

# African Studies Centre

2016 Newsletter



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

*Shani Page Muir, Iris Nxumalo,  
Annual Lecture speaker Quman Akli,  
Hewan Marye and Phyllis Kyei Mensah*



# African Studies Newsletter 2015–2016

## Director's Report

I took over as Director of African Studies in September 2015 and while I feared during the first week or two that the place might fall apart under my inexperienced stewardship, we have had a remarkably successful year. The African Studies Centre is, after all, very much an endeavour that runs on the collective passion of all who work here. Between us, we produce, host and supervise scholarship on each sub-Saharan region, on the past and the present, on high politics and everyday life. It makes for a truly rewarding cacophony and a uniquely exciting centre to work and study.

At the heart of what we do are our masters and doctoral students. Our MSc cohort this year was drawn from Ghana, Ethiopia, South Africa and Rwanda, as well as from Germany, Switzerland, France, Canada, and, of course, the UK. It is from this cosmopolitan mix that the character and culture of the MSc programme arises and it is also what makes the course a great pleasure to teach. The class prize went this year to Ella Jeffries who wrote about the violence of informal militias called Asafo Companies in the early colonial period in Ghanaian coastal towns. The best dissertation award also went to a piece of work about soldiering: Marc Howard's dissertation on black soldiers in the Rhodesian army and the role they came to play in the early years of Zimbabwe's independence. Other research projects ranged from an ethnography of transgender sex workers living under a bridge in central Cape Town to a case study of tomato processing in Malawi to an analysis of Islamic political discourses in Senegal.

Dan Hodgkinson, a former masters student, acted as our doctoral representative, keeping up a tradition of pairing each of our current MSc students to a doctoral mentor. The Africa Society, led by former MSc student, Yasmin Kumi, organised another ambitious and highly successful Africa Conference, drawing an audience from across the UK and Europe. It ranks as a major national event for those interested in Africa and is organised entirely by Oxford students. Several masters and doctoral students were centrally involved in Rhodes Must Fall and its campaign to have Oriel's statue of Cecil John Rhodes removed. We were glad to feed some of the questions the campaign raised into the classroom. We also hosted an event, together with the

Centre for Advanced Studies at the University of London, on student activism in South Africa, the United States and the UK. Our intention was to explore some of the intellectual and political traffic that is currently moving at such speed across the Atlantic Ocean.

African Studies academic staff have been as productive as ever. Neil Carrier's new book on Eastleigh, Nairobi, will soon be out. Dominic Burbidge published his first monograph. It is on corruption in Kenya and is titled *The Shadow of Kenyan Democracy*. Miles Larmer's book, *The Katangese Gendarmes and the War in Central Africa*, co-authored by Erik Kennes, was published this year. Miles has also received a prestigious European Research Council (ERC) grant worth Euro 1.6 million for his project 'Comparing the Copperbelts', a major comparative history of mining regions in Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo and of English- and French-language scholarship on Africa. David Pratten has co-edited a collection called *Ethnographies of Uncertainty in Africa*, together with Elizabeth Cooper, and has continued a long-term collaborative project on African print cultures. Nic Cheeseman is working on a long-term collaborative project on the effects of elections in Africa and is running a research programme on the political economy of democracy promotion in collaboration with the Westminster Foundation of Democracy. A book that I co-edited, *The SAGE Handbook of Global Policing*, has just been published. And a stage production of my book, *A Man of Good Hope*, begins at the Young Vic in London in October.

Sadly, the end of the academic year is a time of departures. Julie Archambault, who had been with us in a series of teaching and research positions since 2011, leaves us for the anthropology department at Concordia University in Montreal. And Dominic Burbidge, who did a wonderful job teaching on our MSc programme this year, moves on, too.

There are also new arrivals. Thomas Hendriks, an anthropologist who writes on masculinity, sexuality and race in the Democratic Republic of Congo, is joining us from Ku Leuven. And Sebatso Manoeli will be teaching for us and the History Faculty for the next two years. Sebatso is the first Oxford African Studies MSc graduate we have recruited to onto our staff, an auspicious and extremely exciting occasion for producing a new generation of scholars is among the most important tasks in our profession.

Last but by no means least, many thanks to Anniella Hutchinson, the African Studies Centre's administrator, who, among the countless other tasks she performs, produced this newsletter.

**Jonny Steinberg**  
Director, African Studies Centre



# Academic Visitors to the ASC during 2015–16

**Martin Murray**: Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Michigan spent his stay in Oxford working on the finale in his trilogy of books on contemporary Johannesburg. This one is on policing, its growing privatisation and some of the spatial dimensions and implications of these developments.

**Michael O'Leary**: trained in both economics and an anthropology with an extensive career as a consultant and a scholar, Michael is spending his time at the African Studies Centre writing a book based on data he collected when he worked between 1981–1984 as the social anthropologist/ human ecologist in a large team of water, range, and livestock ecologists, all members of the Integrated Project in Arid Lands (IPAL), Man and the Biosphere, UNESCO, located in Marsabit District, Kenya.



**Thomas Cousins**, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Stellenbosch spent his time with us working on his monograph on the anthropology of the gut. Thomas did his fieldwork among forestry workers in the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa.

**Chris Low**, an anthropologist who has written extensively on Koisian healing and cosmology is giving expert advice to the construction of a Koisian museum outside Cape Town. He is also involved in returning an archive of photographs collected over the years by anthropologists to their rightful owners.

**Tim Wilson** is based at the Hunterstoun Centre at Fort Hare University in South Africa. With extensive experience in health policy and in the functioning of bureaucracies, Tim spent his time here working on his ongoing project on the impact of past trauma on the ability of public sector managers to lead.



**Yash Tandon**, an honorary professor at both Warwick and Middlesex University is an African economist currently working on a book provisionally titled A Brief History of Asymmetrical Wars.

**Wolde Tadesse**, an expert on agrarian studies in the Horn of Africa, is working on several projects including collaboration on the social and cultural history of the Enset crop.



**Benjamin Lawrence** is Professor of International Studies in the Department of Social and Anthropological Studies at the Rochester Institute of Technology. He spent his time in Oxford working on an ethnography of international asylum claims.



**Lindsey Whitfield** teaches at Roskilde University and spent her time in Oxford working on her book on the comparative political economy of development. Lindsey also very kindly agreed to teach on our core Msc programme, giving an inspiring lecture on Modernisation and Development.

**Tiziana Morosetti** is a scholar of postcolonial literature. Among her many projects is an endeavour to trace the ways in which secondary and tertiary education curricula in Anglophone Africa have influenced post-colonial African writing. Tiziana taught an optional course on African literature and hosted a symposium on the work of Ken Saro-Wiwa.



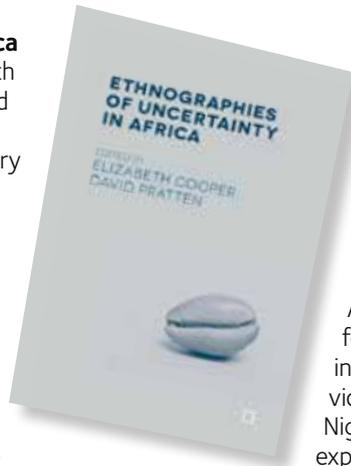
# Anthropological Perspectives

David Pratten

**I have been working on several related projects in recent years, covering a range of topics including masking, newspapers and uncertainty:**

## Ethnographies of Uncertainty in Africa

For several years I have been working with a small cohort of scholars based in Oxford and Copenhagen who share an interest in uncertainty and insecurity in contemporary Africanist anthropology. The result was a collected volume I co-edited with my former DPhil student Elizabeth Cooper published with Palgrave Macmillan in 2015. The collection explores the productive potential of uncertainty for people living in Africa. The contributions show that uncertainty is entwined with social relations and shapes people's relationship between the present and the future.



of thinking about the history of collections (I am working on the records of a colonial-era collector, MDW Jeffeys) and on the curatorial challenges (I am collaborating with colleagues at the Victoria and Albert Museum in a research network on African Design Futures).

I am stepping down as co-editor of AFRICA after 7 years in post and from being Senior Tutor of St Antony's for the last couple of years so that I can focus on my core research. As a result, I am now in the process of concluding my research on youth, violence and insecurity in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria which is work that I began in 1996. I have explored the relationship between youth, politics and violence in Nigeria from various perspectives. Most recently, with the help of funding from the French National Research Agency and a grant from the British Academy, my research has focused on the emergence and performance of a new 'youth' mask known as Agaba. A street gang, deeply embedded in political networks, Agaba is an invented tradition with a performative repertoire that, despite its hyper-masculine violent context, is rich with humour and insight into the radical insecurities of everyday life.

