

The Safundi Member Research Newsletter

— A RESOURCE FOR SOUTH AFRICAN & AMERICAN SCHOLARS AROUND THE WORLD —

DISCUSSING SOUTH AFRICA WORLDWIDE

The ten-year anniversary of the “new” South Africa has prompted many organizations to host conferences around the world. Here are four articles discussing the various gatherings and themes.



INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENTS

A RETROSPECTIVE CONFERENCE

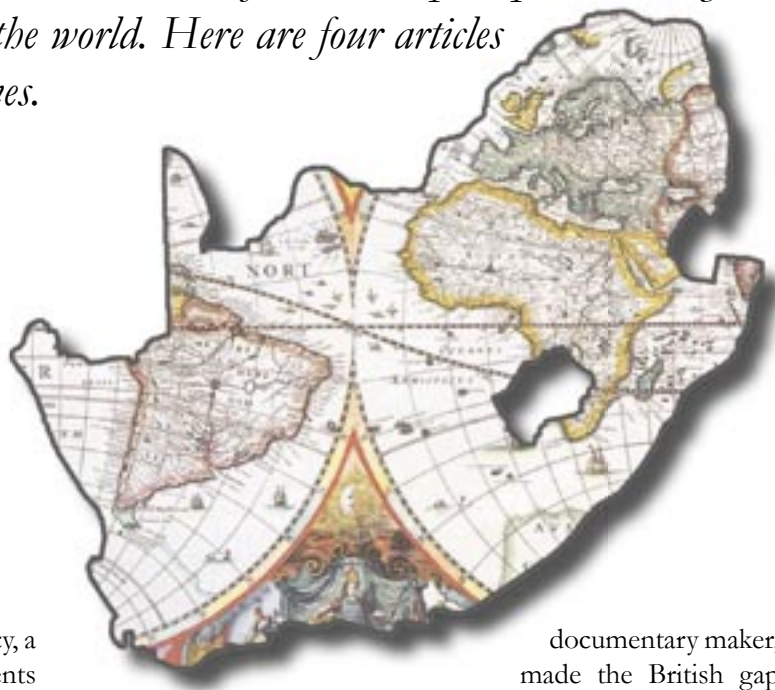
LOOKS FORWARD

Durban, South Africa, 10-13 October 2004

by Randolph Vigne

Founding Chairman, Friends of Namibia, 1969

To commemorate ten years of South African democracy, a conference to study “International Anti-Apartheid Movements in South Africa’s Freedom Struggle: Lessons for Today” was convened by the University of KwaZulu-Natal and held at the International Conference Centre in Durban on 10-13 October 2004. It was international indeed, with speakers from Denmark, Finland, Germany, India, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Swaziland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, Zambia, and, of course, South Africa. Australia and New Zealand were covered by Peter Utting and Ireland by Louise Asmal, both now in South Africa. Among absentee countries which had had popular anti-apartheid movements were Belgium, Canada, France, some “socialist countries,” and “front-line states” of the past. Most glaring of all was the absence of speakers from the British Anti-Apartheid Movement, represented only by an Oxford D.Phil. student, Genevieve Klein, who dealt with one incident in AAM’s thirty-year history. Happily, the other major British-based organization, Canon Collins’ International Defence and Aid Fund (IDAF), fielded its director of later years, Horst Kleinschmidt. IDAF was given further coverage at the launch of Denis Herbststein’s *White Lies: Canon Collins’s Secret War Against Apartheid* on the second night. On the third, the showing of the “disinvestment” episode of the five-parter-in-the-making *Have you heard from Johannesburg (1946-90)* by Connie Field, Academy-Award-nominated



documentary maker, made the British gap even more regrettable since its major players figured so large in Field’s “history of a global movement that took on South Africa’s entrenched apartheid regime.”

The papers themselves ranged from the grandiloquent, uncritical, sometimes self-congratulatory oratory of the Gala Banquet through the thoughtful speeches of the Mozambican, Namibian, and Swedish ambassadors (Prof. Peter Katjavivi usefully defining apartheid in its application to colonialism in the pre-independence “front-line states”; Sten Rylander, looking forward, pointed to the major issues for future campaigns on Africa, including HIV/AIDS and, otherwise neglected, strengthening the United Nations), to the academics and old campaigners who supplied the core papers. Among the latter, whose papers will be worth study when, as promised, they reach the conference website (www.ukzn.ac.za/aam2004/) were those by Alfred Babing (Germany—specifically the “GDR” as he proudly proclaimed), Sietse Bosgra (Netherlands—now campaigning for Palestine), John Daniel (on Swaziland—one of three organizing committee members to give papers, and a genial host), Bill Fletcher (United States—Transafrica Forum); Colin Gardner (South African Liberal), Sylvia Hill (on the Free South Africa Movement), Peter Limb (Michigan State

University), Ben Magubane (S.A. Development Education Trust), “Prexy” Nesbit (a father figure to the delegates, and still a U.S. activist), Mai Palmberg (Nordic Africa Institute), Tor Sellstrom (now a development economist at the Swedish Embassy, Pretoria), the larger-than-life Vladimir Shubin (once head of the African section of the CPSU International Department), and Mohammed Tikly (once head of the Solomon Mahlangu school). Apologies to thirty or more others, some of equal worth, omitted as unheard due to the three parallel sessions on day three.

