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# news



*from the Nordic Africa Institute*

*Featuring:*

*Development Research: Can it be good research?*

*Chad—On the Way to Petro-Dictatorship?*



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## News from the Nordic Africa Institute

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## *To Our Readers*



**The situation** of development research in the Nordic countries is of obvious interest to our institute and to our readers. In the past year, assessments have taken place both in Denmark and Norway as regards such research. In April 2001, an internationally composed commission thus submitted its report on Danish development-related research to the Danish International Development Assistance (Danida). Emphasizing the importance of knowledge and research for development and development assistance, the report's major recommendation is that research supported by Danida should underpin to a higher degree other forms of Danish assistance. This should also apply to a certain extent to support for international research, but the report does not go into any details in that respect. A major revision is therefore at present under way concerning Danida's research policy.

In Norway, the assessment was carried out by a group appointed by the Research Council of Norway, led by Johan Helland of the Christian Michelsen Institute. Helland also participated in the evaluation of Danish develop-

ment research. The Norwegian report is less comprehensive than the Danish assessment and is focused mainly on institutional aspects of development research in Norway.

In his commentary in this issue, Helland points to a disturbing trend common to the two countries. Research on the developing world has a marginal position in the research communities and is increasingly seen as the concern of the development agencies, rather than an issue in national research policy.

The second commentary is written by Hans Eriksson, who has many years of interest for and experience from West Africa. It deals with Chad, a large and very poor country. It relates the tale of a country which was created by colonialism and which is struggling with only marginal success with nation building and democratisation. The discovery of oil might be more of a problem than a blessing.

During the past autumn the Institute has hosted a number of guests. Three of the guest researchers from Africa present their work in this issue of News.

We are also proud to present the work and experience of Professor Joseph Ki-Zerbo from *Centre d'Etudes pour le Développement Africain* in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, one of the leading African historians of our time. He has over the years made important contributions with particular emphasis on narrating the history of Africa seen from an African perspective. With his strong engagement and political zeal he has become a role model for many young African academics in their efforts to formulate an African intellectual identity. ■

*Lennart Wohlgenuth*

## *Development Research: Can it be good research?*



**By: Johan Helland**

*Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen, Norway.*

**Over the past** year, I have taken part in reviews aimed at examining the situation of development research in both Denmark and Norway. Both countries are known internationally as being among the most generous nations in terms of development assistance grants per capita although support to domestic development research and contributions to international research on issues relating to the developing world do not reflect this same generosity. Investments in research are hailed in the domestic policies of each country as the main key to the future, but so far this concern does not seem to extend to the policies guiding development co-operation. Only less than three percent of the development assistance budgets are spent on research.

My intention here is not primarily to present an outline of the two studies that have resulted from these reviews (Helland: *Norsk Utviklingsforskning – utviklingstrekk og utfordringer*, [‘Norwegian development research – evolution and challenges’] and Sørbo and Helland: *Danida and Danish Development Research: Towards a New Partnership. Report to the Commission on Development Research*), but rather to call attention to a disturbing aspect of development research in these two countries. In my view, the most important and the most ominous feature shared by development research in Norway and Denmark alike is a marginalisation of research on topics and issues referring to the developing world. Na-

tional research policies and the national research budgets in both countries seem increasingly to exclude the situation of the developing countries as an important, interesting, legitimate and respectable field of inquiry. Most importantly, development research is now increasingly perceived as the concern of the development agencies, rather than an issue in national research policy.

The insistence in both countries on the importance of research to all aspects of the ‘knowledge societies’ that both nations seek to become does not extend to their respective relations with developing countries, to the conditions that shape their future or the issues that are at stake. Development research has, for all practical purposes, been purged from the research policies and research strategies in Norway as well as Denmark and has been relegated from the research systems proper to a precarious existence in the respective ministries of foreign affairs.

I cannot offer any good explanations as to how this has come about. Perhaps the definitions of development research are partly at fault, since there is considerable overlap and confusion between:

- research aimed at understanding the broadest possible range of phenomena particular to the developing countries;
- research aimed at understanding societal change and development in the developing countries (‘the development process’);
- research aimed at improving the quality of development assistance provided;
- research as activities aimed at improving the research system in developing countries;
- research as research co-operation with institutions in developing countries;
- research as an international public good, provided for the benefit of developing countries.

Development researchers themselves may also be partly to blame. Most of the development research in our countries was rooted in an activist tradition that was not content with understand-

ing the issues, but also sought to influence them. Relations with the developing world are still dominated by the normative project of inducing change, and many development researchers see themselves as bridging the gap between knowing and doing, perhaps achieving neither.

Research policies in both Denmark and Norway have charged public agencies responsible for particular sectors of society with the added responsibility of promoting research within their respective sectors. This particularly extends to applied research or to research seen as relevant to the exercise of public policy, while the universities and research councils are responsible for basic research or research of an academic rather than a practical interest. As development research has become increasingly perceived as being of little interest except in an instrumental sense, it has clearly become the responsibility of the ministries of foreign affairs. This seems to have happened in both Norway and Denmark. There are some interesting differences, however, between the practical expression of these policy responsibilities in the two countries.

### **The Danish study**

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs estimates that it spent some DKK 400 million on development research in 2000. It has created its own research council (*Rådet for u-landsforskning*, RUF) aimed at supporting development research in Danish research institutions as understood by any of the first three definitions above. RUF, which is entirely managed by Danish researchers based at various research institutions, received DKK 59 million from Danida, the Danish development agency, in 2000. In addition, funding is provided for a number of specialised research institutes and research networks in Denmark primarily aimed at promoting research as an international public good. The research agenda here relates to research questions from the developing countries and the results are primarily produced for the benefit of the developing countries. Danish funding of international research efforts (DKK 91 million), e.g. through the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) system and other international institutions, or the UN (DKK 85 million), must also be seen in this light. Finally,

Denmark also supports Danish research cooperation with developing countries through the Enhancement of Research Capacity (ENRECA) programme (DKK 59 million) and provides various investments in the research systems of a number of developing countries through the development assistance budget.

The other main contributions to development research in Denmark come from the universities that provide their staff with research time to actually engage in research. While this contribution no doubt is significant, it is difficult to express in financial terms.

### **The Norwegian study**

In Norway, the latest available figures are from 1999 and are structured so that a direct comparison with the situation in Denmark is difficult. The official figure for disbursements on development research was NOK 688 million (the NOK is worth between five and ten percent less than the DKK), but this is based on a categorisation where items in which “at least 50 percent of the expenditure is related to research” in fact are counted as research. There are thus considerable margins of error in this figure. An indication of the magnitude of these margins of error is provided by an independent and detailed examination by NIFU—a research institute dedicated to studies on research and higher education—of the line items in the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 2000. According to NIFU, the line items that displayed expenditures of NOK 688 million in 1999, contained direct research-related budgetary provisions amounting to only NOK 226 million in 2000. This seems the more realistic figure.

### **Similarities and differences**

The most significant difference relates to the funding of research as an international public good. A large portion of the Danish budget set aside for this purpose is spent on research institutes in Denmark (DKK 90 million out of a total of DKK 266 million in 2000). The Norwegian figures indicate that far less is spent overall on international research. The 1999 figures indicate contributions of NOK 61 million to CGIAR, NOK 36 million to WHO and NOK 58 million to various other international and regional research efforts.

Although it is difficult to know how much research funding is hidden within the wide statistical categories of the Norwegian figures, particularly with regard to research funds provided in bilateral development assistance budgets, it is possible to compare support to some of the domestic activities in both countries. The Danish ENRECA programme has its parallel in Norway, where it is known as the NUFU (the Norwegian Universities' Council Committee for Development-Related Research and Education) programme. Both programmes support research co-operation and capacity building, but while ENRECA is managed directly by Danida, the NUFU programme is managed by the Norwegian Universities' Council. A new five-year NUFU programme agreement was signed in January 2001, through which NUFU is provided with an annual budget contribution of NOK 60 million. This compares quite well with ENRECA's DKK 59 million budget. Recent evaluations of both programmes show a number of additional similarities between the two, perhaps the most interesting being a high degree of dependence on the individual efforts and energies of university staff members.

Research funding in terms of funding for academic research (the first three definitions above) shows the greatest discrepancy between the two countries. Compared to the RUF budget of DKK 59 million in 2000, the Norwegian figure for support of domestic research in 1999 was NOK 42 million. NOK nine million of this amount was earmarked for core funding to Chr. Michelsen Institute, while the parallel institution in Denmark—the Centre for Development Research in Copenhagen, received a core grant of DKK 24 million, that was provided over and above the RUF budget. If Danida support to all the development-related research institutes is included, support to development research in Denmark amounts to DKK 149 million (in 2000) as compared to NOK 42 million for development research provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Norway (in 1999).

### **Responsibility unresolved**

The Norwegian Parliamentary White Paper no. 42 (1987–88) *Om u-landsrelatert utviklings-*

*forskning* ('On development research relating to developing countries') remains the fundamental policy paper in Norway. Here, a division of labour between the development agency and the research authorities was assumed, in which funding for domestic development research was clearly assigned to the ministry responsible for research and higher education. This White Paper at the time accorded development research legitimacy in terms of public policy and implicitly assumed public funding responsibility for it. After an initial burst of resources, particularly relating to various initiatives within 'Environment and Development' made popular by the Brundtland Report of 1987 (*Our Common Future*), funding for development research has dwindled.

An argument is made that the funding responsibility is exercised through block grants to institutions involved in the field (both universities and the Research Council of Norway), and that it is up to these institutions to prioritise allocations. This may be so but it is becoming increasingly hard to find traces of such allocations. Development research has been purged from virtually every scientific research panel in the Research Council, with the exception of the unit for Environment and Development, where development studies is definitely the poor relation, to the extent that development research is not even represented on the board. An increasing part of the funding for development studies in Norway, to the extent that it now enjoys a virtual funding monopoly, has come from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This is all well and good, but is probably also part of the problem. The Ministry is primarily responsible (in terms of official research policy) for applied research, and in its own policy document on development research it reserves the right to decide which are the relevant and useful research topics to be funded.

