



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

# African Studies Centre

2012 Newsletter



# Director's report 2011-12

Dr David Pratten

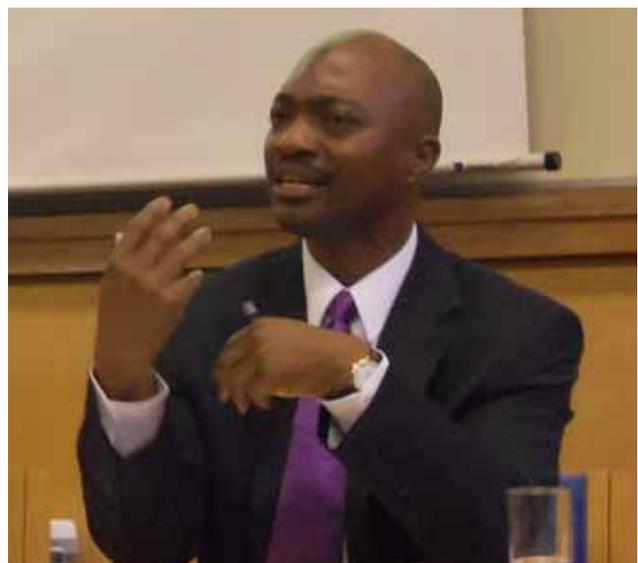
**As the articles in this year's newsletter demonstrate, the African Studies Centre continues to go from strength to strength. What makes the centre thrive, of course, is in large measure down to the dynamism of its students.**

This year we welcomed the seventh cohort of students to the MSc African Studies. Our 32 students came from 12 countries and included 11 from Africa. Another vintage year, the 2011-12 cohort produced excellent dissertations on a fantastic breadth of topics. Ranging from the use of Twitter in the Nigerian elections, to labour brokering in South Africa, to the history of dance in Kenya, their research is innovative, ambitious and critically interdisciplinary. As they graduate we wish them well in their further study and new careers.

But our students are not just leaving with their degrees. They are also leaving their mark here too. In the last few years several graduate discussion groups have emerged organised around themes and regions, including the Oxford Central Africa Forum, the Horn of Africa Seminar, the Oxford China Africa Network, and the Oxford Transitional Justice Research network. These groups are now regular fixtures in our weekly calendar, and crucial features of our intellectual landscape. We are highlighting two articles from the Horn of Africa Seminar in this year's issue which illustrates the scope and high quality of their activities.

Another tremendous development over the last few years has been the growth of the Oxford University Africa Society (AFRISOC) which is open to all students across the university. AFRISOC's second annual Pan-Africa Conference in May this year was a triumph. Focusing on the theme of youth leadership in Africa the society attracted distinguished keynote speakers, major corporate sponsorship and further developed a distinctive intellectual agenda.

Graduate seminars and the student society are just two ways in which students from the centre are leaving their mark. Doctoral research conducted by graduates of the MSc African Studies also continues to grow apace. In last year's newsletter we celebrated the graduation of our first alumni who had completed



Professor Emmanuel Akyeampong speaking at the African Studies Annual lecture, held at St Antony's College on May 22 2012.

their doctorates at Oxford, Justin Pearce and Jonathan Fisher. In this year's newsletter we are highlighting some of the many other African Studies students who have gone on to doctoral research here and elsewhere. It was particularly pleasing, for instance, to see an entire panel at this year's Researching Africa Day composed of our graduates (see picture). The event, now in its 13th year, is the largest doctoral research symposium in the UK, and is yet another student-led initiative that the centre is pleased and proud to sponsor.

Of course not all of our graduates go on to doctoral research, and yet it is staggering how many who enter the 'real world' pursue careers and opportunities in and about the continent. In this year's newsletter we feature articles by two alumni, Arjun Kohli and Lianxing Li, who have become journalists reporting from the continent. They are just two of many journalists and writers among our alumni who share the challenging task of capturing Africa's fast-moving developments at present.

Researchers at the centre also embrace this challenge, and we feature three ongoing research project profiles on highly topical issues in this year's newsletter. Dr Julie Archambault has recently taken up a prestigious ESRC post-doctoral research fellowship to develop her work on youth and mobile telephones in Mozambique. We also





African Studies MSc graduates holding a panel on *Transdisciplinary reflections on data collection and research dissemination* at this year's Researching Africa Day. From left: Charlotte Cross, Jacob McKnight, Elizabeth Milligan and Stephanie Brown.

have two very different pieces on aspects of the Somali diaspora in Africa. One by Dr Jonny Steinberg focuses on his biographical account of Somali displacement, and the other by Dr Neil Carrier looks at how Somali communities have been fostered in Nairobi.

This newsletter includes write-ups of many of the workshops and conferences we have supported

throughout the year. Our events schedule has been as busy as ever. Notable highlights were the lecture by Governor Fashola and our annual lecture by Professor Emmanuel Akyeampong. You can keep up to date with our news and events on our website, Facebook and Twitter, as well as being able to listen to most of our seminar talks on iTunesU.

## Visitors 2011-12

### We welcomed several visitors to the centre during the year:

**Dr Lovise Aalen** (Senior Researcher, Chr. Michelsen Institute) spent the 2011-12 academic year with us. During this time she worked on two book projects, one on the politics of post war power sharing in the Sudans and the other on the concept of the developmental state in the context of Ethiopian politics. She also gave a guest lectures for the MSc African Studies, presented at an African Studies seminar and was a panelist for the Horn of Africa Seminar group's Ethiopian Politics Roundtable discussion.

**Professor Adam Habib** (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Johannesburg) joined us during Hilary and Trinity terms 2012 as an Oppenheimer Visiting Fellow. He completed a book on the relationship between the state, the ANC and the Unions in South Africa and participated in a weekly discussion group on South Africa. He also presented seminars on his work and lectured to the masters students on comparative democratisation. During his stay Prof Habib contributed to media coverage on Southern Africa both in that region and in the UK.

**Dr Noor Niefertagodian** (Senior Lecturer, History, University of the Witwatersrand) was an Oppenheimer Visiting Fellow at the Centre during Hilary term 2012. He worked on popular protest on the Witwatersrand, South Africa during the 1940s and 1950s and completed article publications dealing both with historical and contemporary popular politics. He participated in a weekly discussion group on South Africa, presented a seminar and gave the keynote at the annual Researching Africa Day on community engagement in historical research.

**Dr Terri Ochiagha** (Assistant Professor of English, University of Alicante) joined us in Trinity term 2012 to work on the concluding phase of her research project on the history of the Government College, Umuahia in the emergence of Nigerian literature.