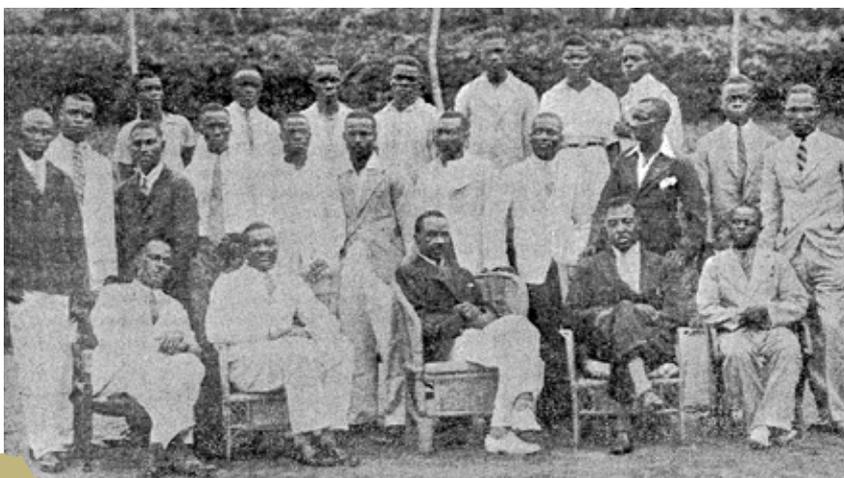
## African Print Cultures

I have also been working with colleagues as part of an interdisciplinary research network exploring African Print Cultures. The network has been funded by Oxford University's Fell Fund and by the University of Michigan and seeks to highlight the agency of English- and African-language newspapers in political and cultural life, attending to the textual form as well as the content. Among the outcomes of the programme are a major edited collection with the University of Michigan Press. My own research on this theme is a study into the life and works of J.V. Clinton, a provincial newspaper editor and writer.

## Museums, Masking and Militancy

I continue to work on the histories and politics of masks and masked performances from south-eastern Nigeria. During 2014 I worked with colleagues at the Pitt Rivers Museum on aspects of their collection and displays. I also contributed to a programme about Masks on The Why Factor, broadcast on the BBC World Service in January 2014. I am finding this museum ethnography very stimulating – both in terms

*Agaba performing in Calabar, 2012.*



*JV Clinton (front row second right) and the editorial staff of the Nigerian Eastern Mail, Calabar.*



*David Pratten with long-term research partner, Dr Steve Wordu (Dept of Sociology, University of Port Harcourt), at the Obio Akpor New Yam Festival, 11 Sept*



## Terrorism in Africa Workshop

January 28, 2016, St Antony's College

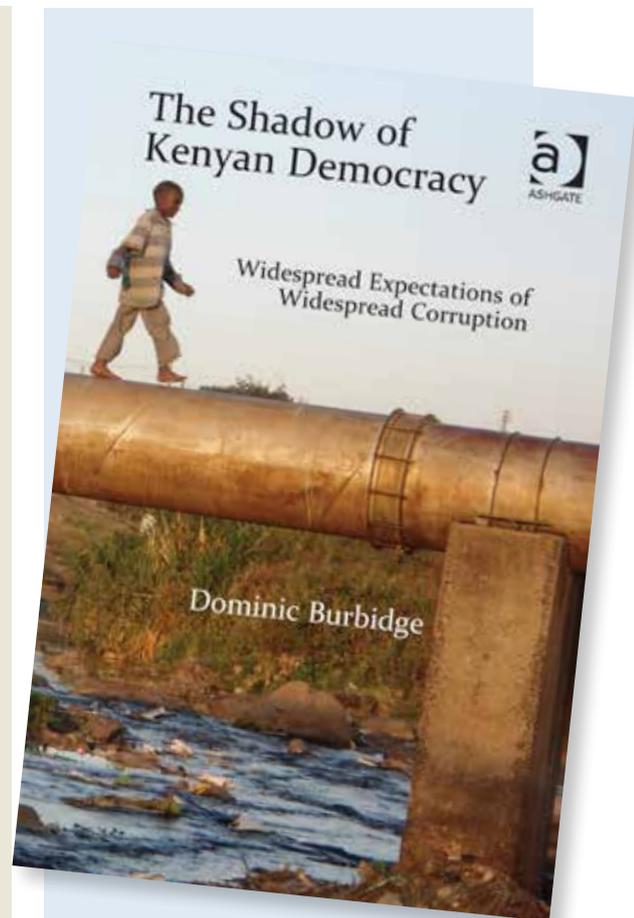
Conveners: Andrea Grant, Jonathon Earle, Andrea Purdeková

The war on terror in Africa provides a unique lens to explore the changing dynamics of conflict, statecraft and security on the continent. Yet to date, there has been little interdisciplinary, comparative and cross-regional exploration of the topic. And while debates have emerged around the main actors of Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab and the nature and effectiveness of policies targeting them, there has been little systematic exploration of the ways in which such violence feeds into local experience and response, shapes the nature of the state and modes of governmentality, or connects with longer histories of violence and securitisation on the continent. With this in view and to commence such broader conversations, my colleagues Andrea Grant, Jon Earl and I have organized a daylong workshop on 'Terrorism in Africa,' which took place on January 28, 2016 at St Antony's College.



The workshop has brought together ten scholars working across a diversity of disciplines from history, politics to anthropology, and working with a diversity of sources from archives, ethnographic fieldwork, to pamphlets and cartoons. The workshop has welcomed more than seventy participants throughout the day's events. Three separate panels critically explored different facets of the emerging phenomenon. The first panel on 'Contested Histories' sought to situate current discourses within a much longer historical trajectory, investigating the genealogies and applications of terms such as 'terror' and 'terrorism'— the *longue durée* of the politics of labeling. The second panel on 'Securitisation and Regional Circulation' was anchored in contemporary dynamics and explored the concrete ways in which the terrorism discourse proves politically productive, impacting regional security practices and democratization. The final panel on 'Local Impact and Responses' has brought our discussions to the local level, exploring the ways in which 'terrorism' and the measures it gives rise to impact specific groups such as LGBT communities and women, or the ways in which terrorism and counter-terrorism are depicted in popular culture. The workshop was made possible through the generous support of the African Studies Centre and the St Antony's Antonian Fund.

**Andrea Purdeková**



I have recently published the manuscript *The Shadow of Kenyan Democracy: Widespread Expectations of Widespread Corruption* (Ashgate, 2015; Routledge, 2016). The basic argument is that while many consider Kenyan politics to be permeated by a 'culture of corruption' ruining state delivery of public services, these descriptions of Kenya often hide more than they reveal and may in fact be inhibiting the growth of democracy.

In the book, I analyse how an expectation of corruption can become entrenched among citizens, which then forecloses dialogue on moral leadership and what the state would ideally look like. Hitherto, democracy promotion in Africa has emphasised the need to expose corrupt practices and corrupt leaders, without considering that the accompanying narrative of ubiquitous corruption damages citizen understandings of each other and of the feasibility of change.

If democratization is to be successful, there is a need to treat citizen expectations of each other as part of the process. This means tracking the art of leadership portrayal and localised notions of public virtue, not simply narrating corruption's prevalence.



# Inequality and taxation under the microscope at Ox-Ox



For a few years now the African Studies Centre of Oxford University and OXFAM have been holding joint events to compare notes, share ideas, and push forward new research agendas. The alliance makes perfect sense. The African Studies Centre is committed to producing world-leading research and to using that research to make the world a better place. OXFAM is one of the most high profile charities in the world and is committed to drawing on the latest evidence to reduce poverty around the globe. It is also based in Oxford (OXFAM stands for Oxford Committee for Famine Relief), facilitating collaboration.

This year, the Ox-Ox event was held on 3 May 2016 and focussed on taxation and inequality. In the past, OXFAM has pointed out just how unequally the

world's wealth is divided. According to figures released in early 2016, just 62 people owned the same wealth as half of the people on the planet. Taking off from this data, previous Ox-Ox events had emphasised the drivers of global inequality and explored its consequences. In 2016, we gave ourselves a different task: to examine potential and practical solutions to rising inequality, particularly in the south, with a specific focus on fiscal justice. In other words, we set out to investigate the impact of taxation and government transfers (welfare payments, grants and so on) on inequality, and to think about how things can be improved for the world's poorest citizens.

