

# news

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from the Nordic Africa Institute

## FROM THE CONTENTS

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- Nordic Master courses in African Studies
- Rainbow Kenya: *Government of National Unity* Fibian Kavulani Lukalu
- Political parties and the challenge for democracy in Kenya Mwandawiro Mghanga
- African Presidents visit the Institute



To Our Readers	1	<i>Carin Norberg</i>
Commentaries	2	Rainbow Kenya: Government of National Unity <i>Fibian Kavulani Lukalu</i>
	4	Political parties and the challenge for democracy in Kenya <i>Mwandawiro Mghanga</i>
Nordic African Studies	10	Nordic Masters courses in African and development related studies
	11	University of Copenhagen, Denmark: Master of Arts in African Studies
	13	Agder University College, Norway: Master's Programme in Development Management
	15	University of Jyväskylä, Finland: Master's Programme in Development and International Cooperation
	17	Interview with a student
	18	Norwegian University of Science and Technology: Master's Degree in African Studies
	19	Göteborg University, Sweden: Master's course in African Studies and International Development Cooperation
	21	Dalarna University: International Master in African Studies
	23	NAI's library services: A resource for distance users
Research	25	The African agricultural and rural crisis <i>Kjell Havnevik</i>
	28	Collective organisation among informal workers in African cities <i>Ilda Lourenço-Lindell</i>
	29	Call for papers to a conference
	31	Youth's Independent Migration from Rural Burkina Faso to Ouagadougou <i>Dorte Thorsen</i>
Debate	32	Global Compact – Nordic and African perspectives <i>Nina Frödin</i>
Visits	36	African Presidents visit to the Institute
Publishing	38	Recent publications

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# To Our Readers



At the end of 2005 the Programme and Research Council of the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) initiated an assessment of the Institute. The report was presented in January

2006. Since then we have been actively engaged in discussing the role and profile of NAI. While I think that we have reasons to be satisfied with the fact that an overwhelming majority of respondents see NAI's research both as relevant and of high quality, there are several challenges ahead. One is to present our research more actively to policy makers as well as to academia in all the Nordic countries. Another is to focus our work and foster a good environment for critical and independent social science research on Africa.

*News from the Nordic Africa Institute* is one important vehicle for the dissemination of research and news generated within the networks of researchers linked to the institute. One key "stakeholder group" for NAI is the students of African studies in the Nordic countries. NAI has over the years become an important source of inspiration; through the biennial Nordic Africa Days, through the study scholarships and travel grants. Researchers at the institute have also actively participated as teachers and examiners at universities and research institutes in all the Nordic countries. In this issue of *News* we give a presentation of Master Courses in African and Development Studies at Nordic universities. We have looked at what they offer their students, similarities and differences.

We also present three NAI researchers: Kjell Havnevik, Ilda Lourenço-Lindell and Dorte Thorsen. Kjell Havnevik has since July 2005 been a senior researcher at NAI alongside being adjunct

professor at the Swedish University of Agriculture, Uppsala (Sweden), and Agder University College, Kristiansand (Norway). By joining NAI he will be strengthening the research and networking activities related to rural development and natural resource governance in sub-Saharan Africa. Ilda Lourenço-Lindell is the Nordic researcher from Sweden. She has a doctorate from the Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University, and joined NAI in 2004. She is working on the processes of informalization of livelihoods in urban Africa and the new collective organising strategies they are giving rise to. Dorte Thorsen holds a DPhil in African Studies from the University of Sussex, United Kingdom, and joined NAI in 2005. Her research concerns youth's migration in Burkina Faso.

The commentaries are devoted to recent developments in Kenya. We have received two contributions; one from a scholar and one from a politician. Common to both is their concern about the development of genuine democratic institutions in Kenya and their disappointment with the present government under president Kibaki. Needless to say, the expectations for the so called National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) were high when, finally in 2003, the KANU government and President Moi were defeated in general elections. The Kenyan electorate are now preparing for a new election at the end of next year. Will the political parties be prepared to take their responsibility? Will there finally be an end to the wastage of public funds?

In the concluding part of this issue of *News* we present a critical commentary on the UN Global Compact with a particular angle on what is being done in a number of Nordic and African countries. ■

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carin Norberg'.

Carin Norberg, 10 May 2006

# Rainbow Kenya: Government of National Unity

By: Fibian Kavulani Lukalu

Lecturer in Culture and Communication at Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya



*“The National Rainbow Coalition represents the future of Kenyan politics. NARC is the hope of this country... see what a gorgeous constellation of stars we are, and just look at this dazzling mosaic of people of various ethnic backgrounds, race, creed, sex, age, experience and social status. Never in the history of this country have its leaders worked so hard together as one indivisible entity with one vision.”*

(Excerpt from President Kibaki's inauguration speech in Nairobi, 30 December 2002.)

What happened to the NARC vision? In this article, the government's promises from the elections in 2002 are compared with the political reality in today's Kenya.

The optimism and euphoria that filled every Kenyan mind, when 3.6 million voted for Mwai Kibaki with his slogan, 'zero tolerance on corruption', was evident from the acclaimed *Gidigidi – MajiMaji*, campaign song *Unbwogable*. Indeed as his optimistic speech echoed it was a historic moment for democracy in Kenya since we envisaged that the regime would facilitate a new Constitution, new political dispensation and *yote yawezekana* (all is possible). These sanguine expectations of change crystallized themselves in the political parties and individual compositions of the National Rainbow Coalition government (NARC). However, three years on, NARC has fragmented and we now have NARC-Kenya in formation! Kibaki with his 'hands-off, mouth-off, eyes-off' management style seems to have lost his 'vision'. Increasingly, grand corruption and ethnicity feel more ingrained and a new song *bado mapambano* (the struggle is still on) now resonates on the tongues of many. Has Kibaki forgotten the political, social and economic aspirations of

Kenyans who chose him as their president? What happened to the NARC dream/vision? Did we give serious thought to the post-Moi political and economic transitions? What about political accountability and its implications? These are some of the pertinent questions Kenyans grapple with as they tenuously approach the 2007 elections. And from now onwards, with over ten declared presidential candidates the politics is all about 2007!

## The regime promises

One critical aspect of ascendancy to power is political accountability. This aspect was disregarded when the pre-election power sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NAK and LDP political parties was disowned. Once in State House Kibaki ignored the MoU and his personal cronies cemented themselves firmly within the echelons of power. But the election pledges made to Kenyans in 2002, are now inefaceable reminders of the political terrain ahead. These were to:

- deliver a new Constitution within 100 days of ascending to power and accelerate reforms;

- run a lean, professional and corruption-free government;
- exercise zero-tolerance to corruption, right from the top;
- attain annual economic growth rate of at least six per cent per annum;
- provide free primary education for all children;
- provide quality, affordable and accessible healthcare;
- respect, uphold and protect civil liberties and press freedom;
- maintain unflinching fidelity to the rule of law, and protect integrity of the Constitution;
- guarantee and ensure the security of every Kenyan;
- exercise utmost fiscal discipline by reining in on extravagance;
- nurture constitutional democracy as the central unifying public philosophy for the people of Kenya by promoting good governance;
- ensure transitional justice by holding past perpetrators of injustices against the people of Kenya accountable for their actions;
- construct 150,000 low-cost housing units per annum;
- create 500,000 jobs per annum;
- transform Kenya into a competitive environment for investment; and
- ensure equitable and fair distribution of national resources.

If each pledge was analysed together with its implementation so far, it would reveal ambition but no real time frame to ensure that the pledges are honoured. But John Githongo's BBC interview comment on corruption, 'Kenyans have attained a political maturity that supersedes the government expectations' is a volatile political factor the regime cannot brush aside. Judging from the above pledges the main gains are the provision of free primary education, a relatively limited free press environment and the constituency development fund kitty. However when scrutinized carefully, marginalised areas, accessibility, equity, distribu-

tion, gender disparities, resources and teacher ratios in this educational provision are still in need of attention. We must keep in mind that food, water and health requirements continue to interfere with the learning process for many children. Consequently, these children in varying socio-economic environments drop out of school and contribute illegally to the economy through child labour malpractices. In addition cases of violence against children, women and the disabled permeate society to a great extent. Offsetting some of these circumstances would be the strengthening of the adult education sector to cater for those octogenarians sitting beside their grandchildren in class, as has been seen since 2003.

In 2005 the economy saw a GDP of five percent growth, but the standard of improvements in quality of life drew criticisms about the reliability of these figures. Today economic growth cannot feature as an indicator in Kibaki's government due to the famine affecting 2.9 million Kenyans. Viewed against the pledge for food security and sufficiency, there should be planning for food redistribution since Kenya has a sufficient stock of maize and beans but it is poorly distributed. Invariably, water and its conservation are directly linked to famine, especially when the exploitation of the Mau Forest, the Aberdare ranges, and other natural reserves continues unabated. The Maragoli Hills forest is completely wiped out! Rift Valley fresh water lakes are constantly polluted and shrinking! At the same time as Kenya boasts of a Noble Prize winner, the environment and its conservation still experience inactivity in policy implementation, that is often interfered with by polarised ethnic politics. In this way a new Constitution, grand corruption in government, environmental concerns, education and security remain critical areas for redress.

Competing Constitutions are debated such as the Bomas draft, Wako draft, Kilifi draft, Navasha accord, Ufungamano draft and the current Constitution. In which way does Kibaki propose to address Kenya's concerns? Currently, attempts by Bethwell Kiplagar's team to find a way out of the Constitutional impasse are being queried.

Remember the six year process leading up to the Bomas draft cost Kshs 8–10 billion. Since the contentious issues are governance and the powers of the presidency let us resolve these as the rest of the Constitution is implemented. Examples have been drawn from worked practice from the Swedish Constitution. On 6 January 2006, President Kibaki chaired a reconstituted Cabinet meeting after the government (2.5 million votes) had received a resounding No vote (3.5 million votes) against the Wako draft Constitution of the 21 November referendum. The referendum exposed an unforgotten political handout to communities syndrome, Amboseli National Park to the Maasai, Mau Forest evicted settlers returned to their homes, Kshs 10 million being spent by the government on this referendum – all projects deemed as farcical. The time lapse (since June 2005) for a Cabinet meeting to be convened illuminates the preoccupation of the government with agendas that it views as critical yet sidelining the essentials of a new Constitution. Also, it shows the lack of viable alternatives for Kibaki to constitute a working political roadmap as he gave in to political pressure from Charity Ngilu and Musikari Kombo in negotiating ministerial posts and handouts for their communities. Indeed with a bloated government of 34 ministers, two of them female, and 49 assistant ministers, the regime has symbolised extravagance in Africa. Such extravagance can only be symptomatic of ‘Moism without Moi’ in power. This is the plausible reason why a new Constitution is not assured soon. In this new Constitution the manner in which Kenyans want the government selected and to exercise its political power would be checked for extreme cases, for example, the draconian powers of the Presidency; defining and limiting the privileges of the legislative; the appointment of the judiciary, its duties and limitations of its privileges; and in particular the means by which parliamentarians can increase their income and power beyond what we think is realistic for the economy. Wastage of public funds through the Kshs 878 million to buy luxury vehicles in

2002-2005, testifies to the cost of the official extravagance that marks Kenya today. Certainly the ‘*Mubenzi*’ culture, described by Ngugi wa Thiongo in ‘The Mercedes Funeral’, historically marked the first Kibaki parliament. Its first debate, discussed and passed in less than 30 minutes, was on the hefty perks and allowances of Members of Parliament (MPs)! Where was the opposition then? And younger parliamentarians? Has the political class betrayed the resolves of Kenyans of yesteryear? Indeed, Kenyan parliamentarians are amongst the best paid in the world!

