

# On the Purpose of African History: A Leading Journal Assessed. The Journal of African History (2006-2010)

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## Introduction

The first issue of the *Journal of African History* (the Journal) appeared in a political and academic contentious era. In the year 1960 the majority of the African states (re)gained independence after decades of colonization and centuries of imperialism. To a large extent, this rising political quest stimulated the call for academic independence of the field of African history. In part this call was taken up by the first publication of the Journal following the second *International Conference on African History and Archaeology*, which had been held at the *School of Oriental and African Studies* (SOAS) in London in 1957.<sup>1</sup>

In the contemporary academic discourse African history has obtained a robust position, but in the 1960's the necessity of a separate academic field for African history was certainly not uncontested.<sup>2</sup> Back then, many scholars followed Hegel in saying: '*At this point we leave Africa, not to mention it again. For it is no historical part of the World; it has no movement or development to exhibit. Historical movements in it – that is in its northern part – belong to the Asiatic or European World*'.<sup>3</sup> For example, Oxford professor Hugh Trevor-Roper spoke in terms of Derrida 'with the ghost of Hegel' by stating in 1964: '*Perhaps in the future there will be some African history to teach. But at the present there is none; there is only the history of Europeans in Africa. The rest is darkness, and darkness is not the subject of history*'.<sup>4</sup>

Nevertheless, other scholars – especially European and American – had already before the 1960's started to set up research institutes and programmes focussing upon the pre-colonial past of Africa.<sup>5</sup> Authors like Vansina (oral traditions), Sutton and Posnansky (archaeology), Greenberg (language) as well as Hunwick and O'Fahey (written documents) brought pre-colonial African history on the academic map.<sup>6</sup> The first volumes of the Journal were mainly filled by these historians of pre-colonial Africa, who in essence tried to show that Hegel was wrong and that there actually was an African history to tell. Justifying the existence of a separate academic field for African history formed the first and original purpose of the histories included in the Journal.

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<sup>1</sup> D.R., 'John Donnelly Fage', *The Journal of African History* 27.2 (1986) 194.

<sup>2</sup> John Edward Philips, 'What's new about African History?' (2006), <<http://hnn.us/articles/24954.html>> (seen: 04-10-2011).

<sup>3</sup> G.W.F. Hegel, *The Philosophy of History*, translated by J. Jibree (New York 1956) 93.

<sup>4</sup> Hugh Trevor-Roper, *Rise of Christian Europe* (London 1964) 9.

<sup>5</sup> Joseph C. Miller, 'History and Africa/Africa and History', *The American Historical Review* 104.1 (1999) 7.

<sup>6</sup> Philips, 'What's new about African History?' <<http://hnn.us/articles/24954.html>> (seen: 04-10-2011).



Over time the Hegelian spirit was not only overtaken by the histories of pre-colonial Africa, but also by articles focussing upon the colonial period as the newly independent African countries collided in their own political and economic development with problems originating in the colonial era. Moreover, as time progressed, the Journal started to include histories of the decades following the struggle for independence; but the authors kept the reticence of a *historical* journal.

Today, the Journal of African History as well as the field of African history in general appears difficult to characterize. The Journal encompasses articles on every historical period and all possible themes, from social - economic to intellectual history. Its publications seem to have only two elements in common, namely they deal with the past and Africa. The clear purposes of the 1960's, first proving the right of existence for the field and second explaining the colonial origins of the problems of the newly independent states, have faded away. This paper aims, by identifying the trends and developments in the editions of the Journal over the past five years, to provide insight into the purpose of the histories included in the Journal anno 2011. Moreover, and perhaps most interestingly, this paper will assess the current purpose of these histories as a starting point for future issues of the Journal. Thereby, I will not only address the Journal as an institution, its editors and authors, but the whole field of African history. In sum, this paper will question: *how the purpose of the histories included in the Journal of African History should be assessed?*

In answering, the first section (I) will look to the Journal of African History, being the leading journal of its field, as an institution. Who are the editors, what is the position of the Journal in the academic discourse (ranking) and how are publications selected? Next, we will turn to the authors involved (II): who are they and where do they come from? The third section (III) analyzes the articles published over the last five years. What are the trending topics, which regions and periods dominate? Finally, the conclusions of the first three sections will be used as a starting point to assess the purpose of the histories and to formulate suggestions for new borders to cross in the foreseeable future (IV).

## I. Institution: The Journal of African History

In this first section the Journal of African History will be introduced as an institution. The position of the Journal in the academic discourse is discussed (A), followed by the background of the editors (B) and some information on the sections of the Journal (C).

