A man walking along oil pipelines belonging to Italian oil company Agip in Obrikom, Nigeria. Global demand for Africa’s energy and natural resources has increased dramatically, permitting many countries to start diversifying their economies for the first time in decades and to invest in the strategic infrastructure necessary for raising productivity and growth.
OUR VISION:
African People
Shaping their own Destiny

OUR GOALS:
Research of High Quality
Equality in Determining the Research Agenda
An Impact on Policy

The Nordic Africa Institute (Nordiska Afrikainstitutet) is a center for research, documentation and information on modern Africa in the Nordic region. Based in Uppsala, Sweden, the Institute is dedicated to providing timely, critical and alternative research and analysis of Africa in the Nordic countries and to co-operation between African and Nordic researchers. As a hub and a meeting place in the Nordic region for a growing field of research and analysis the Institute strives to put knowledge of African issues within reach for scholars, policy makers, politicians, media, students and the general public. The Institute is financed jointly by the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden).

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Photo: Ju Zhemua/Xinhua Press/Corbis

"Conflict" photo on page 13. Protesters attending a demonstration in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire’s commercial capital, 8 March, 2011.
Photo: Ding Haitao/Xinhua/Xinhua Press/Corbis

"Rural" photo on page 23. Fairtrade cotton farmers in Kita region of Mali.
Photo: Simon Rawles/Getty Images

"Urban" photo on page 31. A bicycle “taxi”, known locally as boda-boda, carrying a businessman through the centre of the town Mbale, Uganda.
Photo: Eric Miller
IN 2010, ALMOST ONE-THIRD of Africa’s 53 countries celebrated 50 years of independence. This milestone is certainly cause for reflection, on the past as well as the future. While much of the continent is experiencing a remarkable economic and political renaissance, one thing is clear – the image of Africa is as multifaceted as ever.

When African leaders met for the World Economic Forum in Cape Town in June 2010, they took a relatively optimistic view of both the short-term economic outlook for Africa and its long-term development needs. However, in terms of human rights and democracy many signs point in the opposite direction. According to the Mo Ibrahim Index 2010, political rights were being undermined and the security situation had worsened in Africa. The report indicates that 35 states have declined in the Safety and Rule of Law category in the past five years, while 30 have slipped in Participation and Human Rights performance.

MIRACLE OR MIRAGE? The story of development in Africa greatly depends on the perspective of the observer. While Africa certainly is not a “hopeless continent” (as it was once described by The Economist), it will face great challenges in its attempts to sustain economic and political momentum. The new African miracle cannot be attributed to a single factor, but is the result of a combination of internal and external considerations, writes NAI research director Fantu Cheru in this Annual Report.

The dynamic and complex development of Africa is at the very core of our work here at the Nordic Africa Institute. The will to explore and study the underlying cultural, political and economic factors is what drives our research forward. Another equally important task is making our research easily available to our academic colleagues, decisionmakers, journalists and the public.

IN MARCH 2010, the Institute launched its first volume of the new Africa Now Series with Zed Books in London. The book *The Rise of China and India in Africa* is edited by Professor Fantu Cheru and NAI senior researcher Dr Cyril Obi. One of its main themes is the apparent lack of African strategy to deal with emerging superpowers such as China and India, which are flocking to the continent in search of oil, land and other raw materials.

Africa’s informal workers are at the heart of our second book in the Africa Now series, *Africa’s Informal Workers: Collective Agency, Alliances and Transnational Organizing in Urban Africa*, edited by NAI researcher Dr Ilda Lindell. The book shows that the decline in formal employment opportunities has led to a dramatic increase in self-employment in most African cities. At the same time, informal economies have tended to become more deeply enmeshed in international commodity circuits. These trends have led to new opportunities for some groups, but increased vulnerability for many.

The heterogeneity of Africa was also a topic of debate ahead of the 2010 Göteborg Book Fair, where NAI played a key role in organizing the Africa theme. Literature from all corners of the continent, each with a unique historical and cultural background, cannot be presented as “one”, some critics argued.

In my opinion the cultural diversity was part of the beauty of the event. The great variety of writers and presentations provided visitors with innumerable images of Africa and a unique opportunity for each individual to explore the cultural richness of the continent. For the story of Africa has not one strand, but many.

Carin Norberg
Director of the Nordic Africa Institute
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Globalization is rapidly changing the political, economic and social character of African societies. Drawing on different disciplines in the social sciences the cluster on Globalization, Trade and Regional Integration aims to take a broad view of these processes.
THE DRAMATIC RISE of China and India as emerging new powers in the world economy has dominated much of the news coverage in the past two years. Unfortunately, this singular focus has overshadowed an equally newsworthy subject, the spectacular economic and political renaissance of the African continent. Once described as the “hopeless continent” by *The Economist*, Africa is now attracting the attention of both the newly emerging Southern powers and the traditional Western trading partners. This rapid economic transformation has been aided by the significant progress in governance reform and a reduction in armed conflicts. Peace has brought with it the opportunity for development and democratization is gaining momentum. Moreover, rising commodity prices, increased investment in vital infrastructure by China and India and access to information by ordinary citizens thanks to the mobile phone revolution, have opened up new opportunities for rural producers to increase production and market their goods at the local and international levels. This domestic dynamism has in turn contributed to significant growth in the number of Africans who view themselves as middle class. With increased opportunities for employment and rising income, large numbers of Africans have become the new consumers, further spurring on the domestic economy.

INCREASED GLOBAL DEMAND

The new African miracle cannot be attributed to a single factor but is the result of a combination of internal and external considerations. Global demand for Africa’s energy and natural resources has increased dramatically, thus permitting many countries to start diversifying their economies for the first time in decades and to invest in the strategic infrastructure necessary for raising productivity and growth. Many African governments have put in place appropriate macroeconomic, structural and social policies, which have contributed to improved GDP growth rates. Significant efforts are being made by African governments to reverse the productivity decline in agriculture by instituting enabling po-

Once called the “hopeless continent”, Africa has become one of the world’s fastest growing economies. Now the challenge is to keep up the momentum. Can African nations push forward with the growth and democratization agenda?
licies and investing in vital infrastructure. A similar effort is being made to reverse the decline in higher education and to expand access to basic education.

Apart from the policy dimension, one of the most significant reasons for Africa’s renewal has been the emergence of an internet- and mobile phone-savvy citizenry, empowered by increased access to information about their own country and the world beyond, and ready to challenge or bypass stifling institutional barriers, formal and informal, to their economic success. With their ‘can do’ attitude, a new generation of Africans is transforming social and political relationships in a manner not seen before. The flag bearers of this new renaissance are to be found in the private sector, the informal economy, African diaspora organizations and social movements based in the church, human rights organizations, women’s movements and local government. These groups are united behind one thing: how to dismantle the “disabling state” and replace it with a state which is not only protector and supporter, but also enabler and liberator.

**SUSTAINED GROWERS**

Indeed, average incomes in sub-Saharan Africa have grown steadily since 2000. The average annual growth rate in sub-Saharan Africa increased from 3.7 per cent in 1996–2000 to 6.3 per cent in 2003–07. The latest edition of the *World Economic Outlook 2010* puts sub-Saharan Africa growth for 2008 and 2009 at 5.5 and 2.1 per cent respectively, and the latest projected growth rates are for 5.0 and 5.5 per cent for 2010 and 2011 respectively. Inflation declined from an average of 26.3 per cent during 1992–2001 to 9.4 per cent during 2002–09. More than one-third of Africans live in countries that had grown by more than 4 per cent annually for 10 years, and 18 countries are classified by the World Bank as “diversified and sustained growers”.

**THE CHINA-INDIA FACTOR**

While Europe and the United States remain important trading partners, Africa’s economic engagement is beginning to shift towards Asia and other developing countries. China alone now accounts for over 11 per cent of Africa’s external trade and is the region’s largest source of imports. Trade between China and Africa grew from a mere US$6.5 billion
In 1999 to over US$120 billion in 2010. Similarly, India’s trade with Africa surged from US$941 million in 1991 to more than US$25 billion in 2008. Besides China and India, other emerging economies (such as Brazil, South Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam and Turkey) have become increasingly active in many African countries, a clear indication that North-South relations are being superseded by South-East, even Africa-South-East relations, with profound implications for Africa’s development.

**Exploring New Opportunities**

There has been a remarkable shift in economic management by African governments, an indication that state capacity to manage complex issues is improving, and that the mantle of state power (at the level of state bureaucracy at least) is being passed to a new generation of competent, energetic Africans with a “can-do” entrepreneurial spirit. African governments have learned from the bitter experience of the adjustment decades of the 1980s and 1990s how to avoid the macroeconomic mistakes, excessive borrowing and uncontrollable spending that led to the collapse of growth in the past. When the global financial crisis occurred, many African governments put in place a series of measures, including targeted assistance to sectors, capital and exchange controls, a government borrowing freeze and expansionary fiscal policy. Such pragmatic responses by African governments to the financial crisis clearly indicate how far development policy practices on the continent have come over the past couple of decades. There is a willingness by governments to explore new opportunities; prudently manage public finances; minimize economic risks; and engage with domestic economic actors more constructively on the way forward. This is very encouraging and part of the reason why Africa has done well in recent years. Sustaining the efficient management of the economy by a committed and visionary state is the litmus test for Africa’s long term growth.

**Avoiding Complacency**

While the conditions for Africa’s growth and development are much more favourable today than a decade ago, African policy-makers should avoid complacency and must remain focused on tackling the key structural bottlenecks that threaten or undermine growth and development. The ability of African countries to chart their own independent development path remains limited. As a new door to economic opportunity is opened to African countries with the rise of the BRICS, lurking in the background are new risks that Africa must avoid or manage strategically. More importantly, greater attention is needed to strengthen the foundations of sustained growth, manage public finances prudently and maintain strong strategic business-government alliances to tackle the constraints on growth and promote employment among the growing and increasingly youthful population.

**Keeping Up the Momentum**

In the final analysis, central to sustaining Africa’s growth momentum is the development of strong and effective state institutional structures (from central to local level) that will advance the growth and democratization agenda in the context of a common national vision. An effective state is a prerequisite for a well-functioning market. As the successful development experience of China and Asian industrializing countries has shown, a competent state has a vital role to play in guiding national development, nurturing the private economic actors by providing incentives for them to grow and export, re-engineering business processes, enhancing the investment climate for both domestic and foreign investment, investing in human capital and delivering adequate public services. Maintaining momentum would also entail supporting the legal and financial institutional framework of the economy. The legal system must uphold order, act as a check on government and protect property rights, human rights and contract rights. The financial system must promote household savings and channel them into productive enterprises. These are some of the ingredients that have gone into Africa’s recent growth miracle and are necessary to sustain it. The continent has changed forever and there is no going back!
“NEW PARADIGM NEEDED FOR AFRICA TRADE”

1. African countries have achieved encouragingly high rates of economic growth in recent years. Why are you still concerned about their economic performance?

A: Economic growth alone is not enough for proper development of a country’s economy. If the right factors underlie economic growth, it has prospects for being sustainable. But if it’s not driven by the right factors, then it is just a mirage. Recent growth in Africa, due to higher prices for raw materials, is not sustainable. Another reason behind the positive figures is the preferential access to European and other major markets. African countries can easily sell certain volumes because of the relaxation of import regulations – not because they can compete.

2. Why are you calling for a new paradigm for trade development?

A: Two sets of measures have dominated traditional initiatives and continue to dominate current efforts to support trade development in Africa. These are actions to open markets to African products and to liberalize African economies to make trade compatible with WTO standards. These measures, however, do not take into account Africa’s problem – a lack of products to export. All prosperous countries have started by building the necessary capacity to produce products for export, and this is what African nations also need to do.

3. How can African countries strengthen their production capacity?

A: Look at South Korea for example. The South Koreans promoted entrepreneurship, made government interventions where appropriate and put the necessary laws and regulations in place. Education, physical infrastructure as well as technological, institutional and entrepreneurial capacities are needed, along with financial resource capacities.

4. So African nations can learn from Asia in developing strong export economies?

A: The whole idea of a paradigm shift for Africa comes from observing the transformation of Asian economies. There are strong similarities: for example, Asian countries have also gone through a colonial period and they are generally multiethnic. Asian states, however, were able to use the postcolonial period to achieve phenomenal economic development.

5. How do conditions in the two continents differ?

A: Well, most strikingly, in many cases African countries looked stronger than those in Asia. There are strong similarities, for example Asian countries have also gone through a colonial period and they are generally multiethnic. The economic data in 1960 were almost identical for all three, but the prospects for the two African countries were better because they had natural resources, while basically the Koreans had none. Even so, by 1985 South Korea was a developed nation while Ghana and Zambia showed very little economic progress.
Lisa Åkesson contrasts the stories of three Cape Verden returnees who have worked in Europe and examines some of the assumptions underlying the policies on migration, development and return that are currently being devised in Europe. She questions the idea that European influences are always beneficial for development.
Two factors made me come back: the improvement in healthcare in Cape Verde and the increase in tourist visits, which made it possible to open a hotel.

Now Sofia is the proud owner of a well-kept guesthouse with five employees.

The Island State of Cape Verde, some 400 kilometres off the Senegalese coast, may be small in extent – Cape Verdeans often talk about their archipelago as grains of sand in the middle of the ocean – but its people are widely dispersed. For more than a century, Cape Verdeans have left for America, the African continent and Europe, and today the diaspora probably exceeds the half-million people who have stayed behind.

It is striking that whereas the debate on the integration of African migrants into Europe is focused on segregation and exploitation, policies on migration and development portray returning migrants as having benefited from fruitful exposure to valuable values and knowledge. The (neo) colonial idea that European influences are always beneficial for development seems to linger in this line of thought.

Through my research, I have met Cape Verdeans who have worked in Europe and then returned. One such returnee is Sofia who left as a teenager for Italy, where she worked as a domestic for many years until she was offered a job as a hotel receptionist, a job she enjoyed. “I kept my eyes open”, Sofia says, “and I learned everything about running a hotel”.

After 35 years abroad, Sofia returned with savings and plans for opening a small hotel.

The Story of Alfonso is very different, although he too spent more than three decades abroad. In the Netherlands, Alfonso worked as a mariner, a factory worker and a night guard. After obtaining the right to a pension, he returned “home”. Alfonso never learnt Dutch, and although he talks of the Netherlands as “the land that gives me my food”, it is clear that he never felt himself to be a member of Dutch society. When I ask him about the possibilities for him to “do something for Cape Verde”, Alfonso stresses that it is his right to enjoy his pension in peace and quiet after all his working years.

The Third Returnee, Filomena, is younger and poorer than Sofia and Alfonso. Filomena migrated to Portugal in order to study and acquired a bachelor’s degree in information technology. After graduating, she remained in Portugal.
and worked as a cleaner and waitress, always taking on two jobs, since she had to send money home to support her two children and her mother. After working too hard and eating too little for a long time, Filomena was totally worn out and decided to return to Cape Verde. Now she has found an administrative job for which she is overqualified in her home town and earns just enough to feed her children. It is interesting to contrast these stories with the policies on migration, development and return that are currently produced on a massive scale in Europe. Many policymakers express high expectations about the possibilities for return migrants to support development in their countries of origin. One salient assumption in these policies is that a few years of work abroad is all that is needed to acquire the capital and skills needed to engage in entrepreneurial activities upon return.