All these things raise the alarm on the government commitment to ameliorating poverty, hunger and disease. It is thought that the Goldenberg scandal, Kshs 7 billion Anglo-Leasing scandals, the cocaine drug haul, the resignations of Ministers Saitoti (Goldenberg), Mwiraria, Kiraitu and Murungaru (all Anglo Leasing), and calls for more Cabinet resignations, the clandestine raid on the KTN media house, and ‘whispers’ about rifts within the police force are indicators of divisions within the government. For combating corruption since 2002 the following institutions have been in place: the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Permanent Secretary for Ethics and Governance, the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission, the Public Accounts Committee, the Efficiency Monitoring Unit, Serious Fraud and Forfeiture Unit, Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act 2003, and the Public Officers’ Act. These institutions were intended to enhance governance, but amongst those defying law and order and those engaged in corrupt malpractices are serving ministers. And despite these institutions major corruption crimes are dealt with lightly. It will be dangerous if we lose confidence in institutions that enhance law and order.

The current debate on the Sexual Offences Bill illustrates the will of some members of this 9th Parliament to enact laws that shield women and children against heinous acts. If enacted this will be a positive move by the parliamentarians. In a different vein the well intended Constitu-

ency Development Fund (CDF) bill was tripled to Shs 22 billion for the next financial bill. This increase will benefit the sectors of education, and infrastructure at a local level. There is a ray of hope in the appropriate use of CDF funds, for example this year residents of Budalangi used to the perennial flooding from River Nzoia never relocated to higher ground. The construction and management of the dykes offered to these residents a tranquility not experienced for many years. Also when Kenyan firms, Kenya Airways, Mumias Sugar, East African Breweries, Barclays Bank and Kenya Commercial Bank are listed in the 2006 Ai40 index as being profitable in trade this demonstrates the resilience and will power of ordinary Kenyans to succeed.

Despite all the unfinished business, it is critical that politicians and leaders in Kenya refrain from unchecked political rhetoric. Since 2002, Kenyans have heard undue political rhetoric with no apologies rendered by their leaders – a rhetoric that fuels and justifies ethnicity, socio-economic differences and gender disparities that hold back women. Furthermore, it is claimed that the government is a ‘rattle snake’ and the media provokes that snake, there are media raids and poverty is justified by the ruling class as typical of lazy Kenyans. The exigencies of the moment demand that Kibaki provides leadership and refrains from referring to the people who voted for him as ‘Pumbafu’ (fools). ■

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# Political parties and the challenge for democracy in Kenya

By: Mwandawiro Mghanga  
MP for Wundanyi, Kenya



In this commentary, Mwandawiro Mghanga expresses the need for “real” political parties based on defined ideologies. He also gives his view on the constitutional process and the democratisation process in Kenya.

It is now about fourteen years since a multiparty system of political governance was established in Kenya. This came about after a long, hard and protracted struggle during which democracy advocates and heroes were arrested, tortured, imprisoned, detained without trial and forced into exile. Many died in police custody, torture chambers and prisons during mass demonstrations and actions demanding the end of the Kenya African National Union’s (KANU) one party dictatorship that was notorious for the violation of citizens’ and human rights.

Not surprisingly therefore, the coming of multipartism in 1992 was akin to political revolution as it started the liberation of the society from the regime that was one of the most brutal dictatorships in Africa. Freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of press, civil and political liberties, recognition of the right of political parties to exist and operate and the growth and strengthening of the civil society are some of the concrete democratic gains that Kenyans have achieved hitherto and that are the envy of citizens of many African countries. However, it took another ten years before opposition parties were able to remove KANU, the party that had ruled

the country since independence, from power. The defeat of KANU meant also the defeat of the reactionary forces, led by then President Daniel Moi, that were certainly a stumbling block to the entrenchment and development of the culture of democracy and human rights in the country. That is why Kenyans likened the defeat of KANU in the 2002 national elections by the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) to the second liberation.

As soon as multipartism started becoming a reality in the country, Kenyans realised that it was necessary to change the national constitution that had steered the country since independence from British colonialism in 1963, to reflect and conserve the new system of democratic governance. But just like it did to multipartism, the then Moi-KANU regime vehemently resisted constitutional reform. Once again many Kenyans were arrested, tortured, imprisoned, detained without trial and killed before the government acceded to the people’s popular demand for a new constitution by forming the Kenya Constitutional Review Commission (KCRC). The task of KCRC chaired by professor of constitutional law, Yash Pal Ghai, was to move around the country to collect and collate views about the constitution from the

people of the country that are composed of over fifty ethnic groups with distinct languages, cultures and geographic locations. The views would then be presented to a Constitution Conference that would in turn discuss and draft them into a constitution to be presented to Kenyans for adoption through a national referendum.

In fact, the NARC government came to power by an overwhelming majority of votes from all over the country not only because it was a united front of several opposition parties led by popular leaders but also because it promised to deliver a new constitution Kenyans desired within 100 days after it had come to power. All the opposition parties that were struggling against the Moi-KANU regime promised a new constitution that would put the country on the path of democracy, human rights, devolution of national governance to ensure regional and inter-ethnic equality in terms of accessing and controlling political and economic power and sharing of national resources, gender equality, and among many other things, the principles of the rule of law, justice, transparency and accountability in all the affairs of the country.

During the campaign, political leaders including the current president Mwai Kibaki, would inform the public that dictatorship existed because the constitution invested too many powers in one individual, the president, and that these powers would be devolved in a parliamentary system that would be created by the new constitution. Again, it was said that the process of arriving at the new constitution would be people-driven, from below and not from above. Actually these were popular views of people throughout the country that are reflected in the contents of the reports of KCRC and the draft constitution, popularly known as Boma's Constitution, that resulted from them.

However, it is now over 52 months since the KCRC started its work and the new constitution has not appeared. To begin with, no sooner had the NARC coalition come to power than it began falling apart, with the largest coalition partner, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), accusing Kibaki's Democratic Party (DP) of violating and disowning the memorandum of understanding the two had

signed concerning power sharing after the elections. This controversy in the ruling coalition that constrains the operation of the government found its way into the Constitutional Conference that was convened by the KCRC at Bomas of Kenya in Nairobi as soon as the new government came to power in 2003. LDP supported popular views at the Constitution Conference while Kibaki's DP and other coalition partners including the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD – Kenya) and National Party of Kenya (NPK) now controlling state power ended up fighting at the Conference, walking out of it and going against the spirit of the people-driven process of arriving at the constitution. Not only did the government declare a cold war upon the draft constitution adopted by the Boma's Conference but it in fact reneged on the position it had held before about proposing a parliamentary system of government. However, when it attempted to impose its version of a new constitution that sought to increase the powers of the president, among other mischiefs, upon the people of Kenya through a national referendum held in November 2005, it suffered humiliating defeat in all the seven provinces of the country apart from Central Province where the President comes from.

The demand for the new constitution continues but does not appear to be a priority of political parties that today seem more concerned about how to retain political power or capture it in the next elections that will be held at the end of 2007. The government realises that it will be judged very harshly by Kenyans should it go for elections without the new constitution, and has created another Commission headed by Bethuel Kiplagat to purportedly come up with yet another report on the way forward towards the new constitution. But Kiplagat's commission is regarded by most Kenyans, including major opposition parties such as KANU and LDP and the civil society, as a waste of time and money. Many Kenyans are beginning to become resigned to the fact that Kibaki's government is not committed to delivering a new constitution and believe that it should be removed in next year's elections to give way to further democratic reforms, including

adopting a new constitutional order.

In any case, Kenya's growing democracy faces many challenges that include corruption, poverty and all the manifestations of underdevelopment. Further, Kenya is one of the most unequal societies in the world and with the implementation of neo-liberal economic policies the gap between the few rich and the poor majority is expanding.

Political parties are necessary for the process of institutionalising and sustaining democracy. In fact, developing political parties is one of the basic challenges facing Kenya's multiparty democracy. There are 54 registered political parties in the country with seven of them represented in parliament. But they are more conglomerates of individuals seeking presidential or parliamentary positions than political parties.

There is a need, therefore, for members of political parties in Kenya, starting from the leadership, to come to an understanding of the meaning of a party. Many of the problems within political parties seem to arise because individuals who form them have not sat down to discuss and come to a consensus on the meaning of a party in general and their individual parties in particular.

To be a party people must sit down and tell one another why they are a party. And a party is at the very least a group of people who are united by a common ideology, common vision, common discipline, common moral values and common tactics and strategies for their common struggle and vision. The ideology of the party is summarised in the party manifesto while the party discipline and system of governance is defined in the constitution. The code of conduct summarises the moral values that help to bind party members together in their common struggle to change society for the better and in line with their philosophy as a party.

Consequently, a political party cannot be a political party without a manifesto. It will remain a party without its own stand and direction, a party that reacts to events initiated by others without being able to set its own agenda. Yet, many registered political parties in Kenya remain without manifestos. And those who have them, they are really not party manifestos because they

were written by a few individuals – and sometimes even foreigners or donors – and are never studied, discussed, comprehended and imbued by the vast majority of the members, including the majority of the leadership. The basic elements that define political parties are lacking in Kenyan political parties that tend to be created, dominated and sustained by powerful personalities rather than informed and convinced members and become alive only when national elections are announced. Although the leadership of all political parties is composed of members from the diverse ethnic groups of the country, they are still distinguished not by ideologies but by personalities who lead them and their ethnic base. Hitherto, political parties in Kenya hardly distinguish between their members and their voters, between the party and the masses who identify with it, between holders of party cards and actual members of the party.

Lack of appreciation of the meaning of the party and commitment to the party produces lack of party spirit among political parties in the country. This has caused despondency, inertia, anarchy, opportunism and retrogressive tendencies identified with the political parties that include tribalism and even nepotism. Egoism, especially among the leaders, is one of the greatest problems that hinder the progress of political parties in the country. Party leaders or members address meetings, hold press conferences and generally do things for self-aggrandisement rather than for promoting their parties. Many of the leaders of political parties are insecure in their relationship to one another because they are motivated by intrigues, narrow and parochial interests. They feel that if other people in the party rise in the public's esteem in one way or the other then their future party and public positions will be undermined. So they resort to tribal allegiances, undermine and isolate others while creating sycophants and the culture of sycophancy.