### I.A. Positioning the Journal

The Journal of African History is just one of the peer-reviewed journals focussing upon African Studies. However, there are only four other journals completely devoted to African history, namely, '*Afrique et Histoire*', '*African Economic History*', '*History in Africa*' (methodology) and the '*International Journal of African Historical Studies*' (methodology).<sup>7</sup> None of these other journals is included in the journal citation reports of Thomson Reuters, where the Journal of African History obtained the 7<sup>th</sup> place on its list of impact for historical journals in its latest edition of 2009.<sup>8</sup> Although, a certain level of suspicion is always recommended when looking at citation rankings, no scholar of African history will question the leading role of the Journal of African History in its field.

Besides journals dedicated to African history, some other journals specializing in African Studies have contributed significantly to the historiography. Most importantly, '*Africa*', '*African Affairs*', '*the Journal of Contemporary African Studies*', '*the Journal of Modern African Studies*' and the '*African Studies Quarterly*' should be mentioned.<sup>9</sup> These journals apply an interdisciplinary approach and stand in this respect in clear contrast to the Journal of African History which is solely 'historical' in its purposes.

### I.B. Editing the Journal

Currently, the Journal is co-edited by four professors in African history, namely: (1) Cheick A. Babou (University of Pennsylvania), (2) Andreas Eckert (Humboldt University Berlin), (3)

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<sup>7</sup> Stanford University, 'List of African magazines, journals and newsletters', < <http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/journal.html> > (seen: 04-10-2011).

<sup>8</sup> Journal Citation Reports 2009, < [http://admin-apps.isiknowledge.com.proxy-ub.rug.nl/JCR/JCR?RQ=LIST\\_SUMMARY\\_JOURNAL&cursor=1](http://admin-apps.isiknowledge.com.proxy-ub.rug.nl/JCR/JCR?RQ=LIST_SUMMARY_JOURNAL&cursor=1) > (seen: 04-10-2011).

<sup>9</sup> Edinburgh University Press, '*Africa*', < <http://www.eupublishing.com/journal/afr> > (seen: 04-12-2011); Oxford Journal, '*African Affairs*', < <http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/> > (seen: 04-12-2011); Routledge, '*the Journal of Contemporary African Studies*', < <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/02589001.asp> > (seen: 04-12-2011); Cambridge University Press, '*the Journal of Modern African Studies*' < <http://www.journals.cup.org/action/displayJournal?jid=MOA> > (seen: 04-12-2011); University of Florida, '*the African Studies Quarterly*', < <http://www.africa.ufl.edu/asq/index.htm> > (seen: 04-12-2011).

Lynn M. Thomas (University of Washington) and (4) Justin Willis (University of Durham).<sup>10</sup> They are supported in their editorial tasks by an advisory board of twenty-one scholars. Interestingly, none of the four editors works at an African university and only Cheikh A. Babou was originally born in Africa (Senegal).<sup>11</sup> In their research the three men and Lynn Thomas respectively focus on (1) colonial West-African history<sup>12</sup>, (2) colonial labour history<sup>13</sup>, (3) colonial and postcolonial historical research of race and gender<sup>14</sup> and (4) modern East Africa<sup>15</sup>. These research interests especially exclude pre-colonial history.

In the advisory editorial board the majority of the scholars are also male (12 versus 9) and works at an American (10) or an European University (8, of which 7 in the United Kingdom). Only three scholars fulfil a position at an African university (in Nigeria, Senegal and South-Africa), while five were born in an African country.<sup>16</sup> We will return to the exclusion of African scholars and universities in subsections II.A and IV.D.

The co-editors and the advisory editorial board are together responsible for selecting in particular the 5-7 research articles that every issue contains. Besides the fact that the selection is proceeded through an anonymous peer review process, no further information on selecting or the rejection rate could be obtained.<sup>17</sup>

### I.C. The Sections of the Journal

The Journal appears three times a year and every issue consists of mainly sections, research articles and book reviews. In general, no editorials or discussion articles are included. A volume has on average 491 pages, although the number of pages decreased over the last five years from 533 in 2006 to 432 in 2010. Every issue includes 5-7 research articles, which

<sup>10</sup> Cambridge University Press, 'Editorial Board – Journal of African History' <<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayMoreInfo?jid=AFH&type=eb>> (seen: 04-10-2011).

<sup>11</sup> University of Pennsylvania, 'Cheick A. Babou', <<http://www.history.upenn.edu/faculty/babou.shtml>> (seen: 04-10-2011).

<sup>12</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>13</sup> Humboldt University Berlin, 'Andreas Eckert', <<http://www2.huberlin.de/asaf/Afrika/Mitarbeiter/Eckert.html>> (seen: 04-10-2011).

<sup>14</sup> University of Washington, 'Lynn M. Thomas', <<http://depts.washington.edu/history/directory/index.php?facultyname=T-66Thomas>> (seen: 04-10-2011).

<sup>15</sup> University of Durham, 'Justin Willis', <<http://www.dur.ac.uk/history/staff/profiles/?id=1570>> (seen: 04-10-2011).