## African Studies Prizes 2011-2012

**Kirk-Greene Prize for Best Overall Performance:**  
Sam Wilkins

**Terence Ranger Prize for the Best Dissertation Performance:**  
Zenobia Ismail

**African Studies Prize for the Most Innovative Dissertation**  
Abigail Niebuhr & Lara Vancans



# Field notes from Inhambane, Mozambique: “now it’s building that’s in fashion!”

By Julie Soleil Archambault

Some things in the city of Inhambane have changed since my last visit. Where cars were few and far between, there is now the occasional traffic jam and a growing number of brick houses, some still under construction, now dot the peri-urban landscape I have called my field site for nearly a decade. As one of my friends explains: “The last time you were here, we were all busy with mobile phones but now it’s building that’s in fashion!” Employed men may have always been concerned with building but now, even young men engaged in piece work are buying bags of cement to make blocks that they plan, in the future, to build houses with. In fact, even women are buying land parcels; something deemed unusual in a society that defines itself as patrilineal and patrilocal. The young people I speak to all have a clear idea of their dream house; most of these dreams I find remarkably sober. The “dream house”, writes Gaston Bachelard [1958] “may be merely a dream of ownership, the embodiment of everything that is considered convenient, comfortable, healthy, sound, desirable, by other people. It must therefore satisfy both pride and reason, two irreconcilable terms” (1994:61).

Yet not all are keeping up with the building trend. Omar lost his job after falling ill a couple of years ago and the blocks he had started moulding are now covered in mildew and their edges are crumbling away. The reed fence around his family’s property has also fallen apart. Omar finds solace in humour—he says he now has the freedom to enter from wherever he chooses—as well as in the conviction that luck, whether good or bad, is always temporary (in Portuguese: *tem prazo*).

Others die trying. At Pascual’s funeral, the consensus is that the 28 year old was a victim of witchcraft. Because he died a sudden death, most have automatically ruled out HIV/Aids. The middle aged woman standing beside me whispers: “Young people these days, as soon as they start doing well, they die!” Others are more succinct and comment despondently: “It’s envy!” The eulogy reminds everyone present that Pascual had been promoted earlier this year (we are given the exact date) and that he had already started building on a recently bought a piece of land. According to his younger brother, Pascual had even tried to refuse the promotion, in fear of occult reprisal. A sad interpretation of witchcraft’s levelling force.

A few years ago, the Municipality of Inhambane started investing in the development of Inhapossa, a sparsely populated area on the outskirts of the city. The project emerged as a response to high population density in the city’s suburbs where individuals and families in search of protection, access to education and work have been settling since the late 1980s. Inhapossa is particularly appealing to young adults for a number of reasons: not only are parcels large, reasonably priced and well-serviced, they also offer residents the opportunity to start a new life away from the scrutiny of family and friends. It will be interesting to see how such new urban developments shape the way young adults try to reconcile pride and reason as they also contend with other more perilous challenges.

## Tracing a Somali Biography By Jonny Steinberg

Most of my fieldwork this last year was conducted in several cities and towns in Ethiopia and Kenya. I’m writing a book about a Somali man who fled Mogadishu as a child in 1991, grew up itinerant and unsettled in various east African countries, and finally made his way down Africa’s eastern seaboard to South Africa when he was in his early 20s. His story is a frame for exploring a range of African questions, from state collapse in Somalia, to the relationship between formal state institutions and undocumented people, to xenophobia in South Africa. One of the purposes of my fieldwork was to visit the various places he had lived as a child and as a teenager, to try to make sense of the political and social contexts in which he made decisions that would shape his life.

Dealing with the vagaries of memory has been very interesting. Several people I met in Dire Dawa, Addis Ababa and in the Somali neighbourhood of Eastleigh in Nairobi remember my subject as a boy. But their respective memories of his circumstances, the events in his life and his character often conflict. It seemed to me that in their minds they may have produced composite characters; there were many orphaned kids in the Somali diaspora in the early 1990s, and it appears that in many people’s memories, one orphan has merged with others, creating a memory of a person who is in fact somewhat fictitious.

Some of my fieldwork brought me much closer to home. I tracked down members of my subject’s extended family to London and New York, did extensive interviews there and managed to put together biographical sketches of his parents, both dead now, whom he last saw when he was seven years old. It turns out that his family history is very different from the one he had imagined.

I travelled to Cape Town, where he lives, primarily to tell him what I knew about his family. I was apprehensive about bringing him such big news, but have also managed to reunite him with relatives, which will hopefully give him richer options as he charts his future.



A truck stop in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, with Yusuf, a Somali student, April 2012



# Eastleigh: Nairobi's Boom Town

By Neil Carrier

Mohaa – co-owner of Nasiib Fashions, a shop in Nairobi's Eastleigh estate – is fond of saying that in business, as in life, you must expect days of *basal* (onions), as well as days of *asal* (honey). And for many such traders, Eastleigh has provided far more *asal* than *basal*, thanks to an economic boom that began two decades ago, a boom that I have been researching for the last year and a half or so.

Eastleigh is a remarkable place. A quiet residential zone until the late 1980s with a long history of Asian and Somali settlement, it has recently attracted thousands of refugees fleeing war in Somalia and many Oromo fleeing persecution in Ethiopia. In fact, it is now a major centre of urban refugees. Many struggle in the face of a suspicious Kenyan state and police harassment, but others are thriving, and Eastleigh is famed for its commercial development that grew concurrently with the increasing arrival of refugees. This transformation began with the now legendary 'Garissa Lodge' where a number of well-connected Somali refugees stayed upon first reaching Nairobi. Many were businesspeople and mobilised their trade networks to supply them with clothes bought cheaply in Dubai, smuggled into Kenya through Somalia, and which they then sold during the day on top of the beds on which they slept at night.

These cheap yet new clothes had great appeal for Kenyans more used to *mitumba* fashions, the second-hand clothes imported from Europe and North America, and Garissa Lodge became popular with both consumers and traders wanting to buy wholesale to retail elsewhere. Soon Garissa Lodge was converted into a shopping mall, spawning many imitators over the years. Now Eastleigh boasts over 40 such malls relying on networks that now encompass Indonesia, India, Turkey and China to bring them cheap electronics, toiletries, furniture and textiles. In contrast, Eastleigh's infrastructure – designed for a residential area populated by only a few thousand – has decayed, the flooded streets now even overlooked by plush hotels and lodgings that have also mushroomed in the wake of this commercial boom. This infrastructure decay was symbolic of state neglect of the estate, though at the



Mohaa and friends at Nasiib Fashions, Eastleigh

time of writing, work to repair the roads has at last begun.

