has developed. However, the estate itself remains the key character of the book, one that generates many contrasting opinions and perspectives. For some Eastleigh is a place of fear, suspicion and alienation; for others, it is a place of hope, opportunity and connection. The book explores these ambiguities, while also attempting to demystify an economy that can tell us much about contemporary Kenya, the wider East African region, and the world beyond.



New A-level textbook

# South Africa 1948-94: From Apartheid State to 'Rainbow Nation'

William Beinart

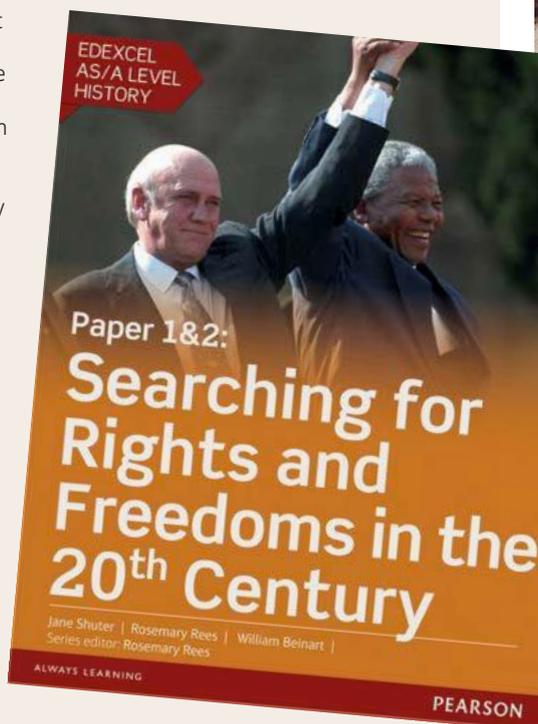
Together with Ed Teversham, a former Oxford doctoral student who has trained as a teacher, I wrote an A-level textbook on the apartheid era in South Africa. It is part of the new A-level stream on Searching for Rights and Freedoms in the Twentieth Century. As I understand it, scholars choosing this route will have to study a compulsory major theme on the United States: In Search of the American Dream, The USA, c1917-96. Then they will choose either South Africa 1948-94 or India 1918-1948. The texts for all three themes are published in one book and this will be a major part of the requirements for the two year History A-level course.

I was attracted to this project because it offered the possibility of reaching new audiences. I believe that this will be the first time that South African (or African) history is taught in detail at A-level in England. The major focus is on the black political struggle in these years, although there is also some content on apartheid policies, white society and the international, especially British, engagement with South Africa. At about 70,000 words of text, the treatment is quite detailed and it proved to be a more demanding task than we anticipated. Although we could draw a little on Twentieth-Century South Africa and other general books, we researched the sections on black politics anew and tried to reflect some of the latest findings, including recent books, as well as Oxford doctoral theses by Julian Brown, Ollie Murphy, Tim Gibbs, Anne Heffernan and others. I also benefitted from our seminar series in the South African Discussion group on Mandela, organised by Khumisho Mogerane, and from reading drafts of Colin Bundy's new short biography of Mandela.

Negotiating the content with Pearson, the publishers, was complicated. The syllabus is prescribed before the text is written. I was not consulted and found that some of the focus, sequence and emphasis was strange. We could not debate this with those responsible for the syllabus. The series editors were very keen that we stuck as closely as possible to the content and sequence of the specifications. They wish to be sure that teachers use the book and reckon that this is much more

likely if it covers the syllabus quite precisely. So we had to compromise on a number of sections, curtailing what we thought more important - and more in tune with recent historiography - and expanding sections that we saw as less relevant. We also had to cut most of the comparative material, and some of the conceptual material, because this was not in the specifications; I was sad to do so, especially because the stream as a whole opens up some interesting comparisons. The writing in our early drafts was also deemed too academic, so changes had to be made to the style.

There are of course many ways to write the history of this period in South Africa and, given the compromises and changes that we were required to make, I am reasonably happy with the result. I managed to salvage a section on the Mpondoland revolt, even though it was not in the specs, and there was enough flexibility to include many of our main concerns and some of our idiosyncratic interests. Some of the text is broken up into boxes and there are regular revision sections and exam questions. But I hope that there are sections where the narrative survives. There are also some photos, though fewer than we hoped.



# Congratulations to William Beinart on his retirement

On 19 June, as part of an alumni 10th anniversary reunion and our annual lecture we held a farewell reception to congratulate William Beinart on his retirement. William has been the Rhodes Chair of Race Relations since 1997 and it was a wonderful opportunity to recognise his very special contribution to our university, our field and to us as colleagues and students.

Colin Bundy led the speeches while Peter Delius and Sishuwa Sishuwa also spoke of William's many accomplishments. Friends, colleagues and students unable to attend had written postcards that were attached to three trees that were presented William as a leaving gift.

Having completed his PhD at SOAS, William became the chief historian of Pondoland writing on trade, labour, migrancy and youth. In the 1980s he also wrote on agrarian history more broadly and looked at rural resistance, women's movements, and Cape workers in South West Africa. His interest in the development of colonial thinking on conservation expanded through the 1990s to include indigenous veterinary knowledge, imperial science and more recently aspects of game, wildlife and their depiction on film.

