

<p>Institution: UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: D27 Area Studies</p> <p>a. Overview</p> <p>The Department of African Studies and Anthropology (DASA) is one of a small number of centres worldwide dedicated to interdisciplinary study of Africa and committed to collaborative research with African colleagues and institutions. Our research spans an exceptionally wide range of disciplines, both in the humanities (history, literature, language) and the social sciences (anthropology, geography, politics). It is internationally recognised as a model for interdisciplinarity. The main weight of our research and supervision falls within West Africa, but we also have increasing strengths in Southern Africa and undertake comparative work across sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. In 2009, in the course of university-wide reorganisation, DASA joined with the Department of History to form the School of History and Cultures, which is one of six schools in the College of Arts and Law. This has provided valued opportunities for shared PG supervision, joint PG student projects, and shared research fora. DASA runs its own undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and designs its own research strategy and activities, while benefiting from, and contributing to, the School-, College- and University-wide research environment.</p> <p>b. Research strategy</p> <p>The goal of our research strategy since RAE 2008 has been to expand our role as a crucible of interdisciplinary and collaborative research focused on Africa, increasing both its range and its dynamism. The vigorous support of the College has enabled us to do even more than we originally envisaged. We have actively sought to extend our regional coverage, and this has been achieved with the appointment of three new members of staff. Bolt extends Shear's coverage of Southern Africa to the Zimbabwe borderland and Malaŵi, Rossi brings expertise in Francophone West Africa, and Pype brings a new specialism in Central Africa. This geographical broadening, combined with the increasing prominence of social and cultural anthropology in our disciplinary spectrum, is reflected in our 2013 change of name from the Centre of West African Studies to the Department of African Studies and Anthropology.</p> <p>All plans outlined in the RAE 2008 have been achieved and exceeded. Major books flagged up in RAE 2008 have now been published. Research activities planned in 2008 have gone well beyond what was envisaged: Barber and Skinner's inter-institutional network on early West African print cultures has attracted funding enabling it to expand to cover the whole of sub-Saharan Africa; Nolte's participation in the DfID-funded project on religion and development (based in the International Development Department, UoB) inspired her current ERC-funded project on religious encounter in Nigeria.</p> <p>Following a full strategic College-led review of the department in 2010-11, we have developed a forward plan which builds on past achievements to position DASA at the centre of all research on Africa within the UoB and across the Midlands. A Research Day organised by the department and supported by the College brought together academic staff with African research interests from 15 departments including Public Policy, Medicine, Law, Accounting & Finance and Theology & Religion, in a workshop to explore synergies and future collaboration. This was the launchpad for the creation by DASA of a new "Africa Hub" website serving everyone with an Africanist research interest across the university and local community (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/africa-hub/index.asp). It gives news of current Africanist research, links researchers working in different units and institutions, and features podcasts of DASA conferences, events, special lectures and weekly seminars. In the next five years we plan to increase its functionality and greatly enhance its content.</p> <p>Our forward strategy is based on the active generation and nurturing of interdisciplinary research at three levels: (a) within individual staff members' projects: all staff base their work in a core discipline but illuminate this with insights from cognate fields; (b) in collaborative departmental research projects and interdisciplinary seminar series, workshops and conferences; and (c) through collaboration with researchers beyond the department, nationally and internationally, and especially in Africa (see section (e) below).</p> <p>We have put mechanisms in place to institutionalise joint initiatives that dramatically expand our research reach and capacity. These include ESRC-funded partnerships with universities in Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa which facilitate joint postgraduate research programmes and research collaborations; research networks and collaborations across the UK, USA and</p>

Caribbean; and a programme of residential workshops for African visiting research fellows (for all these, see section (e) below). These links, forged through on-going research projects on topics ranging from the South African black middle class (Shear and Bolt) to slavery and emancipation in the Sahel (Rossi), have established a permanent set of relationships globally on which further projects will be based. Our collaboration with African partners in particular reflects a long-standing commitment to working “on the ground” in Africa, with African partners and interlocutors, which has been a defining feature of our research since the inauguration of the department in 1963; and it moves this commitment to a new level of organised, formalised partnerships.

We have developed a strategy to **make resources go further**, by combining and concentrating activities. Thus wherever possible we co-ordinate individual research fellows’ visits, on-going research network meetings, and recurrent programmes of events to maximise and intensify research productivity.