The Kenyan state has reason to attend to Eastleigh's infrastructure given that it gains much from the boom in the form of investment, tax revenue and employment. However, there is lingering Kenyan suspicion as to how an estate filled with refugees can develop so quickly. As Somalis dominate, the recent publicity about Indian Ocean piracy leads some to link the boom to the laundering of its proceeds, an explanation refuted by Eastleigh residents who point out that the Eastleigh boom started long before the boom in piracy. Also, many Kenyans see the estate as a place of foreigners, assuming most Somalis there to be Somali nationals, although in fact many are ethnically Somali but Kenyan by nationality.

My eight months of fieldwork in the estate have been full of interesting characters and stories, and I am now processing this material towards a number of publications. How the Eastleigh boom emerged is the obvious question to ask, and by exploring the impact of Somali diaspora networks that reach from the US to China, a capital-raising

strategy that mobilises huge funds through hundreds of small investments, and Kenyan demand for the cheap goods Somali networks bring, this question can be answered without the need to mention piracy. But I hope to go deeper into the estate and the fabric of life there, exploring social processes peculiar to it, and others that resonate with those occurring elsewhere in the region and beyond. Key themes include diaspora and development, the workings of 'trust' in this often highly informal economy, increasing Islamisation, and the roles ethnicity and language play in all of this.

Another obvious question concerns Eastleigh's future prospects. Mohaa complains that increased competition, a perceived rise in crime in the estate, and the decreasing spending power of customers hit by fluctuations in the value of the Kenyan shilling, mean the boom is stalling and days of *basal* are more frequent. But given the palpable entrepreneurial energy in the estate and the proven ability of its businessmen and women to thrive in the face of severe challenges, I'm sure there are still plenty of sweet days ahead for Mohaa and his like.



# Interpreting African Photographic Archives: Curatorial and Research Strategies

By Chris Morton

This workshop, supported by the African Studies Centre and organized by Christopher Morton (ASC Research Associate) and Darren Newbury (Birmingham City University), was held at the Pitt Rivers Museum on 7 December 2011 in conjunction with the exhibition *People Apart: Cape Town Survey 1952*. The exhibition, based on an archive of photographs of Cape Town by Bryan Heseltine that had recently come to light, explored the overlapping social, political and ethnographic contexts within which the photographs were made and circulated. At the same time, in re-presenting the photographs, there was a need to understand what it meant for both British and South African audiences to look at the images today, in the post-apartheid era. The workshop took up the exhibition's invitation to think about this range of issues and to consider recent thinking on African photographic archives and practices, from documentary and official image-making to vernacular forms and artistic re-interpretations.

Contributors explored strategies for engaging with the diversity of African photographic archives from the perspectives of research and practice, including the re-presentation of photographs from the colonial past for contemporary audiences. By way of a few examples, in the first session John Peffer considered a novel kind of montage wedding portrait that combined airbrushed enlargements of passbook-type images with painted-on suits and bridal veils. Such 'white wedding' pictures (so-called because of the European-style accoutrements) uncover a parallel 'people's history' of visual experience that differs in some ways from the political history of

the apartheid period. And in the third session Dutch artist Andrea Stultiens discussed her work *The Kaddu Wasswa Archive*, which was an experiment in visual storytelling. The story has different layers, the most obvious being that the work is about a Ugandan man and his personal history in relation to that of his country, based on a collection of documents and photographs he made, and asked others to make during his life. The work is a collaboration between Kaddu Wasswa himself, his grandson Arthur C. Kisitu (a Kampala-based photographer/artist) and Stultiens herself; a collaboration which leads to fascinating representational strategies within the work.

The final session of the workshop featured a round-up of projects on African photographic archives by research students at Oxford and elsewhere, followed by an afterword by Elizabeth Edwards of De Montfort University. The organizers are currently in discussions with a publisher for an edited volume based on the contributions to the workshop.

Boys on Clifton Street, District Six, Cape Town, c. 1949-52. Photo Bryan Heseltine. Courtesy Heseltine family.



Flooding at Windermere, Cape Town, c.1949-52. Photo Bryan Heseltine. Courtesy Heseltine family.

## Ethiopia after 2005: Reinventing Political Spaces

By Marco Di Nunzio

In the 2005 National Election, for the first time in the recent Ethiopian political history, a coalition of opposition parties known as the Coalition for Unity Democracy (CUD) came very close to challenging fifteen years of political hegemony by the ruling party, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). Scholarship on Ethiopian politics has often questioned the impact that the 2005 elections have had on the current political history of the country. The aim of this workshop was thus to contextualize the events of the 2005 National Election in the recent history of the country, in order to explore the different actors, processes, and discourses that have come to shape the current Ethiopian political landscape.

Professor Kjetil Tronvoll (Professor of Anthropology at the University of Oslo /International Law and Policy Group) started off the roundtable by discussing the ruling party's concepts of democracy, which are both contradictory and pragmatic. Marco Di Nunzio (DPhil candidate in Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Oxford) looked

at the transformations in the ruling party's politics of mobilization between 2005 and 2010 and how this shaped the everyday interactions between abelle officials and 'marginalized youth' in Addis Ababa. Dr Louise Aalen (researcher at the Chr. Michelsen Institute and visiting academic at the African Studies Centre) discussed how the ruling party's emphasis on development and economic growth came as a result of its need for regaining legitimacy after the contested 2005 elections. This was elaborated on further by Professor Christopher Clapham (Cambridge University), who questioned the possibility and sustainability of a developmental state in an Ethiopian context.

In the second half of the roundtable the focus moved from the ruling party to other actors of Ethiopian society, in particular the church and the media. Merid Desta (PhD Student at the University of Wales/Oxford Centre for Mission Studies) examined how an unprecedented political engagement of the Evangelical Churches during the 2005 pre-election campaign was followed by a return to a politics of disengagement, with the closure of political spaces, in the post-election

period. Dr Nicole Stremmler (co-ordinator of the Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy and the Centre of Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford) discussed how political developments had led to the closure of many independent newspapers. She described how Ethiopia had moved from having a relatively free press in the 1990s to a situation of suppression and control in the 2005 aftermath. Dr Iginio Gagliardone (Research Fellow at the Programme in Comparative Media and Politics, University of Oxford) gave a fascinating account of how the EPRDF has been able to develop their own use of new ICT media, both in education and administration, to enhance their communication and control of constituencies.

Building on the different areas of expertise and methodological perspectives of the speakers, the workshop represented an important opportunity to build a more nuanced understanding of the Ethiopian politics, emphasizing the relevance of in-depth examinations of those different, and until now understudied terrains, categories and technologies of power that are now defining political practices and discourses in Ethiopia.



# Focus on the Horn: Seminar and Blog

By Emma Lochery

The Horn of Africa Seminar was started a couple of years ago as a weekly lunch meeting by a small but growing group of graduate students. By the academic year 2011-2012, the lunch meeting had turned into a full-fledged weekly seminar, attracting an audience from a range of departments across the university. The area of focus expanded, drawing in northern Kenya, Sudan and South Sudan in particular, and the organising team sought to bring in speakers from outside Oxford and the UK.