Returnees in Cape Verde generally maintain that one must stay abroad 20 to 30 years to save enough money to initiate an entrepreneurial activity. For many migrants, it is economically impossible to return prior to becoming eligible for an old age pension.

Second, Alfonso’s and Filomena’s stories show us that the majority of the Cape Verdean returnees have little use for their working experiences from abroad. Cape Verdean migrants, like other African migrants, often end up in menial and repetitive jobs. In fact, they are sought after precisely because their living conditions force them to accept jobs that offer few opportunities for acquiring new skills and knowledge.

Third, Filomena’s experiences demonstrate that even highly educated returnees may find it difficult to earn a living upon their return, let alone contribute to positive social change. The “success story” of Sofia, however, reveals that under the right circumstances returnees may play an important role. Her achievement has been possible thanks to the structural changes that have occurred in Cape Verde over the last decades. Cape Verde has attracted both development support and external investment by marketing its political stability and good governance. This has resulted in improvements in basic infrastructure and sustained economic growth, which in turn has facilitated entrepreneurial activities such as Sofia’s.

Sofia’s story highlights the fact that wider economic, political and social structures fundamentally influence the returnees’ potential to support positive development, a factor often overlooked in policies on migration and development. The current celebration of returnees as ‘grassroots developers’ renders economic and political constraints less visible by placing the responsibility for development on the shoulders of individuals. It thus reflects a neoliberal stance on development. In contrast, the changes that have occurred in Cape Verde suggest that it is structural development, more than any other factor, that may lead to an increase in returns that are beneficial to local society.

All names mentioned in this article have been changed in order to protect the identity of the people interviewed.
What are the factors underlying conflicts in Africa? How can a society torn apart by violence get back on the path of lasting peace and democracy? These are the key issues examined by the researchers of the cluster on Conflict, Security and Democratic Transformation.
West Africa continues to throw up situations that challenge one of the international community’s basic assumptions, namely that multiparty elections constitute the key element in peacemaking and peace-building in Africa.

Events in 2010 underscore the need to rethink the role of transition elections in post-conflict peace-building in West Africa and the role of regional institutions and the international community in consolidating democracy and peace. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), working with the African Union (AU), the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and the international community has shown zero tolerance for unconstitutional changes in the region. It has promptly suspended errant member states on the basis of the ECOWAS Declaration of Political Principles and the ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance.

Events in West Africa during 2010 show that the democratic project is still contested terrain. Perhaps the lesson is that there is a limit to which the international community can use multiparty elections to consolidate democracy and peace, writes Cyril Obi.
The December 2008 coup d’état in Guinea, following the death of President Lansana Conte and in violation of constitutional provisions, was met with immediate condemnation by ECOWAS and suspension of the country’s membership of that body. ECOWAS also appointed a high-level mission to engage with the military junta on the restoration of democratic rule. The organization partnered with the AU, UNOWA and the international community to press the military head of state, Captain Dadis Camara, to return Guinea to democratic rule within a year. However, a crisis erupted when Camara was suspected by the opposition of harbouring self-succession ambitions, prompting protests. During one of these in September 2009, soldiers fired on an opposition rally in a Conakry stadium, leaving scores dead and triggering international sanctions. Following an incident in which Camara was shot and flown abroad for treatment in December 2009, his successor, General Sekoube Konate, agreed to a transition plan and appointed a transitional government, which organized elections in 2010.

The elections were held in July 2010 with the support of ECOWAS, the AU and the International Contact Group on Guinea. Due to the inconclusive result in the first round, run-off elections were held in November. The two leading candidates, Alpha Conde and Cellou Diallo, polarized the country along ethnic lines: the former represented the Malinke (believed to have produced all presidents to date and well represented in the junta), and the latter represented the Peul or Fulani ethnic group (which had not produced a president).

Thus, when Alpha Conde was declared the victor in the re-run elections by a narrow margin, post-election violence erupted. The government, however, took steps to arrest a slide into chaos and to defuse the crisis. Thus, Guinea, after hotly disputed elections, successfully transitioned from military to democratic governance in 2010. However the sustainability of the new-won democracy will depend on the ability of the new government to address the contradictions in Guinean society in ways that constructively, equitably and inclusively engage the diverse groups and stakeholders in the country.

Niger Republic: From Constitutional Coup to Military Coup

In 2009, President Tanja, whose second five-year term was ending, tried to illegally extend his tenure. He sacked the National Assembly in June when opposition parties opposed his self-succession moves, and dissolved the constitutional court after it ruled in favour of the opposition that the planned referendum on tenure extension was illegal. He then constituted a new constitutional court that legitimized the referendum, in spite of mounting domestic opposition.

Tanja pressed ahead with his referendum in August and got a three year tenure extension. He then assumed full autocratic powers under emergency rule. This prompted a stern warning and suspension from ECOWAS in October 2009. ECOWAS appointed General Abdulsalami Abubakar as its mediator in the talks among Tanja, the opposition, civil society groups and stakeholders in the country. The AU and UNOWA also got involved in the mediation.
The talks dragged on but by 10 February 2010 were stalemated due to what an AU official, Kwaku Asante-Darko, described as Tanja’s rejection of an inclusive transition plan. On 18 February, a military coup ended Tanja’s rule, and the new military head of state, General Salou Djibo, assured Nigeriens and ECOWAS that his junta would organize transition elections within a year. True to his promise and working with ECOWAS, the AU, UNOWA and the international community, a new constitution was drafted, with local and presidential elections slated for January 2011.

CÔTE D’IVOIRE: TWO PRESIDENTS, ONE COUNTRY
By the end of 2010, Côte d’Ivoire was teetering on the brink of renewed civil war. The immediate cause was the dispute over the result of the run-off presidential elections on 28 November. The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) declared Alassane Quatarr winner, with 54 per cent of votes cast, as against Laurent Gbagbo’s 46 per cent. In response, President Laurent Gbagbo rejected the result, and got the constitutional council to annul some of the votes cast in favour of Quatarr. Gbagbo was then pronounced the winner of the elections. The problem was further compounded when both men declared themselves to be the rightful president of Côte d’Ivoire. On 7 December, ECOWAS suspended Côte d’Ivoire in line with its Protocol on Good Governance and recognized Quatarr as the elected president based on the IEC results as endorsed by the UN secretary general’s special representative in the country.

Gbagbo rejected the ECOWAS decision and remained adamant. Thabo Mbeki, Raila Odinga (the AU-appointed mediator) and ECOWAS leaders Boni Yayi of Benin, Pedro Pires of Cape Verde and Ernest Koroma of Sierra Leone attempted to mediate between Gbagbo and Quatarr, but to no avail. Meanwhile, the divisions in Côte d’Ivoire, where Gbagbo is believed to enjoy the support of the military and ethnic groups in the south, as against Quatarr’s support base among northerners, have continued to widen, leading to increased tensions and violence in the country. At one point, ECOWAS threatened to use “legitimate force” to make Gbagbo quit power, but this option remains unlikely in the short to medium term.

CONTESTED DEMOCRATIC PROJECT
Although ECOWAS has made great efforts, the democratic project remains contested. Structural problems such as the unresolved citizenship question, ethnicity, inequality, marginalization and the role of neighbouring states and transnational actors continue to pose potent challenges to ECOWAS’s capacities and resources, according to Raheemat Modu, the Head of the ECOWAS Liaison Office to the African Union Commission. Perhaps the lesson is that there is a limit to which the international community can rely on multiparty elections as a quick alternative to supporting much more viable, inclusive and equitable processes aimed at resolving the problems facing post-conflict African states.
Since coming back to NAI in 2010, Tor Sellström has been running the research project entitled "African Island States in Peace and Conflict: Rising Tides in the Indian Ocean". From 1994 to 2001, he undertook a research project at NAI on the involvement of the Nordic countries in Southern Africa’s liberation process.

Q: In what ways do you think NAI has changed since you last worked as a researcher here?
A: There seem to be more resources available for research now. In addition, the formation of research clusters has been good, since within each cluster one can address the relevant issues for policy making, dialogue and debate. In general terms, there is more focus on research, which of necessity has become more policy-oriented. The library is as excellent as it has always been. I often say that if you cannot do good research at NAI, you simply cannot do good research! It is a very privileged environment.

Q: You are currently studying the island states of the Indian Ocean. What makes this region interesting?
A: The Indian Ocean and the African part of the Indian Ocean, namely the four independent states of the Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Comoros, are a special historic and cultural arena. At the same time, this area is generally overlooked and understudied. It is a part of Africa that has its exceptional success stories (Mauritius), endemic conflict (the Comoros) and deep political crisis (Madagascar). In the last decade the Indian Ocean has seen increasing competition, but also tension, due to the fact that half the world’s trade in oil and high-technology goods traverses this ocean. The activities of Somali pirates have led to an increasing presence of naval forces from both the world’s major and its emerging powers.

Q: What effects does the piracy have on the island states and what are they doing to counter it?
A: The piracy off the coast of Somalia began a couple of years ago and has rapidly and steadily spread. It affects the entire Indian Ocean. The effects are directly felt by the smaller island states, especially by the Seychelles in areas such as fisheries, transport and tourism. The combined consequence is a major threat to the islands’ national economies. The Seychelles are in the forefront of the fight against the pirates. The country’s capacity to respond to piracy has been beefed up by support from India, France and the UAE. The Seychelles has also entered into agreements with three countries (Somalia, Somaliland and Puntland) for the extradition of captured pirates.

Q: You argue that there is currently a recolonization of certain areas in the Indian Ocean. What action would you like to see from the Nordic countries in this regard?
A: There are two blatant cases of recolonization. One is Chagos, an island severed from Mauritius and retained by Britain within BIOT (British Indian Ocean Territory). Britain has leased Chagos to the US, which has built the strategically important military base of Diego Garcia on the island.

The other case is Mayotte, one of the four main islands of the Comoros. At the time of the independence of Comoros, the French hung on to Mayotte. Contrary to the UN decolonization declaration 1514, in 2011 France turned Mayotte into its 101st department. Already in 1995, France introduced visa restrictions for visits to Mayotte. Since then, 7,000 people have died trying to reach Mayotte. They are not emigrating or fleeing from the Comoros but are trying to access better social services or visit their families. France now wants Mayotte to be recognized by the EU as an Ultra Peripheral Region. All Nordic EU member states must take a stand and support the African Union (which strongly condemns this action), as well as Mauritius and the Comoros in the UN.

Q: In 2010 you were awarded an honorary doctorate by Uppsala University. What does the award mean to you?
A: I was overwhelmed when I was informed in late October. I am extremely happy to have been nominated by the Department of Peace and Conflict in Uppsala, with which I have had a longstanding involvement. I am also happy to have been given the honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Social Science at Uppsala University, one year shy of my retirement.
Dr Anders Sjögren is a researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute. He is responsible for the research project “The politics of belonging and exclusion: Land rights, citizenship and civil society in Kenya and Uganda.”

A supporter of reforming the Kenyan constitution participates in a rally in Nairobi, Kenya, on August 1, 2010.

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CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM IN KENYA: TOWARDS A NEW ORDER?

A turning point in Kenya’s long struggle for a new, democratic constitution came with the overwhelming approval of the proposed new constitution in last summer’s referendum. Yet the work of democratizing the Kenyan state has only just begun.

WHEN, AT 8:45PM ON 5 AUGUST 2010, the chairman of the Interim Independent Electoral Commission, Issack Hassan, officially declared that the Kenyan electorate had in a referendum approved the proposed new constitution, celebrations were already under way throughout the country. There was no uncertainty about the outcome. The victory was resounding: with 6,092,593 votes against 2,795,059, the Yes-side had decisively defeated the No-side by 66.9 per cent to 30.7 per cent (the remaining 2.4 per cent of votes cast were invalid). The impressive turnout (around 72 per cent of the 12.6 million registered voters) further strengthened the mandate.

The struggle for a new, democratic constitution has been at the centre of Kenyan politics for the last two decades: ever since, in fact, it had become clear that the mere reintroduction of multiparty politics was insufficient to safeguard democracy. The old constitution, inherited from colonial times and repeatedly amended to further concentrate power in the hands of the presidency, had served Kenya poorly. All key institutions – the judiciary, public service, security forces, provincial administration and parliament – had over time been reduced to instruments of authoritarian domination. The push for constitutional reform started in the mid-1990s, but has been beset by a series of subversions and manipulations. The NARC government came to power in 2002 after campaigning on a platform for a new constitution. This promise was to be betrayed, too. After a popular-driven draft was torpedoed, the diluted proposal of the conservative wing of the divided government was rejected in a referendum in 2005.

Following the post-election crisis of 2008, the grand coalition government was mandated to implement a number of fundamental reforms, including delivering a new constitution. After a lengthy process, including intensive political bargaining, the committee of experts presented a draft constitution to parliament at the beginning of 2010. In the meantime, the parliamentary consensus on constitutional reform had begun to crack. By the time parliament passed the draft, an opposition grouping had emerged. The No-side, allocated the colour red as their symbol, was an amalgam of a few cabinet ministers, former President Daniel arap Moi and a number of Christian leaders. They campaigned on a cocktail of issues centred on moral concerns, but also land: they claimed – erroneously – that the government would be able to confiscate private land arbitrarily. The Yes-side, green in colour, spanned most of the political establishment, including both the president and prime minister. Most groups in civil society, including both labour and employer organizations, sided with the Yes-camp.

THE POLL FINALLY WENT AHEAD ON 4 AUGUST. With the violent aftermath of the 2007 elections still fresh in people’s minds, everyone was acutely aware of the stakes. To everyone’s relief, the voting, counting and tallying went ahead transparently and peacefully. The Yes-side won in seven of eight provinces, with Rift Valley being the only exception.

The acceptance of the constitution was clearly a key milestone. It is just as evident, however, that the work of democratizing the Kenyan state has only just begun.

The vested interests opposing a democratized state and policies for social justice remain extremely powerful. Certain politicians, including some nominally on the Yes-side, can be counted on to obstruct the implementation process as much as possible. Parliament, the civil service, the judiciary and the security apparatus will be critical arenas in the battles over the implementation of the constitution and related reform processes.

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THE HISTORY OF KENYA has been marked by false dawns. Conservative forces hijacked earlier achievements, such as independence in 1963, the transition to multiparty politics in 1991 and the ousting of KANU from power in 2002. Constant and sustained vigilance by democratic forces in political parties and civil society will be needed to prevent a repetition of that pattern, not only by blocking attempts to subvert the intentions hinted at above, but also by realizing the potential of the constitution by giving effect to its words.«
NOT ENOUGH TO ADD WOMEN AND STIR

Simply recruiting women into the police and military forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo will not curb abuses by security sector personnel, writes NAI researcher Maria Eriksson Baaz. She calls for a comprehensive approach that gets to the root of the problem rather than the “quick fixes” favored by many external actors.

MUCH OF THE VIOLENCE against civilians in the protracted conflict in the DR Congo is perpetrated by state security agents, both the military and the police. It comes in many different forms, such as executions, forced labour, rape and torture. Civilians are also commonly subjected to illegal detention, pillage and illegal taxation. All these forms of abuse must be understood in the light of deep-seated structural dysfunctions in the security forces.

