Fred's Lunch
'Exploring African Connections'

2 MARCH, 2019
ST CROSS COLLEGE
Programme

10:30 Tea and coffee

11:00 Presentations from students and recent alumni:

Brooke Parkin
"Power, protest and rights: Citizenship in Mozambique's natural gas boom"

Clare Kelly
"Moralising Monsters: A Reconsideration of Amos Tutuola and D.O. Fagunwa as Christian Writers"

Ryan Timms
"Project Côte d'Ivoire: Climbing in remote West Africa"

Catherine Namwezi
"Degrees: Kampala's biggest gamble"

12:30 Drinks Reception, Saugman Common Room

13:00 "Fred's Lunch", Hall

14:30 - 15:45 Seminars, Lecture Theatre

Richard Reid, Professor of African History
"Imperial partitions: Rethinking African and global history at Oxford"

Alumni Trio: Dr Bronwen Everill, Claire Leigh, and Dr Josiah Kaplan
"Reflections on the history and practice of humanitarian aid in Africa"

15:45 Tea and Coffee

Opening of the James Currey Collection

16:15 Roundtable discussion: African Literature and publishing in the global marketplace

17:30 Formal opening and reception

18:15 Dr Tsehai Berhane-Selassie, book launch
Brooke Parkin, current student: MPhil Development Studies, 2017
"Power, protest and rights: Citizenship in Mozambique's natural gas boom"

Political and economic elites in Mozambique hailed the 2010 discovery of vast reserves of natural gas off Mozambique’s northeast coast as opening a new chapter in the nation’s ‘development’. To build one of the centrepiece infrastructure projects, a £115 million port in the city of Pemba, the state is expropriating land from 783 families and compensating them £0.09 per-square-metre. For six years the community have contested the loss of their land. Brooke analyses two means through which local communities challenge the local state: the law and a protest.

Brooke Parkin was born in Brazil and studied Spanish and Portuguese at Edinburgh University. Before Oxford, he worked in policy and journalism, focusing on land rights during the build up to the 2016 Rio Olympics. Brooke has also worked for NGOs in Lusaka.

Clare Kelly
"Moralising Monsters: A Reconsideration of Amos Tutuola and D.O. Fagunwa as Christian Writers"

One of the most consistent criticisms of the work of Amos Tutuola has been the accusation that his stories are merely crude imitations of the novels of the Yoruba language writer D.O. Fagunwa. However, despite the fact that many critics consider Fagunwa to be both the true innovator and the superior artist, the international acclaim accrued by Tutuola’s The Palm-Wine Drinkard has, at best, tied together the authors’ critical fortunes and, at worst, relegated Fagunwa to a cultural position of “vague fore-runner of Tutuola.” One notable contention that appears across the scattered comparative sketches of their work is that Fagunwa’s stories are essentially narratives of Christian morality, whereas Tutuola “does not moralise and is never sentimental.” Therefore, taking this accepted divergence as a point of access into the relationship between these two authors, this paper examines and contrasts their status as Christian writers. It first engages in textual analysis, and then situates their work within contemporary publishing contexts in order to better understand the critical conception that “Fagunwa has a strong urge for enlightenment, while Tutuola has practically none.”

Clare is an alumna of St Cross College, having graduated from the MSt in World Literature in 2018 with first class honours. Her research focused primarily on the Nigerian author Amos Tutuola (1920 – 1997) who gained international acclaim for his book The Palm Wine Drinkard, published by Faber & Faber in 1952.
Despite seeing a huge surge in popularity within the UK recently, the sport of rock climbing remains in its nascence for most parts of the world. This winter, 5 young amateur climbers ventured to Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa to establish the country’s first ever routes. Along the way they encountered green mambas, armed escorts and financial and logistical set-backs, but still managed to climb the country’s famous Dent de Man (pictured), establish a guidebook for future visitors to the country, and introduce the sport to the local community in the form of interactive outdoor sessions.

Ryan Timms is a DPhil candidate at the Oxford Centre for Human Brain Activity (OHBA) which is part of the Wellcome Centre for Integrative Neuroimaging (WIN). He is applying the latest advances in the field of machine learning and AI to human neuroimaging data, in the hope of elucidating richer and more informative neuronal dynamics, which may help to answer clinical questions about neurological disorders.

Higher Education has long equipped students with identities, expectations, and behaviours that prime them for a specific kind of social field, characterised by secure white collar jobs in clean quiet offices. Today however, with 80% of Ugandan graduates remaining formally unemployed each year, many degree and diploma holders inevitably find themselves in labour market sectors that are completely different from what they had expected or hoped for.

Catherine Namwezi is a student from Uganda pursuing an MPhil in Development Studies. Catherine is passionate the development and transformation of rural communities in Uganda and she aspires to go back to Uganda post-graduation.
**Professor Richard Reid**  
Professor of African History & Fellow, St Cross College

“Imperial Partitions: rethinking African and global history at Oxford”.