The most impressive features of his research have been its broad scope and variety, the way it has brought African environmental issues into the mainstream of historical scholarship, and his fruitful collaborations with Colin himself, Peter Coates, Peter Delius, Lotte Hughes, Karen Brown, Saul Dubow, Luvuyo Wotshela and others.

William's research and publication record, which includes arguably the best overview of South African twentieth century history, has been achieved in parallel with an immense contribution to his profession and its institutions. He was editor of the *Journal of Southern African Studies*, President of the African Studies Association (UK), Head of the School of Interdisciplinary and Area Studies and Fellow of the British Academy.

William is a keen and expert gardener – perhaps it is the gardening that gives him such an optimistic and positive outlook on life. And of course William has been an inspiring and generous teacher. This postcard from one of his former students, Marcelle Dawson illustrates how sometimes William's educational and horticultural interests intertwined:

*'This is truly the end of an era. I wish I could be there in person to bid you farewell, but this card will have to suffice. One of my fondest memories of doctoral supervision was when you answered the door with a plastic bag in hand and asked if we could meet downstairs instead. You planted me on a garden chair and set about picking lettuce from the college garden (for about an hour), in the course of which you helped me to figure out the last three chapters of my thesis. I am deeply grateful that I had the privilege of being supervised by you.'*

All of his students present at the reception or who had sent in postcards said what a privilege it has been to have William as their supervisor – and say how grateful they are for the intellectual investments he made in students' work.

We will all of course remember William's most outstanding achievement as the founder of the University of Oxford's African Studies Centre. He was the inaugural director of the Centre when it was formed in 2002 and under his patient and persuasive guidance the centre has gone on to become one of the leading centres for the study of Africa in the world.

By students and colleagues alike William is much admired, much loved and will be much missed. We all wish him a long and happy retirement.



# ECAS, Paris 2015

Julie Archambault

The African Studies Centre was well represented at the European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), held at the Sorbonne in Paris (8–10 July 2015). Framed around the theme of “Collective Mobilisations in Africa: Contestation, Resistance, Revolt”, the conference brought together just under 2000 scholars from across Europe, Africa and North America. It was also an opportunity to celebrate the work of a promising African scholar through the Gerti Hesseling Prize which, since 2009, is awarded biennially for the best contribution to a European African Studies journal by a young African scholar. This year’s winner of the Gerti Hesseling Prize was Manase Chiweshe (Institute of Lifelong Learning, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe) for his article published in 2014 in the journal *Critical African Studies*. The article is entitled: “One of the boys: female fans’ responses to the masculine and phallogocentric nature of football stadiums in Zimbabwe”.

The next ECAS will be held in Basel (22–24 June 2017) and will hold the first “Patrick Chabal debate on a contemporary theme in African Studies”, in memory of Patrick Chabal who passed away in 2014. And, as Paul Nugent (Edinburgh) steps down after eight years as AEGIS president, the Association welcomes its new president, the anthropologist Clara Carvalho (ISCTE, Lisbon).

# Justice Edwin Cameron delivers the Bram Fischer Memorial Lecture

Dr Nic Cheeseman  
Chairman of the Organizing Committee



Every year, the Bram Fischer Memorial Lecture is one of the highlights of the African Studies calendar. The Lecture honours the lawyer and anti-apartheid activist who defended Nelson Mandela during the Rivonia Trial, and who himself died in imprisonment in 1975. Over the last seven years, talks have been delivered by a host of figures that have played an important role in South African history including Lord Joffe, Justice Albie Sachs, Advocate George Bizos SC, and Professor Denis Goldberg.

This year it was the turn of Justice Edwin Cameron, who is as well known for his tireless campaigning on issues such as gay rights, equality and HIV/AIDS as he is for being a judge of South Africa’s Constitutional Court. Edwin’s lecture elegantly discussed the difficult decisions that Bram Fischer had to make during his life, between obeying the law and ultimately running from it, and between his commitment to freedom and his communist beliefs.

In doing so, Edwin’s aim was not to impugn or question Fischer’s motives, but rather to point out the impossible moral positions that any true activist will find themselves in at some stage in their lives. The compromises that Bram had to make were not unique to him; they were compromises that we all make in our own way, every day. How else do we fight for justice in conditions of imperfection?

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Edwin’s insightful analysis led to one of the most engaged question and answer sessions that the lecture has yet seen. The meaning and importance of compromise was hotly debated, as much with reference to the struggles of today as the struggles of the past. All were agreed, however, that his talk had been a triumph. As ever, the lecture was generously hosted by Rhodes House, which was fitting given Edwin’s great service to the institution. Indeed, this was officially recognised by the Warden of Rhodes House, Charles Conn, who, after giving Edwin a characteristically warm welcome, presented him with a George Parkin Distinguished Service Award for his dedication to the Rhodes Scholarships.