This year, we met weekly to discuss a range of topics, from the changing nature of the state, varied meanings of citizenship, and dynamics of migration and identity across the Horn, to questions concerning urban marginality, rural land tenure, and healthcare reform. We hosted Dr. Lovise Aalen, visiting Oxford from the University of Bergen, as well as Professor John Markakis who presented his new book, *Ethiopia: the Last Two Frontiers*. We also worked to respond to events unfolding in the Horn during the year. We held a roundtable with UK-based Somali diaspora groups to learn about their varied responses to the drought and famine in Somalia and partnered with the African Studies Seminar to host Dr. Laura Hammond from SOAS who presented a paper on both the 2011 drought as well as the February 23rd London Somalia Conference. Finally, we continued to provide a platform for both DPhil and Masters students to present work in progress and receive feedback from their peers.

Building on these seminars, this year a group of DPhil students launched a Horn of Africa blog, <http://focusonthehorn.wordpress.com>, linked to the seminar, but independent from the university. The blog has featured interviews with scholars such as Somalia expert Roland Marchal, a series on religion in Ethiopia, as well as articles on war rhetoric in the two Sudans, generations of Ethiopian diaspora in cyberspace, and the transnational dynamics of Nairobi's Somali-dominated Eastleigh neighbourhood. As well as academic debates, we have worked to highlight art and literature from the region. We held an official launch party in June at the Oxford Hub, showcasing photography, music, poetry, and stories from and about the Horn. We hope this event marks the first of many such festivities.

It has been quite a year for the Horn of Africa Seminar. And as the organisers begin their fieldwork in Addis Ababa, Toronto, Hargeysa, Nairobi, Dubai and elsewhere, tune in to FocusontheHorn for continued coverage and analysis.



Sayyid Khalifa, a well-known Somali singer, performs at the Focus on the Horn blog launch. The lyrics of his song explored the significance of knowledge and landscape in the memory of generations of Somalis at home and in exile.

# Oxford University Pan Africa Conference, 2012

By Dustin Kramer



Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, giving his keynote speech

With the theme "Building Capacity for a New Generation: The Case for Youth Leadership in Africa", the 2012 Oxford University Pan Africa Conference held on 5 May at the Wesley Memorial Hall, brought together over 300 students, entrepreneurs, activists, academics, and political and economic leaders from 51 different countries. We also had over 500 viewers watching the online Livestream, and hundreds more interacting with the speakers through the live Google Plus Hangout, and other social media outlets.

Today's youth are being looked upon to play a crucial and active role in building African communities, promoting accountability, and developing new visions. In so doing, building the capacity for this generation is perhaps one of the greatest challenges, but also one of the most important. It is the youth – whether in government, civil society, or business – that will shape the continent's future. As a new generation of African leaders emerges, and the continent moves well into the 21st century, the full spectrum of social, political, and economic issues facing Africa requires new and invigorated ways of thinking about leadership and youth. These themes, among others, were explored in the 2012 Oxford University Pan-Africa Conference.

The speakers at the conference came from numerous countries in Africa and worldwide. They included: Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria and Forbes Africa Person of the Year 2011; Arthur Mutambara, Deputy Prime Minister of Zimbabwe; Hadeel Ibrahim, Director of Strategy and External Relations, Mo Ibrahim Foundation; He Liehui, Chairman, Touchroad International Holdings Group, China; Gbenga Sesan, Executive Director, Paradigm Initiative, Nigeria; and many others. The speakers addressed numerous themes such as: building capacity for youth leadership, creating sustainable Sino-African business relations, challenges and opportunities for the next generation of African leaders, and Africa's position in a Globalized World.

It was truly inspiring to see so many young people so passionate about working towards a shared vision in dealing with the rapidly evolving challenges of the century. If there was one theme however that came out time and again, it was the need for action. A shared vision will only be as good as the action that we take to make that vision a reality!



The third panel at the Pan-African Conference 2012. From left: Daniel Stone (Oxford University Student Union), Madelle Kangha (Founder, Youths for Change), Tebogo Lefifi (Founder, Young African Professionals & Students) and Patrick Awuah (Founder, Ashesi University)



# 13th Annual Researching Africa Day Workshop: “Researching Africa: Moving *beyond researcher and the researched*”

By Zoe Marks

What is ethical research in Africa? What is effective, or innovative? How do we navigate the complex relationship between our role as researchers and the expectations of those we work with? What are the ethics of respecting or deconstructing the researcher/researched dichotomy? And how can knowledge be shared, expanded and further developed amongst researchers, communities, stakeholders, and policymakers? These were just some of the questions raised by participants of the 14th annual Researching Africa Day at St Antony's College, University of Oxford, on 3 March 2012. The workshop brought together over eighty participants from universities throughout the UK and Europe and from a variety of disciplines, including anthropology, business management, economics, history, literature, politics, and sociology.

The overarching theme, ‘Researching Africa: Moving beyond *Researcher and the Researched*’, examined the complexities of knowledge production in a context where researchers must continuously re-evaluate their own role in socially and politically changing environments. The opening keynote address by Dr Noor Nieftagodien, Oppenheimer Visiting Fellow and senior lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, discussed the role of local communities in the production of knowledge. Dr Nieftagodien made a compelling argument for the greater involvement of non-academic local populations in writing their own histories.

Following the keynote address, seventeen papers were presented in five panels. In the panel *Defining, accessing and interpreting archives*, presenters and the audience discussed the limitations and challenges of conducting archival research. The second panel *Interviews, stories and knowledge production with marginalised populations* examined the ethical questions presented by working with prisoners, refugees, minors, and internally displaced people, and the complexities of access, trust, bearing witness, legitimising narratives, and reifying or challenging dominant tropes of victimhood. After an engaging lunch featuring debates, and knowledge and experience-sharing, the afternoon continued with panels on *Ethics, power and context* and *Post-colonial researchers navigating neo-colonial contexts*. Some of the issues discussed herein included the fraught nature of post- and neo-colonial research, advocacy and activism; accommodating the expectations and needs of research participants and communities; and the challenges of researching in contexts that demand rethinking one's own ethical standards. The day ended with *Beyond researcher/ researched* – an interactive panel in which presenters discussed various ways of making research findings accessible to local communities. Closing remarks were given by Dr David Pratten, Director of the African Studies Centre.

## Governor Fashola Lecture

By Matthew Adeiza and Chisom Okechukwu



Governor Fashola speaking at Rhodes House

On 17th October 2011 the Governor of Lagos state, Babatunde Raji Fashola, gave this year's OReNGA (Oxford Research Network on Government in Africa) lecture on the challenges and methods of managing a megacity at the Rhodes House. Fashola is an important figure in Nigerian politics because of the wider political and economic significance of Lagos state. Lagos is the most populous city in Nigeria and has an annual

GDP of \$44b making it the commercial centre of Nigeria and the 10th biggest economy in Africa.

