



From the President's Desk, with Temitope Oriola

Welcome to the November 2020 issue of the CAAS newsletter. I am delighted that the profiles of Dr. Martin Evans and Chioma Abuba are part of this edition. Their profiles make fascinating reads.

My thoughts are on Nigeria and the October 2020 #EndSARS protest, which was repressed violently by the government. I grew up in Nigeria and left for graduate studies in Canada in 2005.

The #EndSARS movement is quite literally and metaphorically the battle for the soul of Nigeria. The generals and commanders are young people with trenches on the street. The battle cry is: "Enough; Nigeria can do better than this". The young people and the government appear to speak different languages. The young people are forward-looking, urbane and technologically informed. The government; well, it is a work in progress — citizens beware.

I flew to Lagos from Abuja in 2005 to apply for a study permit. I obtained a bank draft for my application fee and was about to take a taxi to the Canadian Deputy High Commission when a police officer stopped me. He had a civilian top and police trousers. He flashed his identity card. He demanded to see the contents of my laptop bag. The bag contained several documents, such as my academic credentials and admission letters to two Canadian universities. The officer examined the documents with mild irritation. I doubted that he understood the contents. He said I had to follow him to the station to explain the sources of the "foreign" documents. My explanation about my admission (*continued on next page*)

**From the
President's
Desk** 1
-2

**Faculty
Profile** 3
-
5
Dr. Martin
Evans, PhD

**Student
Profile** 6
Chioma
Abuba, MA

7
-
1
0
**Membership
News**

**Call for
content** 1
E-mail us! 1

(continued from previous page) and study permit application did not convince him. Another officer soon joined us and asked to know what was going on. He looked at the documents and told me to go. I was fortunate.

Many young Nigerians were not. Their encounters with people paid to protect them have often ended in abuse or coerced payments of bribes.

The notorious SARS (or the Special Anti-Robbery Squad) is merely an insignia of all that is wrong with post-independence Nigeria. It is part of a deeper and much more consequential colonial hangover and failure of the political elite.

SARS is both an intra and inter-class problem. Police personnel recruited from poor segments of society do not appear to see any link between their poor conditions of living and the actions of those deploying them against the masses.

The deployment of soldiers against peaceful protesters at Lekki in Lagos continues an unfortunate trend — a virulent intolerance of dissent. Such an action by the over-stretched armed forces embroiled in counter-terrorism, counter-insurgency and policing duties in 30 of Nigeria's 36 states questions the democratic credentials of the government. It insults the service of the people who have served in the armed forces, including my father, who served in the army for over 30 years. That action against unarmed civilians was not part of the mission of the army to which they enlisted.

The #EndSARS movement embodies the fact that Nigeria's young people are no longer prepared to wait in vain like their parents. They want a free, fair, and prosperous society. The movement is a warning to the elite that the dividends of democracy are long overdue, and the Nigerian state must wake up to its responsibilities. I dedicate this issue of the CAAS newsletter to the peaceful protesters on the streets of Lagos and across Nigeria. May Nigeria fulfil its promise. The night is almost over; a new day is near.

Temitope Oriola
CAAS President



DR. TEMITOPE ORIOLA, CAAS PRESIDENT

Faculty Profile

Dr. Martin Evans



Dr. Evans is a Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader in International Development Studies at the University of Chester in Northwest England, although he originally comes from Kingston upon Thames in Greater London. His involvement with CAAS dates to 2002 and he is now Editor for Geography-related papers for *CJAS/RCEA*.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH DR. EVANS

What are your research interests?

I have long been interested in the relationships between conflict, livelihoods, and development in rural areas of Africa. I have spent most of my research time in Casamance in southern Senegal looking at livelihoods among populations affected by conflict, whether they have stayed put or have been displaced or have now returned home. I have also conducted research on diasporas and development in their home areas, also (like Casamance) at the geographic margins of their respective countries: the Southwest Region of Cameroon and

Mtwara Region in Tanzania. While considering mobilities of various kinds however I am ultimately most interested in people who stay put. In that respect I have more recently turned my attention to agriculture, specifically the effectiveness (or otherwise) of development interventions to support paddy rice cultivation in Casamance amid environmental and social change. This links back to my bachelor's degree, which was in Botany - long before I became involved in Geography or Area Studies!
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Faculty Profile: Dr. Martin Evans, cont.

Do you have any reflections on pedagogy in your field?