For the first time, the lecture ended with a raffle for a rare Picasso print to support the important work of the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk, which draws on the expertise and resources of the British legal profession to protect lawyers whose lives are at risk around the world. The print was kindly donated by Dr Frederick Mulder CBE, who is a global expert in the field of European printmaking 1470–1970, with particular expertise in the work of Picasso. In total, the raffle and associated donations raised £4,000 – which is almost half of what it costs to send a volunteer to partner with a lawyer at risk abroad for a year. Our aim for future lectures is to raise more funds to fully cover the cost of protecting a modern-day Bram Fischer.

## British Academy International Partnership and Mobility Grant

Julie Archambault

**Sandra Manuel (U. Eduardo Mondlane) and Julie S. Archambault (U. of Oxford) have been awarded a British Academy International Partnership and Mobility Grant for a project entitled “Africa rising? Everyday life and the contours of prosperity in Lusophone Africa”.**

Africa is rising. At least, this is what some claim now that the continent boasts some of the world’s fastest growing economies. Such claims are easily qualified with evidence of rising inequality and deepening poverty. After spending the last couple of decades uncovering the roots of uncertainty and documenting the different creative ways in which people get by in trying environments, we have developed the concepts and tools to make sense of how people tackle and engage with adversity and frustrated aspirations. But what happens when conditions on the ground actually start changing, seemingly for the better? There is an anthropology of crisis and uncertainty but there is no anthropology of prosperity. Instead of simply qualifying the ‘Africa rising’ thesis, or dismissing it all together, the project proposes to take prosperity seriously. The project will bring together scholars engaged in research in different parts of Lusophone Africa which are experiencing unprecedented economic growth to develop ethnographically grounded concepts for an anthropology of prosperity.

A video of the lecture, the lecture text, and information about other Bram Fischer lectures can be found on the Rhodes House website: <http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/news/2015-bram-fischer-memorial-lecture>

For more information on the Alliance for Lawyers at risk, and to make a donation, go to: [www.peacebrigades.org.uk/country-groups/pbi-uk/alliance-for-lawyers-at-risk/](http://www.peacebrigades.org.uk/country-groups/pbi-uk/alliance-for-lawyers-at-risk/)



# The 2015 Oxford Africa Conference

The Oxford Africa Conference is a student-led collaboration between the Oxford University Africa Society and the Oxford Africa Business Network that brings together leading political, business and cultural figures to explore the most critical issues concerning the continent. The theme for the 2015 conference “A Continent on the Move: People, Politics and Business across Borders” sought to explore issues around sociocultural, economic and political integration on the African continent in light of exponential increase in digital connectivity, population growth and mobility.

The President of the Republic of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama opened the two-day conference on the 22nd of May with a stirring speech about the danger of a single story of Africa. He stressed Africa’s complex legacies and the urgent need for Africans to tell their own stories in this current age of information. Other distinguished speakers included Professor Andrew Hamilton, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford; Tony Elumelu, the Chairman of Heirs Holdings; Prof. Keorapetse Kgotsitsile, National Poet Laureate of South Africa; Dr. Vera Songwe, Country Director of the World Bank; Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie, Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation; and Phutuma Nhleko, Chairman of MTN Group. The first day closed with a gala dinner at the magnificent Oxford Town Hall where three of Africa’s most exciting young fashion designers showcased their latest collections.

The highlight of the second day was the Innovation Fair session dubbed ‘The Africa You Never Knew’ during which twelve founders of the most innovative social enterprises on the continent pitched their concepts, targets and projected impact to over four hundred and fifty conference participants in a bid to attract talent as well as to win a cash award. The winning pitch came from KadAfrica, a startup in Uganda that empowers out-of-school girls to farm passion fruits.

The 2015 Oxford Africa Conference was an exciting, enabling space for intense discussions about possibilities and opportunities for social and economic change in Africa. Various panel sessions explored topical issues related to the overarching themes of mobility and regional integration. We discussed the realities of learning abroad and returning to the continent to create change; the implications of international business strategies of multi-national companies; and the transformation of infrastructure and agriculture across regional blocs. The conference served as a platform to present and discuss new ideas about African issues and, more importantly, to connect present and future African leaders across borders and generations.



President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana speaking

## Oxfam and the African Studies Center

# Rising Inequality in the Global South: Practice and Solutions Symposium

Miles Larmer



Jay Naidoo

One of the highlights of the African Studies year at Oxford came in January 2015, when Oxfam and the African Studies Centre held their second joint symposium, following the successful event on 'Africa's Resource Curse' held in October 2013. This year's symposium was titled 'Rising Inequality in the Global South: Practice and Solutions', and followed the publication of Oxfam's inequality report, which revealed that 85 billionaires now own the same wealth as the bottom half of the world's population. The joint event, held on 19 January, focused on growing inequality between and within countries in the global South, its consequences for policy-makers and how it could be addressed.

The conference, organised by the ASC's Miles Larmer with colleagues from Oxfam, revealed the extent to which inequality has replaced poverty as the dominant economic reality in Africa as well as the wider global south. In the morning session, chaired by the Centre's Nic Cheeseman, researchers on Latin America, South Asia and Africa discussed the impact of rising income differentials, with Prof Nora Lustig from Tulane University demonstrating the complex relationship between growth, income and social and political change.