Of the twelve conference sessions, all but the last two were about the history of anti-apartheid activity around the world—by national governments, in civil society, through international solidarity, via the cultural and academic boycott, and the documenting of all these. No strong strands of common argument came through: a firmer set of guidelines for speakers might have achieved this. Nevertheless, a sense of the great achievements of those years did come through and there was little distraction from self-congratulatory autobiography.

The final two sessions and the closing address sought to look to the future and to draw lessons from the past. The speakers have already been commended above: one might add that they were all still active in their fields, academic or in public life, and most gave a message of hope that what had been achieved in the past might happen again in the hardest fights ahead, which were less political and more related to the old enemies of “poverty, ignorance, and disease” than the anti-apartheid movement had had to contend with.

Beside Ambassador Rylander’s sober, penetrating analysis of future needs towards “global liberation” from a Nordic perspective and an Indian view expressed by Vice Chancellor Mushirul (Jamia Millia Islamia), in the final session was a pyrotechnic display by Kader Asmal, former Education Minister. With volubility and eloquence, Asmal made a strong, if sometimes utopian and one-sided, case for a new international solidarity movement. This was at variance with Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad’s closing address on future strategies. He was articulate, realistic, and (on South Africa’s democratic progress) confiding—until floored by a final question, from Pekki Peltola (Finland): “What is your government’s policy on Zimbabwe?” Confused and repetitious, his reply was embarrassingly deficient. Many must have thought how similar his non-interventionist arguments were to the old excuses South Africa’s trading partners once made to evade imposing sanctions on the apartheid regime. He was saved from facing a forest of raised hands by asking Kader Asmal to deal with an economics question that had been put. Asmal obligingly talked the meeting out.

A “fringe” meeting on Zimbabwe had dealt with Zimbabwe and issued a strong protest statement to the Mugabe government, signed by all present. Other than

this and a gathering on IT convened by Peter Limb, the conference lacked the usual range of “fringe” activities, no caucus of senior delegates developed, and there was too little central direction from the organizers (*pave* John Daniel, above). The customary networking took place between sessions though there was not much common cause, such as had united the campaigners of old, on one side of the Iron Curtain or the other. The exception was among the archivists, The National Archives, Pretoria; the Alan Paton Centre, Pietermaritzburg; Namibia’s Archives of Anti-Colonial Resistance and the Liberation Struggle; the Nordic Africa Institute; and the Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg, were all seeking yet unarchived documents and artifacts of the struggle years. Best represented was the African Studies Center at Michigan State University, headed by David Wiley, with Richard Knight, director of the African Activist Archive Project, overseeing the video-recording by Bob Vassen and others of the memories of warriors of old.

On the negative side, however, a major force in opposing apartheid almost went by default. The churches, collectively and in the leadership of great churchmen from Michael Scott to Desmond Tutu, were the subject of a single paper—a lively presentation by the Anglican Rev. Sue Britton (South Africa). The churches were also hailed by Professor Sibusiso Bhengu, of the UKZN Council, in his excellent banquet speech of welcome.

A final impression? Ten years after the first South African democratic election seems late in the day to call on activists already of long service to look back and summon up worthwhile and accurate memories (or too early, for the historians of the future) but the old commitment was recalled and the old antipathies largely laid to rest (though not towards the apartheid regime). Despite some gaps and absences the conference bore much fruit, for this participant at least. The papers, when the AAM2004 website makes them available on line, will provide a solid foundation for future researchers. And why not a book for the general reader?



LOOKING AT SOUTH AFRICA

TEN YEARS ON

London, 10-12 September 2004

by Christopher Saunders

University of Cape Town

About one hundred southern Africanists gathered at the University of London for what was the largest of a series of academic conferences held to commemorate, and reflect upon, the first ten years of democracy in South Africa. The conferences at Queen’s University in Canada in May and the University of South Africa in August had been smaller, but

had attracted a number of substantial papers, to appear soon in the *Canadian Journal of African Studies* and the *South African Historical Journal*. The relatively large number of participants in London meant parallel sessions and venues unsuitable for intimate engagement between speakers and audience, but there was much valuable discussion and opportunity for networking outside the formal sessions, helped along by Tim Shaw, Director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICS).