Before Fashola became Governor, Lagos state faced numerous problems including high levels of insecurity, dilapidated school facilities, a malfunctioning transportation system, increasing unemployment and poor housing facilities, amongst others. When he assumed office in 2007, he quickly made significant improvements to the situation. By generating revenue internally by more effectively collecting tax revenue, he has been able to fund many development projects in addition to decreasing the state's dependence on the national government for revenue allocations. His most accomplished projects thus far have come in the areas of security and transportation, and it was in light of these achievements that he was invited to share his experience at Rhodes House, Oxford University.

In his lecture, Fashola said that in spite of the many problems faced by Nigeria and Lagos state in particular, he continued to have unwavering hope for their future. He recalled that it was this hope that persuaded him to remain in Nigeria during the era of military rule when many of his close friends and family members emigrated to the West in search of better living standards, leading to a period of ‘brain drain’. His hope, he said, is drawn from childhood memories of Nigeria when there

were good roads, functional schools, and a general optimism about the future. It was a desire to restore this sense of optimism to his compatriots that saw him leave his career in the private sector for one in public service following the reintroduction of multipartyism in 1999.

Fashola explained that as the Governor of Lagos state he has directed his vision to achieving two primary goals: attracting great minds from the private sector into public service and restoring the hope of Lagosians. To a great extent Fashola has successfully fulfilled these aims. His cabinet is comprised primarily of technocrats from the private sector, and the many projects executed by the state government are co-funded with partners from the private sector. And in some areas his administration has delivered: over the past three years more roads have been built in Lagos than in the whole of Ghana and Sierra Leone put together. As a result, Lagosians have actually welcomed his efforts to increase the tax base – suggesting that Nigerians are more than happy to contribute to government funds when they see that they are properly utilized.

Nevertheless, Fashola's tenure as Lagos state governor has not been all plain sailing. There remain groups who are skeptical of his methods and the spread of the good life he promises. These groups argue that his achievements have primarily benefited the rich and in some cases impoverished the poor. In response, Fashola argues that the dividends of democracy cannot solve everyone's problems simultaneously, and predicts that the long term effects of the policies that he has introduced will benefit all Lagosians.

While that may be true, the Governor nonetheless has his work cut out for him in the next three years. According to the United Nations, Lagos is set to become the 3rd biggest city in the world by 2015 with a population of 25 million. So far, the government has not been able to provide drinkable water to all its citizens despite improvements, and inadequate housing, flooding and encroachment from the Atlantic Ocean continue to pose serious problems that are likely to intensify as the city grows.

But perhaps, the most pressing concern of many Lagosians is that there have not been sufficient institutional reforms to ensure that when Fashola leaves office in three years, his vision and achievements will not leave with him. For all the measures that the Governor has introduced, his legacy in Lagos will depend on whether or not his successor carries on his good work.



# MSc Graduates recently awarded PhDs

## Caroline Mose (MSc 2007–8)

**Hip-hop in Nairobi: Interrogating Popular Culture and its Socio-Political Intersections in Urban Africa**

My research investigates the various points of convergence between hip-hop culture and music, and public life in Kenya, including an analysis of 'the city' as the major site within which hip-hop develops, and which shapes the very nature of the culture and its musics. In this analysis I discuss the main issues of 'field' and symbolic capital (Bourdieu) and the idea that hip-hop culture and music can offer a counter-discourse that challenges (or reinforces) political, social and cultural stereotypes in (Kenyan) urban society. My thesis also discusses the emerging issues of intellectual property and copyright in urban, popular music in Africa in general and Kenya in particular, analysing how Africa is positioned, and is positioning herself within international copyright domains. Some of my findings have been published as book chapters in 'Native Tongues: The African Hiphop Reader', edited by Paul Khalil Saucier and published by African World Press, and in the forthcoming 'Staging the Immaterial: Rights, Style and Performance in Sub-Saharan Africa' edited by M. Diawara and U. Rosenthaler, and published by Sean Kingston, UK.



## Peter Ntephe (MSc 2006–7)

**Does Africa Need Another Kind of Law? Alterity and the Rule of Law in Sub-Saharan Africa<sup>1</sup>**

Africa is the Other and if this were acknowledged and accepted rather than denied or suppressed, then more realistic solutions can be sought to the Rule of Law conundrum in Africa. On that premise, the dissertation uses critical discourse analysis to challenge the Rule of Law Orthodoxy, a set of ideas and strategies accepted in development practice as formulaic for establishing the Rule of Law. Arguing that the Orthodoxy assumes the essentialism of modern ('Western-style') law, the dissertation uses coups and corruption in Africa to demonstrate that in the absence of systemic fidelity to modern law, the Orthodoxy is futile. The dissertation contends that the legal cultures and rationalities that simultaneously produced and were embedded by African customary law have endured and continue to undermine the efficacy of modern law in Africa. The dissertation then employs the concept of alternative modernity as a contemporary framework to rationalise Africa's need for an 'Other' of modern law and co-opts anarchism in support of the case.

The goal is to demonstrate that an Afrocentric alternative to modern law is not only plausible but would better facilitate the Rule of Law in Africa. Establishing the plausibility of the alternative substantiates the cliché that Africa should look to its indigenous norms for renaissance. This should have implications for policy formulation as it fundamentally challenges the prevalent paradigm for establishing the Rule of Law.

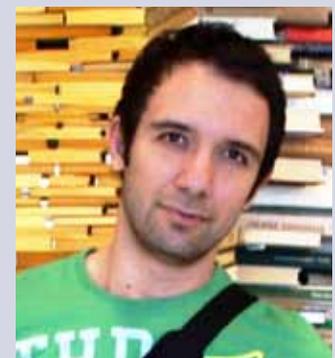


<sup>1</sup> PhD awarded May 31, 2012 by the University of London (School of Oriental and African Studies).

## Radoslav (Rudie) Yordanav (MSc 2005–6)

**Soviet involvement in Ethiopia and Somalia, 1947–1991**

On the 4th of July this year I defended my DPhil thesis on Soviet-Third World relations during the Cold War. The thesis which focused on the Soviet and the Bloc involvement in Somalia and Ethiopia from 1947 until 1991 would not have been possible without the support of the Arts and Humanities Research Council's scholarship and travel grant to Moscow. I based my thesis largely on previously unused primary material, obtained from wide array of sources, ranging from Moscow to Washington, through London, Berlin, Prague, Belgrade and Sofia. My main objective was to the gap in knowledge existing in the understanding of the Soviet-Third World Cold War relations by emphasising the interplay between domestic, local, regional, and global dimensions in analysing Moscow's involvement in the Horn of Africa. Importantly, as well, here I would like to express my utmost gratitude to my supervisors, Prof. David M. Anderson and Dr Alex Pravda, for all their patience, tireless encouragement, and belief in me. Their guidance helped me retain my focus and maintain a level of perspective in such a broadly defined project.