In the afternoon session, chaired by Oxfam's Winnie Byanyima, attention turned to practical solutions. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank, outlined the dilemmas facing African states as they sought to ensure that global corporations paid their taxes and managed their investments responsibly. The event concluded with an inspiring call to arms from Jay Naidoo from South Africa, who called for action to address global inequality on a scale resembling the Anti-Apartheid Movement, of which he was a prominent leader.

The conference and Oxfam's report received widespread media coverage both in the UK and internationally. The event was livestreamed and questions were directed to speakers in real time from a Twitter feed (video of the event can be viewed at: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/campaigns/world-economic-forum-2015/rising-inequality-global-south-practice-and-solutions-symposium>). The conference has cemented the relationship between the ASC, the University of Oxford and Oxfam. We plan to share expertise in research and policy initiatives related to such major problems. Plans are afoot for a follow-on event provisionally scheduled for May 2016.



Winnie Byanyima



Miles Larmer, Andrea Purdekova, David Pratten, Juliet Gilbert and Nic Cheeseman



# Researching Africa Day 2014

Sacha Hepburn

**On 7th March 2015 St Antony's College once again hosted the African Studies Centre's annual Researching Africa Day. Now in its 16th year, Researching Africa Day brings together post-graduate and early career researchers who are conducting research on Africa across a range of disciplines. The workshop offers an opportunity to discuss research strategies and approaches, to develop ideas in a constructive, stimulating, and engaging environment, and to network with other researchers. This year brought together over seventy participants from universities across the UK and further afield.**

The theme of our workshop this year was 'Imagining Welfare in Contemporary Africa: Interdisciplinary Reflections'. There are an inordinate number of institutions involved in sustaining, securing, and improving African lives: international donors, global policymakers, humanitarian interventions, scientists, governments, activists and families. Implicated in this work are particular constructions of the 'good' life in Africa, as well as ideas about who is responsible for safeguarding and providing it. How is it that African lives become a project for development, democracy or global citizenship? What can we learn from

current and past interventions? Over the course of the workshop eighteen papers sought to tease out answers to these broad and challenging questions.

The day opened with a stimulating keynote address from the ASC's Professor Jonny Steinberg. We then jumped straight into our packed schedule of panels. Panel one, 'Labour, Land and Livelihoods', explored how African men, women and children have engaged with and been impacted by various interventions to shape their working and living conditions on the Zambian Copperbelt, on Malawian sugar plantations and in the schools of colonial Natal. The second panel of the morning, 'Welfare and African Bodies', shifted our focus to think about the relationship between welfare and health, from Ebola in West Africa and Cholera in Zimbabwe, to broader debates about public health interventions in Africa.

St Antony's College provided sustenance to prepare us for an afternoon full of further debate and discussion. The third panel of the day focussed attention on how local actors have engaged with a variety of international interventions, from conservation in Tanzania to transitional justice in Sierra Leone. We then heard about the ways in which African men, women and children have pursued

'Livelihoods on the Margins', with papers discussing the culture of begging in Kinshasa, the culture of cybercafés in the Gambia and the ways in which young men negotiate mass unemployment in South Africa.

In the final panel of the day, 'The Objects and Images of African Welfare', we heard about German colonial railway infrastructure, the precarious nature of solar products in East Africa and the ways in which photography can capture a sense of the lives of immigrants in South Africa. This final panel built on an event that was held the night before the conference in which two filmmakers, both students at the University of Oxford, discussed the ways in which film can be used as a tool of research and to provide insights into welfare in Africa.

After a long day, we were especially fortunate to listen to stimulating and insightful closing comments from Dr Khumisho Moguerane of the University of Leeds.

We want to thank the fantastic speakers, discussants and participants. You all made the day into something truly special! The event could not have taken place without the support of the African Studies Centre and St Antony's College and particular thanks must go to Anniella Hutchinson and Emma Darwall-Smith.

## Filling Pails, Lighting Fires!

**Debating the realities of education was the centre of ODID's fifth successful Social Order in Africa Workshop, Monday 22nd June**

The African Studies Centre hosted ODID's fifth Social Order in Africa workshop this June entitled, 'Filling Pails, Lighting Fires: The Social and Political Uses of Education'. The interdisciplinary workshop brought together academics and post-graduate students from institutions in Belgium, Italy, the UK and the US to explore the political and social realities of education in Africa. Participants came from the fields of education, politics, development studies, politics, history and anthropology to give papers based around one of the three themes of 'The Everyday Politics of Education', 'The Utilities of Education', and 'Education and Epistemologies'. Important contemporary issues were raised by Hannah Höchner, who presented a study of 'traditional' Qu'ranic students in northern Nigeria, and in Andrew Cunningham's ground-breaking work on children's government in Kenya. Historical precedents was a key dimension of the workshop and so included fascinating papers from Matteo Grilli on the pan-African dissemination of Nkrumahism from Winneba Ideological Institute and Sebatso Manoeli on a social history of Unity Girls High School in Khartoum, Sudan. The political and ethical realities of the content of educational discourses was also debated by Simukai Chigudu in his presentation on the ethical issues of cosmopolitanism in global higher education institutions and Dan Hodgkinson in his work on how student protests shook the post-colonial state in Zimbabwe.