In a workshop that took up most of the day, leading figures from Oxford University, the Tax Justice Network, OXFAM, and a host of other organizations discussed whether it would be possible to agree on a common way of measuring how progressive or "fair" different tax systems around the world really are – could we, for example, develop a global Fair Tax Index? As with any global index, participants quickly identified a number of challenges, but also agreed on the need to generate better comparative data given the incredible variation in the proportion of taxation paid by the wealthy around the world.

It is easy to get lulled into the false assumption that taxation and

government transfers are generally "progressive" – that is, that they have an overall effect of redistributing wealth from the rich to the poor. Such an assumption is only natural because people that earn more money tend to pay higher rates of tax, while government services such as health and education are available to all. However, as attractive as this assumption is, it turns out to be wrong. In fact, there is a great deal of variation in how progressive tax systems are across the globe. The experience of sub-Saharan Africa illustrates this point well. There are now over 160,000 millionaires on the continent, but they do not tend to pay as much tax as you might think.

As Oxford's own Valpy Fitzgerald explained on the day, in many African countries the poor actually pay a higher proportion of their income in tax than the wealthy. In part, this is because the highest rate of tax on the continent is fairly low, rarely exceeding 35%. For example, taxation is capped at 15% in Mauritius, 17% in Angola, 25% in Nigeria, 25% in Botswana, and 30% in Burkina Faso and Kenya. For comparison, these rates are far lower than is common in Europe, where the top rate of tax stands at 43% in Italy, 45% in France and the UK, 49% in Spain, and 59.7% in Sweden. As a result, there are serious questions about whether Africa's wealthiest citizens are paying their fair share in tax revenue.

Following a number of in-depth discussions, the event ended with a panel of high profile talks by leading experts such as Dr Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Jayati Ghosh, who teaches economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, and Kevin Watkins, the Executive Director of the Overseas Development Institute. As ever, Winnie Byanyima, the Executive Director of OXFAM, was a powerful presence throughout, providing a range of policy and personal perspectives on the human impact of rising inequality. Moving forwards, we intend to further strength our research collaboration with OXFAM in this area, and are grateful to Winnie and her team for making the event such a success.

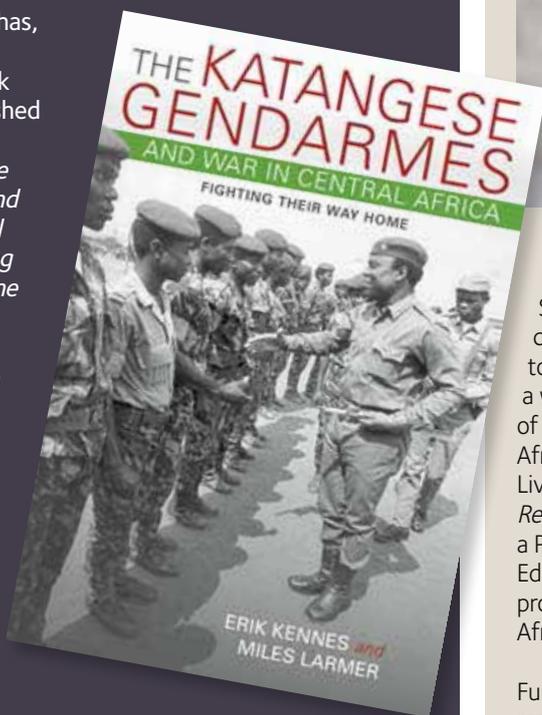
**Nic Cheeseman**



## The Katangese Gendarmes and War in Central Africa: Fighting their way home

Miles Larmer has, along with his co-author, Erik Kennes, published his new book *The Katangese Gendarmes and War in Central Africa: Fighting their way home* in July 2016. The book appears in the prestigious African Studies series of Indiana University Press, and is the culmination of a decade's research and writing on this hitherto little known subject. The Katangese gendarmes, originally the rank-and-file army of Katanga's secession from newly independent Congo in 1960, subsequently fought in a series of regional wars, adopting and adapting their identities and military form, all the while remaining focused on returning to their imagined nation of Katanga. Through this case study, Kennes and Larmer explore a range of wider issues: the under-explored legacies of Africa's problematic decolonisation, the continent's experience of the Cold War, and the continued role of non-state armed forces in conflicts in contemporary Africa.

Larmer's work on the gendarmes started in 2005 with the sort of happy accident that often prompts research projects. He recalls: "I was working on the Zambian coup attempt of 1980, which I knew had involved some Katangese forces, the origins of which I didn't appreciate. A friend of mine directed to me to one Deogratias Symba, who I met in a rundown guest house on the outskirts of the Zambian city of Ndola. What I had expected to be a short meeting turned into an all-night conversation, as Symba explained to me the origins of the gendarmes and their largely undocumented history. Symba was himself part of that history: as well as a political advisor to the gendarmes, he had been part of the coup attempt, was convicted of treason and spent nearly a decade on death row before being pardoned by then Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda in 1990. Along with Erik Kennes, I have been retracing the gendarmes' historical paths, between the DR Congo, Angola and Zambia, until today."



Neil Carrier had a busy and productive year in 2015–2016, beginning in October with the birth of his daughter Sylvie. Productivity of a more academic variety included completing his manuscript of his book *Little Mogadishu* (due to be published by Hurst / OUP in Autumn 2016), organising a workshop alongside Martin Rosenfeld entitled 'The Place of Trade' that explored different forms of marketplaces in Africa and elsewhere, and publishing an article entitled 'Illicit Livelihoods' on the theme of drugs and development in the *Review of African Political Economy*. He was also awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education from Oxford, having successfully completed a project exploring how the teaching of anthropology and African Studies can be improved.

Furthermore, Neil has laid the foundations for two new research projects. The first – in collaboration with Gernot Klantschnig of the University of York – is entitled *Cannabis Africana*, and explores the history, politics and anthropology of cannabis in Sub-Saharan Africa. While alcohol and khat have been studied extensively in Africa, cannabis has received little research attention despite being its most consumed illicit intoxicant, and an important source of livelihoods for many thousands of farmers and traders. The project will delve into archival material from Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa, collect oral histories, and use ethnographic methods to explore changes and continuities in Africa's cannabis economy. The project will also draw together a network of stakeholders to discuss the developmental and health impacts of the substance, and consider how policy towards the substance in African countries might change in an era where various governments around the world are experimenting with legalisation or decriminalisation.

The second focuses on food security and local knowledge in East Africa, using the prism of a burgeoning mushroom-industry in Kenya. Networks of educational institutions, NGOs and entrepreneurs are encouraging many smallholders to turn their hands towards mushroom cultivation as a source of income, and as a source of protein-rich, sustainable food. Neil and his co-researchers Adam Gilbertson (now at University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill), and Cory Rodgers of Oxford, have already conducted pilot research in Kenya, meeting many farmers and those preaching the potential of the crop. They have also visited Western Kenya where there is much age-old local knowledge, trade and consumption of edible wild mushrooms, in stark contrast to central Kenya where mushrooms are seen as a novel food. Neil, Adam and Cory are soon to publish an article on the theme, and are seeking funding for a wider project that will speak to the role such apparently marginal crops can play in generating incomes, creating entrepreneurs, and increasing food security.



# Quman Akli Annual Lecture at the ASC, 17th June 2016

**Quman Akli, a constitutional lawyer researching Somalia's constitutional process, gave this year's annual lecture. The African Studies Centre's Jonny Steinberg convened the lecture at St Antony's new Investcorp Building.**

As a Research Fellow at the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law, Quman spoke chiefly about Somalia's constitution-making process, and, especially, the task of engineering a culture of constitutionalism.

Hailing from Somalia's autonomous regions of Somaliland, Quman Akli was able to draw upon experiences both from Somalia, classified by many as a 'failed state', and the Somaliland context, which many have seen as a success case in post-conflict autonomous governance. Quman commented on the dangers of international categorisation of entrenched and complicated domestic issues - and the purposes it serves outside interests. By focusing on the tension between external rhetoric and the internalisation of international norms such as constitution making, Quman was able to complicate the idea of liberal state building in post-conflict situations. Thus she explained there are three key issues surrounding the constitutional process in Somalia today: constitution-making, a core, if fraught tenet of the liberal state-building model; constitution-breaking which if miscalculated could undo or undermine the authority of a constitution; and lastly constitutional review, without which the constitutional process is incomplete.