It is my assertion here that the abandonment of development research by the regular research establishment in Norway and Denmark and the assumption of responsibility for funding by the development agencies have produced some serious unintended consequences that now are becoming apparent.

### Relevance and quality

Most researchers committed to development studies would like to see an increase in the level of attention and the volume of funding directed at development research. In fact, most researchers within any field hope for increases. Within development research, particularly in Norway, we seem to be dealing with an additional problem. Here development research is firmly tied into the research programme and the research ambitions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This seems to isolate the component disciplines of development research from their respective research communities. The Ministry's insistence on approving research programmes and setting the research agenda seems to repel rather than attract interest of the research communities. Its strategy differs significantly from the Danish one, where such strategic decisions are made by the research community itself (through RUF). But also in Denmark the argument is heard that RUF is isolated from the academic mainstream and is preoccupied with research agendas that fail to excite interest in the wider community of researchers.

Development research, particularly in Norway, is not only poorly funded, but seems also to have gained a reputation of being second-rate research, struggling hard to maintain quality or to be relevant. Indisputable criteria for assessment of quality as well as relevance are hard to come by, but the importance in both cases of active exchange of ideas, results and criticism is not in doubt. The issues and problems of development research do not seem to excite much interest or command much attention from the research community. Within some fields there is definitely a stigma

attached to doing research on topics from developing countries, frustrating careers and driving away students and young researchers alike. Researchers who are interested in development research are increasingly being isolated from the mainstream events and debates in their respective 'mother disciplines'. In an age of globalisation, the Norwegian research community in fact seems to turn its back on the largest portion of the globe. International health research has brought attention to the so-called 90/10 problem, which expresses how 90 percent of global research resources are directed at problems that concern (probably far less than) 10 percent of the world population. This problem is not restricted to health research.

### Conclusion

A new balance has to be found between interesting research, academic quality and scientific progress on the one hand and solidarity, social responsibility and activism on the other. First and foremost, the research community must be encouraged to see that the developing world contains research topics and research issues that are important and interesting in their own right. Development research need not be second-rate research, if it ever was that, and research careers can be made there. Second, development research raises issues that are important not only to the developing world, but to an ever increasing extent, also to us. Examples abound within every field, if we care to look for them. The spectacular horrors that have occupied us all lately should be ample demonstration that quaint and distant phenomena, like in this case radical Islam, suddenly also concern us. ■

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# *Chad—from Civil Strife and Electoral Fraud to Petro-Dictatorship?*



**By: Hans Eriksson**

*who has many years of interest for and experience from West Africa.*

**Chad has a** population of seven million, and with an annual per capita income of around 200 USD the country is among the least developed countries in the world, ranked 167th out of 174 countries in the UNDP's Human Development Index. Chad's colonial and post-colonial history has been characterised by tension between the very diverse groups, speaking over 100 languages, which live in the area. Manipulation of ethnic and language differences by internal forces and by the former colonial power, France, led to the outbreak of civil wars. The discovery of huge oil reserves has raised hopes for the development of the country, but it has also added a new dimension to the conflicts. There is a risk that President Idriss Déby, who took power in 1990, will establish a 'petro-dictatorship'.

## **Historical background**

Before colonialisation, non-centralist societies in the south co-existed with Islamic kingdoms in the sahelian zone. The French-British convention of 1899 drew up the borders in the west and east, and Chad became a French colony in 1920. In the north, a French-Italian agreement came into operation in 1936. In spite of all this the nomads continued their traditional migration.

The colonial borders have locked together some 200 ethnic groups, with over 100 different languages, where the dominant groups (Arabs 15 percent in the north, Sara 20 percent in the south) represent only a small proportion of the total population. The state encompasses both desert nomads, used to a non-state organisation, and sedentary agricultural populations.

Chad possesses few agricultural and mineral resources. The northern Aozou strip contested by Libya does not contain uranium (as it had been reported), and the petrol around Lake Chad and in the southern Western Dogon province is only competitive at a price of 20 USD a barrel. Chad possesses a rudimentary infrastructure with only 250 kms of tarred roads, most of them around the capital.

Divide and rule has characterised the politics of Chad ever since independence and led to an almost continuous civil war. When the first president Tombalbaye spoke of 'Chadisation' of political life, he primarily meant his own ethnic group, the Sara. Similarly when advisers of the Islamic National Front, close to the present president Déby, seek to create a society based on sharia laws, this would particularly hurt non-Muslims i.e. 50 percent of the population. No takeover of political power (Habré in 1982 against Libyan influence, or Déby in 1990 against the Habré dictatorship) has so far created a sustainable national unity or managed to stop the civil war. Political power in independent Chad has been systematically used in accordance with an authoritarian and clientelistic conception for the benefit of the leader's clan and not as an instrument for collective redistribution of resources.

The current crisis started three years after independence, in 1963, when Tombalbaye was installed. All opposition was prohibited, which provoked a rebellion. It has been the same under Habré and Déby—the benefits of power were restricted to the members of the presi-

dent's clan and the resources of the state were systematically eroded, which led to unpaid civil servants, corruption and repression of oppressed ethnic groups (today the Sara in the south). Slowly, rebellions developed and the social base of the regime was weakened, which forced it to use repression to maintain its hold on power. The civil population suffered the most with 40,000 dead during the Habré regime. The rebel movement became stronger and with only 2,000 soldiers Déby overthrew Habré. Youssouf Togoimi, an ex-minister who also wants to seize presidential power, is at present leading a rebellion in the Tibesti mountains. The new government, which bases its legitimacy on its military victory, has promised 'national reconciliation' and a 'national unity' government. Gradually, the initial consensus is giving way to the president's growing authoritarianism, as he refuses to share the benefits of power. Assassinating members of the opposition has become part of the governance system. The internationalisation of the clan conflicts can take place at any moment when each of the factions seeks foreign support according to its need for cash, arms, religious or political support. France and Libya have always been ready to involve themselves in the internal feuds of Chad by training of, and paying salaries to, civil servants and parts of the military. The source of conflict is the control of state resources. None of the rebel leaders has so far had a political agenda in the interest of the population at large.

### **Déby re-elected**

Idriss Déby, a former air force pilot from Fada in the northeast, has, since he overthrew the former President and dictator Hissene Habré in 1990, initiated a democratic transition after a National Conference in 1993 and introduced a 'controlled' multi-party system which today has 50 different parties. He was first elected in 1996 for a five-year period. Déby has gradually been transformed from a military man to a politician. He was re-elected in May 2001 in a resounding victory.

Is the former rebel leader Idriss Déby going to introduce a 'petro-dictatorship'? The question is justified after what, according to *Le Monde* (30 May 2001) is the greatest case of

election rigging in Francophone Africa since the transition to multi-party democracy started in 1990. Déby was already declared the winner after the first round of voting, with two thirds of all the votes. The main opponent, 'the federalist' Yorongar obtained 14 percent, while the elderly Kamougué, the president of the Parliament, who forced Déby to a second round in 1996, only received five percent of the votes.

Voter turn-out was high: 80.9 percent. International observers, visiting only 250 out of 6,800 polling stations, noted that the voting went smoothly but did not give comments on the voter registration. The six opposition candidates protested against cheating to the Constitution Court, which however declared Déby the winner although it cancelled 500,000 votes, thereby admitting that some of the complaints were justified.

In his installation speech in the presence of seven African heads of state, Déby admitted that the voting lists needed to be amended before the next election to the National Assembly in 2002 to take into consideration the "errors in the last population census". Out of 35 ministerial posts in the new government 20 (Interior, Defence, Finance etc) went to Déby's party, *Mouvement Patriotique du Salut* (MPS), while Foreign Affairs was offered to *Parti pour les Libertés et le Développement* (PLD).

President Déby felt threatened by Yorongar, who leads a 'federalist' party, *Fédération Action pour la République* (FAR), from the south. People there often believe that 'federation' means that there will be no need to share the future oil incomes with the population in the north. Both Déby and Yorongar assisted the former dictator Hissene Habré when he took power in 1982, and both were also involved in overthrowing him in 1990. Yorongar has accused Déby of being responsible for massacres and drug smuggling. Habré himself is accused of genocide. He lives in exile in Senegal.

The re-elected president made a strong push in the Christian south, a traditional stronghold of the opposition. The distrust since the civil war between the ethno-religious groups has not fully disappeared. The regionalist voting is mainly seen in the case of

Yorongar, the only candidate advocating a federalist solution.

Many people from the south hope to benefit greatly from the oil exploitation, but a part of the electorate has supported Déby, which shows that the idea of national unity exists. All the other candidates failed to obtain support, partly because they have all at some time collaborated with the Déby regime.

### **Distribution of oil incomes**

The political importance of the oil project cannot be emphasised enough. With a democratic government, a remarkable improvement of living conditions for the poor population could be achieved, but there is also an obvious risk that the increased state revenues would be used to create even bigger injustices and violence.

Oil prospecting in Chad had already started in the 1960s, but it was only in 1973 that an American company found oil. The exploitation was delayed until 1993 by the civil war. In 1999 Shell and Elf withdrew because of political and ecological risks. Exxon-Mobil, Petronas and Chevron, which required a guarantee from the World Bank against political risks, created a new consortium. In October 2000, construction of pipelines and drilling of the first of the planned 300 wells started.

The oil issue has mobilised local and foreign political actors, as well as local and international NGOs, which have questioned the World Bank's involvement on ecological grounds. In 1999 NGOs called for a two-year moratorium on the project. Disputes have appeared between those who desired to improve the project and others who only wanted to delay the start. The Déby government, accepting proposals for improvement, in particular on the environment issues, has demonstrated a strong political will to implement the oil project. The oil resource might represent a unique opportunity for a poor country like Chad to finance development with its own resources at a time of diminishing foreign aid.