Many times, party leaders readily contribute thousands or even hundreds of thousands of shillings at *harambees* (popular fundraisings) where people can notice them doing so. But they hardly donate anything to help run their party secretariats that more often than not are crippled

by lack of funds. This is because to them the party is nothing other than a vehicle for pursuing the road to a parliamentary seat or the presidency. In fact, many leaders of political parties in Kenya would have nothing to do with their parties if they could not use them for personal gain. That is why political leaders, parliamentarians included, keep on changing parties and they can be in the opposition one day and join the government the next day and leave it when it is not convenient to remain there anymore. With lack of ideological beliefs, opportunism is the order of the day among the political class in Kenya.

With lack of principled and dependable leadership anarchy is part and parcel of the life of political parties in the country. In turn, it is one of the problems that hinder the growth of the political parties. Many cases are reported where members refuse to respect or recognise their leaders or party organs, particularly when these are against their tribal chiefs or the personalities they follow. At other times, members of the party choose the press to abuse or communicate with their party organs or leadership. In-fighting, intrigues, chaos at party meetings, opportunism and betrayal are all manifestations of anarchy that

are reported every day. Anarchy is encouraged by the situation where the party is inactive, alienated from its members, the masses and reality on the ground as Kenyan political parties tend to be. Lack of comprehensive policies, effective leadership, internal democracy and a forum that can be utilised by members to convey their views or criticisms to higher party organs breeds anarchy. Under such circumstances, individual members try to take individual initiatives unknown to the party organs albeit, many times, with good intentions of building up the party.

In short, for further development of democracy in the country real political parties based on defined ideologies and that expound internal democracy are as necessary as the new constitution that has yet to be realised. Furthermore, the current political parties will transform themselves into real political parties if they address, among others, the problems analysed in this article. Yet amidst all this democracy is becoming a culture. Kenyans have also realised that they have to be vigilant and struggle to defend their democratic gains while striving for a better society. ■

### CALL FOR PAPERS

## AEGIS European Conference on African Studies

11–14 July 2007 in Leiden, the Netherlands

The second biannual conference of the Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS) will take place in Leiden on 11–14 July 2007. The Theme of the Conference is: African Alternatives: Initiative and Creativity beyond Current Constraints. The conference will focus on the constraints that are restricting Africa's development and growth, and on new initiatives coming from African entrepreneurial activities, trade, self-help organizations, associational life, politics and religion at grassroots level.

*Deadline for submission of panel: 1 August 2006.*

*Deadline for submission of papers: 31 December 2006.*

For further information on submission and registration: [www.aegis-eu.org](http://www.aegis-eu.org)  
or e-mail: [conference@aegis-eu.org](mailto:conference@aegis-eu.org).

For hotel and registration e-mail: [hotelandregistration@aegis-eu.org](mailto:hotelandregistration@aegis-eu.org).

# Nordic Masters courses in African and development related studies

The last few years have seen a remarkable increase in the number of Master courses in African and development related studies in the Nordic countries.

This development is related to a number of factors. The Bologna process within Europe of standardising university education structures has given a firmer position to Masters programmes within the whole chain of university education. In most countries a two year master programme has been inserted between the bachelor (three years) and the doctorate programme (three to four years). Globalisation has also acted as a spur to the internationalisation of education and education cooperation across Europe and beyond. Increased student mobility, due to the abolition of bureaucratic structures, standardising of rules, flexible student funding and broad European (and beyond) university cooperation programmes have also aided the process. It is also interesting to note the increasing number of African and third world students that take up Masters studies in the Nordic countries. This enables cross-cultural and mutual learning processes between Nordic, European and African/Third World students.

Below we present a number of primarily new Masters programmes in the Nordic countries in African and development related studies. An interview with a Master student from Jyväskylä, Finland, throws additional light on a Master course. The programmes represent only a sample of the numerous programmes that have been launched during the last few years, but they do provide key information about the ideas, scope and content of such programmes that may be of value to students interested in African and development related studies. Additional information about Masters courses with African and development orientation, old or new, may be found on the home pages or in the catalogues of the various Nordic universities or university institutions.

The Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) is also happy that many students participating in such Master programmes find their way to the Institute through the one-month study scholarships where they can benefit from contact with NAI researchers and source material in the NAI library. The opportunities for students and guest researchers at NAI and information about the NAI library will follow the presentation of the Master programmes. ■

## LIST OF PROGRAMMES PRESENTED

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- Master of Arts in African Studies at the Centre of African Studies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark;
- Master's Programme in Development Management, Agder University College, Kristiansand, Norway;
- Master's Programme in Development and International Cooperation, University of Jyväskylä, Finland;
- Master's Degree in African Studies at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway;
- Master's Course in African Studies and International Development Cooperation at the Centre for African Studies, Göteborg University, Sweden;
- International Master in African Studies at Dalarna University, Sweden.

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN, DENMARK:

## Master of Arts in African Studies

The Centre of African Studies was established in 1984 to organise a two-year multi-disciplinary area studies programme and co-ordinate African Studies within the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. The University of Copenhagen was given the national responsibility for African Studies because of the ongoing activities and expertise on Africa already existing in various departments within most faculties.

African Studies are offered as a two-year postgraduate full-time course leading to a Master of Arts degree in African Studies. It is also possible to take a one-year full-time course leading to a Flexible Masters degree within the Open University system.

The study programme for both courses consists of the following components (some of which are only offered in Danish):

- Basic courses in 'African Economics' and 'Africa's Nature, Culture and Society'.
- Thematic seminars focusing on 'Politics, Development and Change in Africa' and 'Religion, Culture and Society in Africa'.
- Topical seminars centred around themes like: 'Human Rights in Africa', 'Conflict, Conflict Management and Resolution in Africa', 'Genocide in Comparative Perspective in Africa', 'Decentralisation and Civil Society in Africa', 'Religion and Politics in Africa', 'Society and Environment in Africa', 'Youth, Children and HIV/AIDS in Contemporary Africa' and 'Danish Foreign Aid and Foreign Aid Policy in Africa'. The topics vary from term to term.
- Language courses in Swahili.
- Project work (often including field work in Africa) leading to a dissertation.

The Centre organises weekly Africa-seminars on either current affairs or research related topics, which are addressed by guest speakers and visiting Africanists.

In order to improve the opportunity for final-year students to study in Africa, to do fieldwork or to obtain working experience as part of their dissertation work, the Centre has established contacts with a number of African universities, Danish development aid projects, Danish Embassies in Africa, African NGOs and Danish NGOs working in Africa.

### ◆ How is the course financed?

The Centre is sponsored through general university funding and income from teaching students.

### ◆ Who are your students?

There is an intake of about 40-50 full-time students each year working for their final degree in African Studies. In addition, a large number of students from other disciplines within the university and from neighbouring universities as well as international exchange students are attending one or more of the seminars offered under the African Studies programme in order to transfer credits to their main degree course. The students come from a wide range of disciplines mainly within the humanities and the social sciences. The average student age is 25 to 30 years and about 60 percent of the students are female and 40 percent male.

The intake of international students from Europe and countries outside Europe is around 60 students per year. Some of these students are participating in our Socrates-Erasmus exchange programmes while others are from universities world-wide as part of exchange agreements

with the University of Copenhagen or as guest students.

◆ What future careers do you foresee for your students?

Our main purpose is to strengthen the Danish research base in regard to producing well qualified students, who can work in an interdisciplinary way with a variety of tasks in relation to Africa. DANIDA and our NGOs are the main recipients of our students as regards aid related work, but also international organisations, advisory consultants and the education system which demand an interdisciplinary knowledge on Africa are among the recipients.

◆ What is special/unique about your course?

We offer a unique multi-disciplinary Master of Arts in African Studies with special emphasis on

humanities and social science. The lecturers responsible for the various courses and seminars are mainly seconded from various departments at the university, the Danish Institute for International Studies, the Nordic Africa Institute and DANIDA (the Danish International Development Agency), which enables us to offer up-to-date courses rooted in the main research and recipient institutions. As a large number of part-time lecturers are affiliated with the Centre we are able to offer a large variety of courses, which are easily adapted to changing demands and interests among the students and recipient institutions. ■

Niels Kastfelt, Director and Associate Professor, Centre of African Studies, University of Copenhagen

For further information: [www.teol.ku.dk/cas](http://www.teol.ku.dk/cas).

AGDER UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, NORWAY:

## Master's Programme in Development Management



Students and teachers at the Master's Programme in Development Management.

The Development Management programme at Agder University College in Kristiansand, Norway, is primarily concerned with development, and with facilitators of and obstacles to development, whether these are environmental or social, economic or political. On a global level, several interacting factors have led to increased pressure on the environment, such as population growths, over-exploitation and mismanagement of natural resources and environmental pollution.

The Master's Programme in Development Management is implemented by a network of universities from the South and the North coordinated by the United Nations University/Global Virtual University (UNU/GVU).

◆ Why an international MA-course

We find it important to strengthen North-South collaboration in a very meaningful way through

combined teaching activities. Our programme represents a modest attempt at capacity-building within our partner institutions.

◆ Who are the students?

There are 12 Norwegian students, four students at Mzumbe University, Tanzania, four at Makerere University, Uganda, four at KNUST, Ghana, and two students at Mekelle University, Ethiopia.

◆ What type of careers do you foresee for these students?

A serious constraint in many poor countries is the lack of managerial competence. Such competence is needed for the development and implementation of policies and practical solutions to social, economic, and environmental challenges. It is clearly recognised both by national and interna-

tional institutions that there is a need to increase the competence and capacity that can contribute to a positive development process. In Norwegian development co-operation, this aspect has been given high priority.

◆ What is special/unique about your course?

The Development Management (DM) programme is the first Master's programme to be launched under Global Environment and Development Studies (GEDS).

GEDS will be implemented by a network of universities from the South and the North coordinated by the United Nations University/Global Virtual University (UNU/GVU).

The study programme is based on on-line learning (e-learning) which forms the basic teaching method for the study programme. This implies that a substantial part of teaching, instruction, tuition and supervision will take place on the internet. Students from different countries in Africa and Norwegian students work together in a virtual classroom. ■

Jannik Stølen Timenes, Førstekonsulent, Fakultet for økonomi og samfunnsfag, Høgskolen i Agder

For further information: [www.hia.no](http://www.hia.no).

## Welcome to our new website!

The Nordic Africa Institute launches a website with completely new design, structure and navigation.

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



UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ, FINLAND:

## Master's Programme in Development and International Cooperation

The Master's Programme in Development and International Cooperation is a two-year degree programme of 80–120 ECTS credits which provides both the theoretical knowledge and practical skills required in the field of international development. It offers students an opportunity to study development from a multidisciplinary perspective emphasising the social, educational and environmental dimensions of expertise. The contents of the programme cover international dilemmas of development, development cooperation policies, and multidisciplinary approaches to defining and addressing social development issues, and implementation and quality of development cooperation.