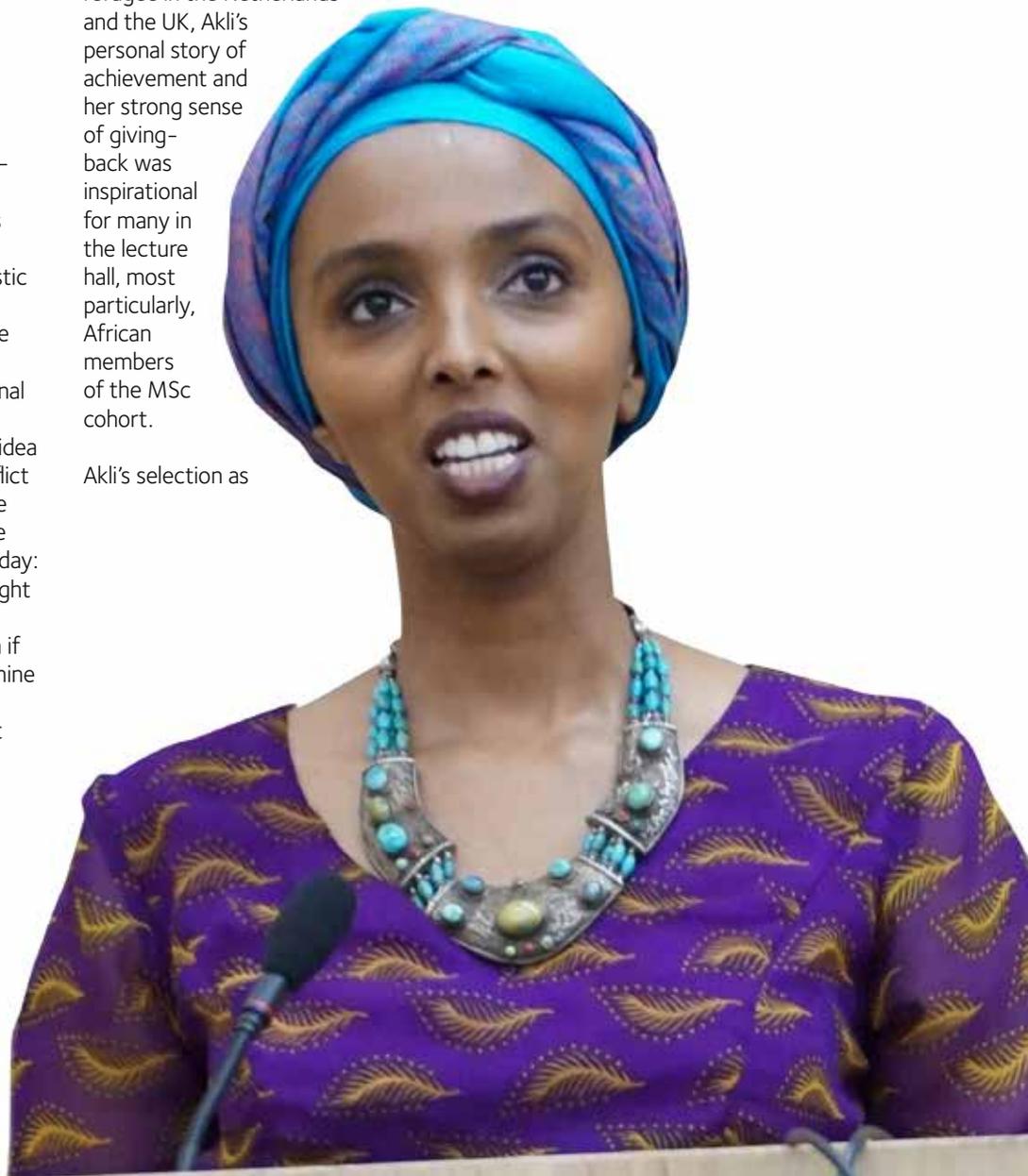
Akli spoke of the connections between making constitutions and making a culture of constitutionalism - each requires the other, she explained, but they should not be conflated. Constitutional legitimacy, derived from institutional legitimacy, was key to the success of all transitional processes, Akli emphasised.

The audience, made up of Oxford's Africanist community and beyond, was engrossed both by the insight of Akli's first-hand knowledge and experience and also at her personal investment in this project. After detailing her life as a refugee in the Netherlands and the UK, Akli's personal story of achievement and her strong sense of giving-back was inspirational for many in the lecture hall, most particularly, African members of the MSc cohort.

Akli's selection as

this year's speaker therefore recognises and encourages a new brand of expert researcher, one whose familiarity with the local context is an added advantage rather than seen as a foundation for bias. The MSc has seen many alumni from the continent advance into positions of national importance and Quman Akli's presentation this year helped to consolidate the significance of this tradition in the minds of this year's MSc candidates.

**Kholood Khair – MSc African Studies [2015–16]**



# Theatre production of a Man of Good Hope



In October and November 2016 a theatrical adaptation of my book, *A Man of Good Hope*, is to be performed at the Young Vic in London. The production is a collaboration between the Young Vic, the Royal Opera House and a brilliant theatre company from Cape Town called the Isango Ensemble.

The book chronicles the childhood and youth of a refugee named Asad Abdullahi in the wake of the great Somali dispersal that followed the onset of that country's civil war. Asad lived a skittish existence in the 1990s, moving ceaselessly through Kenya and Ethiopia, making wary alliances with one adult after another, and finally learning to hustle for a living on the streets of Addis Ababa. In 2004, at the age of 20, he stuffed \$1200 in his pocket and, without documents, headed south to Johannesburg to make his fortune. In South Africa he became a successful businessman on the country's urban margins among the very poor; but he discovered, too, the enormous anger and violence that South Africa's poor unleash upon foreign nationals, especially the traders and merchants who make money in their midst.

Isango have set Asad's story to music featuring marimbas and vocal performances by a 23-strong ensemble. Taking on this story was a brave new venture for them. Until now, the ensemble's forte has been to re-imagine Western operatic and theatre classics in South African township settings, using South African musical traditions. They have taken on successful global tours their interpretations of *The Magic Flute* and *La Boheme*, among others. This is the first time they have set themselves to telling a contemporary story, about South Africa, about themselves, and such a difficult story at that. The musical traditions they draw upon are often joyous, sometimes folksy. How does one use this form to tell a dark story about the violence and disappointment?

Writing a book and crafting theatre are very different arts. In writing *A Man of Good Hope*, I too, had to grapple with how to tell a difficult and violent story. But I had available to me all the deflections and indirectness available to prose. The Isango Ensemble had a tougher job – to represent a hard story, raw and direct, on the stage.

They have done a truly inspiring job – the power of their voices and their music are something to behold. It has been a great honour to have watched them go about their work.

**Jonny Steinberg**

# Comparing the Copperbelt

Miles Larmer's new project, *Comparing the Copperbelt*, is funded by a prestigious European Research Council (ERC) grant of approx. Euro 1.6 million. Starting in July 2016 and running for four years, the project will provide the first integrated social history of the bordering copper mining regions of Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The mining towns of both countries have been the subject of political attention and social science research for nearly a century, identified as places where a new urban African identity developed in the mid twentieth century. Copperbelt communities on both sides of the border experienced and shaped the growth of these towns, formed labour unions and new political parties, and contributed to political, social and economic changes – nationalism and independence, nationalisation and privatisation, and the rise and fall of the globalised copper mining industries – until the present day.

*Comparing the Copperbelt* will also examine how these communities have been understood by generations of academic analysts, and how they themselves contributed to how this 'knowledge production' process. James Ferguson's seminal *Expectations of Modernity: Myths and Meanings of Urban Life of the Zambian Copperbelt* (1999) provided insight into the constructed nature of Copperbelt urbanism and the active ways in which modernist social science shaped this construction. Larmer aims to build on Ferguson's achievements, firstly by comparing the role of Anglo-American scholars studying Zambia with the parallel Belgian academic analysis of the Haut Katanga mining region of Congo, and by analysing the active role played by Copperbelt residents in shaping the way their communities have been represented in academic studies.