Failed integration processes, with unclear and parallel chains of command, combined with a generous politics of integration that encourages illegal economic activities make a poor foundation for creating security institutions that protect the population. A weak justice sector, hostile civil-military relations and widespread discontent among ordinary soldiers and police officers, disgruntled by embezzlement among superiors, poor salaries and low status, further add to the problem.

A MULTITUDE OF international actors have responded with various initiatives to foster professionalism and end the cycles of violence, particularly sexual violence. These efforts have often taken the form of various training programmes for police and military aimed at teaching security sector staff about human rights and how to behave as disciplined protectors of the civil population, particularly women.

Recently, some external actors have called for the inclusion of more women in the police and military of the DR Congo as a way to curtail the many abuses against civilians. These propositions are part of a global trend in favor of more women in the security sector, particularly in peace-keeping operations. The inclusion of women is often portrayed as a key to improving civil-military relations and to decreasing violence against civilians, especially sexual abuse.

WHILE THESE ASSUMPTIONS can be questioned in other settings, they are particularly problematic in the complex security context of the DR Congo. Interviews conducted with both civilians and security sector personnel for a NAI research project clearly reveal the limitations of these propositions. Most civilians – men and women – claimed they fear women in uniform more than men, describing the former as more brutal and merciless.

Moreover, women police and military staff described themselves as no different from their male colleagues in terms of their propensity for violence. In fact, women police and military staff were the ones who emphasized the importance of courage and toughness most. They also often described themselves as tougher than the men.

This image of women in security sector institutions does not of course mean that women police officers are necessarily more violent than their male colleagues. The perceptions must be understood in relation to constructions of policing and militarism as a male sphere. Consequently, there is an assumption that there must be something
fundamentally wrong with the women joining the forces. They are assumed to be exceptionally violent, on a mission to avenge misdeeds or are simply described as prostitutes looking for clients.

Irrespective of whether women are more or less violent than their male colleagues, or are equally so, the research demonstrates the limitations of the proposed solution to combat violence by simply adding more women. The problem of violence against civilians is not that there are too many men in the security sector. While violence against civilians can to some extent be attributed to ideals of militarized masculinity celebrated in security institutions in the DRC (as in most other similar contexts globally), this does not mean that women entering these spaces do not embrace these ideals in the same way the men do.

> They are sent out on a mission impossible identified by others, pigeonholed by fictional assumptions about gender and violence that they themselves do not share.«

While women should have equal access to state security forces, simply adding more women to already dysfunctional security institutions will surely not lead to desirable change. Moreover, arguing for women’s inclusion on the grounds that it will automatically solve human rights abuses also risks placing an impossible responsibility on female security sector staff. They are sent out on a mission impossible identified by others, pigeonholed by fictional assumptions about gender and violence that they themselves do not share.

Only a comprehensive approach, addressing the root causes of the problems, has the potential to reduce human rights abuses by security sector staff. While gender undoubtedly is important here, interventions based on simplistic and essentialist notions of gender risk doing more harm than good.
4 Questions for
TANIA BERGER
ADMINISTRATIVE PROJECT COORDINATOR OF ECAS 4

NAI AND UPPSALA PLAY HOST TO ECAS 4

The 4th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS) will take place in Uppsala between 15 and 18 June 2011. The conference is co-organized by NAI and the African Studies in Europe network (AEgis) and is expected to attract as many as 1,500 participants. The theme of the conference is *African Engagements: On Whose Terms?*

Q: **When did the planning for the conference start?**
A: We were informed in 2007 that our application to host the conference had been successful. Since then, we started organizing the event step by step: setting up an academic committee, mobilizing external funds, putting out calls for panels and papers and drawing up the programme for the four-day conference.

Q: **What has been the greatest challenge?**
A: Let me just say that the response we have had in terms of panel and paper proposals has been overwhelming, far greater than we anticipated. Because of the huge interest in the conference one of the major tasks has been putting together the programme. A thorough selection of both panels and paper abstracts has been made in order to fit everything into the event. Many people have announced their wish to take part, which is of course very positive, but also challenging from an organizer’s point of view.

Q: **The number of panels and papers are greater this year than during previous conferences. Why do you think the interest in ECAS has increased?**
A: I think part of the reason is that the conference’s great reputation has spread beyond Europe. We have received more applications from researchers in the US, Canada, China and India than previous conferences. And then there is the great interest among African researchers. This is the fourth time the conference is being held, and it has come to be regarded as the conference for African studies.

Q: **What would you like the participants to remember about the conference?**
A: From an organizing perspective, I hope that people feel they have been warmly welcomed and that the programme has been well designed. I hope they will return home satisfied with the outcomes of the conference, and with positive feelings about NAI and Uppsala.

LET’S MEET ON FACEBOOK

In order to further strengthen its communication with the public, NAI started a Facebook page in September, just ahead of the Göteborg Book Fair. It was an excellent tool for quickly spreading information about the event as it was unfolding. Since then, the number of people following the page has grown steadily. Most of the visitors (women and men) are between 25 and 35, and come, for the most part, from Sweden and the other Nordic countries.

Communicating via social media requires NAI staff to be prompt, alert and personal. Occasional and regular visitors look for exciting and useful posts and comments. During the few months that NAI has been active on Facebook, the page has served as a platform for debate and a means to disseminate information about our research. It has also served as a notice board for NAI’s activities and a virtual space for guest researchers and scholarship fellows to keep in contact. Moreover, it has made it easier to get a feeling for which of NAI’s activities followers appreciate.

So, if you are not yet a fan of NAI’s Facebook page, follow these easy steps:
- Visit the Facebook page.
- Click on the “like button”.
- Welcome!

TORVINEN LOOKING BACK

LAURA TORVINEN REFLECTS ON HER FIRST YEAR AS CHAIR OF NAI’S PROGRAMME AND RESEARCH COUNCIL

“Inspiring” – that is the very first word that came to my mind when asked about my experiences after the first year as the Chair of NAI’s Programme and Research Council. In its advisory role, the Programme and Research Council aims to support the Institute to carry out its research and other related functions. In addition to the high-quality and multi-faceted research, excellent library services, information dissemination, publishing and policy dialogue with the Nordic countries are all important components of the Institute’s work. The Council can only commend the quality that the Institute has shown in performing the multitude of its tasks. As the Chair of the Council I have also been impressed by the open atmosphere of the Institute. Newcomers – whether researchers, other staff members or development practitioners – are warmly welcomed to join the rich discussions at the Institute.

The research carried out under the auspices of the Institute succeeds in addressing key development issues faced by many African countries. The changing global environment, which impacts upon the development prospects in Africa, has been well captured in the current research programme. I was very impressed by this year’s Nordic Africa Days in Åbo/Turku, Finland. It was positive to see so many researchers, not only from Finland, but from the other Nordic countries, and a number of researchers from Africa. The Nordic Africa Days continue to open space for dialogue. It creates a common platform where new research areas can be explored.
A majority of people in Africa still live in rural areas – but they are waking up to a new reality. Increasing commercialization, land grabbing and climate change are rapidly transforming agrarian life in many parts of the continent. This transformation is the focus of the cluster on Rural and Agrarian Change, Property and Resources.
THE ONE WHO HAS NOT EATEN CANNOT PRAY

TIGHTROPPING BETWEEN WORDLY AND SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING IN RURAL CAMEROON

In the last fifteen years thousands of Mbororo pastoralists from different parts of Cameroon have joined Tijaniyya, an Islamic Sufi order that has spread from Senegal. One of them, Umaru, has witnessed the birth and expansion of a locally notable Tijaniyya community where dozens of Mbororo households have moved. While the neighbourhood is well-suited to religious pursuits, a more difficult task is satisfying the necessities of everyday life.

ONE RAINY AFTERNOON in October 2010 I was chatting with Umaru, a former cattle herder in his fifties, in a Muslim neighbourhood, Naanawa, located on a main road crossing the Adamawa Region of Cameroon.

- There are two obligatory things in the world, Umaru reasoned, as our talk turned to the challenges that he and his neighbours face in their everyday life.

- The first is between you and God, what God expects from you.

By this, Umaru was referring to a variety of performances for which one can look for divine recompense. The other, more mundane necessity, he added, is to see to one’s occupation. With the money earned, one can, for instance, help one’s children and other relatives in cases of illness.

Amidst the Mbororo pastoralists of rural Cameroon, the two necessities have traditionally been handled by means of cattle. Beasts have been slaughtered and the meat distributed as Islamic alms. Through cattle sales, many pastoralists have been able to undertake a pilgrimage to Mecca. Animal sacrifices have confirmed marriages and incorporated newborn children into the kin group and Muslim community. Meat and milk products have formed an important part of the human diet, and cattle and milk sales have provided cash to buy supplementary foodstuffs and other goods.

FOR MANY MBORORO, all of that is still true, but there are also those whose beasts are too few to be regularly sold or slaughtered, or for whom possessing herds is but a memory. Occasional cattle epidemics or fatal thunderstorms have wiped out whole herds, and the worsened economic situation has forced many to sell more and more animals in order to maintain their families. For those with no cattle left, there are two choices: to stay in the bush and try to cope by farming, or to search for other means of livelihood in villages and towns.

The choice by Umaru’s family, as well as some 60 other Mbororo households, has been to follow their spiritual guide, Sheikh Ibrahim, a Tijaniyya teacher from the East Region who settled in Naanawa in 1990s. For these people, earning a living has not been the first priority in choosing their present residence.

MORE IMPORTANT has been the aspiration to lead a pious life. For this purpose, the blessed presence of the sheikh, religious instruction carried far through loudspeakers, as well as the daily worship routines on the common prayer ground provide favourable conditions.

Moving to Naanawa has also intensified everyday sociality...
among relatives – and between lineage groups that had be-
fore lived scattered throughout the Cameroonian savannah –
and provided community members with a specific sense of
religious and cultural belonging. To Umaru’s mind, Sheikh
Ibrahim’s community is an exceptional place for fulfilling
one’s obligations towards God. Diverse tasks performed for
the sheikh and his family are considered good deeds, through
which, in Umaru’s words, “one looks for blessing”.
– There is no other place better for that. If you live here,
you do that one job, there is no greater concern, he affirms.

MUCH TRICKIER IS the task of satisfying the material neces-
sities. How to feed the family day by day? How to provide
clothes, or pay for medication? People try to meet the daily
challenges by engaging in various activities. Those enga-
ged in cattle trade, although few, do better than those who
struggle along by cultivating their little plots, or providing
religious and herbal healing services. Moreover, many Kor-
anic students are materially dependent on the rest of the
community, or relatives living elsewhere.

The dilemmas of everyday life are also met through prayer
and by cultivating endurance. A good deal of reciprocity is
also needed. Before sunset, there is a constant traffic between
housing compounds as children are sent to borrow the mis-
sing ingredients for supper, and to return things borrowed
earlier. Hard choices cannot always be escaped. Some child-
ren are forced to leave school because of their parents’ in-
ability to pay school fees.

Umaru is confident of the righteousness of the spiritual
path he has chosen in moving to Naanawa. Now he tries to
find cash for a licence that would prove his professional skills
as a traditional healer and thus help him find potential
clients and earn money.
– One looks for both of these things, they cannot be sepa-
rated, he reminds me of the two necessities of life, and then
concludes: the one who has not eaten cannot pray.

Our conversation is interrupted by the imam’s meditative
prayer call. Time for Umaru to hasten to the sunset prayers.

All names mentioned in this article, of individuals and of the
neighbourhood where they live, have been changed to protect
the identity of the people interviewed.
In agricultural societies, wealth, health and prosperity depend on a successful harvest achieved through the physical work of ploughing and harvesting. But crucial for the richness or poverty of any year is the timing of the arrival of the life-giving waters or the river’s annual inundation: too little or too much rain at the wrong time will cause disaster. If the annual flood fails, the fields cannot be irrigated. This uncertainty has always been part of the daily life of all agricultural communities, and it has always been of the utmost importance to reduce such risks. Consequently, humans have often tried to control, influence and modify the weather through prayers, rainmaking rituals and sacrifices.

In Ethiopia, there is a strong belief that the divinities control the weather, which can be modified through prayers, rainmaking rituals and sacrifices. The Nile, regarded by many as the most important river in the world, is often the focus of these religious activities.

In a religious world, everything has a reason. Throughout the history of Christianity, God has collectively punished his devotees for disobedience and sinful behaviour by constraining the life-giving water, in the form of rains or annual floods that do not arrive. God’s reward for pious
devotees may be in the form of life-giving waters, which give bountiful harvests, wealth and health.

The Blue Nile in Ethiopia – the Nile which by many is seen as the most important river in the world – is believed to have its source in heaven. It is the River Gihon flowing from paradise. In Ethiopia, the most important festival commemorates the role of water and the baptism. It is called the Timkat festival. It is not the birth of Jesus (Christmas) or his death (Easter), but the promise through baptism and by being initiated into the Kingdom of God that ensures salvation. And the holy water from the source of the Nile – Gish Abay – possesses this religious power.

When the Portuguese missionaries visited Gish Abay in the 16th century, sacrifices of cows took place. In 1770 the explorer James Bruce described in detail the traditional ritual whereby cattle were sacrificed. The early Christians, like the Ethiopian Orthodox Church today, perceived such sacrifices as pagan heresy.

Even so, sacrifices to the Nile have been part of Christianity. Indeed, the sacrificial practice may have Jewish origins. New Year’s Day on 11 September coincides with the Feast of John the Baptist. This is also the time when the rainy season begins. In the countryside before the rain starts in June, animals have been regularly sacrificed to the Nile. The sacrifice of white cattle used to take place within the church compound. If there is too much rain or if torrential rains damage crops and harm people and husbandry, sacrifices may also be conducted as rain-stopping rituals. Today, the church opposes such sacrifices, but priests pray for sufficient rain and successful harvests as part of the liturgy.

Around Lake Tana, there is an indigenous group with a strong water religion. The Woyto have been seen as the finest fishermen, but they have been and still are treated as unclean and as outcasts since they used to eat hippopotamus and catfish. Today, the Woyto have converted to Islam, but other Muslims do not view them as true believers since they still worship the Nile.

In the Woyto religion, Abinas is the god of the Blue Nile. Abinas is the source of everything and the Woyto receive wealth, health, prosperity and natural resources from him. At the family level, poultry, sheep and goats are sacrificed throughout the year. The main sacrifice takes place before the start of Lent (the Christian fasting period). This “Great Sacrifice” is communal, and an immature and pure calf is sacrificed. When Abinas is satisfied with the blood, he provides good fortune and prosperity for his people.

Common to both Christian and indigenous practices are the beliefs that divinities control the weather, which can be modified through ritual. Although lay Christians still conduct sacrifices to the Nile for making rain, the church opposes this as heathendom. The Woyto practices are seen as especially pagan and condemned by both Christians and Muslims. Several times the Woyto have been displaced and many of their ritual places have been appropriated for profane purposes. Their existence, religion and beliefs are under strong pressure.