*Sebatso Manoeli  
presenting on her paper  
on the history of Unity  
Girls High School in Sudan.*

The organisers would like to thank all participants as well as Professor Carol Summers, Professor Jocelyn Alexander, and Professor Jonny Steinberg for moderating the sessions and Dr David Mills for his concluding remarks. The workshop was organised by Dan Hodgkinson, DPhil candidate at ODID.



# Ghosts from a Biscuit Tin

Neil Carrier

In 2008, the anthropologist Paul Baxter donated his doctoral fieldwork photographs to the Pitt Rivers Museum. These photographs number over 600 and relate to Paul's work in northern Kenya amongst the Borana and Gabra people in the early 1950s. The negatives had long been kept by Paul in an old biscuit tin bought in Kenya during his fieldwork. Together with colleagues including former African Studies MSc student Hassan Kochore and Pitt Rivers photographic curator Chris Morton, as well as my good friend Kimo Quaintance, I have endeavoured to digitise, catalogue and research this fascinating and unique collection that contains images of everyday life, medical procedures, ceremonies as well as portraits of particular people in a region where few others in that era were taking photographs.

The highlight of this research was a 2010 field trip to the region where the photographs had been taken 60 years earlier. There we were able to find a number of Paul's old friends who featured in the photographs, as well as relatives of other photographic subjects. This proved a highly moving experience, demonstrating how strong connections of friendship and respect were a lasting legacy of Paul's research in the region, as well as how meaningful such a collection can be for those whose histories are contained within. The collection brought back what some local people referred to as 'ghosts'. Many faces not seen for decades were suddenly in their presence once more.

Kimo and I wrote a chapter for the volume *Photography in Africa: Ethnographic Perspectives* edited by Richard Vokes (2012, James Currey) that drew on this research trip. More recently, we collaborated on an exhibition at St Anne's College, Oxford, combining photographs with those taken in 2010 by Kimo. This event was inspired and co-organised by Corin Sworn of St Anne's who had also returned her father's fieldwork photographs from Peru back to their source community. After an event in late October at the college about fieldwork photographs – at which Corin's father Gavin Smith also spoke – the exhibition was launched with a well-attended reception at the college on the 13th November, drawing in many Oxford anthropologists and Africanists.

Paul Baxter died in March 2014, and the event was dedicated to his memory. The online catalogue of his photographic collection has now been completed and will go live soon on the Pitt Rivers website (<http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk>). I am aiming to do more work with Paul's photographs in the future, including digitising and returning to Kenya a further set of images donated to the Pitt Rivers Museum by Paul's wife Pat. The collection has much more research potential, as well as the very human potential to rekindle personal connections. I hope that the next exhibition of these images will be in northern Kenya itself, allowing many more the opportunity to see these 'ghosts' now released from a biscuit tin.



# Horn of Africa seminar

James Mosely

**During 2014–15, 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 during 2014–15 included James McCann (Boston University), Ingrid Marie Breidlid (PRIO), Hannah Whittaker (Brunel), Iginio Gagliardone (Oxford), Matti Pohjonen (SOAS), Semeneh Ayelew (Makerere), Rosalind Marsden (Chatham House), Sharath Srinivasan & Claudia Abreu Lopes (Cambridge), Anna Bruzzone (Warwick), Nicole Stremlau (Oxford), Neil Carrier (Oxford), Marcel Rutten (Leiden) and Katrin Seidel (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology). Topics included the urban young & revolution in Ethiopia, Sudan's National Dialogue, media & changing African public spheres, the politics of colonial pacification in Jubaland, media & law-making in Somalia, the social history of Kenya's Shifta Conflict, challenges to pastoralist livelihoods, Somali entrepreneurship in Nairobi, the political economy of wildlife-based ecotourism in southern Kenya, South Sudan's constitution-making processes, historical ecologies of Lake Tana and the Blue Nile watershed and the evolution of Nuer community defense mechanisms in South Sudan.

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

- In December, we closed the term with a 2-day symposium, *Eritrea & Rwanda: Post-liberation trajectories in comparative perspective*. The keynote presentation, *Eritrea & Rwanda: Gate-keepers par excellence?* was made by Sara Rich Dorman and Jude Murison (Edinburgh), with Christopher Clapham (Cambridge) serving as discussant. The event was convened by Georgia Cole (Oxford) and Jason Mosley, with support from the ESRC, the African Studies Centre, Green Templeton College, the Oxford Central Africa Forum and the African History and Politics Seminar Series.
- In May, the seminar hosted a panel discussion on *Insecurity in Kenya: Al-Shabaab's growing threat and the state's faltering response*, with David Anderson (Warwick University), Jacob McKnight (Oxford University) and Aden Abdi (Conciliation Resources). The panel discussed the evolution of Al-Shabaab's presence and operations in Kenya, as well as the impacts of Kenyan government response. The panel was organised in cooperation with the African Studies Seminar Series.
- In June, the series hosted a second panel discussion, *Poll delay in Somaliland: crisis or process?*

The seminar was convened by Jason Mosley, research associate at the African Studies Centre.