Development Studies, in



which I do most of my teaching, can be pedagogically challenging because of its multidisciplinary nature. This means covering a lot of ground: political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects of the lives of most of the global population! In the time I have been lecturing however the recognition that the voices of that majority are not being heard in our teaching has become painfully apparent. I have recently been involved in 'decolonising the curriculum' in my department, which has been fascinating. It is something that scholars in

African Studies have been working on for decades but the rapid shift in pedagogy in this area now happening in

the UK and elsewhere is decisive – and overdue. The next big (and ongoing) step is how we teach what will be the defining issue of

the 21st century: climate change and its consequences. I think we will need new subject areas and languages to do that, which we are only in the early stages of developing. It's a cliché to say that the jobs that most of our students will end up doing don't exist yet but I feel that most strongly around climate change, and as teachers we need to help prepare them for that.

If you were not a professor, then what career path would you take?

I do sometimes think of my 'unlived lives', in Margaret Attwood's memorable

phrase. There was a point in 1998 when things could have gone three ways. I could have stayed working in financial accounts for the UK National Health Service, which I was doing at the time. Or I could have gone back to working for an NGO concerned with local sustainable development (in South London/Surrey), near where I grew up and which I had worked for previously. Or I could do my master's and then my PhD – which is the path I chose, obviously! I have continued to engage with development (broadly defined) practitioners where I can though and enjoy working with them through

“the recognition that the voices of that majority are not being heard in our teaching has become painfully apparent”

consultancy and advisory work. I am also Assessment Officer for my department and my colleagues know that university regulations, processes and an eye for detail are my thing – so in that sense the accountant in me
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Faculty Profile: Dr. Martin Evans, cont.

(continued from previous page) still makes himself felt!

What is your relationship to Africa?

Complicated! I first visited Africa (Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire) in my late

“I do not come from a particularly close family and in some ways that gap feels filled when I am with people I've known for years in Senegal. They have always looked after and looked out for me.”

20s just by chance. A friend from undergraduate days was doing a postdoc on an EU-funded forestry programme in Ouagadougou and extended an open invitation to her former classmates. It was quite an experience and evidently, I never looked back. The place I have got to know best though is still the Upper Guinea Coast, particularly Casamance. There is so much there that constantly draws me back – history, landscapes, wildlife, and the general buzz – but ultimately, it is the people I miss. I have many friends

there after two decades of fieldwork and I worry about how the pandemic is affecting them.

Any warm memories about Africa you would like to share?

My warmest memories and associations are again about people and their kindness. I do not come from a particularly close family and in some ways that gap feels filled when I am with people I've known for years in Senegal. They have always looked after and looked out for me. Birdwatching on the Casamance River is another high point that I fit in to most of my trips there; I just love being out in the mangroves in a *pirogue* and enjoying the water, light, and space.

What are your hobbies?

Here in Chester I enjoy (when it's possible to do so) simple pleasures like eating out and/or going to a movie with friends. We're also blessed with diverse, beautiful countryside in Northwest England and (very nearby) North Wales, and I enjoy hiking in the area; or visiting historic sites, zoos or aquaria in the North more generally, often now with my two-year-old twin god-daughters! I try to take at least one long walking holiday a year and love the Atlantic islands for this: the Azores, Madeira, the Canaries and Cape Verde are all places where I have been on some amazing hikes.



Student Profile

Chioma Abuba, MA



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH CHIOMA

What are your research interests?

I am interested in contemporary African social history, particularly in exploring the dynamics of social change and cultural production in the 19th and 20th centuries Africa with focus on Southeastern Nigeria.

What are your future aspirations and career path?

I would like to become a seasoned (academic) historian who inspires new ways of imagining Africans and understanding African history.

What is your advice to young Black African graduate students about the challenges you faced as a graduate student?

Be invested in your research but allow yourself to be guided by evidence rather than

Chioma Abuba is a PhD candidate at Dalhousie University, Halifax. She is a historian who enjoys exploring the dynamics of social change and cultural production in Africa. Her articles have appeared in the *Nsukka Journal of History*, *Association of Tourism Development in Nigeria (ATDiN)*. She has published a book chapter in *Rethinking Securities in an Emergent Technoscientific New World Order*.



assumptions or personal biases. You will always find a niche in every area if you dig deeper. Avoid procrastination but also try to take your workload one day at a time. Your mental health is *also* crucial.

Do you have any relationship to or warm memories of Africa? What would that be?

The colourful wedding ceremonies and masquerade performances in Igboland, Nigeria during the Christmas holidays are wonderful spectacles that I would always love to relive.