Thus, if richness or poverty in the form of successful or failed harvests is the outcome of rituals and religion as believed and practised by the devotees themselves, then the Woyto suffer from another type of poverty as well. The Woyto are deprived of their tradition, since they cannot conduct their religion and sacrifices in the prescribed manner. This is a form of poverty which may lead, they believe, to physical poverty. Consequently they will be punished by Abinas.
A DELICATE BALANCE: SHORT-TERM GAINS OR LONG-TERM FOOD SECURITY?

Seaweed plays an important role for livelihood security to many families on the southeastern coast of Zanzibar. Male villagers quickly lost interest in cultivating the crop as it requires hard work for poor cash return. But the women were ready to take advantage of the benefits of the seaweed.

HASSAN IS TEARING DOWN the last section of the stone wall surrounding the family farm in the so-called coral rag area stretching beyond the village of Jambiani on the southeastern coast of Unguja island, Zanzibar. Some women passing by yell out their resentment before hastily disappearing along the narrow path into the bush.

– What a stupid thing to do! Your children will starve! We can hear Bibi Amina crying. What did she do to deserve a husband like you?

The coral rag area is covered in thick thorns and it is here that the villagers, using swidden techniques, grow cassava, sweet potatoes, papaya, some maize and a few varieties of pulses that can cope with the thin topsoil and the very limited rainfall. Most of the stone walls were built generations ago to demarcate the lands of the descendants of a common ancestor. They also serve to keep the steadily growing number of forest swine away from the crop. When the stone walls are torn down, or a poorly maintained section of the wall collapses, the swine invade the farms and destroy everything in their way in their search for tubers. Tearing down stone walls is seen as a violation of the ethics of social belonging and identity. The walls represent a significant labour investment by previous generations.

HASSAN’S PLAN IS to sell the coral stone as building material in Zanzibar town. He needs cash to invest in a small trading business, since fishing is no longer a viable source of income. The fishermen have experienced a dramatic decline in catches over the past decade. Hassan recalls a time when he caught enough fish to feed the family and also to sell to local guesthouses and the market in the town. With declining catches, the family is often without fish on the table. This is one effect of climate change that the coastal dwellers have experienced. Hassan and his fellow fishermen are aware of the importance of healthy coral reefs for the reproduction of fish and they refer to the increased prevalence of “white” (that is, dead) corals as a major reason for the diminishing catches.

The women passing by, yelling out their contempt, are right about the wife’s resentment. Bibi Amina has tried in
vain to stop her husband. It is she who takes care of the farming and who worries about food security if the farm were no longer capable of providing the staples to feed the family. Hassan had argued that sweet potatoes and cassava could be bought in the village shops, using Bibi Amina’s money from sales of seaweed. Seaweed cultivation has expanded dramatically since the early 1990s, when it was introduced to a small group of male villagers. The men soon found that the new crop required hard work for poor cash returns, and lost interest. But the women, with few other options to earn an income, were ready to take advantage of the benefits of the seaweed. The income, however small, is fairly regular and therefore important for livelihood security. Predictability also implies that they can purchase on credit in some village shops.

**THE PRICE IS ABOUT** 250 Tanzanian shillings per kilogram (about 15 US cents). A good harvest during a spring tide can bring in up to 16,000 shillings (about 10 US-dollars) for about five days of work within the five to six weeks crop cycle from planting to harvesting. Most women are able to make their own decisions as to how to use the money. It is typically spent on children’s clothing, family healthcare and the purchase of basic consumer goods.

Although the majority of women in Jambiani nowadays devote considerable time and energy to seaweed cultivation, most of them also take care of agricultural production and undertake other activities to secure their livelihoods. They are aware of the risks associated with specialization in seaweed. “You can’t eat coins and notes”, said one woman, referring to a neighbour who had abandoned her farm in order to concentrate on the seaweed.

All names mentioned in this article have been changed in order to protect the identity of the people interviewed.
More and more people living in rural and remote areas are gaining access to the latest information and communications technologies (ICTs). But in rural Uganda, access to and use of the various gadgets is not as straightforward as it seems, writes Caroline Wamala, NAI study scholarship holder in spring 2010.

AGRICULTURE IS UGANDA’S economic bedrock and is a practice all Ugandans identify with. Nowadays, access to information is equated with access to other vital resources such as land and capital. Radios, mobile phones and the internet have allowed Uganda’s farmers to get information in real time.

– Information and communication technologies may not make the soils more fertile or rains fall whenever a farmer wants them or increase the prices of farm products. ICTs are tools, just like a hoe or a tractor. They are important to farmers, who need to know when to plant, what to plant, where to sell and at what price, a newspaper columnist noted.

Many farmers carry their radios and mobile phones into the fields. The opportunity to get information on the treatment of sick animals or crops and to apply that knowledge immediately has helped many farmers to avoid losses.«

into the fields. The opportunity to get information on the treatment of sick animals or crops and to apply that knowledge immediately has helped many farmers to avoid losses. Sending text messages requesting weather information has also allowed many farmers to plan their activities better. But as many farmers suggested, staying informed requires two or more devices.

– I recall once when they were talking about growing soya beans on the radio. We called in and feedback was given to us, said one farmer. Thus, email addresses or phone numbers provided in newspapers, on radio, or on the web suggest two-way communication. The additional information may be inaccessible because of delays in communication-infrastructure development, one’s gender or age or even economic viability.

By the end of 2010, five service providers served the mobile phone needs of 9.5 million Ugandans, about 25 per cent of Uganda’s 31 million inhabitants. Just as the handset purchase prices are becoming cheaper, so are call tariffs: subscribers can make mobile-phone-to-mobile-phone calls for between 2 and 3 Ugandan shillings (US$0.01) per second. Use of the internet at internet cafes costs 1000–1500 Ugandan shillings (US$0.78) for 40 minutes.

In parts of rural Uganda, access to mobile networks or radio signals has to be actively sought, sometimes even requiring extreme measures such as climbing trees. This is in some parts of Uganda an exclusively male activity, since tree-climbing is thought of as culturally irreconcilable with the pious nature of a woman. Consequently, women and older men who are unable to climb trees but own or have physical access to mobile phones can only claim to have limited use of their mobile phones.

Research in most developing regions, Uganda included, provides statistics that do not necessarily illustrate how people use the technologies or what access actually means or entails, as in the case of actively seeking mobile network signals. Better informed research that depicts the reality of ICT use and access will provide a clearer perspective on the actual use of different technologies. This is important in relation to various development efforts. It is crucial to understand the reality of the use of ICTs in developing countries with an evolving infrastructure.
African cities are not only growing rapidly but are also undergoing deep political, economic and social transformations. These changes defy usual notions of urbanism. The cluster on Urban Dynamics seeks to explain the processes reshaping African cities.
Making Jew-man

Bone
Psalm
Give the
Judgment,
and your
To the H
The documentary *Jew-Man Business*, filmed in a rough neighbourhood of the Sierra Leonean capital Freetown, aims to steer clear of the common stereotypes of young African men. Mats Utas, who made the picture together with fellow researcher Maya Christensen and filmmaker Christian Vium, reflects on the difficulties of getting under the surface of street life and catching it on film.

**ICE T IS A VERSATILE YOUNG** ex-combatant with experience of the ten-year civil war that ravaged Sierra Leone. Junior and Bone Thugs are his friends. All of them do business in a downtown ghetto area of Freetown called Belgium. Their business is so-called jew-man business, buying and selling chiefly illegal goods or stolen items. Ice, Junior and Bone are part of a large street economy involving thousands of young men and women in the capital and larger towns of the country. The three of them are the main characters in a documentary film I recently produced with my research colleague Maya Christensen (University of Copenhagen) and filmmaker Christian Vium.

**BETWEEN 2004 AND 2006.** I spent my days hanging out on a street corner in downtown Freetown for the research project “Youth and marginality in urban Sierra Leone” I run at the Nordic Africa Institute. Two years is a long time, but if you want to try to unravel some of the complexities of war and the clandestine livelihoods of the predominantly ex-combatant communities, time is what it takes. Trust is vital for good research results. I marvelled at how much time it takes before mutual reliance is established, and even then with some individuals it frankly never happens. Often facts that at first appear clear and forthright are turned upside down and new light is shed only after months of intense contact. This naturally makes one question the value of short-term research and much of quantitative data collected about themes of participation in warfare.
It also raises questions about how accurate the commonplace documentary film of the street economy and rebel soldiering can be.

Hanging out on a downtown street corner in Freetown for those two years gave me a unique opportunity to get under the surface of street life and to really get to know the people. But what happens when you add a cameraman to the picture? Will people still be willing to tell their personal and often sensitive stories, knowing they might be shared with the entire world?

When I previously researched a similar setting in Liberia, I brought my sister in to do some filming for a similar production, with a quite disheartening outcome. I had spent about six months gathering material on an ex-combatant community inhabiting an abandoned factory in downtown Monrovia.

After half a day of filming, members of the community began to question the project by saying that this woman was unlikely to be my sister. They suspected she was a journalist who would make a lot of money by portraying their precarious lives and leave them with nothing. They had all met or heard of Western journalists doing exactly that, and some had even seen the results on television: productions rife with violence and anarchy, but almost always lacking a human face.

In the end, they confiscated my sister’s camera, smashed the tripod against the wall and held me hostage for about an hour. The fragile trust I had struggled hard to build was thus destroyed by adding a camera and someone viewed as an international journalist. I could no longer continue my field research at this location and the relationship with my sources was forever damaged.

The example raises questions about how “real” ordinary documentaries based on short-term trust in settings like these can be. What is being acted?

A common problem with media portrayals of people’s participation in civil wars or engagement in criminal activity is that the protagonists will either downplay or exaggerate their roles. They cannot really foresee the consequences of being filmed and might fear punishment or hope for benefits by making their story known.
what I believe is most weighty in the film is the portrayal of and at times killed. war, when ex-rebel soldiers were hunted down, abused instance, also tells of his clandestine life right after the rebellions, drug abuse and violence. Ice T, for young men. The participants talk openly about their semi-involvement in illegal economies, Ice, Bone and Junior come across as very human. This is one of the main lessons that re-

Yet what I believe is most weighty in the film is the portrayal of the three main characters as full human beings, far from the images of battle- or street-hardened criminals.«

The film also portrays the poor conduct of local police as the viewer gets to ride along with a police night patrol. The ex-combatant community in Belgium has established its own order in the form of informal police forces. They partly cooperate with the police and partly work against them in order to safeguard those not protected by the police.

These are issues that seldom attract the attention of a rapidly passing journalist and of audiences in the West. Yet what I believe is most weighty in the film is the portrayal of the three main characters as full human beings, far from the images of battle- or street-hardened criminals. In sequences with Ice T and Junior, we see them talking about the hardships of life with tears in their eyes. They speak of love and the importance of caring partners, about loss of kin and regret, and they raise expectations for a better future. In the end, despite their proneness to violence, their rebel livelihoods and their involvement in illegal economies, Ice, Bone and Junior come across as very human. This is one of the main lessons that research in this kind of environment has taught me. Using one of many Bob Marley-isms from the Freetown street “One blood, one love” – we are all the same.

Jew Man Business is a new 37 minute research-based documentary film. It was sponsored by Sida and the Nordic Africa Institute. For more information on the film, see www.jewmanbusiness.com or contact the author at mats.utas@nai.uu.se

4 Questions for Mats Utas

Q: What advantages do you as a researcher see in the film medium?
   A: It is a fantastic format for portraying a social environment or a single human being. You can give the viewer an immediate understanding of something that you might not be able to convey in a research report. For example, how the people in Belgium had a close, yet ambivalent, relationship with the police. It is hard to convey this in writing, but it becomes very clear when you see the guys riding with the night patrol in the film and simultaneously hear the stories of the main characters in the film.

Q: Were you afraid when you went into one of the worst ghettos of Freetown?
   A: From a distance the area looks pretty dangerous, and even many aid workers based in Sierra Leone are scared to go down into the main bowl of Belgium. But once you become part of a group of street-hardened roughnecks, you get accepted and also taken care of. People were generally happy because we had travelled so far just to learn about them.

Q: Having worked for several years on the backstreets of Freetown you have experienced violence from close range. You once had to defend yourself with a broken bottle. What happened?
   A: On the streets of Freetown you have to be a lot more aggressive than you would in Stockholm, for example. Among street youths, you cannot earn respect only by being good. You also have to show that you will not put up with any nonsense. When I was attacked by a guy in a group of people I worked with, I picked up a bottle, broke it and started threatening him. You need to take that sort of stand in order to keep the acceptance of the group.

Q: You hung out with ex-combatants, many of whom had committed horrible acts of war. How was that?
   A: I don’t think I’ve ever been in an environment where moral issues were discussed so intensely. Interestingly enough, the individuals who had committed abuses had no difficulty in blaming other people for having perpetrated immoral acts. Many saw themselves as “legal hustlers” who had committed evil acts because they were forced to do so by an immoral political elite, not because they themselves lacked morality.
The re-siting of the Rider Monument in central Windhoek from the site of one of the concentration camps from the first genocide of the 20th century to a new location in front of the museum at the Alte Feste has raised many questions. So too, has the construction of the Independence Memorial Museum on the very site formally occupied by the Rider Monument. Andrew Byerley looks into Namibia’s symbolic and heritage space.
OLD MONUMENTS ERECTED in honour of the fallen usually occupy the liminal zone of the there but almost not there. They are taken-for-granted elements of cityscapes that, at most, attract the scopic gaze of the tourist. Occasionally, however, on a major anniversary or as a result of some convoluted process of representational reinvestment or de-investment, monuments may briefly reanimate public imagination.

Some monuments are, in a manner of speaking, akin to teeth in need of root-canal treatment. Extracting them, even the thought of their being tweaked to left or right, can unleash anxiety, a wagging of (political) tongues or even a flailing of fists (cf. the relocation of the “Bronze Soldier of Tallinn” in 2007).

The Reiterdenkmal (Rider Monument) high on Robert Mugabe Avenue in central Windhoek is a case in point. Inaugurated in 1912 by Dr Theodore Seitz, then governor of German South-West Africa, it celebrated the so-called victory of the Schutztruppen (“The Protection Army”) over the indigenous Ovaherero and Nama. Today, however, and as William Kentridge’s installation *The Black Box/Chambre Noir* has so hauntingly intimated, this victory is widely viewed as the first genocide of the long 20th century. Indeed, the very “roots” of this monument bury themselves into the site of one of the many concentration camps where thousands of Ovaherero and Nama were wilfully wasted to death in the aftermath of military hostilities.

Sparking intensive political and media debate, in August 2009 the Rider Monument was wrapped in bubble wrap and hoisted away into storage. In 2010, it was re-sited some 50 metres away in front of the museum at the Alte Feste – a fort built by the Schutztruppen in 1889–90 “as a stronghold to preserve peace and order between the rivaling Namas and Hereros” [sic] (onsite plaque inscription).

Seen in isolation, the removal of the Reiterdenkmal may have heartened those who have called for a “decolonization of the mind” in today’s Namibia. Indeed, as J. Zeller argued in an article in *The Namibian* in 2008, the new site in front of the museum at the Alte Feste seems optimal as “a place and space for critical memory politic”. However, seen in the context of the construction of the mammoth Independence Memorial Museum on the very site formally occupied by the Reiterdenkmal, the move has been alternatively interpreted as a further episode in the unilateral recolonization of Namibia’s symbolic and heritage space by Swapo, the political party and former liberation movement.