## The Story of My Pet

Tunde Oseni (MSc 2007-8)



Youth Focus Initiative is my pet project which I started when I was 24, an age by which most students have already completed their first degree and for some their PhDs. After completing secondary school, financial meltdown at the family level put a temporary cap on my thirst for a higher education. As fate would have it, it was in between the struggling eight years of self-help, selling petrol as a pump attendant, teaching pupils in private schools, and working as a community newspaper reporter that I started Youth Focus Media (later renamed Youth Focus Initiative) in Lagos.

The idea was (and still is) to motivate and engage the youths, wherever they are. I believe that some of the ideas that were packaged into those modest editions of the Youth Focus magazine had the same impact as the regular talks I gave along with the marketing of the publication. I made the magazine so simple that even the busiest person in the world would still find it 'unputdownable!' My sister and I were the company and we 'hired' some ad hoc distributors. It was not easy in the beginning, but we later found it very exciting.

In August 2001, we went to a massive programme called the Youth Empowerment Scheme at the National Stadium, Surulere in Lagos.

The whole stadium was full and we had armed ourselves with 100 copies of Youth Focus magazine to test run the sales. In ten minutes all of our copies had been mopped up and we had to restock with an extra 200 copies, which also sold out within a few hours. It was then that it dawned on us that our Ghanaian co-tenant (Mr. Adoo) was right when he had told us to take 'everything' to the programme. We were surprised by the number of sales that we made in four consecutive days.

Since then much has come to pass, I have gone on and pursued my academic dreams obtaining a BSc (first class at Ibadan), Msc (at Oxford) and capping it with a PhD (at Exeter). In between, I have received several scholarships including the Oxford Nigeria Scholarship from the African Studies Centre which helped me to complete my MSc, have done research; taught in Nigeria and the UK, and interacted with people from all over the world. However, the Youth Focus has been with me all the way. What we are doing is simple but huge in terms of the impact we are making in building leaders. We are enhancing people's potential, irrespective of their social status or level of education and connecting people locally, nationally, continentally and globally.

The Youth Focus Initiative has now become part of a bigger dream and has transformed into the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) division of Upward BAO Consulting. Generally, at Upward BAO Consulting and the Youth Focus Initiative, we strongly believe that young people can realize their potential and maximize their intellectual and social development if given positive education, empowerment and encouragement, including identifying for them individuals who have distinguished themselves in their chosen career and public service.

In 2011 we organised a book launch Youth Focus Role Model Award where we gave free copies of *My London Poems* to several young people (with the financial assistance of a Member of the Nigeria's House of Representatives and some public spirited individuals and institutions). In the same year we organised a well-executed Entrepreneurship Seminar, in which 55 young professionals and five guest speakers participated. In 2012, we have started allocating about 100 e-mentees (aged 16 to 25) to globally connected e-mentors on career development and professional enhancement. We will also soon be launching a Leadership Academy in which young professionals, entrepreneurs and activists will be trained on how to make a positive impact in their community, country and continent. All of these efforts will be complemented with the direct and indirect contributions from our Associate Resource Fellows (some of whom I met in Ibadan, Oxford and Exeter). We are also networking with like minds in Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Kenya, UK and USA.

The Youth Focus Initiative rests upon what we call the MERITS (Magazine, E-Mentoring, Role Modeling, International Exposure, Training and Community Service). The MERITS of the YFI are carefully targeted at orientating young people towards positive, productive and progressive lifestyles for personal development and societal advancement. Some of our Community Service projects include the My-Alma-Mata-Matters Initiative (MAMMI), All Girls for Education (AGE) and Anti-Corruption Club (ACC). Whatever we add to this initiative in the nearest future, we will strive to sustain what we started with the Youth Focus Magazine.



## Highlights of a Year in Oxford

Matthew Adeiza (MSc 2011-12)



I came to Oxford, like most of my classmates, with a lot of hopes and expectations. But even before I arrived in Oxford, I had enough reasons to be scared – the long list of readings circulated to us was enough indication that life in 'dreaming spires' would be tough and, even tougher for me as I would be venturing into the social sciences for the first time. As classes began, it became clear that many of us found

several aspects of the programme demanding: it was not uncommon to have a classmate lament on Facebook that we were indeed 'the lost generation' – ever trying to catch up with weekly readings, submit essays and prepare for class presentations.

Yet we made it, and left Oxford annealed and prepared for the challenges the 'real world' would throw at us. We left, bearing in mind that if we could survive Oxford, we could probably make it anywhere else. More importantly, we left Oxford not only equipped with information but also with analytical skills for making sense of information beyond the Centre.

To say we made it is only half of the story. We made it because there was an excellent support system: the fact that each student had unfettered access to any of the departmental lecturers; the extra effort by staff to help us develop skills to cope with the programme; the ever supportive administrative staff; and of course, the abundance of learning materials to consult. Indeed, the African Studies Centre provided a uniquely Oxford experience that exemplifies the best of Oxford. Added to this was the amazing collaborative spirit displayed by my classmates in terms of sharing materials and ideas, which made the experience all the more worthwhile.

Beyond the Centre, I also had an incredible opportunity to be involved in extracurricular activities in the university. From helping to organize the 2012 Oxford University Pan-African Conference to editing the Oxford Media Society blog to dancing at AfroBops, there was never a dull moment! The outstanding aspect of my Oxford experience is that I could gain so much in such a short time from such a vibrant academic environment. Did I mention that I also interned at the BBC in London? Yes, that was another treasurable moment for me in the UK.

As I reflect on the past nine months, I'm amazed at what had happened and how fast everything seemed to have passed. Yet, I'm left with an unmistakably gratifying feeling that those have been some of the most memorable and most fulfilling moments of my life.

## Reporting from Nairobi

Arjun Kohli (MSc 2007-8)



On leaving the intellectual sanctuary of the African Studies Center I joined the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi.

Working in the international micro-city on the forty acre estate in the heart of Gigiri near the center of town with the four thousand odd other staff was in itself an enlightening journey. As a Nairobi, it was a hidden world I only occasionally came across, despite the ever-present groans from locals about the impact that cohort had on hiking up house

rents in the area. Many journalists, photographers and film-makers in Nairobi longed for contracts with the UN, where they perceived a haven of professional security and comfortable perks. True for some but consultancies, especially in communications divisions, followed the month-to-month or three to six month trends embodied by the media industry at large. So whilst the MSc was an essential prerequisite and was really well regarded, the outward perception of long term security was far from true. But it did provide an incredible platform in which I could produce films and write environmental news for a well-heeled campaign on Climate Change and for the informative UNEP website.