Our strategy for the **recruitment of research students** is two-pronged. On the one hand, through the university’s Development, Alumni and Business Engagement office we have launched a fund-raising drive in order to create doctoral scholarships for African students; the target is five scholarships, one to come on stream each year over a period of five years. On the other hand we are seeking to attract more Home/EU students through the creation of an innovative new MRes with a term in Africa at a partner institution. Discussions with our partner institutions in Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa have reached an advanced stage and we plan to launch the new programme in the 2015-16 academic year. Doctoral funding is set to expand, given the highly successful outcome of Birmingham’s BGP2 bid (‘Midlands Three Cities consortium’: ranked 2nd in the UK) worth £14.6 million, which will receive 100% matched-funding from the College.

These strategies to ensure the vitality and sustainability of the department’s research have been strongly supported by the College and University. College policy has facilitated a more active collaboration with other units in the UoB, including Modern Languages (with which we have launched joint seminars and shared PG programmes focusing on Francophone North Africa), the International Development Department (with which a new joint PG programme on “Africa and Development” has been established, starting 2013) and the Departments of English and Hispanic Studies (where joint PG programmes and modules on African and Caribbean literature have continued to thrive). The College has also supported the development and successful launching of an **online alumni magazine**, a greatly enhanced **events and seminars programme**, and the **Fage Lecture**, an annual public lecture inaugurated in 2013 as part of the department’s 50th anniversary celebrations.

The **University’s international strategy** includes a wider commitment to engaging with Africa and African Studies and has resulted in new support for the formation of partnerships with other African Studies units in the USA Midwest (through the UoB Transatlantic Collaboration Initiative), and in Europe (focusing on UoB partnership with Goethe U, Frankfurt). Both of these initiatives are based on international recognition of DASA’s leading role in African Studies. They support exchange visits for DASA staff to explore and plan future collaboration with the partner institutions.

In sum, we have a framework in place which supports the pursuit of individual research while also facilitating sustained interdisciplinary and collaborative work with partners in the USA, Europe and Africa, drawing on and further enhancing our international reputation.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

The small size and wide disciplinary range of the department mean that every staff member is vital. We have a dual strategy: tenaciously to **maintain our core establishment** of staff at full strength, and imaginatively to **enhance our research capacity** with strategic part-time appointments and with strong and successful support for post-doctoral and research fellowship applicants. The department currently has a well distributed profile with one Professor, one Reader, three Senior Lecturers, three Lecturers (one of whom is early-career), one Senior Research Fellow (part-time), and one early-career Research Fellow. We adhere to the university’s guidelines on equality and diversity. Gender distribution in the department is exceptionally well balanced, with five male and five female staff. Staff include one ethnic minority and six nationalities. By its nature, the field of African Studies attracts an ethnically diverse constituency, and this is reinforced by our active pursuit of opportunities for African researchers, e.g. through our Cadbury Fellowships scheme (see below), our participation in British Council/DfID and British Academy partnership programmes

(Cline-Cole; Skinner) and our active nurturing of African applicants for Newton International Fellowships and other post-doctoral funding.

Our **recruitment strategy** is to appoint the best people in the field – maintaining disciplinary range and expertise in core areas – support them, and give them the freedom to develop their own interests as they see fit. Synergies and common interests emerge spontaneously in the continual conversation of the department, rather than being imposed. It is particularly exciting to note the links developing between DASA and the History Department, as the latter pushes its boundaries to encompass more of the non-European world. Our staff with a strong historical focus (Skinner, Rossi, McCaskie) contribute crucially to forging these links.

Researcher development is fully supported by University policy. The University was awarded the HR Excellence in Research accreditation in September 2011. It provides an integrated leadership development programme for academic researchers, from contract research staff to senior academic leaders, and recurrent central funding to maintain development provision for researchers.

At College, School and Departmental level, staff are supported in their development as researchers at every stage of their careers, starting from doctoral students aiming at an academic career (see “Research Students” below). We support postdoctoral scholars by hosting them in the department under the auspices of several schemes (in the review period, we have had one British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, three successive Newton International Fellows, and two British Academy Visiting Fellows; in addition, our newest member of staff, Pype, is a Birmingham Fellow, under a scheme created by the University specifically to attract and support the best postdoctoral and early career scholars).