As a result of international fears about possible abuse of future oil incomes, in 1999 the National Assembly adopted a unique and innovative law, concerning a transparent reporting of the oil incomes. The law leaves the management and distribution of the resources

to a special Management and Control Body with representatives from the government, the civil society and the financing institutions such as BEAC (Central Bank of Central African States). The distribution of future state revenues should follow the formula of 80 percent to four priority sectors within rural development, (agriculture, livestock, water resources and environment), 10 percent to future generations and the rest for free expenditure.

The total investment costs are calculated at 3,700 million USD, which would allow a production of 225,000 barrels a day for 30 years. About 80 percent of the investment will come from the private consortium. The present estimate gives a reserve of 1,000 million barrels. The World Bank finally decided in June 2000 to allocate 300 million USD to construct a 1,070 km underground pipeline, of which 200 million came from its private sector affiliate, the International Finance Cooperation. The Bank talks about a unique co-operation and "how a partnership and commitment between governments, transnational companies, financing institutions and the local population can be of benefit for all". The Bank project includes environmental management plans and a resettlement and compensation plan for the local populations affected by the project. The decision has been criticized for being based on assessments by environment experts close to the companies, but many improvements have been made.

The state is expected to receive an annual tax revenue of 120 million USD, more than twice what it is today. A socio-economic study shows a total benefit for the society between 2,500 and 8,500 million USD, including incomes from locally employed staff and local procurement. More than 4,000 persons will be employed during the construction of the pipeline and 200 will be offered permanent employment during the exploitation phase.

### **Future perspective**

President Déby can be expected to establish a personal dictatorship by paying off the opposition, especially as the oil income will give a greater space for manoeuvre. There is also a risk that he will become isolated within his minority ethnic group Zaghaza, which domi-

nates his bodyguard and might request him to stay in power even after 2006, something that would be incompatible with the constitution. In the election to the National Assembly in 2002, Déby needs a landslide victory in order to change the constitution. This would certainly upset international opinion, especially as Déby is accused in France of smuggling falsified dinar-notes and as human rights organisations are trying to take Habré to court on the charge of genocide. These organisations believe that if they succeed in bringing Habré to trial, Déby would also be involved as the one responsible for massacres in 1984.

How important would Déby's political support have been without inflating the

number of registered voters in the north and rigging the election outcome from many polling stations? The legal opposition is now forced to accept the outcome, but at the same time there is a risk that the rebellion, which was started in 1998 in the Tibesti Mountains by a former defence minister, will spread and receive increased support after Déby's re-election. Déby was already forced in 2000 to use part of the pre-paid oil bonus to buy arms. Will he obtain sufficient income from the oil in time to calm the general discontent and undermine the opposition? Despite movement toward democratic reform, power remains in the hands of a northern ethnic oligarchy. ■

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## *Nordic-African Research Programme on HIV/AIDS Prevention and AIDS Care*



**By: Liv Haram**  
*Norwegian  
Researcher at  
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Institute.*

**The research** programme “Gender, Generation and Communication in Times of AIDS: The potential of ‘modern’ and ‘traditional’ institutions” has received funding from the Norwegian Council for Universities’ Committee for Development Research and Education (NUFU), for a five-year period, beginning January, 2002.

The programme is an initiative from a group of Tanzanian and Norwegian researchers working with issues of HIV prevention and AIDS care in the context of the dramatic development of the HIV/AIDS situation in East Africa. The programme involves research into institution building, capacity building and intervention with an emphasis on providing educational opportunities for MA and Ph.D students both in East Africa and in the Nordic countries. The programme activity is organised in three separate but related components, physically located in Mbulu/Hanang and Moshi/Arusha in northern Tanzania and in Kigoma in western Tanzania. These locations represent a substantial diversity with regards to ethnicity, socio-economic adaptation, rural-urban mobility, and HIV/AIDS prevalence which facilitate opportunities for comparative projects.

The programme draws on a wide range of disciplines and subjects, such as nursing, soci-

ology, education, development studies, psychiatry, Kiswahili research, gender studies, social anthropology and history. Albeit a truly inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral approach, the field of nursing is located at the heart of the venture. In line with the Tanzanian National AIDS Control Programme’s (NACP) research priorities, an emphasis is placed on culturally informed approaches to the pandemic. To draw upon the strengths inherent in people’s socio-cultural and historic environments is a fundamental emphasis of the programme. The initiative will particularly explore the assumed potential inherent in ‘traditional’ as well as ‘modern’ institutions in coping with, and empowering communities in, HIV prevention and AIDS care. The programme particularly targets women, youth and orphans.

The aims are; first, to contribute to research and capacity building on community based, inter-sectoral HIV prevention and AIDS care; second, to identify social institutions with potential as intervention media in reducing the HIV spread and in enhancing AIDS care; third, to design historically and culturally sensitive HIV intervention and AIDS care strategies for the specified districts; and fourth, to develop institutional co-operation and networking between Nordic and East African researchers.

The main sub-goals are; first, to document how the HIV/AIDS competence of communities can be increased to promote safe sexual practices through the mobilisation of existing norms and institutions; second, to improve gender balance in Tanzanian educational institutions by providing opportunities for female students; third, to spread knowledge on HIV prevention and AIDS care through a programme internet site, workshops and conferences as well as through publications; and fourth, to increase and refine our understanding of the preparedness of diverse communi-

ties to face the challenges of the AIDS pandemic in terms of prevention and care.

A central long-term goal is to create a cross-disciplinary network of researchers both in the South and the North engaged in HIV prevention and AIDS care as well as to generate knowledge to be applied by AIDS control programmes.

### **Underlying theoretical assumptions**

In line with some theories of modernisation, this programme does not agree that modernising social forces and material forms would eventually have the universal effect of eroding local cultural differences. Such binary contrasts as modern/traditional reduce the complex continuities and contradictions to simple dichotomies. 'Modern', as the term has generally come to be used, refers to fundamental transformations in social life. 'Tradition', as it is referred to here, signifies continuity in cultural forms and social practices. This programme stresses a need to approach cultural diversity from a vantage point of searching for inherent strengths or capacities rather than barriers.

This programme also strongly believes that a move from a focus on the individual to a focus on the social person situated in a context must guide any health-related research as well as intervention efforts. Most theories and models used to develop HIV/AIDS communication are based on social psychology that emphasises individuality. Researchers, including communication and health scholars, are now questioning several central assumptions inherent in these theories.

The emphasis on women's and gender relation issues is often made in the most diverse contexts, but in the process of becoming 'compulsory' these concepts have often become empty phrases. How to approach women and gender issues as well as how to include men as sexual partners in HIV/AIDS prevention ventures are some of the major challenges of this programme.

In Tanzania today, more than 65 percent of the population is below the age of 25. The young people of today were born into an environment undergoing rapid transformations which makes inter-generational communication problematic. Moreover, children

and young adolescents are growing up surrounded by the death and dying of their cousins, uncles, aunts and parents, leaving 666,000 of them orphaned in Tanzania alone. Documenting the needs, quantitatively and qualitatively, as well as the cultural rationality of 'traditional' fostering practices and the extent to which the increasing number of orphans affect such practices, appears to be crucial in order to evaluate appropriate interventions.

### **Research and intervention localities**

The programme activity is organised in three separate but related components. Whereas the planned projects in the Mbulu/Hanang areas aim at assessing the utility of culturally sensitive approaches in HIV prevention, the projects in the Moshi/Arusha areas approach the orphan problem through intervention research, and the projects located in Kigoma focus on youth, HIV prevention and AIDS care with a particular emphasis on participatory inter-sectoral research.

The projects planned in the Moshi/Arusha areas, have a strong collaboration with research at the Nordic Africa Institute, since they include work on orphans and vulnerable children. Two of the planned sub-projects "Survival strategies among orphans: The problem of displacement and belonging" and "AIDS related orphans in Africa: Revisiting community bereavement to offer vestiges of hope", were presented at the recent conference on "Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Africa: Victims or Vestiges of Hope" organised by the Nordic Africa Institute in September 2001.

### **Institutionalisation and co-ordination**

During the past decade or so the University of Bergen and the University of Dar es Salaam have developed extensive co-operation programmes, including health research. This programme will be co-ordinated from three institutions of higher learning in Norway and Tanzania; the University of Dar es Salaam, the University of Bergen and Bergen University College. Within the University of Dar es Salaam the co-ordinating institutions are the Department of History and the Faculty of Nursing located at Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences, in collaboration with

the NUFU office. In Norway the Section of Nursing, Department of Public Health and Primary Health Care (University of Bergen) and Bergen University College will co-ordinate the programme in collaboration with the Centre for International Health (University of Bergen).

Beyond the co-ordinating institutions a number of additional institutions are taking part in the research collaboration. On the Tanzanian side, the Department of Sociology, the Department of Education, the Institute of Development Studies, the Department of Psychiatry, and the Institute of Kiswahili Research are central, while on the Nordic side the Centre for Women and Gender Studies and the Department of Social Anthropology (Uni-

versity of Bergen), and the Nordic Africa Institute are key institutions in the collaboration. Boston University School of Public Health is another central collaborating partner.