While the majority of those attending were from British institutions (a scattering from continental Europe but very few from the United States), there was a significant South African presence, mostly white and senior scholars rather than young and upcoming academics. Martin Plaut of the BBC commented that he knew most of the South Africans from over a quarter century back, and any conference held in another decade is likely to have a very different complexion. At this one, one appreciated those who had done so much in the metropole to contribute to South African studies and remain active in the field. It was at the ICS that Shula Marks had held her famous seminar from 1969, which had been at the heart of the blossoming of southern African studies in the 1970s and 1980s. It was entirely appropriate, therefore, that she should have chaired the opening and closing sessions, and she was an involved participant throughout. The first keynote speech was by Colin Bundy, now director of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), and one of the receptions celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the *Journal of Southern African Studies (JSAS)*. When the intellectual history of southern African studies in the late twentieth century is written, there can be no doubt of the major role that will be given to Shula Marks, the ICS, SOAS, and *JSAS*.

One of the great bonuses of the conferences was that most of the papers (unfortunately not Bundy's) were rapidly put online (www.sas.ac.uk/commonwealthstudies/events.htm) accessible to anyone. It would be invidious to single out particular papers, for the standard was high, and it is to be hoped that many of them will be published soon. One theme that ran through a number of sessions was "looking back"; a second was "looking out," considering South Africa in Africa and in the region; while a third, "looking in," focused on the constitution and justice, democracy and empowerment, economic policy and crime. On the last day, the conference turned to "looking forward,"

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THE PHOTOGRAPH



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FEATURING

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- David Farrell Krell, *Shudder Speed: The Photograph as Ecstasy and Tragedy*.
- Fred Wah, *Is A Door A Word?*
- Essays on W.G. Sebald, banality, post-memory, architecture, the archive, Julio Cortázar, Ralph Eugene Meatyard, and more.

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with more papers and a roundtable.

Was the overall tone too critical, some wondered? From Bundy's keynote to Zackie Achmat's closing presentation on the HIV/AIDS crisis in South Africa, one came away with an assessment that, if mixed, nevertheless was more negative than positive. This was, no doubt, in part a reflection of high and perhaps unrealistic expectations, and regret at missed opportunities, mixed with a dose of skepticism especially by those who now see South Africa from a distance. A comparative perspective involving countries outside the region was rarely brought to bear. As a number of speakers pointed out, ten years is a relatively short time.

While resources in the North remain incomparable, the center of gravity in South African studies long ago shifted from London to South Africa itself, as was suggested, for example, when the Human Science Research Council (HSRC) representatives at the conference provided information of their new *State of the Nation* and other publications, many freely available on the HSRC website. Towards the end of the conference John Daniel wondered whether in the future the past ten years would seem like a golden age of South African democracy. Most at the conference hoped he was wrong, but clearly we will have to wait to see. For all the skepticism and critical analysis, the main message from the conference, and its rich intellectual contributions, was surely that South Africa remains one of the most fascinating societies to study.



NOTES ON SOUTH AFRICAN FILM

“TEN YEARS OF FREEDOM: FILMS FROM THE NEW SOUTH AFRICA”

New York City, 27 April to 2 May 2004

by Sean Jacobs

Ph.D., Politics, University of London

South Africa is a highly unequal society. For much of its recent history that inequality was natural, state-sanctioned, and favorable to the small white minority. That inequality was mirrored not only in its political, economic, and social life (physically and geographically), but also in its cultural life.

If a national media or cinema existed, it existed essentially as a “white” media or cinema. In general, cultural life was characterized by a white presence and a black absence. Black people at best operated on its margins.

State-supported cinema of course reflected the state's repressive ideology, but even progressive cultural output shared a lot of these characteristics as a result of who had resources and the kinds of experiences they had access to.

So, for example, with film, in the last century up until the end of apartheid in only two films did black South Africans play a central role in conception and production. The first

was *Come Back Africa* that came out in 1959 and that was a collaboration between a white American filmmaker from New York City, Lionel Rogosin, and a group of black writers then known as the “Sophtown Renaissance”—for the neighborhood razed by apartheid soon afterwards. The second was *Mapantsula*, directed by a white South African, Oliver Schmitz, but heavily

collaborated with actor Thomas Mogotlane nearly thirty years later. Mogotlane wrote the screenplay for the film.