With Dr Larmer acting as the Principal Investigator, *Comparing the Copperbelt* will also employ three full-time postdoctoral researchers for three years apiece. The first two of these, specialising in Environmental History and Cultural History, will be taking up their posts in Oxford in October 2016 and January 2017 respectively. The project will generate a series of seminars, workshops and conferences to be held in Oxford and elsewhere, including in the copperbelt region itself. It will lead to the publication of a series of academic articles and books by the time it is completed in June 2020.

**Miles Larmer**



# THE 2016 OXFORD AFRICA CONFERENCE

The Oxford Africa Conference is the leading interdisciplinary conference on Africa delivered by the Oxford University Africa Society. The Conference brings together actors from all walks of life – heads of state, policymakers, business leaders, academics, artists, students, and professional, among others – to critically expand the discourse on Africa. The theme selected for its sixth year running was: “Challenging Narratives: Governance, Youth Leadership and Business in Africa”, and the renowned Oxford Union and the award winning new building of The Blavatnik School of Governance hosted the two-day conference on May 20th and 21st.

Obiageli Ezekweseli, co-founder of Transparency International, convener of the Bring Back our Girls campaign and former minister of the Nigerian Government delivered the keynote address. Other notable speakers included Arnold Ekpe, the former Chairman of Ecobank Group, Elsie Kanza, Head of Africa of the World Economic Forum, Lord Michael Hastings CBE, Director of Global Citizenship at KPMG, and Anas Aremeyaw Anas, undercover journalist, attorney and private detective from Ghana.

250 delegates attended this year’s conference including 10 of the most innovative social enterprises on the continent. Over two days, the innovators pitched their concepts, targets and projected impact to participants in a bid to attract talent as well as to win a cash award. The winning pitch came from “Soular”, a Kenyan social enterprise, which produces The Soular Backpack with a solar panel on it that enables children who don’t have access to electricity to study every night without the use, cost and health effects of the carcinogenic kerosene lamp.

The 2016 Oxford Africa Conference provided a vibrant platform for new thinking about a global Africa across all disciplines – politics, society, business, technology and academia – connecting intergenerational leaders from around the world to shape an integrated and innovative perspective on Africa’s future. The conference closed with a celebration of African music at the conference After-Party.

**Yasmin Kumi – MSc African Studies 2015 and Moctar Kane**



## Oxford Central Africa Forum 2015–16

In Michaelmas term, Oxford Central Africa Forum resumed its activities with a new round table on the Burundi crisis involving a wide panel of scholars coming from the universities of Edinburgh, Cambridge, Ghent, and the LSE, in-house researchers, and two Burundian experts. The panel contributed to the creation of a much needed network of researchers on (present day) Burundi and was attended by NGO and government experts. Another highlight included hosting Douglas Carpenter, Deputy Head of Division Central Africa and Great Lakes at the European Union’s External Action Service for a ‘Chatham House’ talk. The term finished with a cartoon exhibition and talk by graphic novelist Jean-Philippe Stassen, winner of multiples awards for his novel *Deogratias* on the Rwandan genocide. The event was well appreciated and illustrates the commitment of OCAF to reach out the arts and humanities public in addition to its usual social science public.

This year, OCAF also made a point in involving and featuring students, and in particular African students. Isaac Mpyana and Louise Umutoni gave great presentations of their research, respectively on Katangese nationalism and identity and gender in Rwandan politics in Hillary term. Trinity also featured James Tumusiime, founder and managing director/editor of *The Observer* newspaper in Uganda for a fascinating insight into Journalism and politics in the country.

Hilary term featured a number of well attended events by Marco Jowell, Jonathan Beloff, Tom Goodfellow, Prithvi Behuria and Katrien Pype presenting their latest insightful work on Rwanda and Congo, with the later introducing the uninitiated to the music of the Congo and its political resonance.

In line with OCAF’s aim to bring in speakers from outside academia, Trinity featured Theodore Trefon who publicized his book on the Congo’s Environmental Paradox. We closed the 2015–2016 academic year with the presentations of two senior researchers working on the DR Congo, Ragnild Nordas from the Peace Research Institute Oslo and Kristof Titeca from the University of Antwerp. Their presentations of cutting-edge new research on gender and violence and corruption, greatly contributed to OCAF’s ambition to advance research methods on Central Africa.

**Jean-Benoît Falisse and Barnaby Dye**



# Summary of Horn of Africa seminar series, 2015–16

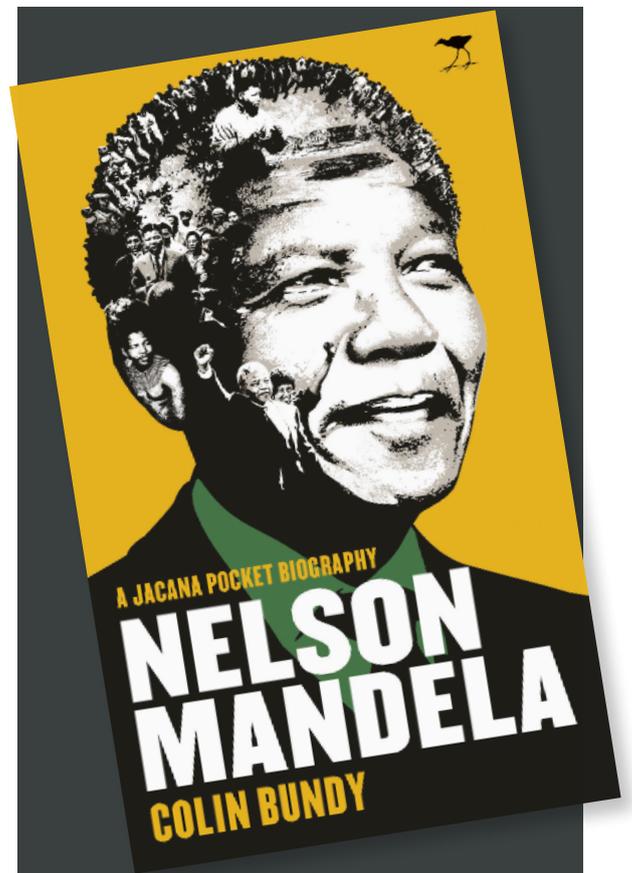
The Horn of Africa Seminar brings together students and scholars interested in examining the region from a multidisciplinary and comparative perspective. By hosting lectures by experienced researchers alongside post-graduates, and by mixing academic and policy research, we hope to come to a shared, factually informed and politically relevant understanding of trends in the region. During the 2015–16 academic year, the seminar hosted a mix of individual presenters, panel discussions and book launches, as well as hosting a workshop in collaboration with the Refugee Studies Centre, which explored the dynamics of migration within and from the Horn of Africa, allowing researchers to share their findings and insights with policymakers. The workshop concluded with the launch of Catherine Besteman's latest book, *Making refuge: Somali Bantu refugees and Lewiston, Maine*. Other books presented at the seminar included, *The Real Politics of the Horn of Africa*, by Alex De Waal (World Peace Foundation/Tufts); *Fascist Italian Brutality in Ethiopia, 1935–1937*, edited by Balázs Szélinger; *King of Kings: the triumph and tragedy of Emperor Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia*, by Prince Asfa-Wossen Asserate; *Understanding Contemporary Ethiopia*, edited by Eloi Ficquet (EHESS) & Gerard Prunier (Atlantic Council) – the latter in collaboration with the African Studies seminar.

The seminar hosted presentations covering border crises and partition in the Ethiopia-Eritrean and Sudan-South Sudan cases; the implications of customary law for state-building in Somalia; political memory and contemporary remembrance in Somali society; Islamic law and its position in the Ethiopian state; a long-term view of Ethiopian responses to land appropriation; the impact of war on Somali men; and gendered dimensions of mentoring in the Ethiopian higher education system. Presenters included Michael Woldemariam (Boston University), Chanda Creasy (KCL), Mohamed Haji Ingiriis (Oxford), Michael Kebede (Oxford), Wolde Tadesse (Oxford), Judy El-Bushra (SOAS), and Meseret Hailu (Denver).