In mid-December 2001, the Norwegian co-ordinator Astrid Blystad (University of Bergen) and the collaborator Liv Haram (the Nordic Africa Institute) visited the University of Dar es Salaam, and met with the Tanzanian co-ordinators as well as other Tanzanian colleagues who are involved in the programme. In January 2002 the Tanzanian co-ordinators will visit the University of Bergen and work out a programme agreement, and in March/April 2002 the first programme meeting will be held in Tanzania. ■



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## Guest Researchers Autumn 2001

*During this past autumn, three African guest researchers have visited the Nordic Africa Institute, namely Dr. Osita Agbu (Nigeria), Mr. Ezra Chitando (Zimbabwe) and Dr. Boureïma Alpha Gado (Niger). Their respective research projects are presented below.*

### **Ethnic Militias and the Threat to Democracy in Post-Transition Nigeria**

*By: Osita Agbu, PhD, Research Fellow, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Lagos, Nigeria. Guest Researcher at the Institute, September–November 2001.*

**The democratic** opening presented by Nigeria's most recent transition to civil rule (from June 1998 to May 1999) has unleashed a host of hitherto repressed or dormant political forces. Indeed, it has generally been observed that this has also been the case in a significant number of African and Asian countries in transit from the stage of electoral politics to the consolidation of democracy. Examples abound from Ghana, Côte D'Ivoire, Niger, Indonesia and Malaysia. Among the most critical and indeed violent of this new brand of unleashed political forces which many have referred to as a 'resurgence' include the intractable phenomenon of ethnic nationality/identity movements. In Nigeria, this development has taken on the guise of ethnic militia movements purportedly representing and seeking to protect their different ethnic interests in a country in which the state is largely perceived as nonchalant to the demands of the ethnic nationalities in the country. Prominent among these militias include the plethora of the Niger Delta militias like the Egbesu Boys of Africa (EBA), the Niger Delta Volunteer Force, and the Chicoco Movement. Other recent but more visible militias include the Oodua People's Congress (OPC), Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and the Arewa People's Congress (APC). The number grows daily and so far, the government appears to be at a loss as to how to reconcile this problem in an environment where individual and group rights need to be upheld,

quite apart from the ethnic and political implications. These groups are now contesting not just the political space and the dividends from democracy as promised prior to the transition but also the economic space as part of the liberalization of the political environment. Democratic freedoms have obviously been understood or misunderstood by many to mean unbridled freedom.

### *Nature of threat and research focus*

For Nigeria, with a population of about 110 million and composed of over 250 ethnic groups, ethnic militias pose a real threat to the country's newly-won and fragile democracy. This is a country, which apart from its ethnic diversity is frequently susceptible to religious violence especially in the Muslim dominated north. Ethnic and religious differences are solidified by geographical contiguity coupled with sectoral economic considerations. Whilst the OPC claims to represent Yoruba ethnic group interests, MASSOB Igbo group interests, the APC evolved to protect Hausa-Fulani interests perceived by their elite as being under threat due to the activities of the OPC and the politics of the new democratic dispensation. There are also a significant number of other proto-militias representing the three major ethnic groups of Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa-Fulani, in addition to those representing the minority ethnic groups.

Common to these groups are the following attributes: the use of violence, preponderance of youth membership, ethnic identity affiliations, and that they are mainly popular movements demanding change over the *status quo*. The APC, which is against the calls for a Sovereign National Conference or a National Conference as the case may be, is an exception. Most of all the other ethnic organizations and

the militias are in support of a conference of ethnic nationalities that will address the imbalances in the Nigerian Federation.

It is therefore against this background of extreme disenchantment of the ethnic nationalities with the Nigerian state and the resurgence of ethnic identity politics that we seek to understand the nature of the growing challenge by ethnic militias to the Nigerian Project. How the resurgence of ethnic militancy in the post-transition period can be explained, and how this challenge can be managed are uppermost in this enquiry. My central thesis is that the over-centralization of power in Nigeria's federal practice and the failure of post-transition politics to urgently address the distortions in the polity are responsible for the emergence of 'ethnic militias' as a specific response to state incapacity and a means to achieving the decentralization of state power.

*The National Question still unresolved*

What should be the expectation from this study? Without mincing words, the expectation is the proper understanding of the root causes of this phenomenon and being in an informed position to proffer policy options. What is evident however, as has been attested to by many politicians and observers, is the imperative of addressing what has aptly been

recognized as the 'National Question' in Nigeria. Should Nigeria's leaders and politicians continue to hold on to the inherited colonial political contrivances and suffer perennial ethnic and religious violence and the risk of possible secessions or even civil wars, or should they boldly re-visit the basis and structure of the federation with a view to re-designing the polity through popular participation? It appears that as long as this question remains unaddressed, the answer will continue to blow in the wind, and this is an ill wind that will not blow any good for anyone.

Increasingly, the Olusegun Obasanjo civilian administration finds itself mired in the task of defining and addressing protests by the various rebellious groups and outright criminality and mayhem perpetuated by urban miscreants who lacking meaningful social welfare assistance from the government capitalize on the state's distress to compound the problem. The threat posed by the ethnic militias is the single most likely factor that can truncate Nigeria's fragile democracy if not addressed. Experience has shown that civil wars develop when regional or ethnic movements are emboldened by state incapacity to challenge their legitimacy or a perceived ethnic enemy within the contested political and economic space. This is already happening in Nigeria. ■



*Boreima Alpha Gado (left), Ezra Chitando (middle) and Osita Agbu (right).*

### **Poverty, Vulnerability and Exclusion: The case of Niamey**

*By: Boureïma Alpha Gado, Assistant Professor of History at the Abdou Moumouni University in Niamey, Niger, and associated researcher at Université de Paris 7. Guest Researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute, September–November 2001.*

**Niger is a** Sahel-zone country with hostile climatic conditions. All available surveys show that Niger is one of the two or three poorest countries on the planet, regardless of the indicator selected. In Niger's poverty reduction strategy documents, poverty is defined as the lack of sufficient income to cover the bare necessities of survival (food, drinking water, clothing, shelter, etc.), but also lack of access to education, health services and basic infrastructure. In Niger, the poverty line (the minimum amount required for an individual to be able to satisfy her/his basic needs) is set at FF 750 (USD 100) per person per year in urban areas and FF 500 (USD 65) in rural areas. This is considerably lower than the poverty line of one USD per person per day used by the World Bank. According to the UNDP, nearly two thirds (63 percent) of the country's population are poor and one third (34 percent) are in extreme poverty.

Migration to towns and cities is one of the most frequent individual or collective responses to the constraints imposed by drought and food scarcity. The phenomenon of the urbanization of poverty is visible in the burgeoning settlements in the urban peripheries. In common with many other West African cities, Niamey is surrounded by unauthorized settlements that are former villages. Most people who came here originally obtained land from village chiefs, but the settlements were never legally recognized. Today, they provide precarious shelter for recent migrants to the city. These residents are not only extremely poor,

but also constitute the most vulnerable socio-economic groups.

The urbanisation of poverty, the vulnerability of the urban poor and their difficulties in obtaining secure housing are focal themes of my current research. Through the study of one particular settlement in Niamey, I also explore the relationship between ecological crises, the growth of unauthorized settlements and the emergence of vulnerability and extreme poverty. I first analyse the historical and ecological context of droughts and famine in the Sahel and the correlation between ecological crisis and migration. I then examine the manifestation and the characteristics of rural-urban migration in Niger, focusing on Niamey, the capital. The economic and social conditions facing new arrivals in the city are documented through survey data from one of Niamey's large, peri-urban settlements. This settlement has been subject to relocation several times, and is designated a reception area for the homeless and the destitute. Migrant householders living here, generally have precarious livelihoods and face great difficulties in access to shelter and basic services.

The perception of poverty is reflected in the local language Zarma by the concept *talaka* which means 'poor' in both rural and urban societies. *Talaka* can be defined as 'without money to survive', but also as without any basic resources and without possibility of access to such resources. *Talaka bi* ('black poor') defines the poorest of the poor. The perception of the concept of vulnerability and its manifestation vary according to the nature of the community and the environmental dimension (social, economic, geographic, and psychological factors). The history of this particular settlement and a permanent obsession with having to move give the residents a feeling of exclusion. In this case the poverty and vulnerability have a triple dimension: economic, social and psychological. ■

## **The Influence of Christianity on Popular Culture: A study of gospel music in Zimbabwe**

*By: Ezra Chitando, Senior Lecturer, History and Phenomenology of Religion, Department of Religious Studies, Classics and Philosophy, University of Zimbabwe.*

**In my current** research, I examine the rise of music with Christian themes in Zimbabwe and show how it successfully entered the public domain. The project provides an overview of the history of musical performances in the country, with special reference to the influence of Christianity. In this study, gospel musicians have been viewed as important cultural workers who respond to their contexts. An analysis of the texts of their songs is undertaken to establish the dominant themes. The influences from traditional music in Zimbabwe and other musical styles from different parts of the world are also examined. The project seeks to establish the extent to which gospel music in Zimbabwe represents a creative interaction between the 'local' and the 'global' in the area of music.

The study approaches gospel music as one of the main ways through which some members of the Christian community in Zimbabwe are expressing their contemporary African Christian identities. The impact of gospel music on popular culture is examined, alongside locating its economic impact on the performing artists, recording companies and the informal sector. It analyses the ascendancy of gospel music in the 1990s and pays attention to the impact of Evangelical/Pentecostal Churches in the appropriation of media technologies. How other denominations also contributed to

the popularity of music with Christian concepts is a theme that receives considerable attention. The study notes the dominance of gospel music in other countries in the Southern African context, while emphasising the distinctive local concerns. As a result, the study highlights how artists strive to address pressing issues relating to the economy, health, politics and other subjects.

Gospel music in Zimbabwe has facilitated the emergence of various groups of cultural workers who were marginalised. The study illustrates how women, children, and members of African Independent/Instituted Churches have asserted their rights to public music performances through gospel music. It surveys how the underlying religious ideology facilitates the emergence of more cultural workers in the country. Minority languages have also benefited from gospel music and the project analyses the cultural significance of such developments.

The study debates whether the dominance of gospel music in the 1990s confirms the assertion that Christianity has become an integral aspect of contemporary African identity. It pursues the issue of the communication environment in the country and shows how it favours Christianity. How the reality of religious pluralism could be reflected by giving space to religious songs from other communities of faith is an issue that is analysed in this study.