- ◆ Why an international MA course – is this a European trend that you are responding to?

The master's programme was inspired by the international development cooperation strategy of the University of Jyväskylä, which was the first Finnish university to launch that kind of a strategy.

The United Nations' millennium goals emphasise partnership and it seems that the Finnish Ministry of Education has been very willing to support initiatives contributing to the goals.

There is also a strong encouragement for the universities to become more international, also with regard to the students. And, yes, there is a European trend. From the beginning the programme has been planned so that it suits the Bologna process.

- ◆ How is the course financed?

The programme received specific three year funding from the Ministry of Education. This funding

covers the salaries and other running costs (about 150,000 euro/year). In due course the funding will be based on the normal criteria and negotiations at the universities and between the universities and the Ministry of Education – most importantly the number of degrees produced.

We have got support for students' and teachers' exchange through the NORTH-SOUTH Higher Education Network Programme, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and administered by the Centre for International Mobility (CIMO, operating under the Finnish Ministry of Education). Its aim is to establish long-term links between higher education institutions in Finland and developing countries. Our partners are the University of Zambia, Addis Ababa University and the University of Dar es Salaam.

Studying at Finnish universities is free. However, the students have to finance their living costs and accommodation by themselves. This means 6,000 euro for one academic year. For many candidates from the developing countries this is too much. The university has been able to provide scholarships for only two students.

- ◆ Who are your students?

We have about 40 students from 14 different countries. About half of them come from Finland, the others from other European countries, Africa, Asia and Latin-America. Students have their majors in social or environmental sciences or in education. Every year we have had about 150 applicants and only less than 30 are selected (based on their previous studies, work experience and telephone interviews). Both in 2004 and 2005 about 20 students were actually able to start their studies in Jyväskylä. The gender ratio is very balanced: 50–50.



Professor Liisa Laakso.



Students at a lecture in September 2005.

- ◆ What interest has the course attracted from the students?

The practical approach to development issues is what they are emphasising. One requirement for the applicants to be accepted to the course is that they have an interest in or some experience of development work. For instance that they have been active in voluntary organizations or have been employed by public authorities working in the field. They also have BA level education in one of the majors, but they do not have knowledge on developing theories, planning of development projects, evaluation etc.

Also the two to six months internship is something that interests many. We have tried to find high quality internship places for our students all over the world. In fact, this has been one of the most demanding parts of the administration of the programme.

- ◆ What type of careers do you foresee for the students

Careers in the development cooperation field (in NGOs, governmental organizations, international organizations such as the UN etc.) Also research.

- ◆ What is special/unique about your course?

The programme provides knowledge and practical skills required in development cooperation work. Simultaneously it is built on scientific expertise of the major involved in the programme. We are networking with many developing agencies. The students can get contacts with these agencies though internship and beyond. ■

Liisa Laakso, Professor and UNESCO Chair in Development and International Cooperation Degree Programme in Development and International Cooperation, University of Jyväskylä.

For further information: [www.jyu.fi/ytk/laitokset/yfi/oppiaineet/intldev/en](http://www.jyu.fi/ytk/laitokset/yfi/oppiaineet/intldev/en)

## Interview with a student

Jakub Kahul is a student at the Master's Programme in Development and International Cooperation at the University of Jyväskylä. In early 2006, he was a study scholarship holder at the Nordic Africa Institute.

◆ What course are you following?

I am a second year student of the two-year Master's Programme in Development and International Cooperation at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland. I am majoring in Sociology. The topic of my Master's thesis is "Working with street children in Sub-Saharan Africa – promising practices and approaches with special reference to the street children project in Lusaka, Zambia". I come from Poland where I have completed three years of the Individual Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

◆ Why did you choose this course?

There are several reasons why I have chosen this course. First of all, I very much wanted to study development issues, but in my home country none of the universities offered this type of course. When I came across the description of the course at the University of Jyväskylä, I was especially attracted by its programme that aimed at combining both the theory and practice of development work. Another reason why I chose Finland is because I have been here before as an exchange student at the University of Turku and I liked it very much. Moreover, the high standards of Finnish higher education are also well known.

◆ What is special/unique about it?

What is special about the course, in my opinion, are two main things. The first is the interdisciplinarity of the course – it is a joint programme of different faculties and departments and thus, it brings together students from different academic backgrounds, which allows for looking at the development issues from different perspectives. Secondly, as already mentioned, the aim of the course is to combine theoretical and practical dimensions of development work.



Jakub Kahul.

◆ Who are your fellow students?

I can only tell about the fellow students from my year. Currently, we are 17 students – seven female and ten male. Six students are Finnish, the rest are from Palestine, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Colombia, and me from Poland. Most of us are in our twenties but there are also a few older students. We come from different academic backgrounds – social, political, environmental, educational sciences – as the course is interdisciplinary. Some of us already have had quite a lot of practical experience in the development field before, while for others these are the first steps in this area. All these differences make us a very exciting group of people that have managed to build a very close and strong relationship. To sum up, I believe that my fellow students are one of the best, if not the best, parts of the course.

◆ What future career do you expect?

Most of all, the course has strengthened me in the will to pursue my future professional career in the development field. I believe that it has also given me a strong basis, on which I can build my further knowledge in this area. I do not know yet where it will lead me but I am positive about the future as I believe that the knowledge and experience I have acquired during my course at the University of Jyväskylä will be an invaluable asset in my professional life. ■

NORWEGIAN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

## Master's Degree in African Studies

The Master's Degree in African Studies at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim was launched in August 2005. It is a two-year long interdisciplinary area study, suited for those who wish to learn more about African societies, cultures, environmental variations and historical perspectives. During the first year the students will be given a comprehensive introduction to different theories, topics and methods. During the second year the student will normally go to do fieldwork in Africa (four to six months) and thus be trained in conducting scientific research. The Master's degree programme is brought to a close through a Master's thesis based on the field work.

◆ Why an MA course in African Studies?

An MA course in African studies at NTNU will give a thorough understanding of the challenges that the African continent faces today. The MA course together with the field work will give the student a more complete and nuanced picture of Africa, different from the negative focus frequently presented in the media.

◆ Who are your students?

This is the first year the Master's programme is running, and due to little publicity the students that were recruited all came from the Bachelor's programme in African Studies at NTNU. We do however welcome students from other Scandinavian countries with a relevant BA, for instance a BA with specialization in Social Anthropology, Geography or History.

◆ What interest has the course attracted from the students?

The MA programme is in its first year, and we hope to attract even more students next year (admission every autumn; applications must be in by 15 May 2006).



Bjørn Erring, Professor at the Institute of Social Anthropology.

◆ What type of careers do you foresee for the students?

Students with an MA in African Studies will be interesting for employers in public administration, aid-related work, journalism, in schools and research.

◆ What is special/unique about your course?

The MA in African Studies at NTNU is interdisciplinary and thus has staff available from several departments, and the students can choose between a wide range of specializing topics. Furthermore our connections and agreements with universities in several African countries will facilitate the students' field work. ■

Gunn Hilde Garte, Coordinator of African Studies, Department of Social Anthropology, Dragvoll, NTNU.

For further information: [www.svt.ntnu.no/afrika](http://www.svt.ntnu.no/afrika)

GÖTEBORG UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN:

## Master's course in African Studies and International Development Cooperation

This course started at the Centre for African Studies (CAS) within the School of Global Studies at Göteborg University in September 2005, and will be given for the second time during the academic year of 2006/2007. It is organised in three main blocks: 1) African Studies; 2) International Development Cooperation; and 3) Thesis. It involves field trips to Stockholm/Uppsala and Tanzania. The teaching staff consists of about 20 teachers from 15 different departments at Göteborg University, complemented by guest lecturers from Africa as well as policy-makers and practitioners from Sida, the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other agencies engaged in development cooperation. The former Director of the Nordic Africa Institute, Lennart Wohlgemuth, is Guest Professor at CAS and heads the block on International Development Cooperation.

The teaching language is Swedish. 25 students are admitted. Plans are under way to extend the course to a two-year Master's programme from the autumn 2007.

### ◆ Why an international MA course in African studies?

As a start, there is certainly a need for increased understanding of Africa. We give other undergraduate courses in African studies, but this MA course is designed to make our students suitable for professional work rather than further academic studies. The combination of African Studies with the study of international development cooperation makes the course particularly relevant for work both in Sweden and internationally. In addition, the fact that Göteborg University is among the largest academic environments in Sweden on both these subjects has been an impetus for developing the MA programme.

### ◆ Is this a European trend?

Probably so in the context of the Bologna-process, even if African Studies has quite a long history in Europe more generally. What seems to be "new" is the changing content of African Studies and other so called area studies under "the global condition". The phenomenon of globalization makes a deeper understanding of local, national and regional contexts even more necessary and relevant for a host of other disciplines and subjects. But at the same time the way we have conventionally done African Studies needs to be developed in order to better take globalization and regionalization into account.

### ◆ How has the course been financed?

It is funded through the university system.

### ◆ What interest has the course attracted from students?

There was an overwhelming interest from the students, more than we expected, which resulted in a significant number of students not being admitted. We hope that at least some of them will try again this year. With regard to those in the programme this year, we could hardly have received a more impressive group of students.

### ◆ Who are the students?

In order to be admitted students must have an examination from at least a 120 credit programme but this ranges from social science, humanities, health and nursing, science, to engineering, social work and education. Some students come directly from another academic education whereas others have started their professional careers, some quite

recently and others come from senior positions in administration and elsewhere. One thing that makes our programme especially exciting is the fact that it groups students from so many different backgrounds and ages (ranging from 22 to 65).

- ◆ What future careers do you foresee for your students?

Our students must have an examination in another subject, and therefore the programme is supposed to complement their previous education in order to enable them to work with anything that has to do with Africa and international development cooperation. The course is both wide and deep, which will give them good career opportunities in the field of African Studies and development cooperation in general, but particularly so in

relation to their own sub-fields, where they have their previous education.

- ◆ What is special/unique about your course?

This course is unique in several respects: 1) it is a good blend of African Studies and International Development Cooperation; 2) it is a mix of theory and practice; 3) it is special in its composition of students, with so many backgrounds and ages. ■

Fredrik Söderbaum, Director of the Centre for African Studies, within the School of Global Studies, Göteborg University

For further information: [www.africastudies.tema.gu.se](http://www.africastudies.tema.gu.se)

## Annual Report 2005

is available online  
([www.nai.uu.se](http://www.nai.uu.se))  
or can be ordered  
via [orders@nai.uu.se](mailto:orders@nai.uu.se)



DALARNA UNIVERSITY:

## International Master in African Studies

The International Master in African Studies deals with critical understanding of political, social and economic features of African societies since the 19th century. It uses synchronic and diachronic approaches, and emphasises the interplay between religion and politics, gender in relation to the economy of nutrition, the role of education in social change and issues of urbanization and urban politics. The programme is made up of four obligatory and two optional courses. The most central component of the programme is the research paper that the student writes under the supervision of an expert.