That year Ban Ki Moon spearheaded a UN wide public information campaign on climate change, which was orchestrated through the Department of Communications and Public Information in which I worked. I co-coordinated audio and visual messages from business, youth, environmental and political role models and leaders across the world and edited them into public service announcements and adverts that were played globally in the lead up to the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change (COP15). When the conference came to a close I was able to make some short films about Kenyan environmental issues relating to perceived threats to water levels in Lake Naivasha and deforestation in the Mau Forest. Satellite images taken between 1974 to date found through Kenya: Atlas of our Changing Environment provided fascinating material to work with alongside the UNEP reports.

On completion, I joined an inter-governmental project whose broader aim was to promote East African regional integration and economic growth. It was spearheaded by USAID and DFID with support from almost every major aid agency from JICA to the EU and the Tripartite (COMESA, EAC and SADC). My focus was transport infrastructure. I traveled along the Northern and Central Transport Corridors writing a travelogue and preparing short films whilst taking GIS coded photographs to document the condition of road, rail, port and waterway networks along those two arteries. The Northern Corridor runs from the port in Mombasa to Nairobi, then onto Kisumu, over the Malaba border post into

Kampala. The central corridor leads from Kampala, branches into the Congo and to Kigali and snakes down towards the port in Dar-es Salaam. Barring air-freight, almost all imports and exports pass along these routes and they are the key to ignite growth.

But regional integration and prosperity are hindered by this transport system, which costs exporters 60-70 per cent more than the USA and Europe and 30 per cent more than Southern Africa. Under the umbrella of Trademark East Africa I joined a team of transport economists who were gathering data for a cost and benefit analysis that would allow them to give donors a list of priority investment projects to develop an efficient regional transport system and thus catalyze and facilitate trade expansion and investment. I reported on stories the truck drivers told, which highlighted health, road-safety and social issues, thus adding a multi-disciplinary, audio and visual element. If sailors have a girl in every port many truckers have families at every border post and many employees give them USD1000 for each journey just to help "facilitate" the journey through endless police check points, weigh bridges and border posts: havens of corruption.

With ClimateCare, an Oxford based carbon-trading company, I was able to explore six more projects in Kenya and Uganda that were supported through Carbon Finance. They included a geothermal power station in the Rift Valley, an improved cook-stove project in Kampala, a reforestation project in Kibale (Northern Uganda) and water filtration projects near Kakamega and Eldoret in Kenya. Working in the nexus between carbon finance and development the for-profit organization showed me how innovative and effective private sector development models can be. I captured the most important elements of each project in five-minute films.

I also worked on an African Union funded project highlighting life in Somalia and the impact the AU was having there. The photo essay, Brothers in Arms, produced with photojournalist Kate Holt, was screened at the Somalia Conference held this year in London and broadcasted on the guardian multi-media page. There are also museum and public screenings as the exhibition tours from London to Kampala. A few pictures, a soundtrack and a narration by Mogadishu residents was a powerful way to have their story told and their point of view understood.

Other projects filmed under the umbrella of Production Africa have included some films promoting FairTrade tea and coffee for Marks and Spencer in the tea zone around Nyeri and a project working with resident's in Dandora through Vegpro, who supply vegetables to the UK and have an enormous workforce. They are helping them find ways to improve their lives and foster greater community spirit in the hard conditions of the slums by instilling leadership qualities. Watching transformations in some workers after just a few lessons on leadership was an amazing lesson on how a little knowledge can go a long way. Carmela and I are raising our two-year old daughter, Avani, in Nairobi, internalizing globalization through our happy Kenyan-Honduran Indian-American-British family.

## China Daily goes to Africa

Lianxing (Leo) Li (MSc 2009-10)

After completing the MSc in African studies, I enrolled on an MPhil in International Relations at Cambridge and returned to Beijing after graduating in 2010. In search of a better platform and chance to explore the world, I got a job as an international news reporter at China Daily, China's national English language newspaper. China Daily offers greater autonomy and the opportunity to report more freely than other Chinese media. My job has allowed me to travel and report on events, conflicts and even wars in locations such as Dadaab refugee camp, Pakistan, Egypt and Syria. With an aim of bridging the cognitive gap between China and Africa while enhancing the understanding of China and Chinese culture to African people, China Daily decided to extend its overseas editions from the US and Europe to Africa. I was lucky enough to be chosen as the only correspondent in the African bureau at this stage thanks to my expertise, which means I will be stationed in Nairobi and traveling around the continent to report African news and Sino-African news for the next two to three years.



# Alumni Updates

## Class of 2005-06

**Meghan Treleven** has spent the last year living in New York City, teaching Science on the upper east side. She moved back to the UK this summer with her husband.

**John James** hosted a St Antony's student, Brian Klaas (MPhil Politics, Comparative Government), while he carried out his thesis research. All research students welcome at the residence James, Abidjan!

**Tope Folarin** is working for a financial regulator in Washington DC.



## Class of 2006-07

▼ **Carolyn Vine** and **Donald Goodson** (MSc 2005-6) were married at the Angel Orensanz Foundation in New York City on June 2, 2012 by Michelle Osborn (MSc 2005-6) - it was quite the African Studies affair!

## Class of 2007-08

▲ **Cosanna Preston** got married to Lucky Igedia in Lagos, Nigeria on April 28, 2012.

## Class of 2008-09

**William Attwell** has been appointed Principal Professional Officer for Economic Policy in the Office of the Mayor of Cape Town. In 2011-2012 he was responsible for designing Democratic Alliance's economic growth strategy for South Africa and also completed an MPhil in Public Law (with Distinction).

**Janet Remington** has had an article based on her MSc dissertation accepted for publication in *Journal of Southern African Studies*: 'Solomon Plaatje's Decade of Creative Mobility, 1912-1922: The Politics of Travel and Writing in and beyond South Africa'. She is still working as an Editorial Director at Routledge and will be starting a PhD part-time within the English Literature department at the University of York in September.



## Class of 2009-10

**Emma Cavendish** is working as a curator and dealer of contemporary African art with Ed Cross Fine Art Ltd, who represent artists from across Africa and also in the diaspora including Peterson Kamwathi (Kenya), Natalie Mba Bikoro (Gabon), Cyrus Kabiru (Kenya), Jems Koko Bi (Ivory Coast) and Lovemore Kambudzi (Zimbabwe). You can see more on their website <http://edcrossfineart.com/index.html>.