## African Studies Link with Fort Hare Institute of Social and Economic Research

Sebatatso Manoeli

In the summer of 2014, Dr Khumisho Moguerane and I co-convoked the Oxford-FHISER Programme. The Programme, which brings Oxford students to work with postgraduates at FHISER, continued a sustained engagement over the last seven years.

We taught research methods in African Studies focusing on four themes over four weeks. The first (convoked by Sebatatso) was a discussion on the methodology of oral history and its historical evolution in Africa. The second session (convoked by Khumisho) historicised some of the key social categories that research on Africa often takes for granted, especially 'development' or 'modernisation'. The third class (convoked by Sebatatso) was a discussion of the history of anthropology in Africa and the new innovative approaches that scholars are now embarking on. The last session (convoked by Khumisho) was concerned with archives as a way to explore how the reconstruction of the past is never an objective project, but a subjective narrative that can privilege certain protagonists or silence others, affecting both Africa's present and the future.

In addition to the weekly classes, we each presented a paper at the Monday FHISER Round Table Seminar Series based on our respective DPhil research projects. The participants from various disciplines offered very helpful feedback during the seminar. We also co-convoked a day-long research design seminar alongside the FHISER lecturers in which many of the Masters students presented their research projects. Moreover, Khumisho and I offered two colloquiums aimed at encouraging students to travel and study abroad. These sessions were held on both campuses (Alice and East London) and they were highly interactive, attracting students from a variety of disciplines.

The FHISER team - Professor Leslie Bank, Dr Luvuyo Ntombana, Dr Teresa Connor and Ms Nomatshetshi Matolweni - showed us great hospitality. We enjoyed our time there, and found the experience to be meaningful, challenging and inspiring.



Sebatatso Manoeli and Dr Khumisho Moguerane

## South Africa discussion group

Jonny Steinberg

The group meets on Tuesday evenings at 5pm during term time to discuss a broad array of South African matters. The form of the meeting varies, depending on the subject matter. Sometimes we meet to talk about contemporary events in South Africa in an informal roundtable. Sometimes, a student or a visiting scholar will present a full paper. The group also serves as a forum in which graduate students and staff present work in progress. Subjects range from 19th century history to contemporary politics. The group is especially useful for MSc students writing dissertations on South Africa and for those intending to go on to do doctorates on South African themes.

# Oxford Central Africa Forum

Jean-Benoît Falisse

**2014-2015 was a transition year for the Oxford Central Africa Forum. For the first time, its Organising Committee did not include any of the founding members. The new conveners were drawn from across Politics and International Relations and International Development, and work on topics including health care provision, infrastructure projects, and the politics of displacement. This year, the seminar series included a series of special events.**

In Michaelmas term 2014, a workshop entitled "Eritrea & Rwanda: Post-liberation trajectories in comparative perspective" was convoked.

In Hilary term 2015, another workshop was organised called "Contested Decolonisation and the Dilemmas of Intervention: The United Nations and Nation-making along the Congolese-

Northern Rhodesian border, 1960-1964". The keynote speech of this event was presented by Sir Stephen Sedley, who addressed the audience with a speech on "Who Killed Dag Hammarskjöld?". In Trinity Term, the Burundi crisis prompted an emergency roundtable with scholars from the University and farther afield researching the area. This aimed to provide a more multi-faceted analysis of the violence within the country and the impacts that this was having on areas such as health care provision, displacement and the future election. A few weeks later, the documentary 'We Will Win Peace', on the campaign against conflict minerals in Eastern DR Congo, was premiered. The producer was present, and this was followed by a discussion on international strategies against 'conflict minerals'.

In organising these events, OCAF partnered with the African Studies Centre, ESRC, Green Templeton College,

the Zambia Discussion Group, St Antony's College, the Horn of Africa Seminar Series, and the Oxford Centre for the Analysis of Resource Rich Economies. The last seminar of the year, given by An Ansons (Louvain) and titled "Looking beneath the surface: Rwanda's developmental path versus local farmers' strategies", was co-hosted with the Natural Resources in Society Seminar.

OCAF was also present on the Internet, making the content of the seminar series accessible to a broader audience. A summary of the Burundi round-table was published on the Oxford and Cambridge Politics in Spire blog. A review of the movie "We Will Win Peace" was published on African Arguments, the blog of the Royal African Society. The review led to pieces in The Conversation Africa and The Guardian.



# Alumni Updates

Please contact us with your alumni updates.  
Email: [alumni@frica.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@frica.ox.ac.uk)



Belinda O'Donnell ( MSc '14) and Jane Coaston (University of Michigan '09) were legally married in Washington DC on 2nd May 2015.

**Rhian Keyse** I am working on an AHRC-funded PhD at the Department of History, University of Exeter. My research examines international and imperial responses to early and forced marriage in British colonial Africa, c.1925-1962.

**Bennett Collins** In January 2015, A Research Fellow in the School of International Relations in the University of St Andrews, Scotland. In March 2015, a research project designed by Bennett and his research partner Richard Ntakirutimana was one of twelve selected, amongst a pool of over 170 applicants, to be part of the Aegis Trust flagship 'Research, Policy, and Higher Education' program, funded by the UK Department for International Development.