During Michaelmas and Hilary terms, the seminar convened two panel discussions. The first explored the challenges of the hydro-agricultural transformation of Ethiopia's lower Omo Valley, with presentations from Jed Stevenson (UCL), Benedikt Kamski (Freiberg/Oxford) and Christina Gabbert (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology). The second panel sought to contextualize the Oromo protest movement in Ethiopia, with contributions from Sabine Planel (IRD), Namera Mamo (Sussex) and Etana Habte (SOAS). The seminar series concluded for the year with an informal roundtable discussion, exploring approaches to applying the work of James C. Scott to research on Ethiopia, co-hosted by Jacob Wiebel (Durham) and Jason Mosley (Oxford).

The seminar series gratefully acknowledges the financial and institutional support of the African Studies Centre, as well as fruitful collaboration with the Refugee Studies Centre and the International Gender Studies programme at Lady Margaret Hall. The seminar benefitted enormously from the contributions of the presenters, and from the participants in the discussions. Thank you again for your interest and engagement.

**Convener, Jason Mosley**  
**Research Associate, African Studies Centre**



## South Africa Discussion Group

The South Africa Discussion Group meets weekly during term time, largely to explore contemporary South African events as they arise. It is also an arena in which students and staff have the opportunity to present work in progress to a specialist audience. And it is a great forum for masters and doctoral students studying South Africa to exchange ideas.

This year, an MSc student who was an activist at the heart of the Fees Must Fall movement in South Africa, Athinangamo Nkopo, presented on student politics in South Africa. Colin Bundy presented on two of his new books, one on Nelson Mandela and the other on poverty in contemporary South Africa. Jonny Steinberg presented a paper on his ongoing work on xenophobia. Tim Wilson, a visiting Oppenheimer Fellow, spoke of his extensive experience in training personnel in the South African civil service. Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh, a South African doctoral student, spoke about university administration in South Africa from the vantage point of his experience as a former SRC president at the University of Cape Town.



## ALUMNI NEWS

# I was fired for criticizing the president, but I have no regrets

Denis Galava [2014–15]

When I was asked to write an editorial (available at (<http://www.nation.co.ke/oped/Editorial/Mr-President-get-your-act-together-this-year/-/440804/3018414/-/pwgeuq/-/index.html>)) setting the agenda for the Kenyan government for the New Year, I did not anticipate that I would be fired for criticizing President Uhuru Kenyatta. As managing editor of the Daily Nation, Kenya's top newspaper, this was, for me, a routine assignment about events that shaped 2015: terrorist attacks, the high cost of living and rising unemployment, opinion polls on Kenyans' hopes and worries, the number of failing listed companies, the president's promises to the country and cases of runaway corruption. Upon reviewing all available data, I concluded that the year had overwhelmingly been disheartening. Moreover, the numerous (though often avoidable) mishaps of 2015 crucially seemed to suggest negligent management at various levels. It was clear that the buck had to stop somewhere. I decided that the ball squarely belonged in the president's court.

The editorial sparked a social media fest on January 2, 2016, with most praising the Nation Media Group for speaking truth to power. This was the first time a Kenyan newspaper editorial was trending in social media. However, the more it was shared and commented on the more I sensed the end wouldn't be as enthralling. Since coming to power in 2013, the Jubilee administration had shown extreme intolerance to criticism. Unlike the previous government that was indifferent to media criticism, the Jubilee regime has appropriated Twitter, Facebook and Instagram as its zoo for managing and taming real and imagined enemies. My fears were confirmed when my panicked boss called saying State House had read the editorial as a declaration of war against the president and that the government had threatened serious sanctions. That surprised me. The editorial was not spiteful or extremist. An editorial by its nature speaks for and on behalf of the media establishment; it amplifies the

voices in society that need to be heard — voices that inspire, voices that change the world.

Since joining the Daily Nation, East and Central Africa's largest and most influential newspaper in 2010, as deputy managing editor and later managing editor, I had written more than 450 editorials on politics, education, health, security and corruption, among other issues. Some of them had been very critical of the presidency and other institutions. Some had drawn harsh responses from the government and business people. We always responded that our duty was to uphold public good; we did not pander to political or commercial sensibilities.

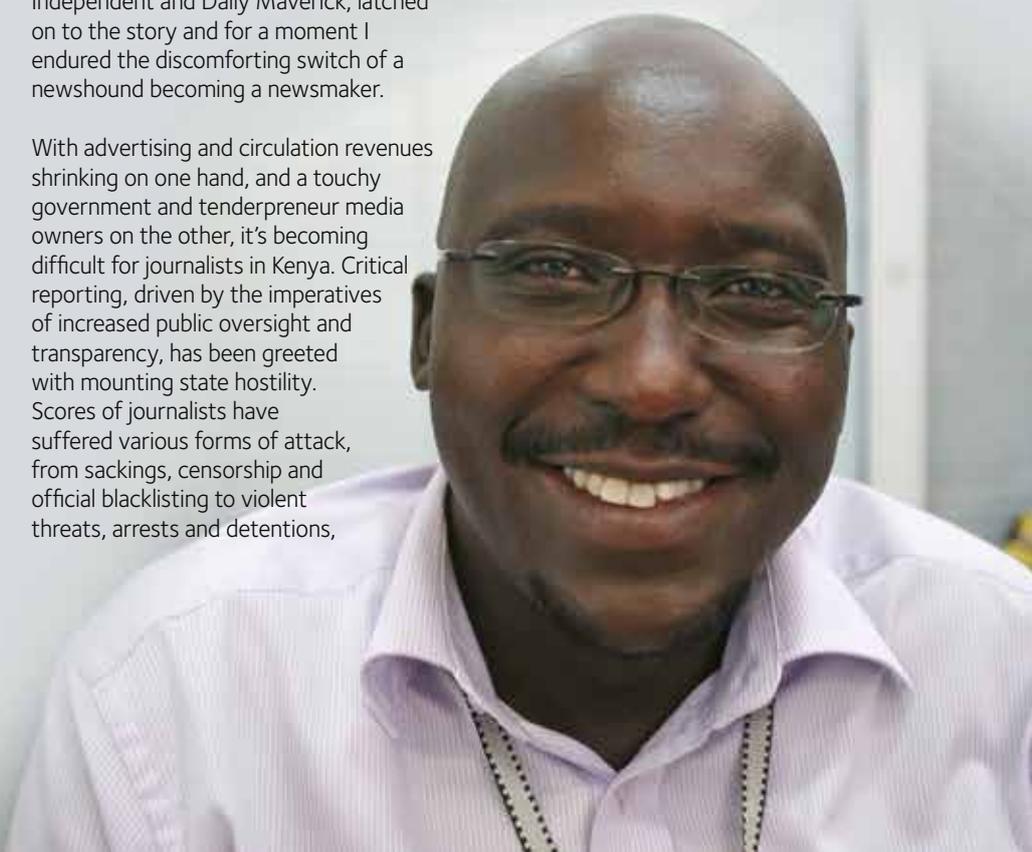
I was confident my bosses would not cave in to pressure to punish me for speaking truth to power. How wrong! Instead of defending me, the company sacked me for 'endangering company business'. The unprecedented move by Nation Media Group sparked national and international debate about media freedom in Kenya. Central to the debate were fears of reversals of democratic gains under the Jubilee administration. International media outlets like the BBC, The Economist, Bloomberg, Guardian, Time, The Times, Al Jazeera, Quartz, Independent and Daily Maverick, latched on to the story and for a moment I endured the discomfiting switch of a newshound becoming a newsmaker.

With advertising and circulation revenues shrinking on one hand, and a touchy government and tenderpreneur media owners on the other, it's becoming difficult for journalists in Kenya. Critical reporting, driven by the imperatives of increased public oversight and transparency, has been greeted with mounting state hostility. Scores of journalists have suffered various forms of attack, from sackings, censorship and official blacklisting to violent threats, arrests and detentions,

and outright physical assault. Top agents of the state have now taken to dealing directly with media owners or boards to stop publication of sensitive stories. Editors now have to self-censor as they seek to protect themselves and their jobs from overzealous boards and employers who kowtow to political pressures. This has significantly crippled a vibrant media that was once renowned for fighting for people's rights, and for demanding transparency and accountability from political and other leadership. The Kenyan media, besieged by these troubles, is becoming incapable and unwilling to engage critically in public interest journalism — a situation made worse by powerful and increasingly interventionist commercial and political interests. This bodes ill for the practice of journalism, and by extension democracy, the rule of law and freedom of expression.

