

# AFRICA

Journal of the International African Institute  
Revue de l'Institut Africain International

Vol. 84 No. 2 May 2014

## **Local intellectuals**

Letters of a Zionist minister  
*Joel Cabrita*

## **Talking power**

Rhetoric and authority in Rwanda  
*Marie-Eve Desrosiers*

Hosting the President of Cameroon  
*Rogers Tabe Egbe Orock*

## **Hidden potential**

Vodun leaders in Benin  
*Emmanuelle Kadya Tall*

Diamond mining in Sierra Leone  
*Lorenzo D'Angelo*

Postpartum seclusion in Amhara  
*Anita Hannig*

Ethnography at home in Botswana  
*Keletso Gaone Setlhabi*

# International African Institute Institut Africain International

## *Editors · Rédacteurs*

Karin Barber, University of Birmingham  
David Pratten, University of Oxford

## *Reviews Editor · Rédacteur comptes-rendus*

Insa Nolte, University of Birmingham

## *Editorial Advisory Board · Comité de Rédaction*

Wale Adebani, Kojo Amanor, Kelly Askew, Leslie Bank, Alan Barnard, Thomas J. Bassett,  
Joost Beuving, Maxim Bolt, Keith Breckenridge, James Brennan, Filip De Boeck,  
Harri Englund, Paulo F. de Moraes Farias, Peter Geschiere, Jane I. Guyer, Deborah James,  
Kai Kresse, Brian Larkin, Michael Lambek, Murray Last, Carola Lentz, Tom McCaskie,  
Birgit Meyer, Adeline Masquelier, Mwenda Ntarangwi, John Parker, Derek Peterson, Debby Potts,  
Katrien Pype, Keith Shear, AbdouMaliq Simone, Mats Utas, Susan Reynolds Whyte

## **Officers · Membres du Bureau de l'IAI**

### **Chair · Président**

V.Y. Mudimbe

### **Vice-chair · Vice-président**

Birgit Meyer

### **Honorary fellows · Membres honoraires**

J.F. Ade Ajayi  
Murray Last

### **Council · 2014 · Conseil**

Zekeria Ahmed Salem  
Fred Ahwireng-Obeng  
Kojo Amanor  
Richard Banégas  
Leslie Bank  
Rémy Bazenguissa-Ganga  
Filip De Boeck

George Clement Bond  
Mamadou Diawara  
Andreas Eckert  
Peter Geschiere  
Odile Goerg  
Patrick Harries  
Adam T. Jones

Michael Lambek  
Célestin Monga  
Michael Omóléwà  
Akin Oyètádé  
Susan Reynolds Whyte

### **Trustees · Conseil d'Administration**

J.D.Y. Peel, *Chairman of the Board of Trustees · Président du Conseil*  
Philip Burnham, *Honorary Director · Directeur Honoraire*  
Mashood Bádérin  
Mary Jay  
Murray Last  
Robert Molteno

### **Staff**

William Burgess, *Secretary to the Honorary Director · Secrétaire du Directeur Honoraire*  
Brian Johnson, *Treasurer · Trésorier*  
Stephanie Kitchen, *Chair, Publications Committee · Président du Comité de Rédaction*

---

# AFRICA

Vol. 84 No. 2 2014

*Editors · Rédacteurs*

Karin Barber and David Pratten

*Reviews Editor · Rédacteur comptes-rendus*

Insa Nolte

---

## Local intellectuals

- An introduction to the letters of Isaiah Moteka: the correspondence of a twentieth-century South African Zionist minister  
**Joel Cabrita** 163

## Talking power

- Rethinking political rhetoric and authority during Rwanda's First and Second Republics  
**Marie-Eve Desrosiers** 199
- Welcoming the '*Fon of Fons*': anglophone elites and the politics of hosting Cameroon's head of state  
**Rogers Tabe Egbe Orock** 226

## Hidden potential

- On representation and power: portrait of a vodun leader in present-day Benin  
**Emmanuelle Kadya Tall** 246
- Who owns the diamonds? The occult economy of diamond mining in Sierra Leone  
**Lorenzo D'Angelo** 269
- Spiritual border crossings: childbirth, postpartum seclusion and religious alterity in Amhara, Ethiopia  
**Anita Hannig** 294
- I took an allegiance to secrecy: complexities of conducting ethnographic research at home  
**Keletso Gaone Setlhabi** 314
- 

**Journal of the International African Institute**  
**Revue de l'Institut Africain International**

© International African Institute 2014

---

## Reviews of books

- KARIN BARBER, *Print Culture and the First Yoruba Novel: I. B. Thomas's 'Life Story of Me, Segilola' and other texts*  
Derek R. Peterson 335
- KAYE WHITEMAN, *Lagos: a cultural and historical companion*  
Tunde Decker 336
- KATRIEN PYPE, *The Making of the Pentecostal Melodrama: religion, media, and gender in Kinshasa*  
Ch. Didier Gondola 338
- JESSE WEAVER SHIPLEY, *Living the Hiplife: celebrity and entrepreneurship in Ghanaian popular music*  
Jenny F. Mbaye 339
- RICHARD ELPHICK, *The Equality of Believers: Protestant missionaries and the racial politics of South Africa*  
Joel Cabrita 341
- MICHAEL GOULD, *The Struggle for Modern Nigeria: the Biafran War 1967–1970*  
Axel Harneit-Sievers 343
- T. JACK THOMPSON, *Light on Darkness? Missionary photography of Africa in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries*  
Paul S. Landau 344
- KOEN STROEKEN, *Moral Power: the magic of witchcraft*  
Jane Parish 345
- GERD SPITTLER and MICHAEL BOURDILLON (eds), *African Children at Work: work and learning in growing up for life*  
Afua Twum-Danso Imoh 347
- CHRISTINE OPPONG, DELALI M. BADASU and KARI WÆRNESS (eds), *Child Care in a Globalizing World: perspectives from Ghana*  
Géraldine André 348
- KOĻEADE ODUTŪLA, *Diaspora and Imagined Nationality: USA–Africa dialogue and cyberframing Nigerian nationhood*  
Shola Adenekan 350
- BETH BUGGENHAGEN, *Muslim Families in Global Senegal: money takes care of shame*  
Nadine Sieveking 351