### ◆ Is this a European trend?

The idea of a postgraduate programme organised and implemented by institutions from at least three European countries is a new trend encouraged by the European Union. The intention is to strengthen the position of Europe as a provider of high quality education and hence attract the best students from outside Europe. An International Master has the advantage of involving a greater number of teaching and research staff with considerable gains in synergy.

### ◆ How has the course been financed?

The International Master in African Studies at Dalarna University is not yet financed by the European Union. Students applying from abroad have to either finance their studies on their own or access scholarships from institutions such as the Swedish Institute. Most of the teaching inputs will be done by colleagues from Oulu and Bologna through the Socrates teacher exchange programme. The International Master in African Studies will also make use of the research staff at the Nordic Africa Institute.

### ◆ What interest has the course attracted from students?

By March 1, the deadline for foreign students, about 270, most of whom are from Africa, applied to follow the course on campus. About half a dozen applied for the distance (online) programme. We have no information of the number of Swedish applicants or Erasmus students yet. The maximum intake of students is about 40. We did not expect to get so many applications as we were quite late with the official announcement. Thus our opinion is that there is a considerable interest for the International Master in African Studies.

### ◆ Who are the students?

So far most of the students are from Africa, where Nigeria, Ghana and Cameroon represent about 60 percent of the applicants. There are several students from Pakistan, Bangladesh. We have also about a dozen applicants from the former Soviet Union and a good number (six students) from Italy. This information (about who the students are) is incomplete as there is still time to apply for other categories of students.

UNIVERSITIES INVOLVED: Bologna, Oulu and Dalarna

DURATION OF PROGRAMME: August to June (two semesters)

CREDITS: 60 ECTS or 40 credit points

STARTING DATE: August 20, 2006

LOCATION: Falun and Oulu

What future careers do you foresee for your students?

The International Master is organised to equip the student with a theoretical and empirical knowledge basis which could either be terminal or a component of a larger and wider search for expertise. We foresee a good number of our students embarking on either PhD programmes or on independent research careers. We also foresee our students as teachers in African Studies and as consultants/activists within NGOs.

What is special/unique about your course?

What is special about our International Master in African Studies is that in our programme Africa and African issues are studied on their own merits and not as cases for international humanitarian or developmental intervention. We believe that it is enlightening to study African issues (history, economy, society, politics, religion, ideology, philosophy etc) without tying them to developmental imperatives. ■

Tekeste Negash, Associate Professor of History, Dalarna University.

For further information: [www.du.se](http://www.du.se).

### NAI scholarships for students and researchers in the Nordic countries

The Nordic Africa Institute supports studies on Africa in the Nordic countries through several types of scholarships, of which two are aimed at students in the Nordic countries:

Within the **travel scholarships** programme, some 30-40 scholars from universities in the Nordic countries are sponsored annually for short research trips to Africa in connection with ongoing research projects.

The **study scholarships** permit some 30 students, teachers and journalists at Nordic universities, to spend one month in Uppsala using the Institute's library resources.

The **Nordic guest researchers' scholarships** are aimed at senior researchers in the Nordic countries. The guests spend two months at the Institute.

**More information at [www.nai.uu.se](http://www.nai.uu.se).**

# NAI's library services: *A resource for distance users*

The Nordic Africa Institute library is aimed at all students, researchers and others in the Nordic countries who are interested in modern Africa – not only for visiting users but also for distance users.

The Nordic dimension of the library services is a challenge to be met, the acting chief librarian Åsa Lund Moberg says. Charged with providing easy access to the unique resources for distance users and being visible for the same users the library works continuously with developing its website as well as networking. Our users, from different educational environments sometimes not focused on African studies depend to a great extent on their local libraries and teachers for finding our material. It is in our interest as well as in the interest of our users that we cooperate with the library and the teaching staff on site. The library has for example been involved in the planning process of the International Master in African Studies at Dalarna University and also to some extent in the African Studies Programme at NTNU, Trondheim. However, Åsa Lund Moberg points out that it is reassuring, that in discussions with partners and users, it frequently proves to be the case that the requested services are already available.

## 'Africa Days for Librarians'

In order to 'move out' the library to the users, not only the physical books and reports but also the reference service, the library arranged the 'Africa Days for Librarians' in October 2004. The main purpose of the conference was to give Nordic librarians the tools for assisting students and researchers focusing on contemporary Africa, to build informal networks and to market the Nordic Africa Institute's library. It is planned to repeat the two-day conference in 2007.

## The NAI library for distance users

The library specialises in modern Africa within the social sciences (1945-). With its 60,000 titles and **approx 500** current periodicals about Africa and development issues **the holdings cover the** entire continent with emphasis on contemporary history, politics, education, economics, and other social sciences as well as African fiction. The collection is research-oriented and mainly

### AT DISTANCE

**Information search via website.** Search our library catalogue, use our Guide to Africa on the Internet with links to, for example, free databases and full-text material.

**Interlibrary loans.** Order books, reports or article copies from our library collection via your local library.

**Studying Africa:** A guide to the sources. Use the introduction to basic handbooks, standard works and literature surveys within the field of the social sciences on contemporary Africa on our website.

**Reference service.** Use our reference service "Ask the librarian", via mail or phone for shorter factual questions, literature searches, information searches.

### AT THE LIBRARY

Ask for an introduction to the library, to the collection and how to use the library at distance for yourself or your group. Use our "Consult a librarian" service to get the most out of your visit. We also welcome that teaching staff contact us for designed tours or introductions highlighting specific areas of interest. There is also a small seminar room (15-20 persons) at the library, which can be booked in combination with the library tours.

in English, French, Portuguese and the Scandinavian languages.

The online library catalogue enables users via thematic and geographical keywords in English to search for relevant references. Among the special collections can be found official publications, maps and pamphlets.

Although placed in Uppsala almost all of the library titles and article copies can be ordered on interlibrary loans within the Nordic countries. The library's electronic resources can be found online via the website.

Visiting users can use the library outside regular opening hours, but only by agreement.

The library also offers bookable computers with internet access as well as one bookable computer with internet access and office programme.



Some of the library staff.

You are welcome to contact us via e-mail, [library@nai.uu.se](mailto:library@nai.uu.se), or phone +46 18 56 22 70. Website: [www.nai.uu.se](http://www.nai.uu.se) ■

## Nordic Africa Institute library nominated Swedish Library of the year 2006!

The Library of the Year award is an honour that has been conferred yearly by the union DIK since 1986. Out of three nominated libraries, the award is presented to the winning library at the Gothenburg Book Fair in September.

For more information (Swedish only) see DIK website [www.dik.se](http://www.dik.se)

# The African agricultural and rural crisis

By: Kjell Havnevik

The article is a presentation of the research project, "Land Governance, sustainability and poverty in rural Ethiopia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe". The project is funded by Sida/Sarec and will run between 2006 and 2009.



Kjell Havnevik is researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute and adjunct professor at the Swedish University of Agriculture in Uppsala and Agder University College, Kristiansand, Norway.

Sub-Saharan Africa saw important improvements in terms of economic growth and agricultural development, expansion of schools and social infrastructure and poverty reduction in the first decades of independence. This happened in spite of important differences in historical trajectories. The positive development gradually subsided from the early 1970s onwards under the impact of faulty national policies, negligence of smallholder agriculture, misdirected development assistance and a hostile international economic conjuncture triggered and sustained by the increase in oil prices.

The outcomes included an erosion of the political legitimacy of the state, increasing social misery and assaults on cultural diversity. On the production and resource side, import substitution industrialisation was undermined, agricultural productivity stagnated and the state grew dependent upon development assistance in spite of the state's increasingly authoritarian character. The World Bank and external donors, including the Nordic ones, fully supported the African state in pursuing its modernisation paradigm, including

ones loans to industrial development and large scale projects, most of which, in the subsequent market paradigm turned out to be unviable.

By the early 1980s a political, economic, social and cultural crisis was manifest and African governments had no option but to sign structural adjustment programmes designed by the IMF and the World Bank. The objectives of these programmes, based on policy conditionality, were to restore economic growth, increase foreign investments and reduce external debts. The market and the private sector were to be the engine of development for which an enabling environment was to be created. The state was to withdraw, balance its budget and facilitate the emergence of the new development paradigm.

Structural adjustment did not deliver the promised growth and concern gradually shifted to democratic processes as decisive additional elements for promoting development. This resulted in an additional political reform conditionality that comprised multi-party political systems and various state related decentralisation processes. With the gradual realisation among donors and African governments that increasing levels of policy conditionalities could not deliver decisive change, the focus turned to a more direct focus on poverty in the context of national ownership of policies and strategies. Specific poverty reduction strategies soon became a key for debt reduction support and became as well an integral part of the new development assistance architecture during the last few years (also including national dialogues between African government and donors, increase in budget support, country strategies, joint assistance strategies etc).

### Limited response by African smallholders

All along the smallholder farming sector, the mainstay of most African economies, simply did not respond to the structural adjustment programmes and poverty reduction strategies in ways that were anticipated. Economic growth, structural change and poverty reduction did not come about. The promotion of market supporting institutions had only to a limited extent taken note of existing grass root institutions that guide the livelihood decisions of households, the gendered division of labour, natural resource management and resource allocation of the rural poor. Such institutions and the associated processes are situated in a complex context of societal embeddedness related to principles of reciprocity, redistribution and market exchange. This range of exchange systems and their changes and relationships, reflects at the same time historical trajectories, population growth, increasing resource conflicts, changes in relations, a deepening of commercialisation and globalisation. Interactions between different layers of institutions and the impact of an increasing and complex policy conditionality led to continuous changes in smallholder–state relationships. The outcome was an increasing uncertainty on the part of smallholders as to their production conditions, including the state of their tenure rights as regards land and natural resources and rural people's relations to and linkages with the formal rural and non-rural worlds, including national emergent democratic systems and an increasing interface with various aspects of the process of globalisation.

The complexity of the African rural crisis is manifested in a number of analyses that come to different conclusions as to how to address it. The gradual shifts in the focus of analyses and advice are numerous. Disagreement exists as to the character of the crisis and whether it should be addressed through technical fixes, e.g. increases in inputs, empowerment and/or participation, a “big push” in development assistance, e.g. associated with the millennium, or simply by leaving the rural people of Africa to take charge of their own development. The variation in the range of understandings of rural Africa and its crisis partly

reflects thematic or disciplinary biases of research and investigations that are unable to situate themselves in a broader and deeper understanding of the African rural context. Within the whole range of positions and recommendations, however, a few common denominators exist. One of them is the need to increase the productivity of agriculture (for which a potential exists) in order to reduce poverty and generate a surplus for a broad based and dignifying development process.