**Duncan Scott** is returning to the UK in October on a Commonwealth Scholarship to start a PhD (Sociology) at Aberdeen University.

▼ **Max Schaub** married **Anjula Semmens** on 17 August 2012 in Ganderkesee, Germany.



## Class of 2010-11

**Diana Njuguna** got engaged and is due to get married in October.

**Leila Bodeux** has been working at Oxfam Belgium as a Policy Officer for essential services since April.

**Annette LaRocco** is starting a PhD at Cambridge in October in the Politics department. She will be continuing and expanding on her MSc dissertation research under the supervision of Sharath Srinivasan. She is being supported by the Cambridge Overseas Trust and Trinity College, Cambridge.

► **Tyler Matthews** married **Jordan** in 2011 and is currently a US Army Ranger living in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**Alex Noyes** is a Research Associate in the Africa Program at the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), a federally-funded think tank in the Washington DC area.

**Margaret Nyarango** moved to New Zealand last February and started a PhD programme in Social Anthropology.



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

Keep up-to-date with alumni news at: [www.africanstudies.ox.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.africanstudies.ox.ac.uk/alumni)



# African Studies

## Class of 2011–12



**Matthew Adeiza, Nigeria**  
BA Mass Communication  
(University of Jos)

Delusion or Deliverance?  
Youth, New Media and the  
2011 Nigerian General  
Elections



**Hugh Boylan, Australia**  
Bachelor of Law/BA Theatre Studies  
(Melbourne)

Pulling the trigger on  
the energy weapon: Oil  
politics in East Africa



**Rebecca Brocato, United States**  
BA African History (Harvard)

Politics for a Borderland:  
American policy and  
regional relations in the  
wake of the LRA threat



**Cecile Bushidi, France**  
BA African History (SOAS)

*Mwomboko*: Performing  
Narratives of Central  
Province in Colonial Kenya,  
1920s–1952



**Elizabeth Button, Germany & United States**  
BA Swahili and History (SOAS)

Imaginings of the Western  
Province: British Policy,  
Revolts and the Rise of  
Eritrean Nationalism,  
1941–1952



**Sarah Covington, United Kingdom**  
BA Modern History (SOAS)

If walls could talk:  
Understanding  
(Il-)legitimacy in 1980s  
Algeria



**Francesca Devereux, United Kingdom**  
BA in Modern History (Cambridge)

Muslim politics in Kenya  
since 1991



**Thomas Fardon, United Kingdom**  
BA Anthropology with  
Development (Edinburgh)

Print Media and the Public  
Sphere in Anglophone  
Cameroon



**Marco Francescon, United Kingdom**  
PPE (Oxford)

Institutional reform in post  
civil war Liberia's natural  
resource sectors: the case  
of the National Beneficiary  
Trust and the Arcelor Mittal  
Social Development Fund



**Leah Gatt, Malta**  
MA in International Relations (LSE)

The Impact of Direct  
Taxation on State–Society  
Relations in Lagos, Nigeria



**Mollie Gerver, Israel, United States**  
MA in Political Science (Hebrew  
University of Jerusalem)

'Voluntary' Repatriation and  
Restoring Rights': The Case  
of South Sudanese Returnees  
from Israel



**Aliahmed Hassanali, Kenya**  
MSc in Finance (Oxford)

Overcoming Institutional  
Challenges and Economic  
Frictions: a Case Study of  
Private Equity in Kenya



**John Hodges, South Africa**  
Bachelor of Business Science, Accounting  
& Finance (Cape Town)

The Labour Broking  
Debate in South Africa:  
The social and political  
elements of class conflict  
in a global capitalist  
economy



**Zenobia Ismail, South Africa**  
MSc in Management (LSE)

Why Dominant Parties  
Lose Power? The Case of  
Zambia



**Jonathan Jackson, United Kingdom**  
BA African History (SOAS)

Meaning in Miscellanea:  
The Social Value of Books  
in Stone Town, Zanzibar



**Isabella Kentridge, Ireland & South Africa**  
BA African History (Witwatersrand)

"The Warmest, Happiest, Best-Fed Family in the Township"



**Sarah Jane Lockwood, United Kingdom**  
BA Comparative Politics (Columbia)

Negotiating Identity in Post-Apartheid South Africa: The Case of the Mine Workers' Union



**Henry Mang, Nigeria**  
BA African History (University of Jos)

"Can we meet at the market tomorrow? Commerce, Authority and Economic Power Relations after Violent Conflicts in Jos, Nigeria"



**Case Martin, United States**  
Graduate Bachelors in African studies (Northwestern)

Tracing the Development of South Sudan's Health Care



**Sannah Mokone, South Africa**  
BA Public Management (University of the Free State)

Women Investment Portfolio Holdings (WIPHOLD), Financial Innovation and the Empowerment of Rural Women



**Abigail Niebuhr, United Kingdom**  
BA Human & Social Geography (Manchester)

Picturing an epidemic through the lens: considering the changing representation of HIV/AIDS in Africa in the photography of Gideon Mendel



**Alasdair O'Hare, United Kingdom**  
BA Modern History (Oxford)

The Kenya Land Commission and African Political Consciousness: A Case Study of Nandi District



**Chisom Okechukwu, Nigeria**  
BA African Studies and Economics (University of Pennsylvania)

Corruption and Police Reform in Nigeria Since 1999



**Amy Pennenga, United States**  
BA African studies (Colgate University)

Looking to the Centre: Youth Aspirations and Kenyan National Politics



**Laura Phillips, South Africa**  
BA Hons in History (Witwatersrand)

A Postcolonial Womb: Gender, Generation and Governance



**Britta Rustad, Canada**  
BA International Studies & Foreign Languages (University of Idaho)

Temporary goalposts and imagined sidelines: observations of youth agency and belonging in post-genocide Rwanda



**Ludo Sabone, Botswana**  
BComm Hons in Economics (Cape Town)

Education Marginalisation in Botswana: The Experience of Wayeyi and Exclusionary Education



**Florence Stuart-Leach, United Kingdom**  
BA History (Newcastle)

From Bahia to Lagos; Tracing Diasporic Return in reverse in Nineteenth-Century Lagos



**Nils Tensi, Germany**  
BSc European Studies (NL Twente University of Technology)

Africa and the Struggle for Foreign Direct Investment: Lessons from Kenya



**Lara Vancans, United States**  
BA Anthropology (Tufts University)

Inhabiting Failure of the State: Claiming space and citizenship in Kayamandi's interim



**Sam Wilkins, Australia**  
BA Hons in Political Science (Melbourne)

Political Violence, Memorialisation, and Funeral Practices; MDC youth in post-2008 Harare



**Henny Ziai, Iran, United Kingdom**  
PPE (Oxford)

Corporate liability in the case of Liberia

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