Overall, I utilise historical, sociological and phenomenological approaches in an endeavour to understand the popularity of gospel music in Zimbabwe. It contends that gospel music demonstrates how contemporary African culture remains highly complex and malleable. ■

## Interview with Joseph Ki-Zerbo



Photo: Niclas Hällström

**Professor Joseph Ki-Zerbo** is often described as an icon among African intellectuals. Born in what was then Upper Volta in 1922, he received his education in his home country and in France. Since his return to West Africa in the late 1950s, he has been politically active, and at the same time pursued a career as a historian and writer. Ki-Zerbo's *L'Histoire de l'Afrique Noire*, first published in 1972, is a standard work. He also was a member of the Scientific Committee for UNESCO's eight-volume history on Africa, and editor of the first volume, which appeared in 1981. In 1997, he received the Right Livelihood Award "...for a lifetime of scholarship and activism that has identified the key principles and processes by which Africans can create a better future". Today, he is the head of a research institute in Ouagadougou which he created in 1980, the CEDA (*Centre d'Etudes pour le Développement Africain*), and also a Member of Parliament and leader of the opposition party *Parti pour la Démocratie et le Progrès*. Every year, Prof. Ki-Zerbo spends a few weeks at the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation in Uppsala, and it was during his latest visit there that we had the opportunity to talk to him.

*Karin Andersson Schiebe (KAS): Please, tell us a little about your early research.*

When I began my university studies at the Sorbonne in 1950, as a colonized 'subject' from French West Africa I turned towards African history as a matter of course. There was none; its very existence was denied. There was not a single course at the Sorbonne on the history of Sub-Saharan Africa—at best, it was considered in practice as part of ethnology. As a reaction to this situation and further motivated by a number of racist incidents to which we had been personally subjected, we students who refused the concept of ethno-history for our peoples were eager to search for our authentic history at the same time as we attended lectures on the feudal monarchy in France, Florence in the XVth century or Weimar Germany. It was a question of exploring and discovering for ourselves the collective itinerary of a whole continent; but above all of demonstrating to the colonizers how mistaken they were. I wrote articles on history in the African Catholic students' publication, *Tam-Tam*. After having combed the Parisian libraries, I published an article in the journal *Présence Africaine* which was hotly discussed at the time, entitled "The Economics of the Slave Trade, or Organized Plunder". When I returned to Africa in 1957 to teach at a *lycée* in Dakar and saw that Africa was not on the curriculum, I eagerly decided to give evening classes in African history—all the pupils in the *lycée* fought to get a seat; and even today, more than 40 years later, African administrators and leaders still speak to me about it enthusiastically.

*KAS: What is the research environment like in Burkina Faso at present?*

To all intents and purposes, the only stumbling block to research in Burkina Faso, is the question of financing it; but the problem is much more complex, because the university is

a sub-system of the political system characterized by the domination of what is de facto a single party system; and in some respects a state without the rule of law. This is why the campaign, which has been waged by democratic mass organizations for the past three years, against violence and the fact that economic crimes go unpunished has not succeeded. Through their unions, numerous professors and researchers participate in this campaign. They and the students are considered to be one of the main centres of opposition to absolute power, but the price paid by the professors and the researchers is high.

Students and professors are amongst the victims of violence. Some have been kidnapped, have disappeared and after many years, the authorities who are the source of this repression have still not pointed out the real site of their graves. During its 29th Session in Tripoli, in May 2001, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights condemned the state of Burkina Faso for serious violations of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. This is, as far as I know, the first and only time this has happened to an African State.

The policy of Structural Adjustment implemented by the government is particularly hard on the university and especially on the teachers and students; the aim is to drastically reduce the university costs which are however incredibly low when compared with the millions and billions accumulated by a handful of top bureaucrats and politicians. But the latter prefer to compare the researchers and students with even more needy categories. The plan for the professionalisation of the university curriculum aims, in fact, at adjusting the educational system, including the university, to the privatization of the 'modern' productive sector. Certain measures are indicative in this respect:

a) In the selection and nomination of teachers and researchers, there is a preference for candidates who are politically conformist.

b) The forces of law and order (the police, the army) are quite frequently present on the campus, sometimes totally occupying the site and banning the entry of teachers and researchers into their workplaces.

c) The cancellation of the autonomous, democratic elections within the university to choose Faculty Deans and Heads of Department and their replacement by teachers and researchers appointed by the Council of Ministers.

*KAS: With your long experience as a researcher and at the same time politician, what is your experience of making research results available to policy-makers?*

African politicians are not usually very interested in research findings; in particular, since 1968, when the social movements in Europe had repercussions on Africa, they are even afraid of the social sciences. This is linked to the fact that some leaders who have not had any training in these areas (primarily a good many of the first generation of military putschists) are not at all interested in this sector. Similarly, technocrats with an economic tendency who only think in terms of financial management do not have an overall vision of this sphere and the role it plays, if not in growth, at least in development. The absolute priority given to individual and economic political survival means that any non-orthodox researcher is harassed and if necessary sent into exile. I know one who, during his exile in France, pursued his studies in biochemistry on lactogenic African products until he reached the stage of being able to patent his results which required the approval of his state. He applied to his government but has never received a reply.

Sometimes the researchers themselves become frightened and cautious; some have confided to me that when they discover the formula of the active principle of an African remedy and they do not have the equipment required to bring it to production, they prefer to keep the discovery to themselves for the time being.... They are forced to become keepers of intellectual property!

Moreover, the different sections or institutes of the universities are sometimes linked by agreements to different countries or various foreign institutions—with the result that the African state which is subject to a whole set of constraints can no longer base its research policy on a coherent vision. Finally, as is the

case in Burkina Faso, the inadequacies of the logistics and institutions for publishing results hamper the dissemination of findings and the research itself.

*KAS: What is your personal experience of combining research and politics?*

There is no fundamental contradiction, especially as a research policy is the basis of any process of general development. There are two examples of fields of research which are also areas for political choices if we wish to achieve development in Africa:

- a) Research in and use of national languages in teaching;
- b) Research and public health policy for the majority of the population, as regards the sorts of pharmacopoeia to be used—while avoiding the use of the term ‘ethno-medicine’.

Some of us have come into research as a result of our political involvement. To end the use of the colonisers’ school-books and the phrase: ‘Our ancestors, the Gauls’, we had to undertake research, read thousands of books, and travel the length and breadth of dozens of African countries. Our first school-books were duplicated lecture notes. But we have contributed to proving that Africa is the cradle of Mankind. Nowadays it is the Europeans who should speak of ‘Our ancestors, the Africans’.

I also learnt a great deal, and implemented many things, through my experience in the African and Malagasy Council on Higher Education (CAMES) which I directed for ten years and where in turn I set up:

- a) equivalence of diplomas in fifteen African countries;
- b) the advancement of the careers of teachers and researchers by a system of selection which is inter-African and endogenous and no longer neo-colonial;
- c) research in African pharmacology and medicine;
- d) an African version of the *agrégation* which is the high-level competitive examination for recruiting teachers in France.

I have even had the experience of research in exile at the time when my library of 11,000 books was destroyed in my own country. The real problem is to find the time to do good basic research and be a political party leader.

*KAS: How is ‘your’ institute, the CEDA, developing at present?*

The CEDA—*le Centre d’Etudes pour le Développement Africain* (or the Centre for the Study of African Development)—is being reconstructed after the destruction of the period in exile. Without the CEDA, politics for me would be an activity which had neither meaning nor direction: a computer with no software. With the slogan “Development means self-development”, our activities were continued in exile by the *Centre de Recherche pour le Développement Endogène* (Centre for Research for Endogenous Development), which produced the publication *La Nette des autres* which won the European Community’s prize at the Dakar Book Fair in 1993 for its originality.

Today, thanks in particular to the Right Livelihood Award, the CEDA continues on its way as best it can, part-time, with a minimum number of activities largely due to lack of personnel. UNESCO financed three studies including *Les Industries Culturelles* (Cultural Industries)—a study for alternative television in Burkina Faso. We have just held a very successful seminar entitled *Enjeux Fonciers, Sécurité Alimentaire et Protection de la Diversité Biologique*.

We have several projects in mind, for example strip cartoons and film cartoons on African history. We have successfully organised workshops on the UNDP Report (2000) and the concept of poverty, and on water in Burkina Faso. The CEDA is a member of the *International Union for the Conservation of Nature*, IUCN. But nothing decisive will happen without institutional support for the take-off and continued activities of CEDA’s operational wing, the *Partenariat Hommes-Femmes pour le Développement Africain* (Men and Women’s Partnership for African Development), PARTEHFDA, which is made up of a network of grass-roots associations and which forms one of the poles of the CEDA’s dialectical method linking thinking and action. PARTEHFDA has just successfully presented an ‘advocacy research project’ to the GERA, Gender and Trade Reforms in Africa. ■

## *Awarded Scholarships*

### **Nordic guest researchers' scholarship spring 2002**

The purpose of the programme is to establish and maintain relations with universities and research institutions in the Nordic countries and to provide opportunities for its participants to pursue their own research projects and to utilise the library of the Institute. The following person has received a grant for the spring of 2002:

*Birgit Brock-Utne*, Professor at the Institute for Educational Research, University of Oslo, Norway. The title of her current research project is 'An analysis of policies and practices concerning language in education in primary schools in South Africa and secondary schools in Tanzania'.

### **Travel grants awarded 2001**

The purpose of the travel grant programme, aimed at researchers associated with Nordic universities, colleges and other Nordic research institutions, is to provide opportunities for researchers in the Nordic countries to conduct fieldwork in Africa. For 2001, travel grants have been awarded to 33 persons, 16 women and 17 men. Of these, 12 come from Sweden, eight from Norway, seven from Finland, five from Denmark and one from Iceland.

