



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

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Photographs of statues and crafts in this brochure are from The Danford Collections of West African Art and Artefacts, Research and Cultural Collections, University of Birmingham. All photographs of persons were taken by Benedetta Rossi in the Republic of Niger.



CROSSROADS IN AFRICAN STUDIES: CALL FOR PAPERS

In 2013 the Centre of West African Studies (CWAS) of the University of Birmingham (UoB) celebrates its fiftieth anniversary and the opening of a new Department of African Studies and Anthropology (DASA) at UoB. To mark this occasion, CWAS invites submissions of panels and/or papers to be presented at the conference **Crossroads in African Studies**.

For fifty years, research carried out at CWAS has been distinguished by interdisciplinarity spanning the humanities and social sciences, but united by a common focus on people's lived experience in Africa, close and long-term engagement with African societies and academic institutions, and interest in engaging African perspectives on their own grounds. Whilst CWAS continues to promote the development and dissemination of Africa-focused research, the creation of DASA formalizes the expansion of teaching and research beyond West Africa to include the entire African continent, and the growing place of Anthropology in departmental expertise and teaching.

Crossroads in African Studies will take place on 4-6 September 2013 in the UoB campus. We look forward to hosting a variety of contributions ranging from the

discussion of new empirical research, to the critical analysis of past and present theories and methods in the field of African Studies and the identification of future agendas. We invite the submission of panels and papers focusing on seven main themes, namely: (1) Economy and Society; (2) Interpreting Sources for the Study of Africa's Past and Present; (3) Africa's Treasures; (4) Power, Information, Participation, Exclusion; (5) Religious Encounters; (6) Social Inequalities; and (7) 50 Years of African Studies: Ground Covered and Ways Forward (roundtable). Please see overleaf for more information on the themes and submission procedures.

In the afternoon of Thursday 5 September, CWAS will launch the first of a new annual lecture series, the **Fage Lectures**, named after Professor John Fage, founder of CWAS and one of the major contributors to the institutionalisation of African Studies in the UK and internationally. This opening event will feature two joint lectures on African economic history from a global perspective and in the *longue durée* delivered by Prof. Gareth Austin (Graduate Institute, Geneva) and Prof. A.G Hopkins (University of Texas). Following the Lecture, CWAS will invite all participants to a reception.



CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Submissions of papers should include author's name, affiliation, contact details, paper title, abstract of no more than 200 words, and indicate under which of the themes below the paper would fit.

Panel proposals should be submitted by panel organisers and include complete information for all of the papers in the panel. The deadline for submission is **15 April 2013**.

Registration fees are £10 (student and non-employed) and £35 (all other participants) for registrations received

before 15 June 2013, and £15/£50 after this date. On-line registration will be opened after 15 February 2013 on the conference website:

www.birmingham.ac.uk/crossroads

The conference will take place in the UoB campus. Travel and accommodation information is available on the conference website.

Participants are expected to make their own travel and hotel arrangements and to purchase their own meals. CWAS will offer coffee/tea breaks and invite participants to the reception that will follow the Fage Lecture.



THEMES FOR SUBMISSIONS

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

Contributions focusing on all aspects of African economic life across different spatial and temporal scales; local to global analyses of the economy; political economy and environmental issues; social and economic development; comparative approaches.

INTERPRETING SOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICA'S PAST AND PRESENT

Critical analyses of sources in different languages and available in different media (written and oral sources, epigraphies, inscriptions, etc.); studies focusing on the production, transmission, and translation of knowledge, authorship, positioning, censorship, and hermeneutical questions.

AFRICA'S TREASURES

Studies of African art, performance, media and communication; critical analyses of the representation of African history and societies in museums. The submission of creative contributions (such as readings of African literature and poetry, visual installations, and screenings of films) will be considered.

POWER, INFORMATION, PARTICIPATION, EXCLUSION

Studies of political structures, discourses, and agency; the formation and transformation of political movements; forms of political participation; incorporation and rejection; the production of instrumental knowledge.

RELIGIOUS ENCOUNTERS

Religious practices and beliefs; transformations of religious phenomena, institutions, and identities; analyses of relations within and between religious movements; ritual.

SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

Hierarchy, dependence, subordination, resistance, and power struggles. Historical, anthropological, and legal analyses of labour regimes and labour relations. Race, gender, class, ethnicity, status. Free and unfree labour, slavery, slave descent, and the slave trade.

50 YEARS OF AFRICAN STUDIES: GROUND COVERED AND WAYS FORWARD (Roundtable)

The conference programme will include a roundtable with individual presentations focusing on the retrospective assessment of African Studies in different regions, countries, and/or fields of enquiry, and debate on present approaches and future developments. Please note that paper submissions only will be considered for this theme (no panel submissions).

Please send submissions and enquiries to:

CWAS2013@gmail.com

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