**Ernest Honya** I am working as a Senior Analyst on Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist Financing regulations for Ria Money Transfer, based in Los Angeles. In January this year I founded the Association for Certified Compliance Professionals in Africa (ACCPA). The purpose of the organization is to provide training and certification for audit, risk, and compliance within the financial sector in Africa. I also serve as the Editor-in-Chief of the association's research journal - the Anti Money Laundering Journal of Africa.

**Michael Scharff** I'm based in New York City and work on the Government Innovation team at Bloomberg Philanthropies, Mayor Mike Bloomberg's foundation. I help run projects that encourage city governments worldwide to dream up and then implement innovative ideas that improve lives. Outside of work, I'm singing with the University Glee Club of New York City, an all-male ensemble.

**Christopher Appiah-Thompson** I work as Researcher and Administrator at the African University College of Communications Accra, Ghana.

**Jodie Sun** Will start a DPhil in History at Keble College in October 2015

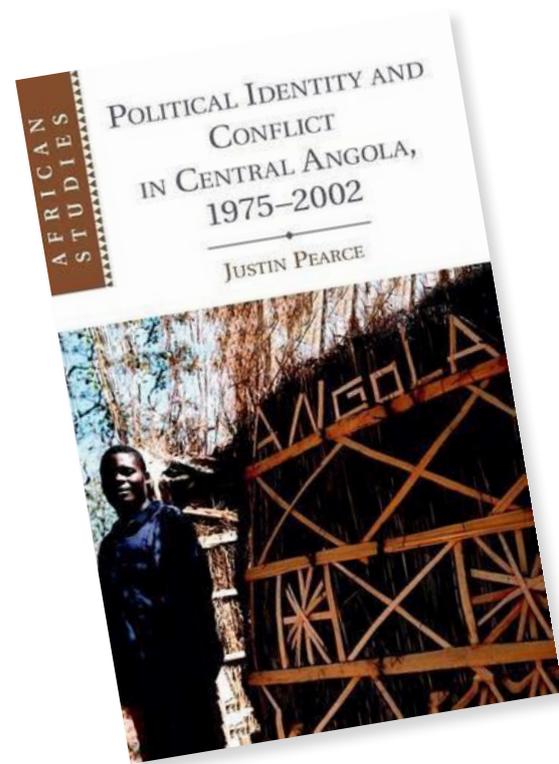
**Janet Remington** has a chapter in a forthcoming collection inspired by the research she began during her MSc in African Studies: "Through Dustless Tracks" for African Rights: Narrative Currents and Political Imaginaries of Solomon Plaatje's 1914 Sea Voyage', in Charlotte Mathieson (ed.), *Sea Narratives: Cultural Responses to the Sea* (Palgrave, 2016). She is also working as co-editor on an interdisciplinary edited volume to be published by Wits University Press marking the centenary of Plaatje's seminal *Native Life* in South Africa (1916).

**Heerden Herman** Will start an MBA at the Said Business School in 2015/16

**Richard Anderson** I completed my PhD in history at Yale University with a dissertation entitled "Recaptives: Community and Identity in Sierra Leone, 1808-1863." I am beginning a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and its Diasporas at York University in Toronto.

◀ **Belinda O'Donnell** ( MSc '14) has started working as the Global Policy Researcher for Aldatu Biosciences, a start-up based at Lab Central in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She will continue to write about U.S-Africa ties in Global Health and Security for the Africa Blog at the Wilson Center and the Harvard AIDS Institute.

**Justin Pearce's** (MSc African Studies 2006-07, DPhil Politics 2007-11) book, *Political Identity and Conflict in Central Angola 1975-2002* was recently published by Cambridge University Press. The book is based largely on the research that he conducted in Angola for his DPhil, soon after completing the MSc in African Studies. Justin is currently a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge, researching the roots and the character of political legitimacy in contemporary Angola and Mozambique. He spent several months this year in central Mozambique investigating recent political violence.





## The African Photographic Archive

Dr Chris Morton

In December 2011 the African Studies Centre helped support a one-day workshop at the Pitt Rivers Museum organised by Christopher Morton (ASC Research Associate) and Darren Newbury (now University of Brighton) titled *Interpreting African Photographic Archives: Research and Curatorial Strategies*. This workshop brought together academics, curators, artists and a group of research students in a number of disciplines to consider both established and emerging themes in the research and curation of photographic archives relating to Africa. Papers presented at the workshop by Sophie Feyder, Erin Haney (with Jennifer Bajorek), Christopher Morton, Darren Newbury, John Pepper, Christoph Rippe, Andrea Stultiens and David Zeitlyn have now been joined by essays from Heike Behrend, Patricia Hayes and Richard Vokes, in a new book edited by Morton and Newbury for Bloomsbury Academic.

The workshop itself was convened to complement the exhibition *People Apart: Cape Town Survey 1952. Photographs by Bryan Heseltine*, which was curated by Newbury at the Pitt Rivers Museum, and which ran from 19 July 2011 until 8 January 2012. The exhibition of this fascinating collection raised a series of critical questions about the role of the researcher in driving debates about, and setting the research and curatorial agenda for, African photographic collections. The workshop sought to widen such reflexive issues outwards to then consider expanded notions of the African photographic archive, from institutional collections to private and personal assemblages, as well as the ways in which researchers and artists are curating local reengagements with photographic archives as part of their work.