### The content of the project

This project relates to the overriding concern of enhancing agricultural productivity in ways that reduce poverty and address environmental sustainability. However, contrary to many of the positions on African agriculture, the project argues for the need for a deeper understanding of the institutional contexts facing African agricultural and rural development. A key element within this understanding is the governance structure related to land and natural resources. The arguments informing this project are that the African agricultural and rural crisis is closely linked with historical and institutional aspects, including the role of nation states, and global economic forces. The interplay between these aspects and their linkage to land tenure, i.e. access, control and disposal of land, and land governance, encompassing legal aspects, state policies and interventions, are of key importance for explaining the path that sub-Saharan agriculture has taken and the challenges it is currently facing. These aspects must, however, be seen in the context of rural indigenous institutions that remain central to the allocation of land, guide gendered divisions of labour and rights and contain norms impacting on land and natural resource management.

The project will synthesise past and ongoing research and generate new research related to land tenure and governance across historical contexts and current challenges in Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Ethiopia. These countries differ in historic and institutional respects, thus possibilities will arise to understand which issues and outcomes are general and which can be referred to particular historical contexts. Common to all these countries

is scarcity induced conflicts due to the inability of land tenure systems to respond to challenges and faulty state policies. The grave situation is characterised by very high rural poverty rates and an extreme share of poverty in rural areas i.e. the respective figures are for Tanzania 49.7 and 82.3 per cent, for Ethiopia 45.0 and 86.3 per cent and Zimbabwe 48.0 and 90 percent.

The project addressing the overarching question related to the role of local institutions and governance aspects in promoting or holding back agricultural and rural development, includes the following sub-questions:

1. How do the different historical contexts affect land governance and to what extent are they related to a common African heritage, e.g. customary law and the role of indigenous institutions, to colonial legacies and variations regarding received law? What are the current challenges of integrating these strands of law into a new common land law and how are these processes evolving?
2. Are indigenous institutions that mediate access to land able to respond to external and internal pressures including population growth, commercialisation, technical change and state intervention? What are the major causes for lack of institutional responses and can policy, legal and support activities help strengthen such responses or do they have to evolve from within rural societies?
3. Do customary tenure systems hold back productivity due to being considered insecure and

if so is this caused by lack of legal protection or other reasons? Are women's user rights in customary systems constraining their productive potential? Can land individualisation or other tenure forms at household, clan and community levels secure productivity growth, sustainability and poverty reduction?

4. Have economic liberalisation and institutional decentralisation created space for smallholders and communities to influence and control land and resources through indigenous institutions and/or formal institutions, or is this space filled by middle-men or the private sector? How are conflicts resolved when interest groups make claims on the same resources?

The project will be conducted in close cooperation with the Institute of Environmental Sciences, University of Zimbabwe, the Faculty of Forestry, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania and Wondogenet Forest College, Dehub University, Ethiopia.

Research related to the African state, rural development and natural resource governance will also be addressed by two recently established research activities at the Nordic Africa Institute, a programme coordinated by Amanda Hammar (Currencies of Transformation in Africa: Changing Resource Regimes in Times of Uncertainty) and a project run by Lisbeth Larsson Lidén ('Poor rural women as co-managers of protected areas in South Africa—a viable option?'). This research will be introduced in later issues of *News*. ■

Recent and forthcoming publications  
by Kjell Havnevik

*Of Global Concern – Rural Livelihood Dynamics and Natural Resource Governance*. Edited with Tekeste Negash and Atakilt Beyene. Sida studies no. 16, Sida, Stockholm 2006.

*Tanzanian rural development in a 40 year perspective*. Forthcoming.

*Tanzania – A Critical Analysis*. Forthcoming.

# Collective organisation among informal workers in African cities

By: Ilda Lourenço-Lindell



Ilda Lourenço-Lindell, researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute

Informal economies in African cities have experienced a rapid expansion in recent decades. Incomes and conditions have however declined for large numbers of urban informal workers under conditions of adjustment. In addition, these workers continue to experience a persistent lack, or even deterioration of rights, as authorities in many cities continue to be hostile towards them. This research project addresses the ways by which informal workers in urban Africa organise collectively to defend their rights and livelihoods. Existing perspectives on the dynamics and politics of informal economies have been blind to this issue. The so-called 'informal sector' has been seen as devoid of collective organisation which has been considered as an exclusive capacity of the 'formal' wage sector. But as the latter shrinks and reliance on informal income activities increases in African cities, new forms of collective organisation are also emerging.

The general aim of the study is to uncover the agendas, the alliances and strategies being used by associations and unions of informal workers in a number of African cities. It considers both the internal relations of associations and their wider social and political context. Concerning the

internal distribution of power, gender relations are given particular attention since women constitute a significant share of informal workers and are often over-represented at the lowest income levels of the informal economy. Concerning the wider context, the nature of the relations that associations entertain with other bodies in society will be addressed. This includes relations with the local state (and other governing institutions) and how these shape urban politics; relations with other groups in 'civil society'; and an emerging alliance between groups of informal workers and trade unions, conventionally considered as holding opposing interests. The space of action of these associations does not necessarily end at city or domestic borders, as an increasing number of groups are establishing international linkages. This places African cities in the wider environment of grassroots global networks, rather than simply in a passive marginal position to 'globalisation' processes.

The research takes the form of a multilocal study to be carried out in different urban settings in Africa.

Ilda Lourenço-Lindell completed her doctorate at the Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University, in 2002. In her doctoral work, she has been interested in processes of informalization of livelihoods in urban Africa in a global context; in informal regulation; in the social networks and strategies of the urban poor in the context of structural adjustment; and in the consequences of social change in urban context for informal safety nets.

For more information on the project, please visit [www.nai.uu.se](http://www.nai.uu.se) or send an e-mail to Ilda Lourenço-Lindell: [ilda.lindell@nai.uu.se](mailto:ilda.lindell@nai.uu.se). ■

## CALL FOR PAPERS

to a conference on

# Informalizing Economies and New Organising Strategies in Africa

Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden, 20–22 April 2007

Informal economies in Africa have been experiencing a rapid expansion in the last few decades. This trend is taking place in the context of neoliberal models of development, whereby international financial institutions advocate policies of privatization, economic liberalisation and deregulation. These policies have had far-reaching consequences. Growing numbers of redundant workers and declining regulated wage work opportunities have resulted in new floods of entrants into the informal economy. In this deregulating economic environment, existing firms increasingly make use of casual labour and/or rely on a myriad of small-scale informal operators, a trend that is exceedingly evident in urban areas. Self-employment and “unregulated” forms of employment are today widespread ways of earning a living. At the same time, informal economies have become both increasingly enmeshed in international commodity circuits and more exposed to global market forces. Unsurprisingly, the informal economy has become a sphere of accumulation for larger firms whereas conditions and incomes have often deteriorated for vulnerable groups that depend on the informal economy for survival. In addition to the influence of global forces, governments often have a negative, or at best ambivalent, attitude towards poor self-employed people. In many places they adopt restrictive and violent measures such as harassment and eviction. At the most, they regard these groups as ‘vote banks’, in a context of multi-party politics. Given these various economic and political pressures, it is not surprising that the informal economy is a highly politicised field.

The conference will focus on the collectively organised responses of popular groups to drastically changed conditions for earning a living in

Africa. In particular, the aim is to concentrate on attempts to organise informal workers and to defend their interests. The term ‘informal workers’ is to be interpreted here in its widest sense, to include both casual labour and self-employed people. Some of the key issues to be debated are:

- What organising strategies are emerging around the interests of informal workers? Here, a range of different strategies will be explored. These include both collective initiatives emerging from within the informal economy and the responses of conventional workers’ organisations (i.e. trade unions) to the challenges posed by the extensive informalisation of the economy.
- What are the agendas of these civic groups and whom do they try to influence? What kind of relations do they entertain with the powerful actors that influence the conditions in which they live and work (such as international financial institutions, private companies, the national and local state)? What alternative practices and discourses, if any, are these civic groups promoting?
- What new alliances and constellations are emerging in this changing landscape of organised popular initiatives?
- Where is an oppositional politics taking place – at the local/national level and/or at the international level?

Organising around livelihood issues often cuts across other axes of affinity and difference that may be central for positions, relations and processes presented above. Authors are therefore encouraged to address relations based on age and religious or ethnic belonging whenever these are of relevance.

The conference hopes to explore geographical variations in the extent and traditions of organising, in the strategies adopted, in the nature of the evolving relations between trade unions and informal workers, and in the degree of participation in transnational movements. Longitudinal analyses could potentially bring insights into temporal variations.

The aim of the conference is to attract researchers from different disciplines as well as a number of civil society actors involved in organising of informal workers in Africa.

### Papers and schedule

Abstracts (not more than 500 words) of papers to be presented must be sent by mail, e-mail or fax **not later than 20 August 2006** to Ilda Lindell or Anna Eriksson-Trenter, using the contact details below. Abstracts must be written in English, French or Portuguese and include a title, the author's name and institutional affiliation. Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by airmail and e-mail by the end of August. Completed papers should be received no later than 28 February 2007.

The Nordic Africa Institute, possibly in cooperation with an international publishing house, will seek to publish a selection of revised papers.

### PAPERS THAT ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING THEMES ARE PARTICULARLY WELCOME

Associations emerging from  
within the informal economy

Organising across the formal-  
informal divide

Transnational organising

Gender dynamics

*For more details on the themes, please  
visit [www.nai.uu.se](http://www.nai.uu.se)*

### Venue and financial arrangements

The conference will take place in Uppsala, Sweden. The organizers will provide free board and lodging for all paper presenters. No per diems will be paid. Participants are encouraged to finance their own travel costs but if unable to do so, they may apply to the Nordic Africa Institute for return airfare (economy fare) from their place of residence to Uppsala. ■

### Contact details

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Anna Eriksson-Trenter, administrator,  
The Nordic Africa Institute. Phone: +46-18 56 22 51,  
e-mail: [anna.eriksson-trenter@nai.uu.se](mailto:anna.eriksson-trenter@nai.uu.se)

# Youth's Independent Migration from Rural Burkina Faso to Ouagadougou

By: Dorte Thorsen



Dorte Thorsen is a researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute, and holds a DPhil in African Studies, University of Sussex, United Kingdom

This research project, established in 2005, addresses rural-urban livelihood linkages from the perspective of young migrants in the age group 14–24 years and aims to understand better the complexities in rural youth's livelihood practices and their choices of certain options over others. The study focuses on youth who have travelled on their own from remote rural villages in south-eastern Burkina Faso to the capital, Ouagadougou, in search of wage labour and explores how they experience the city and how they adapt to life away from the security and constraints of large rural households. Moreover, it explores how youth migrants create social networks to provide information and security in the urban setting and how they deal with problems experienced at work as well as in other spheres of life. Along this line, the study aims to locate feasible measures to alleviate those problems in co-operation with the young migrants and relevant youth and labour organisations. A complementary aim of the research is to address the broader questions of how the complex aspects of young migrants' everyday working lives match their perceptions of what social positions they can generate and occupy in the city and back home, and their creation of particular identities immediately and in the long term.