Support for **early career staff** includes probation, mentoring, and an annual staff development review in which short-term and medium-term priorities are set, impediments to successful research and career progression are identified and solutions proposed. Early career staff are also exempt from very heavy departmental managerial roles. All other academic staff undergo an annual staff development review. Staff are encouraged to present work in progress in a supportive atmosphere through the Research Forum, a School-wide programme of lunchtime meetings. Within DASA, colleagues meet regularly to discuss work in progress and grant applications in a collegial and supportive atmosphere. The School offers every member of academic staff the opportunity to nominate a senior colleague as research mentor. These **mentoring** processes, combined with the open, collegial ethos of the department, have enabled newer staff to move quickly into collaborative research activities with established staff: for example, Skinner (appointed 2007) completed a Nuffield Foundation New Career Development Fellowship, under the mentorship of Brydon, in 2008, and then joined Barber’s research network on African newspapers; Bolt began working with Shear on a joint project on the South African black middle class within a year of talking up his post in January 2012.

All academic staff, including fixed term and part time staff, are entitled to apply for **research leave** of one semester after every six semesters, subject to a viable research plan and satisfactory arrangements for coverage of teaching and administrative duties. School and College funds (averaging approximately £300 per person per year) are available to all academic staff to support research. **Promotions** are governed by clear University criteria and procedures, and staff are supported in their applications for promotion at School level by advice, mentoring, and feedback on draft applications.

ii. Research students

In African Studies postgraduate programmes, **recruitment** is steady and viable, though lower than we would wish. At present the majority of our qualified applicants are from African countries, and for 90% of those offered places the overseas tuition fee is an insuperable barrier. We are actively seeking solutions to this problem by enhancing our appeal to Home/EU applicants through improved publicity and outreach and through the creation of new PG programmes (see section (b) above); by pursuing fund-raising opportunities to establish at least one annual PG scholarship for African Studies; and by vigorously supporting all excellent applicants in their search for funding. In 2013 we successfully applied, via the British Library, for an AHRC collaborative doctoral partnership, for a PhD project on Hausa and Arabic manuscripts from West Africa. We have also hosted two ERASMUS postgraduate student interns from European universities.

Research students are given opportunities for **teaching experience** and part-time research

assistant work wherever practicable.

We have developed a strong sense of intellectual community and vibrant shared research culture for postgraduate students. Key to this is the **Graduate Forum**: a half-day research workshop held every month, involving all African Studies PG students and featuring discussion of and training in research methods, sharing of problems, presentation of work in progress and staff-student consultation on particular issues as they come up. In the research presentations students receive feedback from a variety of disciplinary and regional perspectives. They present their work at every stage, from the research proposal to the final draft of the thesis, in a supportive atmosphere which allows for creative and critical discussion. Research students are fully involved in departmental scholarly activities and events, including the programme of weekly **seminars**, the **Cadbury Workshop** (see section (e) below), staff research networks such as the African Print Cultures network which incorporates three African Studies PhD students, and staff research projects such as Nolte's ERC-funded project which employs two of our PhDs as part-time research assistants.

All research students in the College of Arts and Law are eligible to apply for **funding** from the College Graduate School's Postgraduate Research Development Fund to initiate research-related activities of their own, e.g. seminars, workshops, conferences and journals. African Studies and History postgraduates successfully applied to this fund to launch an innovative collaborative online student-run academic journal (*Journal of History and Cultures*) and their own programme of themed postgraduate conferences, featuring distinguished keynote speakers and attracting participants from all over the country. The College Graduate School also offers Research Support funds to allow PG students to attend conferences or undertake small discrete components of their research e.g. visits to specific archives or episodes of fieldwork, which our students make good use of.

Monitoring and support mechanisms for research students are well developed. At the start of each academic year they discuss and evaluate their research training needs and complete a Training Needs Analysis form. The University Graduate School offers skills training courses on all aspects of research, writing, IT, presentation, career development, interpersonal skills and specialised research techniques. The College provides an online research skills module which all PG students must complete during their first term. Research students are entitled to one-to-one supervision at regular intervals (a minimum of three meetings a term) and their progress is monitored through a supervision log, research planner, and through a formal annual Progress Review. First-year doctoral students, and MRes students wishing to upgrade to PhD, have to submit a 6-8,000-word writing sample and attend a Progress Review Panel in May. If progress is not satisfactory, the panel may recommend a change of programme, follow-up action or an additional review the following year.