Being fired for criticizing the president essentially marks you out as an anti-government person. Few organisations, public or private, are willing to engage you for a job or consultancy, for fear of upsetting the regime. But I have no regrets; I would still write the same editorial today.

Denis Galava is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at King's College London. He did the Msc in African Studies in 2014–5.





## Ronnie Kawamara HelloFood Uganda

I'm Managing Director for on-demand restaurant delivery marketplace Jumia Food (formerly Hellofood Uganda). I'm responsible for setting strategic direction of the business across all functions including logistics, growth marketing, partnerships, investor relations, and building the team.

Business was not in my plans when I started the MSc in African Studies. I was set to work in the development sector and then hopefully join politics in my country of birth, Uganda.

My decision to switch to business and return to Uganda after more than 10 years living in California was influenced by my time in the MSc.

The MSc was successful at drilling out the limitations of the development sector and national governments in the economic and social transformation of Africa. Whereas we did not have a strong emphasis on business, it was clear that part of the economic success story on the

continent was due to the boom in small and medium enterprises. According to IMF, these small and growing businesses create about 80% of the region's employment, establishing a new middle class and fuelling demand for new goods and services.

This made my decision to return to Uganda and do business not a risk but an opportunity to participate and succeed in the new African economy.

Oxford played a further role in my trajectory because it was at the Oxford Africa Conference that I met some of the investors with whom I work.

Today our investment group directly employs over 200 people in Uganda and is rapidly expanding operations in the region.

I'm certainly enjoying my work in Uganda, and the MSc was a key point in my journey back home.



# Teaching Exchange Fort Hare, August 2015

Tobias Erbert [2014–15] and Kate Bruce-Lockhart [2012–13]



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*



In August 2015, we, Tobias Erbert (2014/2015) and Kate Bruce-Lockhart (2012/2013), alumni of the Oxford African Studies Centre, had the opportunity to participate in the University of Fort Hare–University of Oxford Teaching Exchange. We set off to spend a month in East London, located in South Africa’s Eastern Cape. It was a month of dreary weather, with frequent and heavy rains, rough seas, and grey skies. Though the surroundings may have been cold, we received a warm welcome from the staff and students at the Fort Hare Institute of Social Research. Over the course of a month, we were guest lecturers for the module in African Studies Methodology, taught as part of the Masters in African Studies offered by Fort Hare. The students, who hailed from both South African and other countries in the region, were enthusiastic, engaged and committed. We led four lectures focusing on theoretical, ethical and practical issues arising in African Studies. Our lecture subjects included the history of anthropological research in Africa, ethnography, archival research, interviewing techniques and oral history methodology. Each seminar was lively, with very fruitful discussions and debates. In the classroom, we talked a lot about reading with and against the grain, the challenges and opportunities of interviewing and the issues arising from conducting archival research in a variety of environments, from well organized national archives repositories to ‘tin-trunk’ collections filled with dusty files. Along with these lectures, we sought to go beyond mere theory: the whole seminar group visited the Daily Dispatch Newspaper, where Tobias had carried out some of his research for his MSc thesis. The Daily Dispatch is a regional newspaper with a well-organized archive. The students had the chance to familiarize themselves with using an archive

for their own research and could also join a question and answer session with an outstanding journalist. This visit allowed the students to have a more tangible idea of how to do archival research, as well as gain valuable insights into life as a journalist in the Eastern Cape and South Africa more widely. Finally, both of us were given the opportunity to present our MSc research, with Tobias giving a seminar on corporate social responsibility and the history of labour rights in Mercedes-Benz South Africa, and Kate discussing the perceptions and treatment of Mau Mau women in detention camps in Kenya in the 1950s.

Overall, we had a wonderful time in Fort Hare. The staff and students went out of their way to make us feel welcome, including us in social gatherings and showing us the sights of East London. We visited Mdantsane, South Africa’s second largest township, to enjoy local food and music; went to a festival at Inkwenkwezi Game Reserve, saw Nelson Mandela’s red Mercedes-Benz car at a local art gallery, and had many insightful conversations in local cafes. The teaching exchange, as it has grown between Fort Hare and Oxford, is a truly remarkable institution. Its benefits go far beyond teaching and discussing the methods of humanities and social science research: it also connects people and aspiring young scholars, building networks that foster innovative and informed engagement with the field of African Studies. We therefore hope that this great programme will continue to exist and even expand: why not have people from Fort Hare coming to Oxford and expanding the African language training at the Centre? It would be nice to hear some Xhosa in Oxford! With many thanks and best wishes for a continuing programme, Kate from Kampala and Tobias from Addis Ababa.



# Monrovia Football Academy

Will Smith [2014-15]



Monrovia Football Academy is the first school in Liberia to combine formal education with football development. In the aftermath of the Ebola crisis, we are addressing two of Liberia's most pressing issues – a failing education system and gender inequality. Our approach is unique: we use football as a positive-incentive mechanism to break down gender barriers and improve academic performance.

We completed our first academic year on June 24, with 16 boys and 11 girls, ages 9-11, achieving promotion into the 3rd and 5th grades. In the upcoming school year, we will expand from 27 students and two grades to 60 students and three grades (3rd, 4th, and 5th), with the intention of achieving a 50:50 gender equity ratio. Moving forward, we intend to build our own facilities, and eventually grow into a K-12 residential school with 500 students, ages 6-18, from all 15 counties of Liberia. In the meantime, we are creating future opportunities for our students by building partnerships with academic and football institutions both in Liberia and abroad, such as the African Leadership Academy, prep schools and universities in the US, and professional football clubs in the UK (Watford and Tottenham).

While we just finished our first academic year, we are excited about our progress. On June 16, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf visited the Academy and described it as a 'wonderful, great initiative that everyone should support.' We're also seeing positive impact in the classroom. As a meaningful indicator, current students averaged an 80% on our 2016-17

entrance exam, while more than 450 prospective applicants received a collective average of 46%.

For more information on the Academy, please visit our website (<http://www.monroviafa.com/>) and feel free to reach out at [williamhaigsmith@gmail.com](mailto:williamhaigsmith@gmail.com).



# Alumni Updates

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



## **Alex Noyes** 2010–11

I am working at the U.S. Security Governance Initiative, President Obama's initiative focused on improving security sector governance in six countries in Africa.

## **Tunde Oseni** 2007–08

In the last couple of years I have consulted for several organizations and institutions including the Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). I serve as a Country Reviewer to Global Integrity (Washington) and am currently the Ag. Head, Department of Politics & International Relations, Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria.

## **Yasmin Kumi** 2014–15

I have founded a market intelligence and business advisory firm, Africa Foresight Group, that is supporting local economic value creation in Africa.

## **Peter Williams** 2007–08

I am back in London after several years away. My office (ARCHIVE Global) in NY merged with a UK based NGO and I am leading both operations out of Canary Wharf location. As of March 2016, I am the newly installed Managing Director of Article-25: the largest architectural NGO in the world.

## **Marco Mills** 2014–15

I am involved with a charity set up by Oxford Graduates called 'Universities Together Empowering Development' (UniTED) in Kampala, Uganda. Seeking a faster paced career, I will shortly commence pilot training with the Royal Navy.

## **▲ Hashi Mohamed** 2008–09

I am a practising barrister at N05 Chambers in London. In addition to this, I present documentaries for the BBC World Service and BBC Radio 4, with four or so documentaries a year. Topics range from legal to political and social affairs

## **Ashley Leach** 2007–08

I have completed my PhD in Health Services Research at Boston University's School of Public Health. I have thereafter secured a post doctoral position in Health Economics at the Center for Evaluation of Value and Risk in Health (CEVR) at Tufts University in Boston.

## **Katie McKeown** 2006–07

I finished a PhD in African History at the University of Minnesota last year and have just started a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Johannesburg.

## **Tobias Erbert** 2014–15

I have finished my second masters degree in Public Policy Management in the University of Potsdam and am now working for the German Development Corporation (GIZ) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



## **▲ Chris Day** 2010–11

I'm working as a Research Analyst at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London covering countries in Central and Southern Africa. This June I got married to Linden Vongsathorn (Sociology MSc Oxford '10) in a ceremony in Northumberland.

## **Catherine Reidy** 2013–14

I am working at the Eurasia group and getting married this summer



## **▲ Akin Iwilade**

An article based on an extract from my MSc dissertation, and published in Journal of Modern African Studies was awarded 'best article published on Africa in 2014' by the African Politics and Conference Group of APSA.