The talk will consider the ways in which Africa has been framed within global and imperial history, and the opportunities which we have at Oxford to rethink that consensus. In particular, there will be a focus on the so-called ‘Scramble for Africa’ in the late nineteenth century, during which various imperial powers, Britain foremost among them, partitioned the continent and supposedly created the spatial and political foundations for its modernity. The ‘Scramble’ has led to Africa being analysed within a particular set of narratives. The talk will critically assess those narratives, and consider ways of reframing Africans’ contribution to global and imperial history, not least by re-examining its extraordinary nineteenth century.

Richard Reid is a historian of modern Africa, with a focus on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and with a particular interest in the culture and practice of warfare in the modern period. He has focused on the transformations in violence in the late precolonial period (the nineteenth century), as well as on more recent armed insurgencies, especially those between the 1950s and the 1980s. He also works on historical culture and memory, especially around trauma and upheaval, and one strand of his research involves an exploration of how the ‘precolonial’ is perceived and understood in modern Africa (as well as in modern Europe). While some of his published work spans the continent as a whole, his primary research is on East and Northeast Africa, including Uganda and the Great Lakes region, Ethiopia, and Eritrea.

**Alumni Trio: Dr Bronwen Everill, Claire Leigh & Josiah Kaplan**

Reflections on "The history and practice of humanitarian aid in Africa"

Bronwen Everill, Claire Leigh and Josiah Kaplan came together at St Cross to develop an edited volume on continuities in the discourse and practice of humanitarian aid in Africa, as it evolved from the colonial past to the present. In this publication, they argued that the West’s colonial relationship with Africa is crucial for better understanding humanitarian intervention and how the legacies of colonialism continue to impact emerging international policy. Six years later, the three alumni return to discuss the continuing relevancy of the project’s themes, drawing on their personal reflections from career working across the Continent at the intersections of research and applied humanitarianism.
Bronwen Everill - PhD King's College London; MSt Oxford; AB Harvard
Bronwen’s work to date has focused particularly on black settler societies in the 19th-century Atlantic, the development of humanitarian ideology and practice in African settings, and the many relationships between Africa and America. She is currently interested in American trade with West Africa in the 18th and 19th centuries; consumer politics and material culture in the African Atlantic World; and the influence of African economies on the field of American and British political economy in the early to mid-19th century. She is also more broadly interested in the comparative urban Atlantic, consumer politics in the modern period, and comparative decolonisations.

Claire Leigh is Director of International Development at Save the Children UK. In this capacity she leads Save the Children’s policy, advocacy and campaigns work for children living in developing countries. Prior to joining Save the Children, Claire has led policy and research programmes in a variety of organisations including UNDP and UNICEF in New York, the Overseas Development Institute in London, and as an adviser to the Presidents of Rwanda and Liberia. Claire has also spent time working for the British Government, as a senior policy adviser in the Prime Minister’s Strategy Unit and subsequently in the Policy Planning Staff of the Foreign Office. She holds a first class degree in History from Cambridge (Jesus Coll., 2000) and an MPhil in International Relations from Oxford (St Cross Coll., 2005)

Josiah Kaplan has worked for more than a decade in humanitarian research and knowledge management, with a focus on migration and displacement, innovation, child-sensitive social protection, civil-military coordination, and public health. He is currently the Senior Research Advisor on Migration & Displacement affairs for Save the Children International. Previously, he served as Senior Research Advisor at Save the Children, focusing on issues of humanitarian evidence, innovation and academic partnership. Josiah has also led on a range of academic research initiatives, including a large-scale study of market-based refugee livelihood approaches with the Oxford Refugee Studies Centre, social protection and cash transfer issues with ODI, and security sector reform with UN DPKO’s Best Practice Unit. He holds a DPhil in International Relations and a MPhil in Development Studies, both from the University of Oxford.
The James Currey Collection at St Cross College

In 2017, St Cross College received a complete set of first editions of every book published by the James Currey imprint, a fantastic collection composed mainly of literature on African history and politics.

James Currey has been called "The Godfather of African Literature", and his publishing house is responsible for producing a vast amount of academic books, journals, and other literature about Africa.

The College is very grateful to Wendy James and Douglas Johnson for helping to secure this collection at St Cross, and to the publishers Boydell and Brewer, who have agreed to provide the St Cross library with every new first edition until at least 2027.