THE JURY IS STILL OUT, but added to other (in)famous examples (including Heroes Acre, the military museum at Okahandja, the new State House) – all constructed by North Korean companies – the Reiterdenkmal/Independence Memorial Museum episode has caused some to talk of Swapo’s Pyongyang-ization of space, while others have expressed concern over an increasing undercurrent of potentially exclusionary politics in the production of monumental space in Namibia today.
Groups of young men running after trucks that have come to dispose of waste in open dumps. Or dirty children picking materials amidst the smoke and stench of the garbage. These images of waste-picking fit the common perception that African cities are dysfunctional. But African cities do function – only not in the ways planners and development experts expect them to.

BEYOND DYSFUNCTIONALITY:

RECYCLING IN KADUNA

BEHIND THE SEEMING CHAOS is a constant, complex but structured flow of individuals and materials. Waste-picking and informal sector recycling generally takes place in various settings and involves a wide range of interconnected actors.

Kaduna is a declining industrial town in north-central Nigeria. Apart from the general economic crisis facing the cities across the country, in Kaduna the problem has been compounded by a spate of ethno-religious crises in recent years, which have driven investors to nearby Abuja, Nigeria’s capital. However, some factories remain, including a car assembly plant, construction companies and others producing beer, soft drinks, building materials and household products.

The story of solid waste management in Kaduna is a familiar one. There is no formal waste sorting or recycling; not all the waste produced is collected; and waste is disposed of in open dumps and even illegally in public spaces. Figures obtained from the government put the amount of biodegradable waste produced per day in Kaduna at 2.1 tons, while non-degradable waste amounts to 8.2 tons per day. The latter, comprising mainly metal, paper, plastic and glass, forms the bulk of the material found in the informal recycling sector.

THE INFORMAL SECTOR has positioned itself to target waste at specific crucial points: households, streets and other public spaces, dumps and factories. The household is a major source of waste. An informal waste-sorting system has emerged largely through the activities of itinerant waste-pickers, known locally as mai kwalabe, whose main area of operation is high-density low-income areas. Mai kwalabe is a Hausa word meaning someone who deals in bottles. While old bottles used to be the only material collected, the busi-
Recycling in Kaduna

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ness has expanded to include items such as second-hand shoes and aluminium cooking pots. The collectors advertise themselves by chanting *mai kwalabe* on the streets. When they find a customer, the materials are assessed and the price negotiated with households. The price is generally not much, since people are happy to get rid of the waste. In some cases, children also gather used perfume and body-cream bottles to sell to *mai kwalabe*. The children are offered a little cash or sweets in exchange. In households where Islamic injunctions prevent women from leaving their houses, doing business with the *mai kwalabe* may be the only opportunity the women have to engage in an economic activity.

**ANOTHER GROUP DESERVING of mention is what I call “opportunistic waste-pickers”, children between the ages of five and ten. They sort and keep waste, particularly plastics and light metal from their own homes and from neighbours, and sell to middlemen in their neighbourhood. Public spaces, ranging from streets to markets and business premises, are another important source of materials for waste-pickers.

One important and active group is the *almajiri*, Muslim children in Koranic schools. Parents bring children to such schools from the age of four or five and leave them with a *mallam* or Islamic scholar to study the Koran. The *mallam* is supposed to provide accommodation and food, but in many cases they fail to fulfil their obligations. It is common to see *almajiri* begging on the streets, but the more resourceful among them have taken to waste-picking to feed themselves. *Almajiri* sell their materials, mainly light metals and plastics, to middlemen.

As noted earlier, the official waste disposal system is open dumping. Waste from households and factories is dumped at two sites in the city. There is no official sorting, but some of the personnel working for the waste-disposal contractors sort and pick waste. Waste-pickers are also allowed to come on to the dump sites to scavenge. These groups of pickers also sell to middlemen.

» An informal waste-sorting system has emerged largely through the activities of itinerant waste-pickers, known locally as *mai kwalabe*’[...] a Hausa word meaning someone who deals in bottles.«

A *yan bola* in Kaduna, a local word referring to young boys who make money from picking up waste materials from public places.
THE FACTORIES AND COMPANIES are a huge source of waste materials. The major actors here are former waste-pickers who have made enough money to become middlemen. In many cases, the companies call the middlemen to come and buy or collect the waste materials. There are different kinds of arrangements for different companies. For example, when middlemen go to buy scrap metal from Sunglass Bottles, they also sell bottles to the plant. The waste, once bought, is sorted into various categories: tin, steel, special metal, caterpillar and glass.

Some of these materials are sold locally to artisans, but most of the waste is transported to recycling companies across the country. If the middleman has no links with a recycling company, he can sell his materials to an agent at the gate, but at a lower price than the recycling company offers. The agent then sells the materials to the company. Agents are individuals with enough capital to buy huge quantities of waste material directly from the waste-producing companies or from middlemen. Some middlemen with enough capital also double as agents.

THE ABOVE ACCOUNT DEPICTS A SYSTEM with an appreciable level of connectivity and interdependence. Particular types of waste are picked from specific places by specific actors. Age and gender are determinants. Children dominate the lower end of the chain. There is no female waste-picker or “middlewoman”.

Actors are intrinsically linked from the beginning of the chain to the end. The producers of waste – households and companies – have established links with the waste-pickers. It is common for a resident to refer to my mai kwalabe. Waste-pickers are the link between generators of waste and middlemen, while middlemen link waste-pickers to the final end-users, the recycling plants. The link between waste-pickers and middlemen is particularly interesting and provides some sense of continuity since, in many cases, it is waste-pickers that eventually become middlemen.

»While people become waste-pickers primarily to earn a living, informal sector recycling has broader implications for urban liveability and environmental sustainability.«

WHILE PEOPLE BECOME waste-pickers primarily to earn a living, informal sector recycling has broader implications for urban liveability and environmental sustainability. If a major aim of municipal solid waste management is to move up the waste hierarchy, then informal sector recycling is making valuable contributions by limiting the amount of waste going for final disposal. In the case of Kaduna, it is only the informal sector that is performing this function.
LAND FORMALIZATION IN TANZANIA

Jenny Cadstedt joined the Urban Dynamics research cluster in August 2010. Her particular interest is land formalization and settlement upgrading in urban Tanzania.

Q: What do you find interesting about land formalization in Tanzania?

A: Formalization or regularization of land in so-called informal or unplanned settlements in urban areas is not a recent government measure for tackling the development of informal settlements, nor is it specific to Tanzania. However, over the last decade there has been increasing emphasis in the international policy agenda on land formalization, not only as a policy to improve housing or urban planning in cities, but also as a way to improve the economic situation of the residents. One source of inspiration is De Soto’s idea of “the dead capital of the poor”, in which the basic assumption is that poor people do have a number of assets, including land and houses. If these are formally recognized, the assumption is that they can be used to generate capital. However, I am interested in studying the situation of groups that do not own houses but rent their accommodation, in relation to both formalization and the upgrading of urban areas.

Q: Why does one need to study different groups of citizens in the governing processes of informal settlements?

A: Governing is a wide term and can have many aspects. What I am interested in is the different ideas on how so-called informal or unplanned settlements are to be handled and improved and how these ideas fit (or not) with the real-life situation. It is clear that settlements are inhabited by dwellers living in many different situations and under different conditions. These will impact how they perceive various measures and the effects the measures will have on their situation. There are naturally many variables that affect people’s housing and living conditions, from their economic situation to age and gender, not to mention whether they are tenants renting part of a private house or are private house owners.

Q: Could you describe the housing situation for tenants in urban Tanzania?

A: Tenants in private housing is the dominating rental form. It is common for a household to rent one or more rooms in a house, in which there will be other households renting and where the landlord sometimes also lives. This means that households share facilities such as toilets and outdoor space for domestic chores, etc. An essential difference between renters and owners of their own accommodation is that the latter can use the house as an income generator by letting rooms or using it for business activities. As a tenant, rent is a regular expense that can be a burden for those with irregular and/or insecure incomes. The form of housing tenure, for example whether one rents or owns the accommodation, can influence other aspects of behaviour, such as one’s attachment to the settlement and if one has a strategy to move or to stay.

WORLD CUP LOSERS – THE URBAN POOR

Hosting international mega-events does not necessarily benefit the urban poor. In the case of the World Cup 2010 held in South Africa, disadvantaged groups were mostly excluded from potential economic benefits.

This is one of the lessons drawn in a Policy Note entitled The World Cup 2010 and the Urban Poor – World Class Cities for All?, written by NAI researcher Ilda Lindell and Master’s students Kyle-Nathan Verboom and Maria Hedman from the University of Stockholm.

By promoting an image of modern and orderly cities, the South African government hoped to attract foreign investment and generate economic growth. For the urban poor, however, reality proved very different. Construction and renewal projects in accordance with the regulations of FIFA, the international football association, led to the relocation of tens of thousands of informal vendors. Corporate rights holders like McDonald’s and Coca Cola were given nearly exclusive access to profit opportunities.

According to FIFA’s Rights Protection Programme, the informal sector is to be given opportunities to benefit from the events. In advance of the tournament, a select number of informal vendors were to be properly trained by FIFA delegates and provided access to demarcated zones. In reality, only a very small number of street vendors received help, and under strict conditions.

In the municipality of eThekwini, Durban, most of existing 25,000 informal traders were permanently removed from their sites as a result of interventions related to the World Cup. These included vendors operating at the beach front market, which had been in existence for 20 years. Only 500 vending stands were available to a select cast of informal traders.

Campaigns by street vendor organizations to pressure local authorities into providing fair benefits for all had little effect.

All the relevant actors – from local governments to international donors – must come to terms with the realities of African cities, conclude the writers of the Policy Note. Informal housing and livelihoods, rather than being viewed as symptoms of abnormal urban development, should be acknowledged as an important and integral part of the African city.
Ambassador S.R. Makgetla, Unity Dow, Tolu Ogunlesi, Chenerai Hove, Elieshi Lema, Chris Abani, Ngugi wa Thiong’o, Sefi Atta, Onjaki and Lesego Rampolokeng collectively cut the green ribbon to the accompaniment of a vuvuzela fanfare during the opening of the Africa stand.

Somali author and feminist Nuruddin Farah in conversation with Carin Norberg, NAI director. His novels often deal with women’s role in society and he argues that gender studies have to include relations between men and women.

Christian Epanya from Cameroon has published three children’s books, which he has illustrated as well as written. One of them, *Le taxi-brousse de Papa Diop*, has become a huge success. Many seminars explored the predicaments of publishing literature for children in Africa and stressed the importance of access by children to literature depicting everyday life in Africa.

Lesego Rampolokeng is a poet, musician, playwright and oral poet. He is a keen observer of power and injustice in his native South Africa and worldwide.

South African Nobel Prize laureate Nadine Gordimer together with author Per Wästberg. Nadine Gordimer is actively engaged in protesting against her country’s new media laws. While visiting the fair, she made an official appeal against the new laws that will limit freedom of speech in the nation.

Apart from being an author, Kopano Matlwa is a medical doctor trained at the University of Cape Town. In spring 2010, she was awarded the Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature in Africa. Her second novel, *Split Milk*, was published the same year.

Tahar Ben Jelloun is from Morocco and his latest novel, *Sur ma mère*, describes the life of his mother, an old women suffering from dementia. By describing his mother’s fate, a picture emerges of the situation of Moroccan women and the changing conditions they encountered from the early 20th century onwards.
PUBLIC SEMINARS
RELATED TO THE BOOK FAIR

Afrikanstads historier om kärlek, om krig
Discussions by African Authors following the Göteborg Book Fair 2010
Nuruddin Farah (Somalia), Monica Arac de Nyeko (Uganda), Sefi Atta (Nigeria), Doreen Baingana (Uganda). Co-arranged with Afrika 2010 (nai), Tidskriften Karavan, Södra Teatern.

Poetry reading by African authors following the Göteborg Book Fair 2010 and launch of magazine 10TAL’s issue: “Kenya, Mon Amour”
Billy Kahora (Kenya), Wambui Mwangi (Kenya), Shailja Patel (Kenya), Binyavanga Wainaina (Kenya). Co-arranged with Tidskriften 10TAL, Afrika 2010 (nai), ABF, the Swedish Institute.

Thoughts and ideas about the Book Fair’s focus on Africa
2 November in Stockholm, Sweden.
Carin Norberg (nai), Brian James (Sierra Leone), Tor Sellström (nai), Lennart Wohlgemuth (University of Gothenburg, Sweden). Co-arranged with the Swedish Development Forum.

HAS THE FLOOR
THE GÖTEBORG BOOK FAIR
PHOTOS: SERGIO SANTIMANO

23–26 SEPTEMBER IN GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN

The African theme at the Göteborg Book Fair 2010 was a great success, with 68 African writers from 28 nations participating. A total of 97,053 people came to the Book Fair and there were more seminars than ever before, attended by the largest audiences to date. Véronique Tadjo’s words in the catalogue describing the African theme aptly captured the tone of this year’s Book Fair: “But one thing is for sure: African literature is now well established, multidimensional and innovative. Moreover, it has developed from its own tradition.”

Irene Sabatini is from Zimbabwe but is currently living in Geneva. She spoke about writing on Africa from abroad. During the fair, it became evident that there are now African authors who are not afraid to problematize notions of national borders, culture and identity.

One of 2010’s most acclaimed authors from Africa was Petina Gappah from Zimbabwe. In her debut book *An Elegy for Easterly*, she focuses on the political absurdities that affect her characters as they struggle to cope under the regime of Robert Mugabe.

During the opening ceremony, Nigerian author Sefi Atta received the Noma Award 2009 for her book *Lawless and other stories*. She often writes about the enforced silencing of women in Nigeria. What is life like for women who have a voice only in the domestic sphere? she asked during one seminar.

During the opening ceremony, Nigerian author Sefi Atta received the Noma Award 2009 for her book *Lawless and other stories*. She often writes about the enforced silencing of women in Nigeria. What is life like for women who have a voice only in the domestic sphere? she asked during one seminar.
I sit before my computer, fingers poised over keyboard. My headphones are on and the enchanting strains of Mozart’s *Hostias* fill my ears. The footfalls along the corridor outside my office sound further away than they actually are. As I stare at the blank screen, a chill runs through me. It is a chill that comes not from the gloominess of the grey clouds outside, nor from the streaks of rain that leave slanting patterns on my window. It is the chill of promise that comes with the beginning of every new story. I revel in it, allowing it to flow from the core of my soul, through my veins and into my fingertips. Once again I have a story to tell. And there is no better feeling in the world.

I stare at the screen, trying to decide how to begin. Do I start with the mixed feelings of shock and elation that surged through me when I realized I had been chosen to be Guest Writer at the Nordic Africa Institute? Or should my opening sentence convey my battle with feelings of unease at the prospect of being spotlighted on a grand stage for the first time in my life? There are so many events, so many memories floating around in my mind’s eye like ethereal life forms. They each demand my equal attention.