Research students' achievements in African Studies are outstanding, reflecting the exceptional commitment and determination of aspiring researchers choosing this academic path. Two of our current PhDs have already published in refereed journals (Penfold in *JSAS*, 38 (4) 2012; Jones in *African Renaissance* (Summer 2011) and *Postcolonial Text* (2) 2013). Mensah-Bonsu has published introductions to reprints of three of the novels of Edgar Mittelholzer (Peepal Tree Press Caribbean Classics), and was a judge on the 2010 Guyana Prize for Literature. Skelt, whose research is on the role of creative writing in post-conflict reconstruction in Sierra Leone, is herself a poet of note; she has co-organised public African poetry and music events, and in 2013 was appointed the first Poet Laureate of the new Birmingham Library. Recent PhDs have moved into prestigious roles: Hoffman to a Junior Research Fellowship at Chatham House, Twum-Dansoh to a lecturing post at Sheffield U., Duncan to the New York office of UNICEF.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The department's **research income** has increased significantly since RAE 2008. Several staff have won research grants for their individual and collaborative projects, the largest being Nolte's major research grant of €1.5m from ERC. Medium-sized grants include Barber's AHRC Research Leave award (£47,844), Skinner's British Academy International Partnership and Mobility grant (£26,165). Smaller but strategic funding includes Shear's British Academy grant for a joint project with Nolte (£9130). Further income has been generated by our success in attracting successful postdoctoral fellowship applications. Research income not included in the HESA report includes a grant of \$20,000 from the Mellon Sawyer Foundation to facilitate workshop meetings of the African Print Cultures network hosted by the universities of Birmingham, Oxford, Sussex and Michigan.

The College's Research and Knowledge Transfer (CAL-RKT) Committee and the University's Research and Innovation Services provide a comprehensive suite of information, advice and assistance for the preparation of **research grant applications** of every type and scale; this was especially significant in facilitating Nolte's ERC application. In 2013 the College provided a one-off fund totalling £60k to support staff developing major grant proposals for collaborative projects. Shear and Bolt were able to draw on this to develop their joint project, with Wits University, on the history of the black middle class in South Africa. At School level, the Research Committee has put in place a strategy to offer all academic staff subject-specific one-on-one support and advice on grant applications. All grant applications are discussed and approved at School level before being passed to the CAL-RKT committee for further input; the University Finance Office provides expert help with costings.

Scholarly infrastructure: the **UoB Main Library** is one of the largest university libraries in the UK with 2.7 million items, more than 50,000 scholarly journals and 275,000 e-books and e-resources. It holds substantial and recently expanded African Studies materials. The library has a substantial collection of African **archival material** including the Church Missionary Society papers, the Cadbury Papers 1890-1960, the Joseph Chamberlain papers, a collection of West African popular pamphlets, the Swanzy "Caribbean Voices" papers, and, on microfiche, a large collection of African newspapers as well as the Bascom Collection of early Yoruba publications. It has recently acquired access to the online World Newspaper Archive providing searchable text for early African newspapers (1800-1922). The **Danford Collection** of West African Art and Artefacts, a major collection of more than 500 items curated by the University's Research and Cultural Collections staff, is housed in the department and used both in teaching and as a focus for research. It was the subject of a special double seminar January 2013 when two museum specialists spoke on selected objects in the collection.

Operational infrastructure includes facilities for recording and disseminating research seminars and lectures, funded by the Centre for Learning and Academic Development and the UoB's development Office. This has supported the development of the Africa Hub website.

As noted in section (b) above, since 2010 the University and the College have increased their investment in African Studies with **financial and technical support** for numerous initiatives that enhance the department's effectiveness and visibility as a centre of research.

It is the responsibility of the Head of College to agree annually with the relevant Head of School and subsequently maintain an appropriate balance between the various infrastructure aspects described above. Due regard is given to Departmental aspirations, the over-arching College research strategy and external environmental factors (such as funder priorities) in determining this balance.

e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

Research collaboration is a key strength of the department. It is how we manage to punch above our weight.

•**Collaborative arrangements, networks and partnerships:** Collaborative projects extending beyond the department include a research network on **African print cultures** led by Barber and Skinner which involves historians, literature scholars and anthropologists at Oxford, Sussex, Michigan, St Louis, Bayreuth, Copenhagen and Osogbo (Nigeria). The network includes postgraduate students and has run a programme of intensive workshop meetings (Oxford, 2008, 2011, 2012, Michigan, 2012, Birmingham, 2008, 2013) and conference panels (ECAS conference, Leipzig, 2009, ASUK conference Leeds, 2012). Ideas generated within the network have fed into staff publications (Barber REF item 1, Skinner, forthcoming book accepted for publication by CUP) and we are now working on an edited book based on papers developed in network meetings, to be published by the University of Michigan Press. We are developing further funding applications and have recently established a network website. Rossi is a leading member of a partnership on **sexual slavery and forced marriage in Africa**, coordinated by Prof. A. Bunting, Toronto and funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada. This interdisciplinary network of international researchers undertakes original academic research but also aims at informing and influencing policy (see Impact Template). Bolt is a key participant in a collaborative Leverhulme-funded interdisciplinary project on **money in Africa**, based at the British Museum and involving researchers from the LSE and University of Bologna. Bolt was funded by this project to do interviews with central banks in Nigeria and Uganda (summer 2012) and is contributing to a joint publication now in preparation. He is planning further collaborations with members of this