**Robtel Pailey** and **▲Rafael Marques de Morais** Two MSc African Studies graduates, Robtel Neajai Pailey and Rafael Marques de Morais were included in the Financial Times list of '25 Africans to Watch 2015'. Rafael Marques was supported by a major international campaign when he was tried by the Angolan authorities for material in his book, *Blood Diamonds: Corruption and Torture in Angola*.

**William Attwell** and **Hannah Waddilove** Are working at Oxford Analytica.

**Aidan Russell** is working at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

## Students v Staff football



# African Studies Class of 2014–15



**Hector Bagley UK**  
BA Geography  
University of Oxford

SEX FOR GRADES AND REVISION-AIDS? A Study of Corruption, Governance and Policy Reform in Ghanaian Universities



**Meredith Baker USA**  
BA African Studies  
Harvard University

The Grass is always Greener: How 'soldade' and the idea of 'longing for' in morna music plays a vital role in shaping the transnational identity of Cape Verdeans within and beyond the country's borders



**Grace Blakeley UK**  
BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics, University of Oxford

'If at first you don't succeed...': A Critical Discourse Analysis of the United Nations Peacebuilding Mission in Jonglei State, South Sudan



**Rosalind Duignan-Pearson UK**  
BA Music  
SOAS

Before you're a DJ you're a woman": navigating gendered space, society and music as a female DJ in Gauteng



**Tobias Erbert Germany**  
BA Politics  
Freie Universitat Berlin

Background and limits of Corporate Social Investment in South Africa: the case of Mercedes-Benz



**Denis Galava Kenya**  
MA Social Science  
University of Coventry

Killing the news and keeping the peace: The Case of 2013 Kenya Election



**Sheridan Gunderson USA**  
BA International Relations  
US George Mason University

Chewing Over Change: New dynamics in the global miraa trade



**Heerden Herman South Africa**  
Bcomm Investment  
Stellenbosch University

Local solutions to local problems? A case study of the Allan Gray company



**Makafui Honya Ghana**  
BA Political Science and Psychology  
University of Ghana

Dilemma of the First Time Voter: An Exploration of the factors that influence the voting decision of first time voters in Ghana



**Sa'eed Husaini Nigeria**  
BA Political Science  
Hope College USA

Stomach Infrastructure, Reformism, and Market Politics: Political Mobilization in the June 21st Ekiti State Governorship Election



**Innocent Kasiyano Zimbabwe**  
MSc Development Studies  
National University of Science and Technology

Youth, Politics and Participation: The case of Highfield Suburb, Zimbabwe 2000-2008



**Yusuf Kucuk Turkey**  
BA International Relations  
Istanbul University

Ten Years of Turkish Engagement in Africa: Discourse, Implementation and Perception in Somalia



**Yasmin Kumi Germany**  
BSc Business Administration  
EBS, International University Schloss Reichartshausen

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BA Comparative Politics  
Princeton University

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BA History  
Harvard University

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MA Architecture  
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Tech.

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Identity and Politics of  
the Built-up Form,  
c. 1945-1965



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BA History  
University of Leeds

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emergence and control  
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the Uganda protectorate  
1901-1911



**Isaac Mpyana DRC**  
BA  
SciencesPo

The Past in the Present?  
The contemporary  
Articulation of Katangese  
Identity



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BA International Relations  
Sarah Lawrence College NY

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D'Ivoire



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BA Film Studies  
University of Cape Town

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Youth: The role of a media  
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African social movement



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BA Government  
The College of William and Mary

Different Pitches,  
Different Possibilities:  
Football and Peacebuilding  
in Post Genocide Rwanda



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MA Political Science & Public Admin.  
University of Nairobi

Popular Support For Police  
Violence In Nairobi



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Mphil Linguistics  
University of the West Indies, Cave Hill

Public-Private Partnerships  
In Education in Uganda



**Olivia Walton South Africa**  
BA English Literature  
University of Cape Town

The Marikana Commission:  
Truth, and Voice in Official  
Documentation



**Boudewijn Wijnands  
The Netherlands** BSc Business  
University of Amsterdam

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international investment  
policies: the missing link into  
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Union economy

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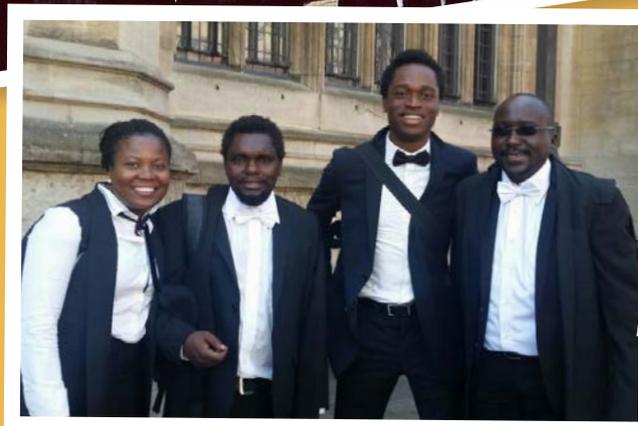
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# African Studies Centre



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