*I SEE MYSELF* at the Göteborg Book Fair. I am minuscule, engulfed by its massive scale. Never before have I seen so many books in one place, or so many African writers. Some faces I recognize from the back covers of books. Others are new to me, but the sparkle of ferocious intelligence in their eyes is impossible to miss. I sit on a stage along with five of the sharpest minds in contemporary literature from Africa. I stare back at the throng of people that have paid to hear us speak. I wonder if they can sense the nervousness that I am trying so hard to hide. I normally avoid speaking, much preferring the security and solitude of putting my thoughts into writing. But as I begin, I am energized by the rapt attention of the audience and the encouraging nods of the latest winner of the Noma award, Sefi Atta, who is sitting beside me. Afterwards, Chris Abani, another panellist and renowned Nigerian novelist walks up to me beaming.

“Na you, now”, he says, affecting an exaggerated pidgin accent as he pumps my hand. I am not sure what he means, but I take it as a compliment.

*THE MEMORY DISSOLVES* and is replaced by a crackling fireplace. I sit at dinner with my host Stefan Helgesson and his family in their cosy suburban home. The décor is tastefully understated. The piano, guitar and xylophone seem to fill the room with music of their own accord. It is a music that I feel rather than hear. Shoes are off, conversation is light and the food that Stefan has cooked is lovely. I am filled with all manner of warmth from top to toe. I cannot say that there are many places in which I feel straightaway at home, but this is certainly one of them.

*AMONG THE MEMORIES* that swirl constantly around me, I see myself walking into a magnificent cathedral in Åbo, Finland, speaking in a whisper without really knowing why. I see myself reading some of my work at the local library, and then touring the city. Icy wind slashes my cheeks. My footsteps are hurried, for the cold is like a living thing, biting through wool, flesh and bone.

Thankfully, I return to Uppsala, where the weather is not so harsh. When I am not being interviewed and photographed by journalists, or giving a talk at a local radio station, I am at the Nordic Africa Institute. Almost from the beginning I am struck by the atmosphere of polite friendliness on the surface and the deeper sense of family and mutual respect. The bedroom, massage chair and practically compulsory Wednesday breakfasts are new and foreign to me. I am constantly startled by one of the Swedish researcher’s level of knowledge of Sierra Leone, which is perhaps greater than my own. It takes me a while to get accustomed to his mastery of the krio language and his insistence on speaking it with me every time we run into each other.

*MOSTLY, I AM GIVEN SPACE* to focus on the reason for which I am here. My desk is littered with books that I have greedily snatched from the virtual labyrinth that is the NAI library. When I am not poring over inspiring works of literature from across the African continent, I am immersed in the universe that I have created, that I am trying to transfer on to the page. I do this without the nagging apprehension of sudden power failure, without the physically draining heat of the African sun and without the constant cacophony of the main streets of Freetown.

*MY MIND CONSTANTLY RETURNS* to my wife and son back home. The gentleness of her smile and the eruption of his childish laugh reverberate in my thoughts. It has been months since I last saw them and my longing is like an almost physical ache within my soul. But we understand that I must do what I do, even if it takes me across the world. My fingers begin to race across the keyboard. *Hostias et preces tibi Domine ...* I settle into my rhythm. Like all stories, this one must be told. I write not because I choose to, but because I am compelled.
The information flow between the North and the South is not just a one-way affair, writes NAIs chief librarian Åsa Lund Moberg. Open Access has made research information available on a larger scale but also contributed to a growing interest in research produced in Africa.

**The role of Open Access** in a development perspective was highlighted in Sweden thanks to two initiatives in the autumn of 2010. First, the Swedish National Commission for UNESCO, in cooperation with Sida, held a seminar on *Open access to research and knowledge – are we all winners?* Second, the Nordic Africa Institute organized a seminar on *Dissemination, Open Access and Africa* for Swedish librarians. This event was partly financed by the National Library of Sweden.

When Open Access issues are viewed from a development perspective, the focus is often on the information flow from North to South: important sources and prestigious research journals are locked in expensive e-journal packages unavailable to developing countries. Open Access is seen as the remedy. But this focus is problematic for two reasons. First, it is not true that key sources are unavailable to developing countries. Second, by focusing on the supposed information flow from the North to the South, the actual flow of information in both directions is not taken into account.

Peter Lor, visiting professor at the School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, pointed out during the NAI seminar that library professionals can contribute to an equal flow of information: – Librarians do have an advocacy role in terms of information justice, to raise awareness of information justice aspects in North-South relations and to participate in the debate through your library associations.

**Information from the South** is still underused in academic production. There is a popular belief that research from the South is of low quality, but Susan Murray from African Journals Online (AJOL) tells us otherwise. At the seminar organized by UNESCO and Sida she explained how African published peer-reviewed journals have become attractive to Northern publishers: – Once it is made visible on our platform AJOL.info, the journal finds more readers. Elsevier (the world’s leading science and health publisher) lately took over three titles from African publishers. It is a mixed success. On the one hand, the journal and the contributing authors are visible in high-ranking sources. On the other, it is better to co-publish journals with African publishers, as most of the publication activity then is left within the country of origin.

Access to scientific information by developing countries is integrated into the aid business. National, international, business and NGO initiatives offer developing countries access to information published in the North. A seminar series in Sweden in 2009, “Academic Research Information for Developing Countries” resulted in a wiki-tool for librarians in support of returning students and researchers from developing countries. Acdckwiki.net helps users to navigate the resources available at their home institutions.

The Nordic Africa Institute has an important task in making African-produced research visible in the Nordic countries. Half the library’s acquisitions are published in Africa and, through its participation in national portals in the Nordic countries, the library provides additional channels for African research.
WEB-BASED OPEN ACCESS archives have made it possible to make research accessible to anyone, anywhere and at any-time. At NAI, we are therefore encouraging our researchers to publish in open access journals or open digital archives whenever feasible, and are supporting them in doing so. At the moment, some 500 titles in full text published by NAI are available for free in the digital archive DiVA.

For an institute such as NAI there are several reasons for adopting an Open Access policy. First, we understand Open Access as further strengthening the visibility, usage and impact of our research. The more people gain unlimited access to research, the greater its visibility, dissemination, usage and impact. A reported growth in the frequency of citations for Open Access-published publications is a strong incentive for both our researchers and the Institute.

SECOND, SINCE MANY PUBLISHERS allow authors to deposit a copy of their article in an open archive as soon as it has been accepted, the period from acceptance of an article to its publication is reduced. Third, researchers who publish in Open Access journals retain copyright and can freely decide how the material can be used (for example, in teaching).

Fourth, we believe that research financed with public money should benefit the public. Most of the traditional journals charge high subscriptions and reap major profits. Universities and institutes of higher education must pay a great deal of money to access research they have already financed. An example: Swedish libraries annually pay SEK 90 million for access to journals from a single publisher, Elsevier.

And finally, Open Access affords improved opportunities to highlight the work of African researchers. Open Access publishing (open archives and journals) is rapidly growing in countries such as South Africa, Nigeria, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Mozambique and Senegal. The fastest growing Open Access repositories are located in Egypt.

UNFORTUNATELY, A COUPLE of misunderstandings seem to surface now and again in the debate. It is important to stress that Open Access-publishing is not a way of self-publishing that escapes peer review. And although Open Access journals and open digital archives are freely accessible, they should not be equated with popular publishing. Even if the material is freely and easily accessible, it might not be very accessible in style.

Yet there are several challenges facing Open Access. One consequence of Open Access-publishing is that the cost of the peer reviews, selection and editing processes cannot be supported by traditional subscription fees. That could imply that the costs for the editorial process might shift from the journals to the authors. On the other hand, there might be future funding available due to reduced printing costs and decreasing subscription fees.

MANY COMMERCIAL PUBLISHERS are also hesitant about publishing Open Access books since they fear that their sales will be negatively affected. However, it is not just articles that are spread farther afield through Open Access – the same is true of books. Freely accessible scholarly books could also result in increased sales. Most people prefer printed books or e-books adapted to read pads to printing or reading a pdf from a computer screen.

Currently, some 5,300 of the world’s approximately 25,000 scientific journals provide Open Access. Thus, roughly one-fifth of the annual production of new scientific articles is Open Access, a share that is rapidly growing. Whatever the future challenges might be, Open Access is here to stay.
BEYOND DROPS OF WATER

The way in which the waters of the River Nile are distributed is a contentious issue. Yacob Arsano, holder of the Claude Ake Visiting Chair in 2010, is convinced that the water will be used in an equitable and reasonable manner in the future.

WHAT IS NEEDED, HE ARGUES, is a commitment by the countries of the Nile Basin to cooperate and reform their water-management systems.

The Nile Basin states have accepted a shared vision of the cooperative use and management of the Nile waters through the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI). They have agreed to work out an action plan for establishing and enhancing shared benefits through multipurpose projects for the shared waters of the Nile. Facilitation offices and organizational structures have been established.

Throughout human history, a quest for water “distribution” has been a potential source of conflict. Yacob Arsano, however, argues that the countries of the Nile Basin can amicably use their shared Nile waters. Shared waters can better serve as a catalyst for cooperation rather than conflict and war, he says.

The ten countries in the Nile Basin have yet to decide whether they want to sign up to the agreement or not. So far, six countries have done so (Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi). Two-thirds of the nine countries (which were involved in negotiations) have agreed to adhere to the legal instrument (the Cooperative Framework Agreement). This would be enough to establish a commission, a watchdog to oversee the use of the water flowing in the River Nile.

– The Agreement is both on a political and legal level. Negotiations have been taking place since 1999. Similar water basins around the world have been studied. All the provisions of the CFA have been approved by all negotiating countries apart from one sub-article, Yacob Arsano says.

At present, the two downstream countries of Egypt and Sudan would want to go by the 1959 bilateral agreement which provided “full utilization” of the Nile waters just for the two countries. The document outlines how much – in billion cubic metres – each country is allowed to use. Yacob Arsano argues that the exact amount of water should be of lesser importance compared to equitable and reasonable use to all riparian countries.

– Many of the countries could use far less water than today. However, this requires that the society as a whole be informed about better water practices. ■

THE CLAUDE AKE VISITING CHAIR

is a collaboration between the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University and the Nordic Africa Institute. It is funded by the Swedish government in honour of Professor Claude Ake, the prominent African scholar, philosopher and humanist who died in 1996.
Bridging the gap between research and policy is an ongoing process, but the Nordic Africa Days continue to open space for dialogue and the exploration of new research areas. In addition, the event provides an opportunity for experienced researchers to support and develop upcoming researchers and scholars in African studies. Simone Noemdoe reports on the programme.

Time Space Africa: Reconnecting the Continent was the theme of the conference, hosted by Åbo Akademi University, Finland. Some 185 academics and development practitioners from Africa, Europe, the United States and the Nordic countries attended. Key speakers were Professor Mahmood Mamdani, Professor Paul Nugent and Dr Joyce Nyairo.

However, the two-day conference broke with the tradition of a long keynote speech at the opening by screening Sia: The Myth of the Python, directed by Dani Kouyaté from Burkina Faso.

– It was a real honour for me to show my film in this context. I think it was also an honour for African cinema. I think it is very interesting and important to build bridges between African artists, specially film makers, and people who are carrying out research in Africa, said Dani Kouyaté.

– I feel the audience was very surprised and very happy about the experience. A lot of people told me that it was an original, light and deep moment during the Nordic Africa Days. This was a very big congratulation for me.

Twenty-two panels explored new ideas and arrived at fresh perspectives on conflict, gender, land and rural development issues and rapid urbanization. They also addressed the constant battle over the impacts of politics and religion on human development across time and space.

– We are here to discuss space in Africa and the spatial turn in African studies and this is reflected in Development Studies, as in other areas. Infrastructure in particular is something emphasized by the donor community and by China as the key to African development. The whole development agenda has shifted in a spatial direction, said Dr Paul Nugent, director of African Studies at the University of Edinburgh and one of the leading researchers in the African Borderlands Research Network.

Dr Olli Ruohomäki of the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs shared some insights.

– I work on development policy and it is good to have inputs from academics on the topical issues of peace and conflict – issues we are struggling with on a daily basis. The research gives a body of knowledge to inform policy, which informs politics and resource allocation.

SIMONE NOEMDOE

LECTURES DURING THE NORDIC AFRICA DAYS

The evolution of African cinema
30 September in Turku, Finland. Dani Kouyaté (Burkina Faso and Sweden). Co-arranged with Ministry for Foreign Affairs Finland, European Science Foundation, Åbo Akademi, University of Turku, Åbo Akademi.

Making space: Alternative voices and the search for public virtue in contemporary Kenyan media

Human rights: The African experience and the way forward
1 October in Turku, Finland. Mahmood Mamdani (Herbert Lehman Professor of Government in the Department of Anthropology and Political Science and the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, USA). Co-arranged with Ministry for Foreign Affairs Finland, European Science Foundation, Åbo Akademi, University of Turku, Åbo Akademi.

Should they stay or should they go? Secessionism and the legacy of colonial partitioning in African and international politics
1 October in Turku, Finland. Paul Nugent (University of Edinburgh, UK), Henning Melber (Director of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Uppsala, Sweden), Pierre Englebert (Pomona College, USA). Co-arranged with Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland, European Science Foundation, Åbo Akademi, University of Turku, Åbo Akademi.
Unconstitutional Changes of Power: Understanding the Implications for Democracy and Security in West Africa
9 February. Lecturer: Cyril Obi (NAI).
Discussant: Redie Bereketeab (NAI).

Identity Politics in Africa, the Complexities of Ethnicity, Religion and Regionalism
18 March. Lecturer: Rauuf Mustapha (St. Antony’s College, University of Oxford).
Discussants: Anders Sjögren (NAI), Anne Kubai (Uppsala University).

The Challenge of Peace Building in Post-Conflict Africa: Perspectives from Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and Burundi
11 May. Lecturers: Funmi Olonisakin (King’s College London) and Patricia Daley (Jesus College, University of Oxford).

Post-Conflict Challenges in Africa: Case Studies of DDR Processes in Liberia, Sierra Leone and the DRC
18 May. Lecturers: Olawale Ismail (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) and Henri Boshoff (Institute of Security Studies, South Africa).
Discussant: Ruben de Koning (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute).

Nigeria: Dilemmas and Dimensions of Violence and Conflict
31 May. Lecturer: Darren Kew (McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston).
Discussant: Cyril Obi (NAI).

Niger Delta Crisis and Security in the Gulf of Guinea
31 May. Lecturer: Charles Ukeje (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria).
Discussant: Cyril Obi (NAI).

The Challenges of Democracy, Peace and Security in the Sudan
1 September. Lecturer: Gunnar Sörbø (Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway).
Discussant: Per Karlsson (Sida).

Peacebuilding, and Security in Africa: The Cases of ECOWAS and ECCAS
12 October. Lecturers: Angela Meyer (Organization for International Dialogue and Conflict Management eu-Africa Working Group, 10c, Austria) and Thomas Jaye (Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Ghana).

Securing Africa? Understanding the Role of US – AFRICOM
9 November. Lecturer: Jeremy Keenan (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London).