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team. Brown is a co-investigator on a project based at Warwick U. on Henry Swanzy and the “**Caribbean Voices**” radio programme; this project, which draws on the Swanzy papers held in the UoB Library, has recently been awarded AHRC funding. Shear and Nolte are collaborating with a US colleague, Professor Kevin Yelvington (U. South Florida), to research on **Jack Harris**, an American anthropologist and intelligence agent who worked in Nigeria and South Africa during WWII. Shear and Bolt are also working with staff at WISER, University of the Witwatersrand, to explore extensive archival holdings on the **history of the African middle class** in South Africa.

- **Cadbury Fellowship Scheme and Conference:** This annual 10-week residential workshop, funded by a historic endowment by the Cadbury family, brings three early career African scholars, chosen each year through open competition, to Birmingham to work intensively together with DASA staff and postgraduates on a chosen theme in African Studies, through a programme of seminars and reading groups. The workshop culminates in an international conference where participants can present the results of their work, and the convenor(s) of the workshop assist them in developing the paper for publication. In this way we have responded to growing knowledge gaps and lack of opportunities for younger African researchers that we have become aware of from our own work in Africa. Themes during the review period have been: morality, discipline and the rhetorics of disorder (2008); new African writing (2009); urban experience and popular culture (2010); women and inequalities (2011); South Africa (2012); African newspaper cultures (2013). There is evidence that the workshop generates longer-term research activity. Two of our former Cadbury Fellows have gone on to win British Academy and Newton International Fellowships hosted by us. The workshop of 2010 led to the formation of a permanent network of early-career researchers which has reconvened three times to present panels at international conferences, and which cooperated in January 2013 to organise a highly successful workshop in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, funded by the German DFG, out of which a research publication is planned.

- **Collaboration with African HEIs** includes Cline-Cole’s project with **Bayero University Kano (BUK)**, Nigeria, on fuelwood and conservation (see Impact case study 1); BUK has now offered to continue the collaboration by funding a year-long research fellowship for Cline-Cole as soon as political conditions in Northern Nigeria permit. Nolte’s ERC project “**Knowing each other: everyday religious encounters, social identities and religious tolerance in southwest Nigeria**”, has formally instituted Osun State University (OSU), Nigeria as a research partner; the project’s on-site co-ordinator Dr Koya Ogen is based at OSU and part of the €1.5m grant goes to supporting the development of graduate and staff training programmes there. Several Nigerian colleagues have benefited from exchange visits and funding for conference participation provided by the grant. Rossi’s strong links with Francophone African HEIs led to an invitation to run a 3-week graduate course at the Centre for Research into Slavery, **Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar** (2012). The Centre’s members are drawn from Niger, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Haiti as well as Senegal. Rossi, working with a Dakar colleague, drew on her research on slave descent in 20th century West African communities to stimulate further research on the topic. Skinner, funded by a British Academy International Partnership and Mobility grant (2012), is collaborating with the **University of Cape Coast and the University of Ghana at Legon** in a project on non-official oral and written sources for Ghanaian history. This offers PGs and early career staff at all three institutions (Birmingham, UCC, Legon) the chance to participate in a series of research workshops which will produce research resources that will be available online for the use of any interested academic or student. The project will build up an archive of hitherto unavailable sources and will enable Skinner and Dr Wilson Yayoh of UCC to work on translation and interpretation of Ewe-language historical texts. Our recent successful bid for an **ESRC Partnering Grant** allows us to consolidate and further develop collaborative relationships with the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa), the University of Ibadan and Osun State University (Nigeria), the University of Ghana at Legon (Ghana), and CARTE (Senegal, with participants from other Francophone West African countries).

