

Uppsala 1 June 2009

NEWSLETTER FROM THE NORDIC AFRICA INSTITUTE

Comment by Mai Palmberg

What's Culture Got to Do With It?



Under a title inspired by Tina Turner, "What's Culture Got to Do With It?" some 50 scholars and artistic intellectuals will meet for a conference in Uppsala on 15-18 June 2009. The aim of the conference is to look at some findings and ongoing discourses in postcolonial culture research.

The conference can be seen as the grand finale of the "Cultural Images in and of Africa" research programme, for which I have been responsible since its inception in 1995. But it does not represent a full stop; rather a semicolon pointing to future activities in the field. The conference brings together creativity and cultural research as an important contribution to the dialogue on the question "Which Way Africa?".

The guest writer grant to the Cultural Images programme has added African voices to the pursuit of knowledge about Africa. Three out of the four guest writers hosted by NAI are present at the conference: Ama Ata Aidoo, the grand dame of African literature; Gabeba Baderoon, a beautiful voice of post-struggle and pro-diversity South Africa; and Shailja Patel, the present guest writer who blends poetry and her 'migritude' poetical history with activism for democracy in Kenya.

The key-note speakers all view culture as both prisms through which we analyse history and as mediums of change. Elleke Boehmer, professor of the prestigious chair of World Writing at the English Faculty of Oxford and a fiction writer in her own right will speak on the "Postcoloniality of History".

Karin Barber, professor at the Centre for African Studies

Lecture Series on African Security

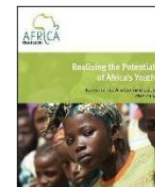


NAI and the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) have recently entered into a framework agreement on research cooperation and capacity building in African Studies. The first project is a lecture series on African Security, initiated in 2008. Seven lectures are planned for 2009 and will be made available as text and video on the NAI web site.

Read more about the NAI - FOI agreement [here](#)

Watch videos and read papers in the African Security lecture series [here](#)

Danish Africa Commission Unveils Final Report



The Africa Commission created by the Danish government unveiled its Final Report on 6 May. The recommendations of the report focuses on the private sector and youth.

Read more about the commission and download the Final Report [here](#)

Read a comment on the report by Danish political scientist André Sonnichsen [here](#)

Performance by NAI Guest Writer Shailja Patel



NAI Guest Writer Shailja Patel will perform 'Bwagamoyo: The Father (Part II of Migritude)' at the Slottsbiografen cinema in Uppsala on 3

June 2009, 19.30 - 21.30.

Read more about the performance [here](#)

NAI at ECAS

NAI participates in the 3rd European Conference on African Studies in Leipzig, Germany, 4-7 June 2009. The next ECAS

at University of Birmingham will speak of how to view moral examples in popular culture in Africa, the culture expressions ambiguously developing between tradition and modernity.

Stefan Jonsson, associate professor at Linköping University, a critic and postcolonial writer, will speak on "The Western World View and the Rest" (preliminary title).

Signe Arnfred, a seasoned gender scholar, now at Roskilde will speak on "Why Gender Speaks through Culture".

Observer seats with full access to the conference are available. The full programme with 27 presenters of papers from Africa, Europe and North America is available from caroline.kyhback@nai.uu.se.

Mai Palmberg

Coordinator of the 'Cultural Images in and of Africa' research programme at NAI

Culture Evening

In conjunction with the conference 'What's Culture Got to Do With It?' a culture evening will be held at the Slottsbiografen Cinema in Uppsala on 17 June. The program will feature poetry by Shailja Patel, readings and music. Host of the culture evening: **Ahmadu Jarr**.

NAI is on Twitter

The microblogging site Twitter is the first social media platform of NAI, soon to be followed with FaceBook and YouTube sites. To "follow" NAI on Twitter go to twitter.com/NordicAfrica.



meeting in 2011 will be held in Uppsala. Read more about ECAS [here](#)

Henning Mankell and Patrick Chabal keynote speakers at NAD 2009

Writer and dramatist Henning Mankell and professor Patrick Chabal will be keynote speakers at the Nordic Africa Days in Trondheim, Norway, on 1-3 October 2009. The conference is co-arranged by NAI and Africa Network Norway.

Read more about NAD [here](#)

Vacancy at NAI

NAI invites applications for the position of Nordic Researcher from Finland. Closing date: 30 June 2009.

Read more about the position [here](#)

Recent publications

Writers, Writing on Conflict and Wars in Africa. Edited by Okey Ndibe and Chenjerai Hove.

Presentation [here](#)

Independent? Tanzania's challenges since Uhuru by Knud Vilby.

Presentation [here](#)

Policy Note: The African Union and the Challenges of Implementing the "Responsibility to Protect", by Dan Kuwali.

Download [here](#)

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