What would you typically do on a day you want to take your mind off (academic) work?

Visit the movies with family and friends.

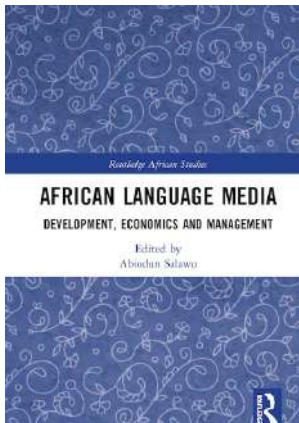
Which do you prefer, tea or coffee?

I prefer coffee to tea.



Membership News

Book Publication: Abiodun Salawu, Indigenous Language Media in Africa, North-West University



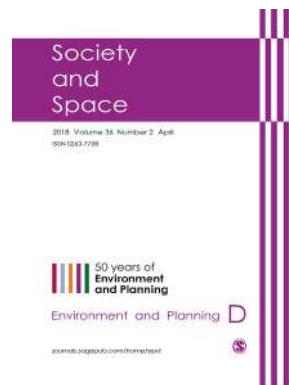
Abiodun Salawu (forthcoming, November 2020), editor, *African Language Media: Development, Economics and Management* (New York, NY: Routledge).

Abstract

This edited volume considers why the African language press is unstable and what can be done to develop quality African language journalism into a sustainable business. Providing an overview of the African language journalism landscape, this book examines the challenges of operating sustainable African language media businesses. The chapters examine the political economy of African language media, the management of African Language media and consider case studies of the successes and failures of African language newspapers, and the challenges of developing quality journalism. Covering print and digital newspapers and broadcast journalism, this book will be of interest to scholars of media and journalism in Africa.

[Purchase the book, here.](#)

Article Publication: Christopher Webb, International Development Studies, University of Toronto



Christopher Webb (July 2020), “Liberating the Family: Debt, Education and Racial Capitalism in South Africa” *Society and Space* 0, no. 0: 1-18.

Abstract

This article analyses #FeesMustFall protests in South Africa, focusing on young people’s concerns around debt, family obligations and social mobility. The protests have popularly been understood as a generational revolt, but there has been insufficient attention paid to the role of debt in young people’s lives and how this affects aspirations towards collective social mobility. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork with students from a black working-class township, Webb suggests that education reconfigures kinship bonds, generating expectations to support family members by paying a so-called ‘black tax’. Drawing on the concept of ‘debt ecologies’, Webb highlights how debt articulates with other forms of social inequality, racialized poverty in particular, and can act as a source of

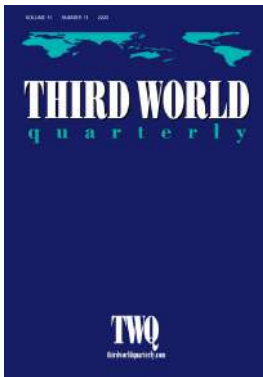
abstract and membership news continues on next page →

Membership News

politicization. Finally, he calls for greater attention to the role of debt in young people's lives and how it impacts their economic agency, their role in care and familial networks, and ability to imagine the future.

[Read the full article, here.](#)

Artical Publication: Temitope B. Oriola, Department of Sociology, University of Alberta



Temitope B. Oriola (September 2020), “Framing and Movement Outcomes: The #BringBackOurGirls Movement” *Third World Quarterly* 0. no. 0: 1-20

Abstract

This paper is concerned with two questions: What are the master frames of the #BringBackOurGirls (#BBOG) movement? Why did the #BBOG attract significant global attention but achieve only moderate success in its goal – the release of all the schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram in Chibok in April 2014? The paper draws on primary and secondary data to argue that the international attention generated by

#BBOG framing had historically specific resonance with local contestations for political power. The reverberation of the framing led to the alienation of key political actors in Nigeria who could have helped achieve the movement's objective. The involvement of elite women in the movement played a major role in its global popularity but their political activities and loyalties before and during movement activities influenced local perceptions of the movement. The #BBOG's rhetorical over-reliance on international support for achieving the movement's objective was a strategic error. The #BBOG experience suggests the need for activists, particularly in the developing world, to recognise the constraints of their political context, work with local actors to achieve objectives, and publicise what 'international support' means for movement objectives.