I may add that these processes were replicated in the United States, of course. Outside South Africa, the experiences of living under apartheid were conveyed in the main through white eyes. Either conveyed through a white, foreign “witness” (a journalist usually), a white South African's impressions of the system, or a film about black people, conceived, written, and directed by white filmmakers for white audiences.

After apartheid, these trends on balance did not disappear, even though a number of exceptions are visible.

Just living as a white person in a black country was and is considered somehow special and as something to overcome, more so now than ever. And just as under apartheid a small group of liberal whites conveyed black suffering (*Cry Freedom, A World Apart*) today the story of South Africa post-apartheid is still on balance told by the same voices.

Politically, democracy brought more power for black people, but that power only slowly extends itself the economic, the symbolic, and the intellectual spheres.

How South Africans and outsiders are conceiving of the changes—or come to grasp with what happens in that country—is still to the largest degree the preserve of white South Africans.

Of course, these whites are good people and progressive people and one should not undermine their contributions or their work merely because they are white. But white in South Africa comes with social and economic privilege and access and circuits and connections. And limited experience: the worlds of whites and blacks are still deeply separate, and even liberal whites who are closely involved and working with middle-class blacks often have never set foot in a township, and certainly never lived in one. And more importantly,

“How South Africans and outsiders are conceiving of the changes—or come to grasp with what happens in that country—is still to the largest degree the preserve of white South Africans.”

they are also people with feelings and ambitions and often resent giving up positions of control.

In April 2004, I co-directed a week-long film festival in New York City, "Ten Years of Freedom: Films from the New South Africa." [For more information, see the festival website: www.tenyearsoffreedom.org.] When I started thinking of the idea of a once-off, week-long festival of celebrating South Africa on film, I also set out actively to change this legacy, even in a small way.

In the process, what we found was that had we used the normal channels, in terms of producers, production companies, and the media (both here and in South Africa), we would have had a seventy/thirty percent split in terms of the directors and the films—favoring established filmmakers. For one thing, full-length films are much more likely to have white directors, for obvious reasons related to resources. Also, white filmmakers tend to have longer experience, more technical savvy, and a more cultivated sense of what the international audience wants. For example, the discourses of "rights" of "globalization" permeate these films.

Black or younger—and in some cases white—filmmakers are less inclined to make films with an eye on the outside. Their films also reflect differently on the experiences of change.

We set out deliberately to resist falling into the same patterns that boils down to privileging the white discourse and throwing in a few black directors as exotics.

So we consulted outside those normal channels.

Basically, we learned that market channels will not come close to bringing a diverse result. And "merit" is a category that depends on skewed market conditions. The same people who dominate the market are the people who determine merit, bestow accolades, have access to international circuits, and so forth.

We wanted to bring directors over to the festival. We needed the cooperation of the established film networks in order to get the films we wanted. And there was a lot of pressure from that establishment to give travel grants to the more established filmmakers and to favor certain perspectives of the South African transition. We were only able to bypass that by routing travel grants through state and other institutions that

had the clout to overrule these networks. In the end, we've still brought white filmmakers, but we were also able to give prominence to emerging black directors, who are making different kinds of films.

So in one sense this for us was an object lesson about the importance of state involvement in matters of diversity.

Essentially we understood our festival as an attempt to cultivate new

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Soaring on the Wings of Pride

Martin Luther King Jr. and the "New" South Africa

Lewis V. Baldwin

Vanderbilt University

Classifying "Race" and "Whitening" the Nation

Suggestions Towards Comparative Reading of South Africa and Brazil

Fernando Rosa Ribeiro

Universidade de São Paulo

Classificando "Raças" e "Branqueando" a Nação

Sugestões Para uma Leitura Comparativa da África do Sul e do Brasil

Fernando Rosa Ribeiro

Universidade de São Paulo

Power Rarely Fails

A Concluding Discussion with Noam Chomsky

Christopher J. Lee

Stanford University

"South Africa's Vietnam?"

Literary History and Cultural Memory of the Border War

Gary Baines

Rhodes University

Latitudes and Longitudes

Comparative Perspectives on Cape Environmental History

Nancy J. Jacobs

Brown University

One Struggle: Legitimizing Anti-Apartheid Discourse

Nesbitt, Francis Njubi. *Race for Sanctions: African Americans Against Apartheid, 1946-1994*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2004.

Alex Lichtenstein

Rice University

audiences for new voices. But this is not the kind of thing that can be done by private initiatives in a context of the vast inequality in South Africa. For us, it boiled down to creating both new entry points into the industry and new audiences.

* Notes for a presentation during a panel on “Diversity, growing class poverty and immiseration” at the Arts for Change Conference presented by the Diversity Studies Initiative of the Graduate School of Arts and Science of New York University, New York, NY, April 3, 2004.



ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING AND DISSEMINATION

Dakar, 1-2 September 2004

*by Andrew Offenburger
Founding Editor & Publisher, Safundi*

This past July marked the five-year anniversary of the development of *Safundi* and the various resources available at our website. Within this short amount of time we have published many articles on all topics of interest to scholars in the United States and South Africa—and others worldwide—and most of the article topics have been historical or literary by nature. There is another, transparent topic, however, that directly impacts us all, one that many of us take for granted: online publication (and dissemination) and its relationship to African studies.

“Transparent” is written here because little attention is often given to the *method* of connecting our online community. It is only natural that, over time, we forget about such processes and their implications.

For this reason I was pleased to learn of—and to attend—the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa’s (CODESRIA) Conference on Electronic Publishing and Dissemination, 1-2 September, in Dakar, Senegal. It was the first time CODESRIA hosted a conference pertaining to the online medium, and it gave scholars, librarians, and information technology professionals the chance to gather and discuss the direction of online publishing within the context of African studies.

Of the twenty-five papers presented, two common threads will particularly interest *Safundi* members: the open access movement and the question of audience and purpose.

The most lively discussion of the conference—held in both French and English with simultaneous translation—related to the open access movement, formally known as the Budapest Open Access Initiative, whose goal is to “make possible the world-wide electronic distribution of the peer-reviewed journal literature and completely free and

unrestricted access to it by all scientists, scholars, teachers, students, and other curious minds” (for more information, see <http://www.soros.org/openaccess/>). The movement at the very least is a noble but ultimately futile idea, at best a publishing revolution. Of course, librarians caught between tightening budgets and soaring journal prices held a different opinion of the movement than did online database and journal publishers. For this reason the debates in the second and third panels, each related to “Access and Visibility of African Scholarship in the Digital Age,” were particularly engaging.

Secondly, Firoze Manji, of Fahamu, an organization dedicated to using information and communication technologies as a tool for social change, asked very important questions about the purpose of ICTs in Africa and their audience. According to Manji, while five to eight million Africans have access to the Internet, fifty-two million are mobile phone users (and thus capable of receiving wireless text messages). With this statistic in mind, one must question the method of reaching and engaging populations in Africa. One exciting example can be seen in Fahamu: the organization has launched an initiative to allow cell phone users to sign an online petition “in support of a campaign urging African governments to ratify the African Union’s Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa.” Fahamu’s innovative use of new technologies is commendable.

These are but two brief items discussed at the conference. However, interested persons can go to the CODESRIA website and download all of the presented articles (www.codesria.org/Links/conferences/el_publ/elpubl_papers.htm).



Safundi and Electronic Publishing

Readers of this newsletter might be interested in the paper, “The Challenges and Possibilities of New Media in African Scholarship: The Case of Safundi and U.S.-South African Comparative Studies,” written by Christopher J. Lee (Stanford) and Andrew Offenburger (Safundi), which may be downloaded from the CODESRIA website:



www.codesria.org/Links/conferences/el_publ/elpubl_papers.htm

— CALLS FOR PAPERS

“Edinburgh Studies in Transatlantic Literatures”

Contact: Susan Manning, Susan.Manning@ed.ac.uk

With the end of the Cold War and the burgeoning of a global culture, the assumptions upon which Area Studies were based have started to be undermined. Edinburgh Studies in Transatlantic Literatures is an exciting new publishing venture that will promote the study of American literatures beyond national perimeters. How are place-based identities transformed by a wider Atlantic world? To what extent has the literature of the American hemisphere always and inevitably been in dialogue with that of Europe? What forms of literary expression do national identity and cultural nationalism take in a transnational environment? The series will explore the theoretical implications of comparing transatlantic literary cultures and publish important studies of transatlantic exchange in practice. It aims to be flexible in approach, incorporating Readers aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate students, monographs, and tightly-conceived edited collections.

“Exploring Global Perspectives”

Contact: Karen Advokaat, KarenA@berkshirepublishing.com

Berkshire Publishing Group is preparing Exploring Global Perspectives for publication by Congressional Quarterly Press in September 2005. This work will feature essays that explore the processes that have shaped and continue to shape perspectives of the United States around the world, and how these perspectives fit into the framework of broad global issues and concerns.

“Regional and Ethnic Music and the Literary Imagination”

Due: 10/28/2004

Contact: Joe C. Wisdom, jwisdom@fgcu.edu

Cajun, zydeco, bluegrass, blues, stringband, shapenote, conjunto, rockabilly, conga, klezmer, gospel, steelband, other? This panel will explore the personal, cultural, and literary influences of regional and ethnic music on North American writers. Interdisciplinary approaches are encouraged. The session will be proposed for the 2004 SCMLA conference, “Cultural Confluences,” to be held in (where better for such a session?) New Orleans, October 28-30, 2004. By January 31, 2004, please submit a 350-word abstract and brief vita. E-mail submissions are preferred.