### **Study grants spring 2002**

The purpose of these grants, aimed at students at universities and colleges in the Nordic countries, journalists and authors of textbooks, is to enable the grant holders to use the library at the Nordic Africa Institute for one month. For the spring of 2002, study grants have been awarded to 18 applicants, 13 women and five men. Of these, 12 come from Norway, three from Denmark, two from Sweden and one from Finland.

### **African guest researchers' scholarships 2002**

The purpose of the programme is to establish and maintain relations with universities and research institutions in Africa and to provide opportunities for its participants to pursue their own research projects and to utilise the library of the Institute. The following persons have received grants for 2002:

*Adetoun Ilumoka*, executive director at Empowerment and Action Research Centre, Lagos, Nigeria. The title of her current research project is 'A Rights Based Approach to Gender Relations and Social Change in Nigeria? Promoting Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights'.

*Amin Kamete*, researcher and lecturer at Department of Rural and Urban Planning, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe. The title of his current research project is 'Shifting Perceptions and Changing Responses: Governing the Poor in Harare'.

*Mumbi Machera*, researcher and lecturer at Department of Sociology, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya. The title of her current research project is 'The Cultural Construction of Sexuality and Reproduction of Gender Violence in Africa'.

*Minette Mans*, Performing Arts Department, University of Namibia, Windhoek, Namibia. The title of her current research project is 'Music and Dance in Namibia—Reflections of Survival and Change'.

*Abubakar Momoh*, senior lecturer and researcher at Department of Political Science, Lagos State University, Lagos, Nigeria. The title of his current research project is 'Post-Militarism in Nigeria: Explaining the New Forms of Conflicts and Identities in State-Civil Society Relations'.

Names of those awarded travel and study grants are available on the Institute's website: [www.nai.uu.se](http://www.nai.uu.se)

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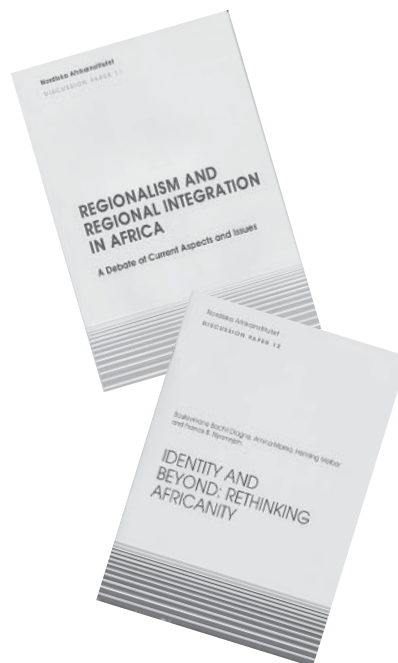
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### **Regionalism and Regional Integration in Africa**

Discussion paper no. 11, ISBN 91-7106-484-2, 74 pp, 100 SEK, 9.95 GBP, 16.95 USD

A Consultative Workshop on 'Regional Integration in Africa' was organised by and at the Nordic Africa Institute on March 8 and 9, 2001. The contributions compiled in this volume were related to this policy oriented but academic endeavour. They identify and review current issues of regionalism and regional integration within the era of globalisation in the African context. Their approaches present different theoretical and regional perspectives which provide new insights, challenge existing concepts and perceptions and contribute to an enriched debate.

Contributors: *Morten Baås* is Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM) at the University of Oslo. *Heribert Dieter* is Senior Research Associate at the Research Unit Global Issues of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Berlin. *Guy Lamb* is co-ordinator for the Project on Peace and Security with the Centre for Conflict Resolution at the University of Cape Town. *Kate Meagher* is a member of the Centre for Research and Documentation in Kano and currently pursuing a doctorate at Nuffield College in Oxford. *Henning Melber* is Research Director at the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala. *Sheila Page* is Research Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute in London and President of the Executive Committee of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI).



*Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Amina Mama, Henning Melber and Francis B. Nyamnjoh*

### **Identity and Beyond: Rethinking Africanity**

Discussion paper no. 12, ISBN 91-7106-487-7, 33 pp, 100 SEK, 9.95 GBP, 16.95 USD

'Beyond Identities—Rethinking Power in Africa' was the general theme of the biennial Nordic Africa Days organised in October 2001 by the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala. The plenary presentations by three invited African scholars are included in this Discussion Paper. They centre on aspects of the event's general theme and provide a variety of stimulating reflections and insights from different disciplines.

*Souleymane Bachir Diagne* is Professor in Philosophy at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar.

*Amina Mama* holds the Chair in Gender Studies and is Director of the African Gender Institute at the University of Cape Town.

*Henning Melber* is Research Director at the Nordic Africa Institute.

*Francis B. Nyamnjoh* is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Botswana.

*Raymond Suttner (Ed.)*

**Africa in the New Millennium**

Discussion paper no. 13, ISBN 91-7106-488-5, 49 pp, 100 SEK, 9.95 GBP, 16.95 USD

The contributions to this Discussion Paper were prepared for a workshop on 'Africa in the new millennium' held in Stockholm in May 2001. The idea of the workshop was not to counter 'negative' perceptions of Africa with 'positive' ones. Nor was it to arrive at finalised ideas or prescriptions for governments or the continent as a whole. The aim was to raise important questions, which may help contextualise and deal with the problems facing the continent. It was an attempt to go below the surface of immediate crises and open up a debate around Africa and its international relations. It is hoped that publication of these papers will encourage further debate, and contribute towards realising the goal of African recovery.

*Volker Riehl*

**Who is ruling in South Sudan?  
The role of NGOs in rebuilding socio-political order**

Studies on Emergencies and Disaster Relief no. 9, ISBN 91-7106-485-0, 22 pp, 100 SEK, 9.95 GBP, 16.95 USD

This paper examines the role of NGOs in rebuilding socio-political order in South Sudan. It describes the socio-political determinants of the last ten years which will throw some light on the political stage in South Sudan and might contribute to the main question of who really has the political power and influence in South Sudan today.

*Volker Riehl* holds a PhD in Sociology from Münster, Germany. From 1993 until 2000 he was the representative of a German NGO in charge of Uganda and South Sudan.

*Raymond Suttner* was South African Ambassador to Sweden until August 2001. At present he is a visiting research fellow at the Centre for Policy Studies in Johannesburg and affiliated to the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala.

*Yusuf Bangura* is currently research co-ordinator at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, UNRISD.

*Adebayo Olukoshi* is presently the Executive Secretary of CODESRIA (Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa).

*Steve Kayizzi-Mugerwa* is currently Ass. Professor in Development Economics at Göteborg University, Sweden and project director/research fellow at the United Nations University/WIDER in Helsinki, Finland.

*Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja* is professor emeritus of African studies at Howard University in Washington and senior adviser for governance with the United Nations Development Programme in Abuja, Nigeria.

*Filip Reyntjens*

**Again at the Crossroads: Rwanda and Burundi, 2000-2001**

Current African Issues no. 24, ISBN 91-7106-483-4, 25 pp, 80 SEK, 5.95 GBP, 8.95 USD

This report is the third overview by Filip Reyntjens on recent developments in Rwanda and Burundi. The first one *Talking or Fighting?* (published 1999) covered the period 1998-1999, the second one *Small States in an Unstable region* covered the period 1999-2000. In the new publication the political evolution of Rwanda and Burundi is investigated in a broader regional geopolitical context.

*Filip Reyntjens* is a Professor of Law and Politics at the Institute of Development Policy and Management, University of Antwerp.

*Henning Melber*

**The New African Initiative and the African Union. A Preliminary Assessment and Documentation**

Current African Issues no. 25, ISBN 91-7106-486-9, 35 pp, 80 SEK, 5.95 GBP, 8.95 USD

During the year 2000 an initiative among the African states to transform the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union (AU) gained momentum. It resulted in the ratification of the Constitutive Act and its adoption at the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2001 in Lusaka. Parallel to this process of reorganisation towards closer inter-state collaboration on the African continent in the spirit of Pan Africanism emerged the systematic effort to redefine developmental priorities and to claim a new common position of African states in the globalised world. The 'African Renaissance' initiative of South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki resulted in a 'Millennium Africa Recovery Programme', which was finally revised and presented as the 'New Africa Initiative' (NAI). Adopted at the same

OAU Summit in Lusaka in July 2001, the NAI serves as a blueprint for Africa's development strategy at the beginning of the 21st century. It was presented to the G8 summit in Genoa, where the leaders of the world's powerful countries decided on a follow up by appointing individual special advisers to explore support to the NAI and future collaboration on the basis of this document.

This paper offers a preliminary assessment of the New Africa Initiative within the context of the transformation of the OAU into the AU. It identifies and summarises essential new aspects advocated, critically examines the degree of realism and points at the possible limitations. The analysis also considers first reactions to the initiatives and reflects on the perspectives. The article is completed by a reproduction of the full texts of both, the New Africa Initiative and the Constitutive Act of the African Union as the presently most relevant documents illustrating the commitment of Africa's policy makers to address the political and economic challenges.

*Henning Melber* is Research Director at the Nordic Africa Institute.

## 'Books on Africa' online

The Nordic Africa Institute has launched an online catalogue at [www.nai.uu.se](http://www.nai.uu.se), where all the books published by the Institute are presented. Customers may search some 500 titles on Africa by title, author, subject, ISBN or series. Orders may also be dispatched online.

The topics range from rural development to refugees, and from African literature to structural adjustment as well as current developments in Africa. Most of the publications are in English, but the Institute also publishes in the Nordic languages and in French. Several new titles are published each month. At [www.nai.uu.se](http://www.nai.uu.se) under the heading 'Publications' and 'New Books', you will find presentations of the latest titles.