4 Questions for
GUNNAR SÖRBÖ SENIOR RESEARCHER AT THE CHR. MICHELSEN INSTITUTE, NORWAY

Q: You spoke in your lecture about the way in which the north or Khartoum has an ability to play politics, including in South Sudan. Has the north continued with this political game?
A: So far, the referendum has proceeded surprisingly well, partly due, it seems, to the restraining influence of President Bashir, who over the last months has promised a peaceful separation. But there are several conflict areas that are not resolved. Among them is the future status of Abyei. Here we see how the Khartoum regime is defying the ruling of the Public Court of Arbitration in The Hague by using the local Messiriya Arabs as its allies and proxies. It is too early to judge whether we will see something similar in other hotspots.

Q: How do you see the future of the external community’s relations with Sudan in terms of peace-building efforts?
A: It will be very important for the international community to also be active in North Sudan, which may be very adversely affected by the separation. It is not unlikely that we will see greater instability in the north, which may also affect the prospects for long-term peace in the south.

Q: Now that the referendum has taken place, in what way, if at all, will the external community address and deal with the local violence in South Sudan?
A: The international community is rarely able to address local violence because it is generally not seen as their task. Rather, it is seen as an “inconvenience” which we try to work around. I expect no changes here, but will repeat my warning that local conflicts in Sudan may continue to threaten the prospects for sustainable peace.
Africa is an exciting new series published by Zed Books in association with NAI. Featuring high-quality, cutting-edge research from leading academics, the series will address the big issues confronting Africa today. Accessible but in-depth and wide-ranging, Africa Now will engage with the critical political, economic, sociological and development debates affecting the continent, shedding new light on pressing concerns.

 theorists have become the most important economic partners of Africa, leaving an ever more apparent footprint and transforming Africa’s international relations in a dramatic way. Although the overall impact of China’s and India’s engagement in Africa has been positive in the short-term, little research exists on the actual impact of China’s and India’s growing involvement on Africa’s economic transformation. This book examines in detail the opportunities and challenges posed by the increasing presence of China and India in Africa, and proposes critical interventions that African governments must undertake in order to negotiate with China and India from a stronger and more informed position.

Child Migration in Africa
February 2011, Pb 9781848134560
Child Migration in Africa explores the mobility of children without their parents within West Africa. Drawing on the experiences of children from rural Burkina Faso and Ghana, the book provides rich material on the circumstances of children’s voluntary migration and their experiences of it. Their accounts challenge the normative ideals about a ‘good’ childhood that often underlie public debates about children’s migration, education and work in developing countries.

Oil and Insurgency in the Niger Delta: Managing the Complex Politics of Petroviolence
February 2011, Pb 9781848138070
The recent escalation in the violent conflict in the Niger Delta has brought the region to the forefront of international energy and security concerns. This book analyses the causes, dynamics and politics underpinning oil-related violence in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. It focuses on the drivers of the conflict, as well as the ways the crises spawned by the political economy of oil and contradictions within Nigeria’s ethnic politics have contributed to the transformation of the initial, poorly coordinated and largely non-violent protests into a pan-Delta insurgency.

Biofuels, Land Grabbing and Food Security in Africa
June 2011, Pb 9781848138780
Energy crises and climate change have given rise to global demands for alternative non-fossil fuels. This has led to a rapid increase in investment in liquid biofuel production based on agricultural feedstocks such as sugar-cane. Most African governments see biofuels as a means to increase agricultural productivity and export incomes and thus to strengthen national economies, improve energy balances and enhance rural employment. At the same time, climate change could be addressed by reducing green house gas emissions. There are, however, a number of uncertainties in this scenario that may challenge its validity. Using in-depth African case studies, this book addresses this knowledge gap by examining the impacts of large-scale biofuel production on African agriculture, especially in terms of food security and the outsourcing of vital lands.
This book aims to expose the dilemmas and conflicts feminist researchers and practitioners living and working in the Global South have to deal with on a daily basis. It seeks to disentangle some of the dilemmas, tensions, challenges and possibilities of feminist research and activism in the context of the cultures, practices and expectations of university bureaucracies, donor agencies and North-South collaboration.

MARIA ERIKSSON BAAZ AND MARIA STERN
The Complexity of Violence: A critical analysis of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
76 pp, 978-91-7106-672-5
Sida Working Paper on Gender-based Violence
This report, the first in Sida’s gender-based violence series, draws on an original case study, including extensive interviews with members of the armed forces in the DRC. By critically exploring and convincingly challenging existing stereotypes and narratives about sexual violence in conflict settings, the authors reveal the need for a nuanced understanding of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), including its invisible victims. Their analysis transcends reductionist explanations that separate SGBV from other forms of violence afflicting war-torn societies and haunting postwar contexts. The publication provides invaluable insights into the complex circumstances in which SGBV occurs.

KJELL HAVNEVIK AND AIDA C. ISNIKA (EDS)
Tanzania in Transition: From Nyerere to Mkapa
284 pp, 978-9987-08-086-1
Co-published with Mkuki na Nyota Publishers Ltd.
This book is the first comprehensive attempt to understand the character of the important societal transitions that occurred in Tanzania during Benjamin Mkapa’s presidency (1995–2005). The analyses of the trajectory of these transitions are made against the background of the development model of Tanzanian’s first president, Julius Nyerere (1961–85), a model with lasting influence.

GEERT LAPORTE AND JAMES MACKIE (EDS)
Building the African Union: An assessment of past progress and future prospects for the African Union’s institutional architecture
ECOMM Policy and Management Report, 18
117 pp, 978-90-72908-42-1
The report is a joint effort by the Nordic Africa Institute and the European Centre for Development Policy Management. It comprises a collection of the papers presented by African and European policy-makers and researchers at a seminar in Uppsala in 2009. A list of concrete actions for strengthening the AU is provided, as is an analysis of the role of the EU in supporting the AU’s institutional development. A number of related questions are raised:

What reforms are needed so that the AU can realize its new ambitions? Will the AU evolve into a supranational organization or remain an inter-governmental institution? How can the EU or other partners contribute to the AU’s development?

IN SWEDISH
Afrika har ordet
96 pp, 978-91-7106-672-5
The book contains pictures of and biographical notes on all the African authors who visited the 2010 Göteborg Book Fair. The introduction is by NAI director Carin Norberg, the biographical notes are by Anita Theorell, while Henning Mankell and Véronique Tadjo have written their personal reflections.

MARIANNE ANDERSSON AND ÅSA LUND MOBERG (EDS)
Att studera Afrika: vägar till källorna
148 pp, 978-91-7106-672-5
The reedited edition of this work is published only electronically. Individual chapters can be downloaded without charge from the Swedish digital archive for scientific publications, Diva. Att studera Afrika is a guide to African studies, particularly the social sciences. Both printed and internet-based sources of information are covered in this new, comprehensively updated edition. There are full introductions to the literature in the following fields: history, political science and economy. The book is chiefly aimed at students and researchers, but will also be of value to teachers, journalists and librarians.

MAI PALMBERG AND CARITA BACKSTRÖM (EDS)
Kultur i Afrika: Bildkonst, film, teater, musik, litteratur och dans
303 pp, 978-91-86307-25-7
Co-published with Bokförlaget Tranan
This book offers a different encounter with Africa, namely through its contemporary art and culture. The book contains African voices from the worlds of literature, theatre, music, dance, cinema and pictorial art over the last decades. It is about dreams, love and betrayal, Africa’s cultural heritage, multiple identities, dictatorial rulers, the state of the world and questions of tradition and modernity. The editors have included material from meetings with practising artists and have invited researchers to write overviews and analyses. In further support of new explorations of Africa’s culture, the book also contains tips on books, web pages, magazines and cultural festivals.
The social infrastructures of city life in contemporary Africa

Abdoumalik Simone

Current African issues

This series aims to address topical issues in and about Africa by providing in-depth research-based analysis relevant for Africa and for the global community. This is an occasional peer-reviewed series, which is endorsed internally and reviewed externally. Publications have an individual ISBN to facilitate citation.

44 Mats Hårsmar
Understanding Poverty in Africa?
A Navigation through Disputed Concepts, Data and Terrains
54 pp, 978-91-7106-668-8

In any international comparison, sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the most pervasive poverty. The study of African societies requires the study of numerous dynamics, processes and situations with links to poverty issues. Recent methodological innovations hold that research into poverty should be multidimensional, dynamic and cross-disciplinary. But how can such research be undertaken? This volume comprises two separate articles. The first provides an overview of major conceptual positions on poverty. The second article is an empirical study of recent poverty developments in Tanzania and Burkina Faso.

Discussion paper

NAI Discussion Papers present work in progress, such as new ideas and interim results from NAI research on Africa, and are circulated to stimulate discussion and critical comment. Endorsed and reviewed internally, the papers have an individual ISBN to facilitate citation.

48 Babatunde A. Ahonsi
Gender Violence and HIV/AIDS in Post-Conflict West Africa: Issues and Responses
42 pp, 978-91-7106-665-7

POLICY NOTES

NAI Policy Notes is a series of short briefs on policy issues relevant to Africa today. Aimed at professionals working within aid agencies, ministries of foreign affairs, NGOs and the media, these reports aim to inform public debate and to generate input into the sphere of policy making. The writers are researchers and scholars engaged in African issues and are drawn from several disciplines. Most have an institutional connection to the Nordic Africa Institute or its research networks. To ensure the accuracy and relevance of the reports, the Nordic Africa Institute welcomes input and suggestions from readers, particularly policy-makers. Each Policy Note has a unique ISBN to facilitate citation.

1 Maxi Schoeman
South African Female Peacekeepers on Mission in Africa: Progress, Challenges and Policy Options for Increased Participation
978-91-7106-664-0

2 Babatunde A. Ahonsi
978-91-7106-667-1

3 Maria Eriksson Baaë & Maria Stern
Understanding and addressing conflict-related sexual violence: Lessons learned from the Democratic Republic of Congo
978-91-7106-669-5

4 Mats Hårsmar
More Tax, Better Governments
978-91-7106-670-1

5 Illda Lindell, Maria Hedman and Kyle Nathan-Verboomen
The World Cup 2010 and the urban poor: 'World class cities' for all?
978-91-7106-674-9

6 Maria Eriksson Baaë et Maria Stern
Comprendre et aborder les violences sexuelles liées aux conflits: Enseignements tirés de la République Démocratique du Congo
978-91-7106-675-6

7 Mats Hårsmar
Why is agriculture so important to reducing poverty?
978-91-7106-676-3

8 Alexandra A. Arkhangelskaya
India, Brazil and South Africa Dialogue Forum, A Bridge between Three Continents
978-91-7106-679-4

9 Fantu Cheru
Creating a conducive international environment for Africa’s development: China’s role in global governance reform!
978-91-7106-681-7
ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS


CHAPTERS IN BOOKS


“Kuka johtaisi Nigeriaa?”
15 March in Helsingin Sanomat (Finland). Cyril Obi commenting on Nigeria.

“Varning för Aftonbladets Jackass-journalistik i ’det mörkaste Afrika’”
1 April on Newsmill (Sweden). Article by Mats Utas.

“Role of the Buganda monarchy”

“Våldtäkt – inget skäl för att få asyl?”
11 May on tv4, Nyhetsmorgon, (Sweden). Interview with Maria Eriksson Baaz.

“Fokus Afrika på Bokmässan”
26 May on svt, Kulturnyheterna (Sweden). Interview with Carin Norberg.

“Afrika på Bokmässan i höst”
26 May on svt, Kulturnyheterna (Sweden). Interview with Carin Norberg.

“Afrikas litterære nomader”
25 October on bistandsaktuelt.no (Norway). Comment by Carin Norberg.

“Afrika en kontinent i utveckling”
November in school film by Axiom Film & TV (Sweden). Interview and contribution of video footage by Mats Utas.

“Så värvas svenskar till Al Shabaab”
8 October in Fokus (Sweden). Mats Utas interviewed about Swedish fighters in Somalia.

“Våldtäkt som turistattraktion”
31 December in Dagens Nyheter (Sweden). Article by Maria Eriksson Baaz and Maria Stern.

BOOK REVIEW

OTHER PUBLICATIONS


15 March in Helsingin Sanomat (Finland). Cyril Obi commenting on Nigeria.

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31 December in Dagens Nyheter (Sweden). Article by Maria Eriksson Baaz and Maria Stern.

“Landfokuseringen – Den Stora Biståndsreformen”
24 November on Biståndsdebatten.se (Sweden). Article by Mats Härsmar and Göran Holmqvist.

“Färre biståndsländer är en myt”
29 November in Riksdag & Department (Sweden). Interview with Mats Härsmar and Göran Holmqvist.

“Global perspectives on the Nobel Prize”
10 December in Sveriges Radio P1 (Sweden). Kjell Havnevik taking part in a discussion broadcast on radio.

“Ivory Coast Peacekeepers May Use Force If Attacked”
31 December in Business Week (usa). Comment by Cyril Obi on the situation in Côte d’Ivoire.
CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Workshop on research projects and publications related to biofuel production with implications for smallholders in Africa and Latin America in the context of climate change and peak oil
15–16 February in Uppsala, Sweden.
Convener: Kjell Havnevik.

Explorations of Afrinesia: Experimental approaches to legal and political anthropology in Africa
22–23 February in Uppsala, Sweden.
Convener: Knut Christian Myhre.
Co-funded by Africa Network Norway.

Two years on from the Forum Summit: The future of Africa-India engagement
8–9 April in London, UK.
Conveners: Fantu Cheru, Cyril Obi.
Co-organised with Chatham House.

Displacement economies: Paradoxes of crisis and creativity in African contexts
26–28 April in Uppsala, Sweden.
Convener: Amanda Hammar.

Intra and inter-state conflicts and security in the Horn of Africa
Conveners: Cyril Obi, Redie Bereketeab.

Civil society, conflict resolution, peace and security in Africa
22–23 July in Nairobi, Kenya.
Conveners: Cyril Obi, Godwin Murunga, Anders Sjögren.
Co-organised with African Leadership Centre, Kenya.

The Nordic Africa Days 2010: “Time space Africa: Reconnecting the continent”
30 September – 1 October in Turku, Finland.
Conveners: Åbo Academy, NAI. See page 48 for more on the Nordic Africa Days.

Inception workshop by NAI research cluster on Urban Dynamics: Beyond dysfunctionality: Pro-social writing on African cities
21–22 October in Uppsala, Sweden.
Convener: The Urban Dynamics research cluster.

Inception workshop by NAI research cluster on conflict, displacement and transformation

Africa Day for Librarians

Rethinking and reconnecting academia in Africa’s agrarian and rural development
Conveners: Kjell Havnevik, Prosper Matondi.
Co-organised with the Swedish Interdisciplinary Research Network on Livelihoods and Natural Resource Governance together with Ruzivo Trust in Zimbabwe.

Gender and Security Sector Reform in post-conflict societies in Africa: Challenges, opportunities and lessons learned
Conveners: Maria Eriksson Baaz, Mats Utas.
Co-organised with the Swedish National Defence College.
LECTURES AND SEMINARS

Writing the littoral culture and representation of the Western Indian Ocean
29 January in Uppsala, Sweden. Abdulrazak Gurnah (University of Kent, uk).