“Special Issue of Postcolonial Studies: ‘Digital Culture’”

Due: 10/30/2004

Contact: Mark Poster, pcs@netspace.net.au

Link: www.ipcs.org.au

Postcolonial studies is heavily affected by processes of globalisation. Among these trends is the spread of networked computing and digital culture, from email and websites, from Usenet to massively multiple online games and digital art, from net news journals to blogs. Digital culture also affects the world labour market as workers around the globe are recruited into high technology jobs as diverse as assembly line production of computers, homeworked programming of software and call centers where workers are taught the rudiments of foreign (mostly American) cultures to enable telephone support for products and services. New media, in short, are now global. This special issue inquires into the consequences of such phenomena for the postcolonial condition.

“Captivity Narratives (Politics & Pedagogy)”

Due: 11/15/2004

Contact: Kate Higginson, higginjc@mcmaster.ca

2005 Southwest/Texas Popular Culture/American Culture Association 26th Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico February 9-12, 2005. Proposals for papers that address any aspect of narratives of captivity – widely defined – are now being accepted for the 2005 SW/TX PCA/ACA conference. Papers may consider figurative and psychological as well as literal forms of captivity and may examine the representation of captivity in any period, genre, or media (textual, oral, visual, filmic, etc).

“Essay Proposals for MLA Options Volume on Teaching the African Novel”

Due: 12/1/2004

Contact: Gaurav Desai, gaurav@tulane.edu

The Publications Committee of the Modern Language Association of America has approved the development of a volume of essays on teaching the African novel. This volume, planned as part of the Options for Teaching series, will be edited by Gaurav Desai. As currently projected, the volume will be structured in three main sections, the first devoted to theoretical approaches (e.g., Afrocentric, feminist/womanist, theories of orature), the second to thematic concerns (e.g., political resistance, nationalism, multiculturalism), and the third to a variety of course and institutional contexts in which the novels are taught (e.g., seminar course, foreign language course, women’s studies course, historically black colleges). The volume will also include a section on resources that may be helpful to teachers of African novels.

“Northeast Workshop on Southern Africa”

Due: 12/15/2004

Contact: Julie Livingston, jliving@tulrich.com

We encourage scholars from all disciplines who are currently working on southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe) to submit proposals. The meeting will be held at the Bishop Booth Conference Center in Burlington, Vermont (US), between April 22 and April 25, 2005. The conference occurs shortly before the Canadian African Studies meeting to be held at the Marriott Chateau Champlain in Montreal (90-minute drive from Burlington), April 27 - May 1, 2005. The NEWSA conference was timed in such a way so that international attendees can attend both meetings.

“New Imperialisms: Radical History Review”

Due: 1/1/2005

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Contact: Iona Man-Cheong, Iona.Man-Cheong@sunysb.edu

Link: <http://chnm.gmu.edu/rhr>

Radical History Review invites submissions for a forthcoming thematic issue on "New Imperialisms." A generation ago the "New Imperialism" referred to the Age of Empire between the 1870s and the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. Reflecting the changes of recent years, the "New" in our title refers to both the question of empire in our own times and to the new critical and heuristic perspectives on imperialism, imperial encounters, and imperial identities of the past.

"Southern Africa and the World: the Local, the Regional and the Global in Historical Perspective"

Due: 2/1/2005

Contact: S.A. Historical Society, sahs@humanities.uct.ac.za

Location: University of Cape Town

Link: www.uct.ac.za/depts/history/sahs

Any proposals for papers, panels and roundtables are invited, but the Society is especially interested in those that relate to themes in the history of the southern African region. The Society, which may change its name to the Southern African Historical Society next year, wishes to highlight debates on such topics as a) liberation struggles and the limits of liberation; b) history and heritage; c) post-colonial and post-nationalist historiographies; d) new methodologies for teaching and researching history in the 21st century, including the use of film and video and digitisation. We also envisage panel discussions on such topics as the state of history in the different countries of the region, and how history teaching and research can be decolonised. Proposals for papers, panels and roundtables on any aspect of South African, African or World history will be welcome and will be accepted on a space-available basis until February 1 2005. Abstracts should not exceed 250 words and should be sent as an MS Word attachment. For proposals for panels and roundtables please include the names of participants, abstracts of their proposed contributions, their affiliations, email addresses and contact details.

— CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

"Atlantic History Workshop: Comparative Slavery in the Atlantic World"

Start Date: 11/6/2004

Location: Cambridge, Massachusetts

Contact: Pat Denault, pdenault@fas.harvard.edu

Link: www.fas.harvard.edu/~atlantic/compslavery.html

Description: This one-day Workshop will examine the question of the variant forms of slavery in the Atlantic World, reviewing Frank Tannenbaums thesis of significant differences between slavery in British and Latin America and examining also the institution and the lives of slaves in other Atlantic areas, including Africa. Authorities on the subject in general and on specific regional slave systems will present their views and findings as the basis for general discussion.

"The Power of Expression: Identity, Language, and Memory in Africa and the Diaspora"

Start Date: 11/11/2004

End Date: 11/14/2004

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

Contact: Kimme Carlos, kcarlos@rci.rutgers.edu

Link: www.africanstudies.org

The 47th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association will take place from November 11-14, 2004 at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans, L.A. The meeting will be held jointly with the Canadian Association of African Studies. The National Program Co-Chairs are Dennis Cordell (Southern Methodist University) and Philip Zachernuk (Dalhousie University).

"International Conference on Social Science Research"

Start Date: 11/11/2004

End Date: 11/13/2004

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

Contact: Centre for Policy and Practice, info@centrepp.org

Link: <http://www.centrepp.org/socialscience.html>

This interdisciplinary conference will draw together faculty members, research scientists, and professionals from the social sciences, and provide them with the opportunity to interact with colleagues from the same field and from other, related fields. Cross-disciplinary submissions are particularly encouraged as is participation by international scholars.

"African Studies Association of Australia and the Pacific"

Start Date: 11/26/2004

End Date: 11/28/2004

Location: Perth, Australia

Contact: Jeremy Martens, jmartens@arts.uwa.edu.au

Link: sponsored.uwa.edu.au/afsaap2004

The aim of the conference is to facilitate discussion on a wide range of subjects relating to the study of Africa and the organizers invite proposals for papers on any aspect of Africa, as well as on comparative approaches. While the overall conference theme is broad, there is ample room for specialized contributions and papers reflecting the different disciplines and wide-ranging interests of academics, professionals, and postgraduates, as well as the wider diplomatic, government, aid/NGO, media, cultural, labour/business, and African communities.

"Race and Place Conference: Borderlands and Boundaries"

Start Date: 3/10/2005

End Date: 3/12/2005

Location: Tuscaloos, Alabama

Contact: Gregory M. Dorr, gdorr@bama.ua.edu

Link: www.ua.edu/academic/colleges/raceandplace/

The conference seeks to promote cutting-edge scholarship on the study of race and ethnicity, broadly defined, in a global context. We especially encourage papers examining how power and difference are imagined, configured, and contested, as well as critical explorations of collective cultural identities (including notions of race, ethnicity, nation, clan, lineage, family, and so forth) as these are created and negotiated across geographical, temporal, and ideological boundaries. Ideally, papers and panels will embrace a variety of theoretical and disciplinary perspectives beyond the narrowly historical.

"Northeast Workshop on Southern Africa"

Start Date: 4/22/2005

Location: Burlington, Vermont

Contact: Julie Livingston, jliving@tulrich.com

The NEWSA conference is organized around intensive discussion of pre-circulated papers. There are also many opportunities for informal conversation of work-in-progress. Located on 130 acres of forest with its own secluded beach, the center is an ideal location for discussion and conversation. We encourage the presentation of previously unpublished work, and submissions from graduate

students and junior faculty in particular.

“Homegoings, Crossings, and Passings: Life and Death in the African Diaspora”

Start Date: 4/23/2005

Location: Cleveland, Ohio

Contact: Regennia N. Williams, african.diaspora@csuohio.edu

Cleveland State University and John Carroll University will host “Homegoings, Crossings, and Passings: Life and Death in the African Diaspora,” an academic conference, on Saturday, April 23, 2005 at John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio. Scholars and advanced graduate students are invited to submit abstracts for individual papers or panels. We seek papers using various approaches, including but not limited to, historical, sociological, and theological.

“Canadian Association of African Studies: Furthering the Globalization Debate: Cross Regional Comparisons”

Start Date: 4/27/2005

End Date: 5/1/2005

Location: Quebec, Canada

Contact: Conference Organizer, ampiccio@alcor.concordia.ca

Link: <http://caas.concordia.ca>

This CCASLS conference is an attempt: to integrate the academy with NGOs and policy makers; to bring together scholars from different regions and perspectives who often “dig long and deep” in their own case study areas while remaining oblivious to the theories and methodologies of those asking the same research questions in other places; to make sense of the real, existing impacts of globalization by presenting “deep” comparisons of places, cultures and economies; to understand the changing structures and processes of world history so that we may “historicize” globalization.