If you prefer to receive our book catalogue as a hard copy, please send an e-mail to [orders@nai.uu.se](mailto:orders@nai.uu.se) or contact us by fax: +46 18 56 22 90, phone: +46 18-56 22 00 or mail The Nordic Africa Institute, Box 1703, SE-751 47 Uppsala, Sweden.





Vacancy announcement

## Two Research Positions

**The Nordic Africa Institute invites applications for two research positions within our group of Nordic researchers, i.e. the Finnish Research position and the Danish Research position.**

Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden are each represented by a researcher. These researchers are responsible for contacts between the Institute and the research communities in their home countries, dividing their time between their own research and administrative duties, such as evaluating grant applications, planning seminars and information dissemination.

### **Principal qualifications**

- University degree in a social science discipline
- Experience of research with a focus on current African issues. Current research preferably relating to ongoing research themes at the Institute
- Experience of lecturing and information dissemination
- Good knowledge of Finnish/Danish as well as English
- Good communication and interpersonal skills

### **Additional qualifications**

- Doctoral degree
- Experience from fieldwork or work in Africa
- Experience from international development co-operation
- Working knowledge of French and/or Portuguese as well as competence in African languages

The Council will in its final decision take into consideration the candidates' areas of research interest.

### **Salary and benefits**

The salary is negotiable. The Institute pays for removal costs and provides for accommodation and contributes towards the rent.

### **Contract period**

For the Finnish Researcher: three years with the possibility of two years extension as from 1 March 2002 (or as soon as possible).

For the Danish Researcher: two years with the possibility of a one-year extension as from 1 September 2002.

### **Closing date for applications: 28 February 2002**

Application forms can be requested from the Institute or accessed through the Internet: [www.nai.uu.se](http://www.nai.uu.se).  
Contact person: Research Director Henning Melber. Trade Union representatives: Birgitte Jansen (ST-ATF) and Hans Erik Stolten (SACO). All can be reached at +46 18 56 22 00.

### **The application should be addressed to:**

The Council of the Nordic Africa Institute, P. O. Box 1703, SE-751 47 Uppsala, Sweden

*The Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala, Sweden, was established in 1962 and is financed jointly by the Nordic countries. It serves as a research, documentation and information centre on modern Africa for the Nordic countries. The Institute has a multi-discipline research environment with an emphasis on the social sciences. It has the only Nordic specialist library for research and studies on modern Africa. The Institute has published around 500 titles on, mainly, African politics, economics, culture, social issues and modern history. The Institute awards grants of various kinds. Currently there are in all 40 staff members. The annual budget is SEK 30 million.*

## *Conferences and Meetings*

### **Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Africa: Victims or Vestiges of Hope,**

*13–16 September 2001, Uppsala, Sweden*

Until recently a marked omission—at least an insufficiently emphasised aspect—of the AIDS epidemic in Africa, was the situation of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). Their numbers continue to increase and it is becoming an indisputable fact that if children cannot be protected, then the prospect of an AIDS-free future will be unlikely. Although not so clearly articulated by policy makers and programmers, the approach in the past has been something to the effect of: take care of the adults and they will take care of their children. Some pioneering work by UNICEF (in Uganda and Zambia, for example), CINDY, Save the Children, and others, has not led to any serious commitment by governments in Africa to specifically address the plight of Orphans and Vulnerable Children. Piecemeal efforts by NGOs in some countries have produced some fairly good results. But the fact remains that such efforts are neither co-ordinated nor based on the findings of research. This throws in doubt any ability to provide solutions and alleviate the plight of such children in the long term.

In Sweden OVC have been the special focus of a group in the Foreign Ministry charged with looking at the role of children in development cooperation. Five government policy papers, stating the Swedish stand on these issues, have already been produced on, respectively, children and poverty, children with disabilities, children and sex trafficking, children and armed conflict, as well as children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Africa was the theme of an international conference co-sponsored by the Nordic Africa Institute and DBL (Danish Bilharziasis Laboratory) in Uppsala, September 13–16, 2001. The emphasis was on children affected by HIV/AIDS. The main objectives of the conference

were to provide a forum where researchers, policy makers, and caregivers would discuss methodology, review empowering policies and interventions, and identify appropriate tools for producing research that will make a difference. The participants were mainly from Africa and the Nordic countries, but also present were some from Britain, Germany and the US. They fitted broadly into four categories: researchers from the social and biomedical sciences; policy makers from development co-operation agencies; technical programme advisers with special responsibility for children; and NGOs working with children.

To underscore the importance with which Sweden views the issue of children in development co-operation, the Swedish minister of migration and development co-operation, Ms Maj-Inger Klingvall sent her political adviser Ms Barbro Holmberg to deliver a speech on her behalf. She stated yet again the commitment of Sweden to seeing that the voices of children are heard and their special needs addressed in Swedish international development assistance.

The conference began in earnest with a brief session, chaired by Mr Lennart Wohlgenuth, the Director of the Nordic Africa Institute. It was framed as a 'Challenge' and policy makers were asked to state clearly what they expected, or would expect, from the researchers at the end of the conference. This challenge constituted, in effect, the expectations that the researchers tried to fulfil with their various presentations. In addition to this a specific effort was directed to how research on OVC might be transformed into practical programming that would make a difference to the children. This conceptual link, and how it might be operationalised, underlay all the discussions and presentations. The Challenge was followed by a session on the 'Situational Analysis of the Orphans' Situation in Africa' during which the wider implications of large-scale orphaning were presented from a number

of African countries. Then followed a session on 'What is being done, and what can be done: lessons learned from ongoing intervention projects' which discussed some concrete work with children. In a session on programming, UNICEF's Child Protection Adviser Mr Mark Connolly, presented the UNICEF document *Principles to Guide Programming for Orphans and Other Children Affected by HIV/AIDS*.

In the course of the three days, all the participants became convinced that the problems of orphans and vulnerable children do not only demand research, but action. The final day was therefore devoted to discussion on how to form a Nordic longitudinal, multi-country project on Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Africa, to be hosted at the Nordic Africa Institute. The nucleus of the project would be the Institute's AIDS orphans project, which would also host a network of research-

ers working with issues of orphans and vulnerable children in Africa.

It is hoped that some of the papers presented at the conference will be revised and edited for publication by C. Bawa Yamba and Dr Jens Aagaard Hansen of DBL. More detailed information about the conference, the complete conference programme, and list of participants can be found at the Institute's website: [www.nai.uu.se/sem/conf/orphans/orphans.html](http://www.nai.uu.se/sem/conf/orphans/orphans.html). In conclusion, it is worth noting that the recent figure released by UNAIDS indicates yet again a rise in the numbers of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS which now stands at about 14 million. The number of children affected by AIDS could of course be far greater than this already horrific figure and yet we all know that it will continue to rise.

C. Bawa Yamba

### **Innovations in Higher Education—A Policy Forum**

*1–3 October 2001, Nairobi, Kenya*

As was stated in the last issue of *News*, after years of marginalisation, higher education in the Third World, and in particular in Africa, has again become an important issue on the development agenda, in the academic world as well as among donor organisations. This is inter alia reflected by a number of major conferences and seminars that are taking place all over the world. The Nordic Africa Institute has again been represented at several of these conferences, of which this was one.

Some 80 people were gathered in Nairobi with the objective to provide an opportunity for practitioners, thinkers, activists and leaders in higher education to present, reflect on and exchange their ideas and views on ongoing innovations in higher education in their own institutions and contexts. A previous meeting with some 30 African scholars with the aim to imagine and envision the African university of the mid-21st century had been convened and

supported by the Ford Foundation. This forum, described as a 'retreat' was held near Durban on 29 May–1 June 2001. A report from this very unconventional and highly successful retreat was presented at the Nairobi meeting and formed the take-off point and basis for that meeting.

Starting from those visions of innovations in higher education in Africa the meeting then embarked on its own mission under four headings:

1) Innovations in programme delivery. A number of interesting examples at present under implementation were presented and discussed under this heading.

2) Innovations in institution-building and management of resources. The recent experiences from Makerere University in Uganda were examined, but also experiences from innovation with regard to privatisation of higher education, facilitators for innovations such as the Council for Higher Education Transformation of South Africa and innovations concerning improving gender equality in higher education.

3) Innovations in inter-institutional and regional collaboration. New forms of donor funding and collaboration were examined and discussed, as well as different forms of regional collaboration projects.

4) Leadership and governance in innovation for higher education. The question of what kind of leadership and governance is required for innovations in higher education to come to the fore and be sustained was discussed in detail and many interesting ideas were presented.

The meeting must be seen as one in a chain of meetings all being part of a process of improving the present rather weak situation of higher education in most African countries.

What made this meeting particularly interesting was the broad composition of the participants—from Vice-Chancellors to representatives of the students from both the public and private universities and other institutions of higher learning, of local NGOs and to some extent the research community outside Africa. The question of local ownership was again emphasised and it is only to be hoped that the conveners will in their conclusions listen to the voices of the Africans concerned who took part in this conference as well as in the retreat preceding it.

*Lennart Wohlgemuth*

### **The Nordic Africa Days**

*5–7 October 2001, Uppsala, Sweden*

The Nordic Africa Days, organised at the Nordic Africa Institute, brought together around one hundred scholars in African Studies from the Nordic countries, who attended plenary sessions and a total of seven parallel working groups organised by the researchers at the Institute on their subject areas. Altogether 65 papers were presented in the different groups, dealing with the following topics: Rights and the Politics of Identity (Harri Englund), Civil Society and the Consolidation of Institutions in Post-Conflict Reconstruction (Ebrima Sall), Globalisation and Cultural Production in Africa (Mai Palmberg), Beyond Adjustment: The Search for New Frameworks to Fight Poverty (Jörgen Levin), Identity and the Uses of History (Hans Erik Stolten), Social Constructions of Male and Female Sexualities (Signe Arnfred/Liv Haram/Bawa Yamba), Poverty and Prosperity in African Cities (Mariken Vaa).