## **Matthew de la Hey** 2013–14

I completed my MBA at Oxford's Saïd Business school in 2015 and went on to found London-based tech company inploi, an online marketplace connecting job seekers and employers in the blue collar economy. There are plans to expand to some of Africa's urban centres in the near future.



**Henry Donati** 2009-10

I moved back to London last year from working on the Ebola response in Sierra Leone and in South Sudan before that. I am now based out of London working on humanitarian response for the Department for International Development.

**Janet Remington** 2008-09

Whilst continuing to work as an Editorial Director for Routledge and being affiliated to the University of York for my PhD, I am working on several publications including co-editing a book on Sol Plaatje.

**Ida Ragnarsson** 2009-10

I will soon begin working as Organisational Development Officer for Forum Syd, one of the largest development assistance organisations in Sweden.

**Sebatatso Manoeli** 2012-13

I am excited to be returning to the ASC as a Departmental Lecturer in African History.



**▲ Marcia Schenk** 2009-10

I am studying for a PhD in History at Princeton. I received the LASO Paper Prize (Lusophone African Studies Organization) at the African Studies Association Conference, San Diego, Nov. 2015.



**Yusuf Kucuk** 2013-14

After graduating, I rejoined the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and work as the head of section at the General Directorate for Africa.

I visited Darfur in April, as an observer to the Darfur referendum. I also visited Somalia in the first week of June as part of the Presidential visit to the country.

**Kuukuwa Manful** 2014-15

I am busy running my social architecture enterprise - Sociarchi. Also I married fellow MSc alum Martin Williams this August.

**▲ Martin Williams** 2007-08

I will soon be starting a new job as Associate Professor in Public Management at the Blavatnik School of Government.

**▲ Sydelle Willow Smith** 2014-15

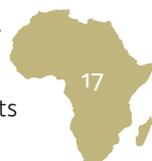
Our Sunshine Cinema initiative - solar-powered film production kit - is doing well! We just finished a roadtrip with The Open Society Foundations Public Health Program to the 21st international AIDS Conference in Durban. We travelled over 4000 km screening to over 1500 people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS who could not afford to attend the prestigious conference - we held screenings/discussions/community theatre events focusing on the role of women in the fight against HIV/AIDS. I also got married this spring.

**Rosalind Duignan-Pearson** 2014-15

Post MSc I travelled to Benin with DPhil student Lyndsey Hoh, assisting her with research amongst amateur musicians in Cotonou, Porto Novo and Ouidah. Now I am working as the Communications and Network Development Officer for Volonteurope.

**Cosanna Preston** 2007-08

I've started a new job with the provincial government as the Director of Digital Citizen Services, which means I'm finally putting my thesis to good work on improving relationships between governments and citizens.



# African Studies Class of 2015–16



**Sarah Bevin UK**  
BA History of Art  
University of Leeds

Walk and never stumble': Palm wine, performativity and material panoply in the Nigerian campus Kegite Club



**Geoffrey Coombs UK**  
MA Management  
ESCP Europe

Putting your money where your mouth is: Investment decisions in Africa amid inconsistencies of GDP data and discourse



**Sally Crompton South Africa**  
BA History  
University of the Witwatersrand

Exploring Diversity in an Urban Suburb - Responses to Change in Brixton, Johannesburg



**Arnaud Demange France**  
BA African Studies  
SciencesPo

"Ne soyons pas plus Dieu que Dieu": narratives of laïcité and post-colonial politics in contemporary Senegal



**Laura Dias UK**  
BA History  
University of Warwick

Goan identities and self-understandings in colonial and post-colonial Tanzania



**James Figueroa UK**  
BA African Studies and Development Studies SOAS

The Technocrat and the Gate: What motivates the civil service to include the private-sector in Kenya Vision 2030's Konza Technology City project?



**Jorik Fritsch Germany**  
BA Economics with Politics SOAS/SCIENCESPO

Industrialization through agro-processing: a case study examination of the potential of tomato processing in Malawi



**Joseph Goakai Sierra Leone**  
BA History and Sociology  
University of Sierra Leone

War, Youth and Survival: Commercial Motorbike Operation and Street Modernity in Sierra Leone



**Marc Howard UK**  
BA International Relations  
University of Bradford

A LEGACY IGNORED: THE EXPERIENCES OF BLACK VETERANS OF THE RHODESIAN AFRICAN RIFLES AFTER 1956



**Eleanor Jeffreys UK**  
BA History  
SOAS

The Arafo of the Gold Coast: Masculinity and Violence in the Colonial Period



**Kholood Khair UK**  
MSc Development Studies  
SOAS

From October to September: Lessons from the 1964 revolution



**Phyllis Kyei Mensah Ghana**  
BA Political Studies  
KNUST Ghana

Spiritual Citizenship, Power and Agency in Religious Spaces: A Case Study of Antoa Nyamaa in Ghana



**Christian Ludwig Germany**  
Dphil Public International law  
Bucerius Law School, Hamburg

The right to a clean environment - The Ogoniland crisis of Nigeria



**Hewan Marye Ethiopia**  
BA History  
Amherst College, USA

ጅገት ብቻ : 'Just Noise' Popular Music in Post-2005 Ethiopia and Ethiopiawinet



**Victoria Meyer Barbados/South Africa**  
BA History  
University of Exeter

The Meaning of Lobola in the Lives of People in the Eastern Cape of South Africa



**Temba Middelmann** South Africa  
BA History University of the  
Witswatersrand

Caught Between the Past  
and Future: Layers of  
Meaning at Constitution Hill



**Athin Nkopo** South Africa  
BA International Relations  
University of the Witswatersrand

#NationalShutDown: The  
politics of the national  
student protest and  
movement of 2015 at Wits  
University



**Iris Nxumalo** South Africa  
BA International Relations  
University of Pretoria

'Doing Gender' in Security  
Sector Governance: The  
Case of the Rwandan  
Defence Force



**Shani Page-Muir** UK  
BA International Development  
with Politics University of Leeds

Where are you really from?  
Motivations, expectations,  
fears and realities of 2nd  
and 3rd generation British  
born Ghanaians moving  
back to the continent



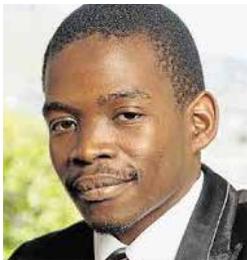
**Mireille Pichette** Canada  
BA Politics  
Princeton University

Aspiration, Mobile Money,  
and Gender in Malawi



**Laura Pinnington** UK  
MA International Politics  
SOAS

Locally Led, Politically  
smart development - Still  
missing the link on power'?



**Ntokozo Qwabe** South Africa  
BCL Civil Law  
University of Oxford

Old wine in new bottles?  
Gender and Sexuality  
in Black Consciousness  
Thought in 21st Century  
South Africa - The Case of  
Rhodes Must Fall



**Victoria Rees** UK  
BA Politics  
University of Oxford

The Multi-Dimensional  
Politics of Rhino  
Conservation in Uganda



**Mabel Rubadiri** Kenya  
BA International Relations  
United States International University - Africa

Gender equity in Kenyan  
politics: Deadlock in  
the implementation of  
constitutional affirmative  
action provisions in the  
National Assembly



**Simon Sender** South Africa  
MA Anthropology  
University of Cape Town

Life histories of the  
homeless in Cape Town:  
Marginality and institutions  
in a city



**Louise Umutoni** Rwanda  
BSc Politics  
University of Ottawa

Understanding the  
incorporation of women  
after power is captured:  
The case of the Rwanda  
Patriotic Front - 1994-2003



**Kristin Wilson** Nigeria  
BA Comparative Literature Studies  
Princeton University

Òrò Egbogi: Power and  
materiality in the Language  
of Youba Traditional  
Medicine



**Tomas Zak** Switzerland  
BA Development Studies and  
African Studies SOAS

The Securitisation and  
De-securitisation of  
Eastleigh during Operation  
Usalama Watch

## African Studies Prize winners 2015-16

Kirk-Green Prize for best overall  
performance:  
**Ella Jeffreys**

Terrance Ranger Prize for outstanding  
dissertation performance:  
**Marc Howard**

African Studies Centre Award for excellent  
overall performance:  
**Sarah Bevin**



# African Studies Centre



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[www.africanstudies.ox.ac.uk](http://www.africanstudies.ox.ac.uk)