## Study area

The research focuses on youth migrants from the Bisa region in south-eastern Burkina Faso where Thorsen has carried out research since 1997. Her familiarity with this region and many people's familiarity with her facilitate the contact and co-operation with young migrants. Moreover, the in-depth knowledge of the rural social worlds helps understanding youth migrants' circumstances, preferences and choices.

## Methods

An important part of this project is the production of primary ethnographic data by involving young migrants in the research. Therefore, Thorsen will use a combination of participatory methods, from involving the youngsters in writing/recording diaries and making photographs to employ and train a small number of young migrants to carry out interviews with their peer group. Additionally, she plans to make in-depth interviews with young migrants herself and to visit systematically their workspaces. Using a range of methods will enable more young migrants to participate, since many are constrained by long working hours and the need to earn an income every day. Finally, she intends to map the approaches of Burkinabe youth and labour organisations to young migrants from rural areas in order to initiate and facilitate some communication between young migrants and relevant youth and labour organisations in Ouagadougou to see whether such an approach could elicit new and innovative tools to solve young migrants' problems. This could be, for example, through informal or semi-formal institutions that reached out to the youngsters and offered them information about their rights, possible strategies to avoid problems and support in case of trouble. ■

# Global Compact

## *Nordic and African perspectives*

By: Nina Frödin, the Nordic Africa Institute

*The Global Compact (GC) was an initiative launched by Secretary-General Kofi Annan on 26 July 2000. The purpose of Global Compact is to have the multinational corporations take responsibility for sustainable development in the environment, human rights and ethics within their respective lines of business.*

Can private business join hands with the UN in promoting a more sustainable and inclusive global economy? Is it reasonable to set one's hopes on a sector whose primary goal is to make profit to also work for a responsible corporate citizenship? The Global Compact initiative offers different activities in order to promote its ten principles.

Some argue that society is not capable of dealing with the gigantic development problems ahead without an increase in private investments and local development. Hence, instead of business interests and human rights opposing each other, Global Compact aims to be a bridge between them and dissolve the conflict, create a platform for dialogue and open up new opportunities.

### Nordic and African initiatives

Norway's contribution to corporate responsibility preceded the UN Global Compact initiative and goes back to KOMpakt (The Consultative Body for Human Rights and Norwegian Economic Engagement Abroad) established in 1998. KOMpakt aims to bring business leaders, employees, NGOs, academic institutions and government together in order to explore each other's roles and points of view with the aim of improving human rights. Responsible corporate decision-making is done with regard to both where and how to invest abroad and with whom to trade. Norway is one of the major contributors to the UN Global Compact.

The Prime Minister of Sweden launched an initiative in March 2002. The purpose of the partnership entitled Swedish Partnership for Global Responsibility (SPGP) is to encourage Swedish companies to adhere to OECD guidelines for multinational companies and the principles of the UN Global Compact. SPGP offers training on the international regulatory framework and its implementation, provides regular information on international developments in the field and in specific countries, and provides a forum for presenting viewpoints on how international and national policy should be developed. A conference on corporate social responsibility was held in March 2004 and the conclusions suggested that development agencies could support corporate responsibility in a number of ways, through e.g. acting as mediators, using integrity pacts as conditions for loans or being disseminators of good practice.

Denmark founded the Public Private Partnership (Offentlige Private Partnerskaber – OPP) as a follow-up to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg and has allocated DKK 100 million for a period of five years. OPP endorses the ten principles of the Global Compact as well as financial profitability. It strives to ensure corporate responsibility and assist Danish companies with know-how and funding when investing in developing countries. The investments are meant to contribute

positively to local capacity building, Danish corporate possibilities and the social responsibility of businesses.

The Helsinki conference of 2005 in Finland saw a number of recommendations being agreed upon by participating countries in the area of fair labour, ensuring that economic growth is not contrary to environmental sustainability and enhancing corporate responsibility. It was suggested this could be done through an incentive and reward system tied to the Global Compact on behalf of governments and better monitoring and accountability systems on behalf of businesses. As of today, eight Finnish companies have joined the GC and the International Chamber of Commerce of Finland is coordinating the work of Finnish companies in the area of the Global Compact.

An *African initiative* in the spirit of the Global Compact was launched by Nelson Mandela in 1995 and became the National Business Initiative in South Africa with a mission to “enhance the business contribution to sustainable growth and development in South Africa” ([www.nbi.org.ze](http://www.nbi.org.ze)). A key motor of this vision is the belief that the mobilisation of business leadership and corporate support can play a pivotal role in entrenching social, economic and environmental stability as the pillars of a fully inclusive, non-discriminatory democracy. Some 140 South African and international companies have hitherto joined the initiative, many also adhering to the GC, which 105 Africa based companies have joined.

### Some critical issues

A major criticism of GC is that it is not a legally binding contract. Critics want to see a contract that outlines specific rules with an independent supervision. A further critical comment has been that the Global Compact increases the multinational corporations’ power over the UN and world politics and that the UN has abdicated from its role as a supervisor of the multinational corporations (MCs). Several NGOs have pointed out that there is a risk that companies make use of the UN cooperation, to get a more “human profile”, so called *Bluewash (Tangled up in blue, corporate partnership at the UN)*, Transnational

## Global Compact 10 Principles

### Human Rights

PRINCIPLE 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

PRINCIPLE 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

### Labour Standards

PRINCIPLE 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

PRINCIPLE 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

PRINCIPLE 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

PRINCIPLE 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

### Environment

PRINCIPLE 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

PRINCIPLE 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

PRINCIPLE 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies

### Anti-Corruption

PRINCIPLE 10: Businesses should work against all forms of corruption, including extortion and bribery.

Resource and Action Center, September 2000, see [www.earthrights.org/un/tangled.pdf](http://www.earthrights.org/un/tangled.pdf). This is of particular interest in developing markets e.g. in conflict prone regions such as Africa. The idea of using trade to strengthen peace is not new. We have for example seen the emergence of businesses assisting to stabilise Somaliland. Originating in Africa, the diamond industry with its illegal trade and financing of wars, is one example where NGOs have worked hard to bring a problematic sector onto the international agenda. The result

is documented trade, certified diamonds and registers through the Kimberley Process of “voluntary self-regulation”. Recent critical reports have however found little evidence of genuine attempts to deliver on industry commitments. One such example is the illicit diamond trade in Côte d’Ivoire, which is helping to fund *Forces Nouvelles*, a rebel group that controls the northern part of the country (*Making it work: Why the Kimberly Process must do more to stop conflict diamonds*, November 2005, [www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/diamond/2005/stopconflict.pdf](http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/issues/diamond/2005/stopconflict.pdf)). Diamonds are smuggled out into neighbouring Mali and then sold on the international market.

Is there not a risk though that all these initiatives are exhausting companies? Is it feasible to demand that a company is attached to ten or more associations, guidelines and networks with the need to continuously monitor and follow them up? This is a valid question considering the discussion on the constant flow of progress and follow-up reports required by donors to projects and governments in developing countries.

Another problem with moral regimes is: How far does a signatory’s accountability go? Is a company accountable for its customers? This question became a “hot issue” in Sweden when it was shown that a client of a Swedish company – both signatories of the Global Compact – was dumping cyanide and abusing local villagers who were protesting in Ghana. Voices were raised to make the Swedish company cease selling to dubious companies. Is that the responsibility of a producer?

### The UN and a new GC framework

A question which is often raised, is why the UN Secretary-General decided to launch the Global Compact version in its current outline and not as a binding document with independent supervision. The UN does not seem to have an ambition to introduce a monitoring system. One understandable reason is funding. The UN Secretariat has neither the mandate nor resources for this, and what would the sanctions be? Instead, the initiative uses a model based on learning, dialogue, network-

ing and transparency. Participants are expected to communicate on an annual basis with their stakeholders about the progress they are making with respect to the implementation of each of the ten principles and specific guidelines exist. Hence, the UN emphasizes the voluntary part of the idea and looks at the new globalised business agenda as promoting development, pushed by active and aware consumers. A powerful tool for the GC could be to create peer-review groups. If the transparency is such that the companies within the same market actively review the competition’s adherence to the principles, this will be at no cost to the UN but work rather effectively.

The UN can be seen as providing far more than what it gains in return as the Global Compact is not legally binding. This is of particular concern as the signatories are allowed to use the GC logo, something that gives a strong legitimacy and acceptance of a company and its methods. However, herein also lies a weakness of legitimacy as neither the symbol or the initials of the UN figures in it.

The UN is making efforts to strengthen the GC initiative. A new framework was presented in the autumn of 2005. The good news is that the GC Office (GCO) operations “will become more strategic and outcome-oriented”. This means that efforts will aim at linking global dialogues and campaigns with sectoral and local needs and actions. The GCO has also “developed stronger integrity measures” obstructing the misuse of the UN’s or GC’s name and logo. The GCO has also presented guidelines for *Allegations of Systematic or Egregious Abuses* that filter filed complaints. A problem still remains in the GC’s core idea of self-regulation.

Is there a risk that the debate on corporate social responsibility will allow companies to take over formulating policies from democratically elected entities? Considering the deals many MCs are making with governments who are looking for job opportunities for their people and voters in many regions of the world, the question is not so easy. It is clear however, that governments and NGOs need to work with the private sector

in finding practical solutions and developing visions. The Nordic countries could play an instrumental role in pushing the GC principles forward. Nordic businesses, unions and politicians have a good track record on coming to joint and comprehensive solutions. They also have a longstanding history regarding ethics and local ownership in aid and support to the governments in Southern Africa during the liberation period. Nordic consumers need more information about the GC initiative, however, in particular regarding its legitimacy. A consumer-directed market campaign is undoubtedly needed. Globalisation has created concerned consumers, and they are a powerful tool in the implementation and follow-up of the GC. It is very important for the resource-

Nina Frödin is Information Officer and Assistant Project Co-ordinator for the 'Documentation Project' at the Nordic Africa Institute.



rich, conflict-torn and youth-dominated Africa that businesses participate in the democratic and sustainable development of its countries. ■

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### STUDYING AFRICA: A GUIDE TO THE SOURCES

Edited by Kristina Rylander

Translated by Linda Linnarsson and Andrew Byerley 2005

Studying Africa provides an introduction to the basic handbooks and standard works on contemporary Africa. It also offers guidance on searching for literature and facts within the field of the social sciences.

NB! The English version is only available as a pdf.