This is an exceptional resource which we hope will prove useful to all St Cross members for years to come.
African Literature and Publishing Roundtable

Convenor - Janet Remmington, St Cross alumna
Janet Remmington is a scholarly publisher, researcher, and writer. She works as journals editorial director for the global Arts & Humanities programme and regional director for Africa at Routledge, Taylor & Francis. With two decades of publishing experience, she has pioneered partnership arrangements, and championed global South authorship and resource access. Janet co-edited "Sol Plaatje's Native Life in South Africa: Past and Present", which won the 2018 Non-Fiction Prize from South Africa’s National Institute for Humanities and the Social Sciences. She is completing a cultural history of black South African travel texts for a PhD at the University of York. Janet is an alumna of St Cross and the African Studies Centre, Oxford, where her MSc dissertation was awarded the 2009 Terence Ranger Prize.

Chair and Discussant - Dr Carli Coetzee
Dr Carli Coetzee is the Editor of the Journal of African Cultural Studies, and a Research Associate at the African Studies Centre at Oxford University. She is the author of the recently published monograph Written Under the Skin: Blood and Inter-generational Memory in South Africa (James Currey and Boydell & Brewer) and of Accented Futures: Language Activism and the Ending of Apartheid (Wits University Press). Together with Moradewun Adejunmobi, she has edited the Routledge Handbook of African Literature, which will be published in March 2019, and which includes 28 chapters from a range of differently located scholars. The Handbook includes a section on literary networks, with chapters devoted to the past and the present of African literature publishing.

Panellists

Ellah Wakatama Allfrey, OBE, is the founding Publishing Director of The Indigo Press. She was a judge for the 2017 Dublin International Literary Award and the 2015 Man Booker Prize. She is former deputy editor of Granta magazine and senior editor at Jonathan Cape, Random House. She is the editor of Africa39 and Safe House: Explorations in Creative Nonfiction. Her journalism has appeared in the Telegraph, Guardian and Observer newspapers and in Spectator and The Griffith Review. She is a trustee of The Royal Literary Fund and the Caine Prize for African Writing and sits on the Advisory board for Art for Amnesty and the Editorial Advisory Panel of the Johannesburg Review of Books. In 2016 she was Visiting Professor and Global and Intercultural Scholar at Goshen College, Indiana, and Guest Master at the Gabriel Garcia Marquez Fellowship in Cartagena, Colombia.
Margaret Busby OBE became the UK’s youngest and first black female publisher when she co-founded Allison & Busby Ltd, of which she was editorial director for 20 years. She is an award-winning writer, editor, critic, consultant and broadcaster, and has served as a judge for many literary awards. She edited the pioneering Daughters of Africa: An International Anthology of Words and Writing by Women of African Descent (1992). The New Daughters of Africa, out in March 2019, continues the mission for a new generation. Margaret is an ardent campaigner for diversity in publishing, co-founding GAP (Greater Access to Publishing) in the 1980s. She is currently patron of Independent Black Publishers (IBP).

Nana Ayebia Clarke MBE is a Ghanaian-born publisher currently resident in the UK. She has a BA (Hons); and MSt in Women’s Studies from the University of Oxford. She was Submissions Editor of the highly acclaimed Heinemann African and Caribbean Writers Series for 12 years where she published and promoted prominent writers and Nobel Prize winning authors. She founded Ayebia Clarke Publishing Limited with her husband David in 2003 and were later joined by their son Nick Kweku in April 2012. Becky Nana Ayebia Clarke was awarded an Honorary MBE by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2011 for services to the British publishing industry.

James Currey, after reading history at Wadham College, University of Oxford, was sent by the Oxford University Press to Cape Town in 1959. The more frustrated he became by South Africa the more interested he became in independent Africa. He enabled a South African publisher, who had also been at Wadham, to escape to Canada by jumping over the side of a ship and he and his wife Clare had to flee the country. In London he ran the Three Crowns series for the OUP in London which had plays by writers such as Soyinka. In 1967 he joined Heinemann and, with Chinua Achebe as Editorial Adviser, added 250 titles to the African Writers Series. James and Clare saw the gap for Academic Books on Africa and in 1985 started publishing the first of the 1200 first editions housed so beautifully by St Cross. James Currey Publishers moved to Oxford in 1996 when Douglas Johnson came in as a partner and Wendy James as a Director.

Zaahida Nabagereka is Co Founder of Afrikult., a platform and collective that explores, discusses and celebrates African literatures. Based in London, and formed whilst studying at SOAS in 2014 Afrikult., has grown from having an initially online virtual presence to delivering various physical events and workshops within different spaces internationally. Some of Afrikult.’s past and present partners include The Royal African Society, British Library, Southbank Centre, Writivism Festival, Writers Project of Ghana, University of East Anglia, and most recently Jalada Africa. Nabagereka is also a fourth year doctoral researcher at SOAS studying Luganda literature production in Uganda.

Sylvester Onwordi
Sylvester Onwordi is the son of Buchi Emecheta and the founder of Omenala Press - an independent publisher of Pan-African books which now exclusively publishes the works of Buchi Emecheta. He is a trained Psychotherapist and Medical Anthropologist and has worked for many years as journalist.
Please note there will be a photographer present from 16:00.