Women, power and peacemaking in Africa

Inequalities between social groups leading to conflicts
11 March at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Stockholm, Sweden. Frances Stewart (Oxford University, uk).

African Development Indicators 2010: “Silent and lethal: How quite corruption undermines Africa's development efforts”

Explorations of 'Afrinesia'. Experimental approaches to political and legal anthropology in Africa
24 March in Uppsala, Sweden. Harri Englund (University of Cambridge, uk), Niklas Hultin (Swarthmore College, usa), Knut Christian Myhre (NAI), Daivi Rodima-Taylor (Boston University, usa), Sita Zougouri (University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso).

Emerging global powers – how should Africa respond?
4 April at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Stockholm, Sweden. Fantu Cheru (NAI), Cyril Obi (NAI).

The regionalisation of the Lord’s Resistance Army
5 May in Uppsala, Sweden. Ronald Atkinson (University of South Carolina, usa).

Bullets and business: War and implications of trade in and around Somalia

The perils of peak phosphorous: Geopolitics, food security, Corporate Social Responsibility and human rights: Implications for Western Sahara

The African diaspora in the Nordic countries today
15 May in Helsinki, Finland. Lisa Åkesson (NAI), Mulki Mölsa (Department of Public Health and Sociology, University of Helsinki, Finland), Paivi Pirkkalainen (University of Jyväskylä, Finland), Pekka Haavisto (Finnish MP). Co-arranged with University of Helsinki, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland.

Politics, war, collapse and reconstruction in Rwanda and Uganda

Göteborg Book Fair with Africa as its theme
23–26 September in Gothenburg, Sweden. See pages 42–43 for more on the Book Fair. The Afrika 2010 project was initiated by NAI, which worked closely with the Book Fair and Sida to bring the project to fruition. Financing for the project was provided by Sida, the Swedish Arts Council, the Swedish Academy and the Helge Ax:son Johnsons Foundation.

Writers’ Africa: Petina Gappah
12 October in Uppsala, Sweden. Petina Gappah (Zimbabwe), Stefan Helgesson (Stockholm University, Sweden). Co-arranged with Albert Bonniers Forlag.

Beyond dysfunctional readings of African cities

Tanzania – development and democratic challenges
27 October in Oslo, Norway. Kjell Havnevik (NAI), Jonas Ewald (Institute of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden), Stein Sundstøl Eriksen (Department of Development Studies, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs). Co-arranged with the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.

Writers’ Africa: Brian James
16 November in Uppsala, Sweden. Brian James (guest writer at NAI, Sierra Leone), Stefan Helgesson (Stockholm University, Sweden).

Biofuel, land grabbing and food security in Africa
17 November in Gothenburg, Sweden. Kjell Havnevik (NAI). Co-arranged with School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg.

Post referendum Sudans: Possible challenges and future prospects
9 December in Uppsala, Sweden. Abdel Ghaffar M. Ahmed (University of Khartoum, Sudan). Co-arranged with the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
**BOOK LAUNCHES**

"The Rise of China and India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions"

"The Rise of China and India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions"
4 April at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Stockholm, Sweden. Fantu Cheru (NAI), Cyril Obi (NAI).

"The Rise of China and India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions"
9 April at Chatham House in London, UK. Fantu Cheru (NAI), Cyril Obi (NAI). Col-arranged with Chatham House.

"The Rise of China and India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions"
30 April at the World Bank in Washington DC, USA. Fantu Cheru (NAI).

"The Complexity of Violence. A critical analysis of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)"
and related Policy Note: "Understanding and addressing conflict-related sexual violence: Lessons learned from the Democratic Republic of Congo"
25 May in Stockholm, Sweden. Maria Eriksson Baaz (NAI), Maria Stern (School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden). Co-arranged with Sida.

"The Rise of China and India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions"
21 June at the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, the Netherlands. Fantu Cheru (NAI).

"Tanzania in Transition – From Nyerere to Mkapa"
25 August at Voksenkollen in Oslo, Norway. Kjell Havnevik (NAI), Aida Isinika (Sokoin University of Agriculture, Tanzania). Co-arranged with the Dag Hammarskjöld Project.

"Tanzania in Transition – From Nyerere to Mkapa"

"The Rise of China and India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions"
14 September during the 3rd China-Africa Experience-Sharing Programme meeting on Special Economic Zones in Beijing, China. Fantu Cheru (NAI).

"Africa’s Informal Workers: Collective Agency, Alliances and Transnational Organizing in Urban Africa"
21 October in Uppsala, Sweden. Ilda Lindell (NAI), Carole Rakodi (University of Birmingham, UK), Alison Brown (Cardiff University, UK), Gunilla Andrae (Stockholm University, Sweden).

"Africa’s Informal Workers: Collective Agency, Alliances and Transnational Organizing in Urban Africa"
25 October in Stockholm, Sweden. Michal Lyons (London South Bank University, UK), Björn Beckman (Stockholm University, Sweden), Ilda Lindell (NAI), Jenny Cadstedt (NAI). Co-arranged with the Swedish Development Forum, the Department of Human Geography at Stockholm University.

"The Rise of China and India in Africa: Challenges, Opportunities and Critical Interventions"

"Tanzania in Transition – From Nyerere to Mkapa"
25 November in Gothenburg, Sweden. Kjell Havnevik (NAI), Sten Rylander (Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs), Jonas Ewald (The School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden). Co-arranged with School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg.

"Tanzania in Transition – From Nyerere to Mkapa"

8 December in Copenhagen, Denmark. Maria Eriksson Baaz (NAI), Robin May Schott (Danish Institute for International Studies, Denmark), Signe Amfred (Roskilde University, Denmark). Co-arranged with the Centre of African Studies, Copenhagen, Denmark.

"Kultur i Afrika"

**3 Questions for FORMER NAI RESEARCHER MAI PALMBERG FINISH POLITICAL SCIENTIST**

Mai Palmberg and Carita Backström are the co-editors of *Kultur i Afrika*. (The title is a pun – while it reads letter by letter as Culture in Africa, its typography suggests a less ambitious reading: A cool tour to Africa.) In this book in which they share their and others recurring encounters with African writers, pictorial artists, musicians, filmmakers, dancers and actors, Mai Palmberg carried out research on aspects of culture in Africa and Nordic images of Africa at the Nordic Africa Institute for 15 years within the framework of the "Cultural Images in and of Africa" research programme, *Kultur i Afrika* has emerged out of that research. In March 2010, Mai Palmberg retired after nearly 26 years with service with the Institute.

**Q:** What do contemporary African arts teach us about African societies?

A: For one thing, the artists tell us, in their different ways, that African societies are neither static nor helpless. Literature, film, dance, pictorial art, photography, theatre and music created by African artists constitute a rich well of insights and tales, which we can use to become a bit wiser about Africa. They give us a language that tells us things that go deeper than international assistance surveys and most mass media reporting. Arts travel – as book translations, theatre visits, music dvd:s, pictorial art on the internet. We have ample opportunity to hear a multitude of voices from Africa and from Africans in the diaspora. At the same time, we are entertained and experience aesthetic enjoyment.

**Q:** How do African societies in general and power-holders in particular perceive the messages that African artists are communicating?

A: Some are critical of power abuse in their books, music or theatre, and their own governments try to muzzle them by banning them from the radio, as with Thomas Mapfumo in Zimbabwe, or barring them from coming to the country whose president has been criticized, like Tiken Jay Fakoly, who is banned from Senegal. But literature and pictorial art have usually been tolerated. I should add that criticism is often conveyed subtly, in parables and the like. It can be as effective as barricades.

**Q:** Why do you think your book has turned out to be an enjoyable read for many?

A: I certainly hope that people find it both inspiring and enjoyable. We have crafted a book that one does not have to read from cover to cover, but can pick and choose from, like a walk through a meadow of flowers. The reference sections give suggestions for new itineraries. What has made the book possible is the space and financial support afforded by the Nordic Africa Institute and Sida during its long gestation, and the professional and innovative layout by Boel Näsland.
PROGRAMME AND RESEARCH COUNCIL

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Jenny Cadstedt, Researcher (from August)

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Göran Holmgqvist, Policy Analyst
Mats Härsman, Senior Research Associate

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Ilda Lindell, Cluster Leader
Francis Matamba ty, Senior Researcher (from September)
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Cyril Obi, Cluster Leader
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Ida Hansson, Research Administrator (from November)
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Caroline Kylbäck, Research Administrator (until June)

Proscovia Svärd, Archivist/Research Administrator (until December)
Karolina Winbo, Project Coordinator/Research Administrator (until July)

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Susanne Hagström, HR Assistant
Narek Krehla, IT-Manager

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Ms Florence Odora Adong
UN-Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Kolo, Kampala
Dr Gesessse Dessie
Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources, Shashemene, Ethiopia
Dr Anthoni van Nieuwkerk
University of Witwatersrand, Witwatersrand, South Africa
Dr Mohammed-Bello Yunusa
Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria

Externally Financed Guest Researchers
Ms Titilope Ajayi
Kofi Annan Peacekeeping Training Centre, Accra, Ghana
Dr Alexandre A. Arkhangelskaya
Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia
Ms Malwina Bakalaraska
Center for Studies on Non-European Countries, Warsaw, Poland
Ms Madina Bello
Université Montpellier 1, Montpellier, France
Dr Morten Jerven
School for International Studies, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada
Dr Renu Modi
Centre for African Studies, Mumbai, India
Dr Shuhei Shimada
Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

Guest Writer 2010
Mr Brian James
Freetown, Sierra Leone
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<tr>
<th>Razak Abu, University of Bergen, Norway</th>
<th>Tina-Maria Levamo, University of Helsinki, Finland</th>
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<td>Jenny Appelblad, Stockholm University, Sweden</td>
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<td>Bishwash Hamal, University of Jyväskylä, Finland</td>
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<td>Sonja Hofstetter, Stockholm University, Sweden</td>
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<td>Marit Tolo Østebø</td>
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TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS
APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE NORDIC AFRICA INSTITUTE

STUDY SCHOLARSHIPS

The primary purpose of the Study Scholarships is to facilitate use of the Nordic Africa Institute’s large library collections on contemporary Africa (books, periodicals, newspapers, government publications) and usage of its databases. The scholarship recipient is therefore offered his/her own desk and computer in a shared office at the Institute and free accommodation in a shared student apartment for the duration of one month. The Scholarships also cover travelling expenses (least expensive return fare from the place of residence in a Nordic country) and daily allowance during the stay in Uppsala.

Eligibility criteria:
The Study Scholarships are intended for students who have completed basic academic education (Bachelor’s or equivalent degree) and are pursuing Africa-oriented studies at universities or colleges in the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, or Sweden). Other eligible candidates are Africa-oriented journalists and textbook writers in the Nordic countries.

Application forms and directions are obtained through the Internet: www.nai.uu.se/scholarships/

Application deadline:
Please note that the scholarships are now awarded only once a year and applications must be in by
• 1 October (for a scholarship in the spring or autumn semester of the following year)

Inquiries: Inga-Britt.Faris@nai.uu.se

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PhD CANDIDATES

The primary purpose of the Scholarships for PhD Candidates is to offer PhD students links to existing research at the Nordic Africa Institute and to facilitate use of the Institute’s large library collections on contemporary Africa and usage of its databases. The scholarship recipient is therefore offered his/her own desk and computer in a shared office at the Institute and free accommodation in a shared student apartment for the duration of one or two months. The Scholarships also cover travelling expenses (least expensive return fare from the place of residence in a Nordic country) and daily allowance during the stay in Uppsala.

Eligibility criteria:
The Scholarships for PhD Candidates are intended for students pursuing Africa-oriented studies for a PhD degree at universities and colleges in the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, or Sweden), irrespective of citizenship. The applicants’ PhD studies should relate to current research at the Institute. For information about the Nordic Africa Institute’s thematic research clusters, see: www.nai.uu.se/research/

Application forms and directions are obtained through the Internet: www.nai.uu.se/scholarships/

Deadline:
Applications must be in by
• 1 October (for a scholarship in the spring or autumn semester of the following year)

Inquiries: Inga-Britt.Faris@nai.uu.se

TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS

The primary purpose of the Travel Scholarships is to facilitate research or preparation of research projects in Africa by sponsoring research trips to Africa.

Eligibility criteria:
The Travel Scholarships are intended for researchers in the Nordic countries pursuing research on Africa within the discipline of Social Sciences or closely related disciplines such as anthropology, history, economics, and human geography. The scholarships are mainly intended for young researchers, but applications from established researchers will also be considered. Applicants should have completed basic academic education (Bachelor’s degree).

The Scholarships cover travel expenses in connection with fieldwork in Africa. They cannot be used for salaries, or for study visits, excursions, language studies, participation in conferences, or volunteer work.

Application forms and directions are obtained from the Internet: www.nai.uu.se/scholarships/

Deadline:
Applications must be in by
• 31 January

Inquiries: Ingrid.Andersson@nai.uu.se
EXPENDITURES
(Swedish kronor, even thousands)

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This is a summary of the expenditures report from the NAI Annual Audit Report to the Swedish government. The full Audit Report (in Swedish only) is a public document and can be downloaded from the NAI web site (under “About Us” → “Organisation” → “Reports”).

PAID CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE NORDIC GOVERNMENTS AND SIDA
(Swedish kronor, even thousands)

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<td>700</td>
<td>1 659</td>
<td>4 295</td>
<td>3 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>47 444</td>
<td>48 220</td>
<td>49 641</td>
<td>43 124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The difference between expenditures and contributions is a result of differing periodisation of payments over the working year. Source: The Swedish Government Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency (Kammarkollegiet).
OUR VISION:
African People
Shaping their own Destiny

OUR GOALS:
Research of High Quality
Equality in Determining the Research Agenda
An Impact on Policy

The Nordic Africa Institute (Nordiska Afrikainstitutet) is a center for research, documentation and information on modern Africa in the Nordic region. Based in Uppsala, Sweden, the Institute is dedicated to providing timely, critical and alternative research and analysis of Africa in the Nordic countries and to co-operation between African and Nordic researchers. As a hub and a meeting place in the Nordic region for a growing field of research and analysis the Institute strives to put knowledge of African issues within reach for scholars, policy makers, politicians, media, students and the general public. The Institute is financed jointly by the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden).

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"Globalization" photo on page 4.
Chinese Navy hospital ship Peace Ark leaving Mombasa and heading for Tanzania on 19 October 2010. Doctors from China, Kenya, Germany and other countries provide free medical treatment for local residents.
Photo: Ju Zhenua/Xinhua Press/Corbis

"Conflict" photo on page 13.
Protesters attending a demonstration in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire’s commercial capital, 8 March, 2011. Photo: Ding Haitao/Xinhua/Xinhua Press/Corbis

"Rural" photo on page 23.
Fairtrade cotton farmers in Kita region of Mali.
Photo: Simon Rawles/Getty Images

"Urban" photo on page 31.
A bicycle “taxi”, known locally as boda-boda, carrying a businessman through the centre of the town Mbale, Uganda.
Photo: Eric Miller
Global demand for Africa’s energy and natural resources has increased dramatically, permitting many countries to start diversifying their economies for the first time in decades and to invest in the strategic infrastructure necessary for raising productivity and growth.