Contribution to the research base:

- **Editorships:** Our staff edit major African Studies journals including *Africa* (editor Barber, reviews editor Nolte), *Journal of Southern African Studies* (Shear), *Review of African Political Economy* (Cline-Cole). We have pioneered and sustained a programme of **writing workshops** for early-career scholars wishing to develop articles for publication in African Studies journals. These have

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been run either independently (in Kenya 2008, Ghana 2009) or under the auspices of the African Studies Association of the UK (in Oxford 2009, Birmingham 2010, South Africa 2011, Nigeria 2011, Leeds 2012, Birmingham 2013). Each of these workshops was attended by 20-30 participants, links with whom were in many cases sustained after the event. During the review period, DASA staff have **refereed** for journals including *Africa*, *JRAI*, *Journal of African History*, *Review of African Political Economy*, *African Studies*, *Social and Cultural History*, *Kronos*, *Antipode* and reviewed books manuscripts for publishers including Cambridge University Press, Indiana University Press, Chicago University Press. We have reviewed proposals for **funding councils** (Leverhulme, ESRC, ERC, Volkswagen Foundation) and evaluated applications for **appointments, promotions and tenure** in the UK, the USA and the Caribbean.

- **Learned societies:** Barber, a Fellow of the British Academy since 2003, was Vice-President (Humanities) 2008-10, and is a member of the Academy's Africa Area Panel and Publications Committee. Nolte is a Council Member of the African Studies Association of the UK, and in July 2013 she was elected Vice-Chair of the UK Council for Area Studies Associations (UKCASA). Bolt represents the department on AEGIS (the European Association of African Studies Centres) and the Association of Social Anthropologists. Skinner is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

- **Conference and scholarly event organisation:** Brown co-organised the 27th Annual Conference on West Indian Literature at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados, 2008. Rossi organised a major conference at DASA to celebrate the department's 50th anniversary, 2013. She has also breathed new life into the departmental seminar series with a high-profile themed programme of weekly talks by distinguished guest speakers. Shear organised the JSAS Lecture at UCL. Nolte together with research partner Ogen organised a workshop at Adeleke University, Ede, Nigeria, on religious coexistence, 2012. Skinner, Nolte, Brown, Barber, Pype and Shear organised or co-organised successive Cadbury Fellows Workshops in DASA 2008-13 (see above).

- **Doctoral examination:** DASA staff have examined PhD theses during the period under review at the following universities: LSE, RHUL, SOAS, UCL, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Kent, Leeds, Newcastle, Warwick; the Universities of Alberta, Edmonton (Canada), EHESS Paris (France), Bordeaux (France), Leiden (Netherlands), Kwa-Zulu Natal (South Africa), Witwatersrand (South Africa), and the University of Sierra Leone.

- **Keynotes and invited lectures:** **Barber:** Munro Lecture, U.Edinburgh (2009); conference keynotes at Akure, Nigeria (2013), Lagos, Nigeria (2013), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (2013), Osogbo, Nigeria (2012), Procida, Italy (2012), Princeton, NJ (2011), CNRS Paris (2011), Frankfurt (2011, 2010), Kano, Nigeria (2010), Berlin (2010), Osogbo, Nigeria (2010), Gainesville, FL (2009), Uppsala, Sweden (2009); invited lectures at U.Maynooth, Republic of Ireland (2013), Lagos State University, Nigeria (2012), U.Michigan (2011), Istanbul (2010), Bamako, Mali (2009), Hong Kong (2009), Sao Paulo Brazil (2008), LLACAN Paris (2008), BIEA Nairobi (2008). **Brown:** invited lectures at UWI Barbados (2012), U.Lisbon (2008). **Rossi:** invited conference contribution at the Federal U. of Minas Gerais, Brazil (2013); invited lectures at the China Agricultural U., Beijing (2013), Tsinghua U., Beijing (2013), U.Shanghai (2013), Brussels (2013).

- **Judging prizes/awards:** **Barber** - Amaury Talbot Prize of the Royal Anthropological Institute 2006-10; **Brown** – Guyana Prize for Literature, Georgetown, Guyana (2011).

- **Distinctions, awards and recognition:** **Barber** was appointed CBE in the 2012 New Year's Honours for services to African Studies. A special issue of *Research in African Literatures* (43 (4) 2012) was devoted to her work on African popular culture, and a Festschrift will be published in December 2013. Her book *Print Culture and the First Yoruba Novel* (REF item 1) won the Paul Hair Prize of the African Studies Association of the USA, 2013. **Bolt** won one of the Audrey Richards Prizes for best theses on Africa, 2012. **Brown** was made Honorary Research Fellow both at UWI Barbados and at the University of Warwick. **Nolte's** book (REF item 1) was recognised in high-profile book launches both in London and Nigeria, attended by prominent figures including a Nigerian State Governor and the premier traditional Yoruba ruler, the Ooni of Ife.