An organising committee had defined a general theme 'Beyond Identities—Rethinking Power in Africa'. It served as an orientation and framework in particular for the three invited African scholars, who presented their views in the plenary sessions. A conceptual

background note (drafted by Harri Englund) was shared with the invited plenary speakers. It stressed aspects of identity politics in Africa at a specific historical juncture at which personal and collective identities appear to be holding sway world wide. As critical social scientists, it argued further, we are challenged to devise new approaches for inter-disciplinary debate on power and ideology, culture and meaning, poverty and prosperity: "Our interest is in identity politics in order to highlight questions of power in arguments, which often present themselves as revolving around 'natural' modes of identification. We hope to steer Africanist scholarship away from a debilitating focus on identities, not through a return to bygone analytical models, but through enhanced sensitivity to complex African life-worlds and to the ever-shifting disguises of power in them".

Amina Mama, who holds the position of Chair in Gender Studies and is Director of the African Gender Institute at the University of Cape Town (an interview with her appeared in *News* no. 2/2001), presented the opening lecture on 'Challenging Subjects: Gender and Power in African Contexts'. Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Professor in Philosophy at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar and Visiting Professor at Northwestern University



*Panel discussion during the Nordic Africa Days: Souleymane Bachir Diagne (left), Amina Mama (middle) and Francis Nyamnjoh (right). Photo: Evelyne Tegomoh.*

in Chicago presented a lecture on 'Africanity As an Open Question' during the second day. Francis Nyamnjoh, Associate Professor in Sociology at the University of Botswana was tasked with a summarising conclusion, which also served as an introduction to a final panel debate on the third day. The multiple identities of all three presenters (a Nigerian who studied in the UK and teaches in South Africa; a Senegalese who studied in France and also teaches in the USA, a Cameroonian who studied in the UK and teaches in Botswana) illustrated in itself the diversity represented in particular by African scholars.

Not surprisingly, the issues of 'identity' (or more aptly identities) as well as 'Africanity'—a notion which brings us back to the early days of Pan-Africanism and *Négritude*, as well as 'Afrocentrism', and the criticism of such concepts and ideologies from both within and outside the continent—provoked a wide range of views and convictions. As Amina Mama stated at the beginning of her lecture: "Not only is there no all-encompassing concept for identity in much of Africa, but there is no substantive apparatus for the production of the kind of singularity that the term seems to require". And she continued to suggest: "identity is at best a gross simplification of self-

hood, a denial and negation of the complexity and multiplicity at the roots of most African communities". Francis Nyamnjoh responded in his comments to this by emphasising the "negotiability of identity as a process".

Amina Mama's 'gendered perspective' contrasted with the focus on a particular philosophical approach related to language and identity as presented by Souleymane Bachir Diagne. He had selected the contrasting views of Leopold Sedar Senghor and Ngugi Wa Thiongo on the issue of the expression of Africanity through African versus European languages, while also resorting to the philosophical approach offered by Kwasi Wiredu. The relevance of language and identity was in a different way illustrated by the fact that hardly more than a handful of the participants had command of the conference language as their mother tongue.

The Institute has compiled the three contributions presented by the African scholars as a Discussion Paper, thereby making their diversity of approaches and views available to a wider audience. The publication is accessible through the Institute's website, [www.nai.uu.se](http://www.nai.uu.se).

*Henning Melber*

**First Policy Consultative Forum on  
Priority Issues and Strategies for  
Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria**

*8–9 November 2001, Abuja, Nigeria*

A local Nigerian 'Independent Policy Group' (IPG) with special responsibility to do analysis work and prepare policy briefs was created in May 2001 by President Olusegun Obasanjo with financial support from the UNDP, the Ford Foundation and the Soros Foundation. It was primarily created to advise the president but has as its long-term objective to give independent advice to a broader audience. The budget allows for eight or nine policy analysts and a number of support staff, of which more than half have today been recruited. The co-ordinator of the group is the well-known Nigerian economist Professor Bade Onimode.

An advisory committee of six persons to the IPG has been established including the president, the information minister, two donor representatives and two representatives of the research community. The first formal meeting of the advisory committee took place in Abuja 8-9 November 2001, reviewing the first months of work and giving advice on the work ahead. Work so far has covered a variety of subjects and sectors: science and technology, infrastructure, macro as well as micro economic questions and issues of governance. IPG is unique both in relying exclusively on local experts and in providing access to the highest level of policy making and implementation for senior researchers.

The meeting of the advisory committee was followed by an open policy consultative

forum, the first in a series. The forum was well attended, by among others a number of leading economists from all parts of Nigeria. The keynote speaker was professor Akin Iwayemi, head of the department of economics at Ibadan University. He addressed the subject of 'Priority Issues and Strategies for Poverty Alleviation in Nigeria'. The minister of information Jerry Gana, participated in the meeting and an interesting debate took place in which present government policies and plans were scrutinised and discussed.

In a nutshell it was reconfirmed that the problems of Nigeria after years of neglect and crises are formidable, that knowledge and analyses of the problems and their causes are available in great detail, and that there is no lack of good ideas on how to tackle these problems. The policies as regards poverty alleviation in Nigeria, as well as the discussion around it, are very similar to what obtains in most other African countries, such as the importance allocated to getting the economy in general going after years of downturn and crisis, what seems to be more concrete and serious is the way to go about dealing with the issues. What is lacking, however, is implementation of the good ideas—both in the formulation of the strategies and in the practical implementation itself. This was defined as an important area to scrutinise by the policy analysts with a view to reaching conclusions on advice on the practical implementation of the good ideas in this highly politicised nation Nigeria.

*Lennart Wohlgenuth*

Information about the various activities of the Nordic Africa Institute, as well as useful links to other Internet sources can be found at the Institute's web-site:

[www.nai.uu.se](http://www.nai.uu.se)

## *The Institute's Publications at Book Fairs*

Following its presence at the Zimbabwe Book Fair in Harare in August 2001 (see report in *News* no. 3/2001), the Institute also participated as an exhibitor in Gothenburg, Sweden, in Frankfurt, Germany and in Houston and Washington D.C. in the US.

The Gothenburg Book Fair (13–16 September), which is the biggest book fair in Scandinavia, had organised for the second time an international meeting place ('Internationella Torget') with the participation of a large number of organisations concerned with cultural and development issues. These organisations gave information about their work beyond publishing activities and presented topical issues, ranging from the situation of the youth in Belarus, the role of women in Iran to a presentation of the Alexandria Library as well as contributions by authors from different continents.

The Nordic Africa Institute organised a panel debate on *Responsibility and Partnership*

in *Swedish Aid Discourse*, based on Discussion Paper no. 9 with the same title by Professor Gudrun Dahl. Tor Sellström gave a short account of his recently completed research programme on *National Liberation in Southern Africa—The Role of the Nordic Countries*, in which the final volume is published soon.

The photo below shows the Institute's stand in Gothenburg with some of the staff members present at the fair: (from left) Kristina Rylander, Helena Olsson and Susanne Linderos.

With more than 7,000 exhibitors from 105 countries the Frankfurt Book Fair (10–15 October) is the biggest of its kind worldwide. In the aftermath of the political developments since September 11, the Fair proved to be an important global trading centre between cultures and a venue for dialogue. Only 56 exhibitors cancelled their participation and the number of visitors was around 250,000.

The Institute's stand was situated in the International Hall in the vicinity of the International Centre and Frankfurt Book Fair Invitations Programme, a scheme offered to publishing companies and associations in developing markets and which also promotes, in particular, African literature. A display of the most current publications attracted many of the international academics who attended the fair.

Pictured are (top right) the German publisher Volkhard Brandes (Brandes & Apsel) with the Institute's two representatives at the fair, Henning Melber and Helena Olsson, and (bottom right) the

Photo: Mai Palmberg





*Photo: Henning Melber*

Research Director of the Institute, Henning Melber, and Tainie Mundondo from the Harare office of the African Publishers Network (APNET).

The two North American academic book exhibits were the African Studies Association in Houston (14–17 November) and American Anthropological Association in Washington D.C. (28 November–2 December).

In Houston, two new titles with focus on cultural images in and of Africa were launched, *Same and Other. Negotiating African Identities in Cultural Production* edited by Mai Palmberg from the Institute and Maria Erikson Baaz from Göteborg University, Sweden, and *Encounter Images in the Meetings between Africa and Europe*, edited by Mai Palmberg. The Institute was represented by Sonja Johansson from the publishing department.



In Washington D.C. one new title was launched, *The Inconvenient Indigenous. Remote Area Development in Botswana, Donor Assistance and the First People of the Kalahari* by prof Sidsel Saugestad from the University of Tromsø, Norway. The Institute was represented by Helena Olsson from the publishing department.

*Henning Melber and Helena Olsson*



### **Let them who have ears hear**

feed them from fibres of history  
on the graveless end of tyrants

teach them from signs of the times  
that these are not rumours and murmurs  
but the war cries of distressed gods  
targeting bullet vendors  
and two-kobo Generals

let them who have ears hear  
in the barracks and Government House  
that only dogs destined to stray  
defy the hunter's rally

those who wrestle with the gods  
contend with the Unseen  
the Mighty Sigidi, spirit warrior  
making a mockery of letter bombs  
and tanks

for a nation on cliff-edge  
only a half-tilt will quench the appetite  
of angry gods  
the mightiest will fall to a pulp  
commoners will stretch their creases  
and wait for coronation next season.

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#### **Tope Omoniyi**

(In *Farting Presidents and Other Poems*,  
Ibadan: Kraftgriots, 2001)

The author, who is of Nigerian origin, has a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Reading and is a senior lecturer in the School of English and Modern Languages, University of Surrey Roehampton in the United Kingdom. He has published poetry in several anthologies and journals.