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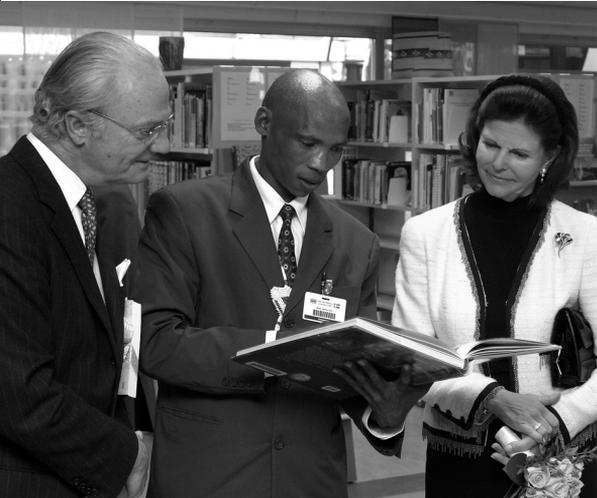
AFRICAN PRESIDENTS VISIT THE INSTITUTE

President Mogae of Botswana

On 23 March 2006, President Festus Mogae, accompanied by Mrs Barbara G. Mogae and their Majesties The King and The Queen of Sweden, visited the Institute and gave a lecture entitled 'Botswana's Evolving Society after four Decades of Independence'.



Her Majesty The Queen of Sweden, Mrs Barbara G. Mogae, Director Carin Norberg, His Majesty The King of Sweden, President Festus Mogae. Photo by Karim Kerrou, NAI.



His Majesty The King of Sweden, Mr. Xlale Kilo, Councilor for New Xade and Her Majesty The Queen of Sweden. Photo by Alexis Daflos, the Swedish Royal Court.



Director Carin Norberg shows the award 'The healthiest organisation of the year 2005', which the Institute received a week earlier, to His Majesty The King of Sweden and President Festus Mogae. Photo by Karim Kerrou, NAI.

## President Hifikepunye Pohamba of Namibia

On 10 May 2006, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, accompanied by a delegation, visited the Institute. The president gave a lecture on 'Zero tolerance on corruption in Namibia'.



The President of Namibia, Hifikepunye Pohamba, and the Director of the Nordic Africa Institute, Carin Norberg.



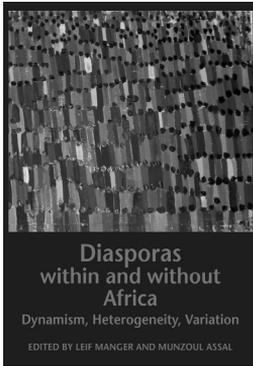
Browsing the library. The President with Marco Hausiku, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Immanuel Ngatjizeko, Minister of Trade and Industry.



President Pohamba and Chief librarian Åsa Lund-Moberg.

Photos: Karim Kerrou, the Nordic Africa Institute

## Recent publications



Leif Manger & Munzoul Assal

### **Diasporas Within and Without Africa** *Dynamism, Heterogeneity, Variation*

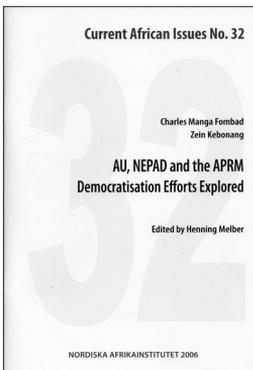
ISBN 91-7106-563-6, 240 pp, SEK 290/ Euro 29

This book deals with two types of “African diasporas”, the first of which originated in the migration histories of the Indian Ocean and brought new groups into Africa. This is illustrated by case studies of Hadrami communities in Sudan and Zanzibar, and the Malay community in Cape Town, that produced trade links as well as processes of Islamization. The second type originated with the failing African states and cases discussed are an Eritrean diaspora in Germany, alongside Sudanese diasporas in Norway and the USA, and a Somali diaspora in Norway.

The chapters in the book deal with processes of homemaking, political mobilization in the diaspora through local organisations, religious networks and cyberspace nationalism. The central conceptual argument is that “diaspora” is not only a post-modern reaction to the xenophobia of Western nation states but must be seen as part of a broader history of human migration and intercultural experience. This calls for a perspective which takes into consideration historically produced variation and dynamism.

Munzoul Assal teaches anthropology at the University of Khartoum, Sudan.

Leif Manger is professor of social anthropology at the University of Bergen.



Charles Manga Fombad and Zein Kebonang, edited by Henning Melber

### **AU, NEPAD and the APRM** *Democratisation Efforts Explored*

ISBN 91-7106-569-5, 56 pp, SEK 90/Euro 9, Series: Current African Issues no. 32

The African Union (AU) and The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) reflect a hitherto unprecedented collective political effort by African governments to address issues of democracy and good governance on a continental scale. The visible commitments are reflected in the adoption of a variety of programmatic blueprints and a series of newly created or recently strengthened institutions. Most visibly since the integration of NEPAD into the AU, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) has started a process to address some of the obstacles on the basis of a voluntary assessment of African government policies. The contributions to this publication trace the recent developments from a policy perspective and explore the scope and limit of the current democratisation efforts. They present an interim prognosis on the extent to which the visible new dynamics actually give realistic hope for achieving sustainable changes in terms of the declared goals.

The authors both lecture at the Department of Law, the University of Botswana in Gaborone.

Pedro Pinto Leite, Magnus Schöldtz, Toby Shelley, Pål Wrangé  
with contributions by Hans Corell and Karin Scheele, edited by Claes Olsson

## The Western Sahara Conflict

*The role of natural resources in decolonization*

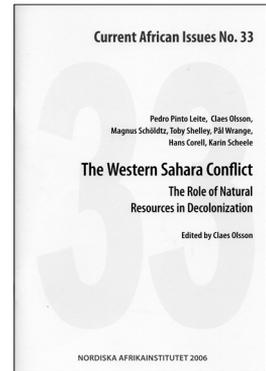
ISBN 91-7106-571-7, 30 pp, SEK 90/Euro 9, Series: Current African Issues no. 33

This publication gives a comprehensive background to the long-running conflict on the status of Western Sahara and particularly highlights the question of the territory's natural resources, such as fish, oil and phosphates.

It analyses why this territory, mainly covered by desert and only sparsely populated, has since 1976, when the former colonial power Spain officially ceded the territory, engaged governments and people, both regionally and internationally, and the implications of its natural resources.

The publication includes: a summary of the Western Sahara conflict; an up-to-date picture of the situation in Western Sahara with regard to natural resources, and the way in which exploitation is taking place; the UN's legal opinion from 2002 on exploitation of the natural resources of a Non-Self-Governing Territory. An extended chronology, over the different phases of the conflict is also included.

Claes Olsson has done further research after his degree in social sciences and is the author of several books and articles on the Western Sahara issue.



Fibian Kavulani Lukalo

## Extended Handshake or Wrestling Match?

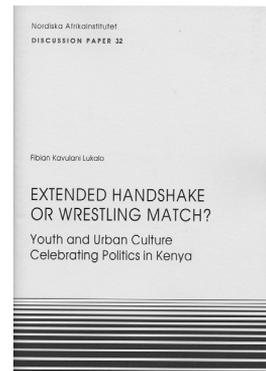
*Youth and Urban Culture Celebrating Politics in Kenya*

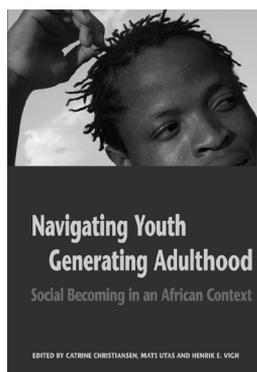
91-7106-567-9, 60 pp, SEK 110/ Euro 11 Series: Discussion Paper 32

One of the factors affecting the social, political and economic situation in Africa today is the youth. Among today's African populations, there are various groups of younger people who find themselves disillusioned with the inevitable lack of political space available to them for meeting their needs. There is no question that since the early 1980s the youth have increasingly begun to agitate for political accountability from their leaders. This agitation has taken various forms, key among which were artistic expressions through music. In this way, youth carved out for themselves a niche of 'social inclusion' from which they questioned corrupt practices. These practices, by state agents, leaders and the common 'mwananchi', were intimately linked to moral decay in the society.

This Discussion Paper addresses the varied notions of culture, politics and youth music in the Kenyan context during former President Moi's presidency. Moving away from the notion that youth activities can be equated with terror and acts of idleness, the author examines the historical centrality of music and politics in Kenya. The underlying thrust of this discussion is to reflect upon and dispel the assumption that, through their music, youth in Kenya are engaged in violent activities against the state.

Fibian Kavulani Lukalo is a Lecturer in Culture and Communication at Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya.





Catrine Christiansen, Mats Utas & Henrik Vigh (eds)

## Navigating Youth, Generating Adulthood

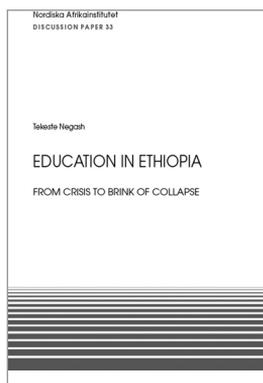
*Social Becoming in an African Context*

91-7106-578-4, 250 pp, SEK 290/ Euro 29

This book focuses on the lives and experiences of young people in Africa. On agents who, willingly or unwillingly, see themselves as belonging to the socio-generational category of youth and the ways in which they seek to shape and unfold their lives in a positive manner. Rather than seeing youth as either a social or cultural entity in itself, or as a predefined life-stage, the book argues for an exploration of how youth position themselves and are positioned within generational categories. In studying young people, social scientists must conceptualise youth as both social *being* and social *becoming*; a position in movement. It is from the duality of being positioned and seeking one's own socio-generational position that this book engages in the debate on contemporary African youth.

The chapters are based on ethnographic research across the African continent and provide in-depth analyses of the perceptions, positions, possibilities, and practices of diverse groups of young people.

Catrine Christiansen is research fellow at the University of Copenhagen. Mats Utas holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from Uppsala University. Henrik E. Vigh holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Copenhagen.



Tekeste Negash

## Education in Ethiopia

*From Crisis to Brink of Collapse*

91-7106-576-8, 60 pp, SEK 110/Euro 11 Series: Discussion Paper

The main focus of this study is the deepening crisis of the Ethiopian education system. This study reconstructs the growth of the crisis of the sector during the last four decades. It then discusses the implications of the crisis in terms of communication breakdown; absence of analytical capacity at system level; the fragmentation of society; loss of political legitimacy and perpetuation of authoritarian power. Although the education sector has greatly expanded its impact on poverty alleviation has so far been insignificant. The poverty landscape has changed to the worse during the last fifty years. This is largely due to the fact that the Ethiopian education system is based on false premises.

At the centre of the crisis is the use of English as medium of instruction. The proficiency in English is so low that its continued use as a medium of instruction can only lead to the collapse of the education system. The study argues that it is only through language (readily understood and practised) that collective life and the world can be interpreted in an integrated manner. The replacement of English by Ethiopian languages all the way from the primary to tertiary levels is one of the factors that could strengthen the survival potential of the Ethiopian political community.

Tekeste Negash is an Associate Professor of Modern History. Currently, he is engaged in an International Master's course in African Studies at Dalarna University.

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