“South African Historical Society Biennial Conference”

Start Date: 6/26/2005

End Date: 6/29/2005

Location: University of Cape Town

Contact: Lance van Sittert, cdude@humanities.uct.ac.za

Link: <http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/history/sahs>

Southern Africa and the World: the Local, the Regional and the Global in Historical Perspective

— BOOKS, REVIEWS, AND RESEARCH

Farred, Grant and Rita Barnard. *After the Thrill Is Gone: A Decade of Post-Apartheid South Africa*. A special issue of *South Atlantic Quarterly* 103, no. 4. ISBN 0822365901.

After the Thrill Is Gone is a serious appraisal of what South African democracy has yielded and has failed to yield in the era following the heady expectations of liberation from apartheid's multiple repressions. Since that time, South Africa has revealed itself as a turbulent, dynamic nation. After the release of black political prisoners in 1990 and the first national democratic election in 1994, its citizens have witnessed a massive increase in crime, unemployment and poverty and an educational system in chaos. Contributors: Rita Barnard, Patrick Bond, Ashvin Desai, Emmanuel Eze, Grant Farred, Michiel Heyns, Shaun Irlam, Neil Lazarus, Michael MacDonald, Zine Magubane, Richard Pitso, Lesego Rampholokeng, and Adam Sitze.

— FYI

“Globalization, Empire, and Imperialism in Historical Perspective”

Contact: Peter A. Coclanis, historic@bu.edu

In recent years globalization has received a huge amount of attention. The media are replete these days with references to empire, imperialism, neo-imperialism, etc. Clearly, the time seems right for systematic scholarly examination and analysis of these concepts and of specific historical episodes/manifestations of globalization, empire, and imperialism across space and time. With the above considerations in mind, the Historical Society is pleased to announce that the organizing theme for its 5th conference, scheduled for early June 2006, will be “Globalization, Empire, and Imperialism in Historical Perspective.” The conference will be held in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and will be hosted by the University of North Carolina. We envision a meeting in which historians across fields come together to deepen and enrich the state of knowledge about these vital concerns. Although we suffer no delusions about the degree of influence scholars typically have on contemporary policy debates, we are hopeful that the addition of historical context may lessen to some small extent the level of ignorance, if not partisanship characteristic of the same.

“Reviewers for African Arts”

Contact: Allen Roberts, aroberts@arts.ucla.edu

If you would like to review books for the journal, please contact Al Roberts (aroberts@arts.ucla.edu), since it is important that a list of willing colleagues be available. Please do not assume that because a book is not in your particular area of expertise, that you are not sufficiently prepared to review it. As scholars interested in all the forms that expression takes in Africa, we all need to cross academic and regional borders more often than we do. So, please, step up to the line! We're also looking for shorter reviews, 750-1000 words, so the demand will be lighter and the turn-around quicker. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

“Job in Sub-Saharan History at Syracuse University”

Contact: Karin Roseblatt, KARosemb@maxwell.syr.edu

The History Department in The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University invites applications for a tenure-track assistant or tenured associate professorship in the history of sub-Saharan Africa. The successful candidate will demonstrate a strong commitment to research as well as to undergraduate and graduate education. Ph.D. must be in hand at time of appointment.



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— ABOUT SAFUNDI —

Safundi is an online community of scholars, professionals, and others interested in comparing and contrasting the United States of America with the Republic of South Africa.

The word “Safundi” was created solely for this community of scholars and deconstructs as follows: “S” represents “South Africa,” “a” stands for “America,” and “fundi” comes from the Xhosa word, “*umfundi*,” which translates as “scholar.”

The journal, *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Comparative Studies*, is the centerpiece of the online community. The editors believe that analyzing the two countries in a comparative context enhances the perspective of each, individually. While new comparative research is the focus of the journal, *Safundi* also publishes articles specifically addressing one country, provided the articles are of interest to the comparative scholar. Furthermore, *Safundi*'s subject matter is as permeable as any country's border: the editors will consider research addressing other colonial and postcolonial states in Southern Africa and North America.

Articles that *Safundi* publishes are academic in nature. Research papers are reviewed as they are submitted. Scholarly essays are welcomed. Any topic may be addressed. *Safundi* aims to provide its readers with a diverse and insightful collection of articles in each issue.

The journal is published on a quarterly basis, and it is peer-reviewed. Submissions are vetted by the editors-in-chief and the editorial board before they are accepted for publication. *Safundi* retains the copyrights to all articles unless otherwise noted; however, should authors wish to have their papers published elsewhere after first appearing in *Safundi*, permission will be granted upon receipt of a written request and so long as credit is given to *Safundi* as the original publisher.

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