[Read the full article, here.](#)

Article Publication: Husseina Dinani, Department of Historical and Cultural Studies, University of Toronto

Husseina Dinani. “Gendered Migrant Labour: Marriage and the Political Economy of Wage Labour and Cash-Crops

Publication information, first paragraph, and membership news continued on next page →

Membership News



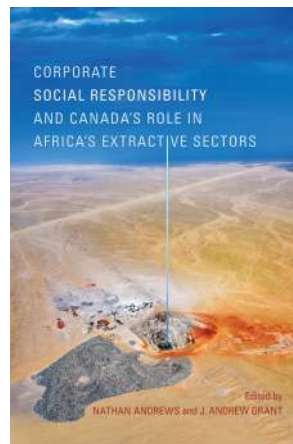
late Colonial and post-Independence Southern Tanzania,” *Gender & History* 31:3 Special Issue ‘Migration, Institutions, and Intimate Lives’ (2020), 565-583.

First Paragraph

In 2010, I spoke with elderly women in Lindi district, located in the southeastern region of Lindi, about their experiences of the decolonisation period in Tanzania.¹ In determining women’s backgrounds and their recollections of critical moments in the region’s and country’s political history, it became increasingly apparent to me in the first couple of days of collecting interviews that women had changed their residences numerous times over the course of their adult lives and, in the process, had travelled across and sometimes beyond the southern regions of Ruvuma, Lindi and Mtwara. Upon further inquiry into the itinerant lives of women, I learned that women’s movements during this time were largely attributed to the multiple marriages they had forged and terminated.

[Read the full article, here.](#)

Book Publication: Nathan Andrews, Department of Global and International Studies, University of Northern British Columbia; J. Andrew Grant, Department of Political Studies, Queens University



Corporate Social Responsibility and Canada’s Role in Africa’s Extractive Sectors (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020).

Abstract

Africa’s natural resource sectors are experiencing unprecedented levels of foreign investment and production. Hailed as a means of reducing poverty and reliance on foreign aid, the role of foreign corporations in Africa’s extractive sector is not well understood and important questions remain about the impact of such activities on people and on the environment.

With reference to global governance initiatives aimed at promoting ethical business practices, this volume offers a

abstract and membership news continues on next page →

Membership News

timely examination of Canada-Africa relations and natural resource governance. Few Canadians realize how significant a role their country plays in investing in Africa's natural resource sector. The editors and contributors consider the interplay between public opinion, corporate social responsibility, and debates about the extraction and trade of Africa's natural resources.

[Purchase the book, here.](#)

Article Publication: Charis Enns, Global Development Institute, Manchester University; Nathan Andrews; and J. Andrew Grant



Charis Enns, Nathan Andrews, and J. Andrew Grant (July 2020), “Security for Whom? Analyzing Hybrid Security Governance in Africa’s Extractive Sectors,” *International Affairs* 96, no. 4: 995-1013.

Abstract

In this article, we analyse the factors underpinning the shift towards hybrid security governance in Africa. Extant scholarship largely attributes this shift to

broader global processes, such as histories of colonialism, neoliberalism and transformations in global governance, which have served to legitimize the role of private authority in security provision around sites of resource extraction. Our analysis seeks to understand the relative and relational influence of power and rules in international politics by offering empirical insights about what hybrid security arrangements look like ‘on the ground’. Drawing upon recently conducted fieldwork in Kenya, Uganda and Ghana, we examine how hybrid security arrangements affect the lives of those living near sites of natural resource extraction. Our analyses suggest that although hybrid security has emerged as the leading approach to security governance, this approach to security does not uniformly involve or serve the interests of all stakeholders. Rather, we find that hybrid security arrangements aid the security of extractive operations—securing investments in both physical and human capital—while sometimes undermining the security of nearby communities.

[Read the full article, here.](#)

The CAAS newsletter team wants to hear from you!

We want to share the worlds of our members!

CONTENT WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- Faculty profile participants
- Student profile participants
- Member news: something good or important that has happened in your personal or professional life that you would like to share with other CAAS members. Did you happen upon a strange discovery? Or recently publish something? Perhaps you went on a great vacation and made a friend. Let us know!
- Academic news: Is there a CFP you would like to share, or an academic opportunity? E-mail us!
- News from across Africa: we want the good, the bad, the beautiful, the problematic. Has something happened somewhere in Africa that you think is worth sharing? Perhaps an important political event or just a happy story? Share with us!

Contact Information

Newsletter team: caasnewsletter@gmail.com

Carla Joubert: cjoubert@uwo.ca

Damilohun Damson Ayoyo: ayoyo@ualberta.ca