<sup>16</sup> See Appendix I.

<sup>17</sup> Cambridge University Press, 'Instructions for contributions – Journal of African History', <<http://journals.cambridge.org.proxy-ub.rug.nl/action/displayMoreInfo?jid=AFH&type=ifc>> (seen: 04-10-2011).

cover on average 79 % of the pages, and around 20 book reviews.<sup>18</sup> The maximum amount of words for a research article is set on 10.000 and over the period of 2006 till 2010 in total 87 research articles were published.

## II. People: Authors

From the institution this second section turns to the people involved. An analysis of the authors that published over the last five years in the Journal will be presented by looking at: (A) their university and background, (B) gender and (C) academic function.

### II.A. University & Background

When looking to the academic environment of the authors that published in the journal two aspects are of importance, namely at which university they are currently employed and where they originally received their education. An analysis of this academic environment is relevant for every field of study, as this could provide information on the school of thought which the author adheres to and in which academic network he or she functions. However, in the field of non-Western history and African history in particular, an overview of the academic backgrounds has an additional purpose, namely to identify to what extent histories are written by Africans and African universities. Due to the strong anti-colonial and actually anti-western sentiment that prevails until today in the African society but also in the African academic world, this additional purpose has a rather contentious nature. African history by the Africans might be a blunt way of saying it, but actually touches the core of the discussion.

In the last five volumes of the Journal a strong dominance of American (46%) and European (42%) universities can be recognized.<sup>19</sup> Only eleven articles (12%) were written by authors working at an African university. This apparent underrepresentation of African scholars can only partly be explained by a brain-drain from African students to the United States and to the former colonial strongholds France and the United Kingdom, as only 17% of the scholars had a direct African background, meaning they received their primary, secondary etc. education in an African country.<sup>20</sup>

Looking in more detail to the authors with an African background, a strong dominance of Nigerian (38%) and South-African (38%) universities becomes apparent. This

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<sup>18</sup> See Appendix II.

<sup>19</sup> See Appendix III.B.

<sup>20</sup> See Appendix III.A.

quantitative observation seems to suggest that only a view African universities have been able to produce articles adhering to the high criteria of the Journal or that only a view African authors are actually interested in publishing in such a journal. In any case, the relative exclusion of African scholars and African universities might live-up to the image of a ‘Western’ journal. Certainly adding to this image is the fact, that the universities from the two former colonial strongholds in Africa, the United Kingdom and France, represent respectively 61% and 15% of the European contributions to the Journal. Interestingly to note is moreover, that not one Asian, East-European, South-European, South-American or Australian author or university contributed to the Journal over the last five years.

## **II.B. Gender**

Another aspect that deserves our attention when looking to the authors of the research articles published over the last five years is gender.<sup>21</sup> As remains to be a trend in the academic world for multiple causes, the majority of these authors are male (67%). When considering solely the scholars with an African background, this number even dramatically deteriorates as only 21% of the authors with an African background are female. This comes down to only three female African scholars over the past five years.

## **II.C. Academic function**

A final aspect to be considered concerning the authors is the academic function fulfilled by the scholars, which also might tell us something about the ‘standard’ of the Journal.<sup>22</sup> Quantitative analysis shows that the chances for a student to publish in the Journal are relatively slim, namely 0% based upon the articles of the last five years. The majority of the articles have been written by professors (34%) and associate professors (29%), while all authors had at least obtained a doctorate (PhD.) degree.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> See Appendix III.C.

<sup>22</sup> See Appendix III.D.

<sup>23</sup> See Appendix III.E.



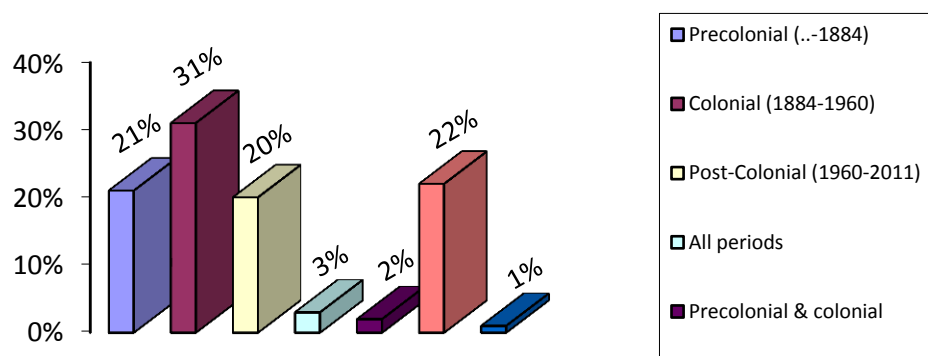
### III. Transactions: Trending Topics

In this third section the transactions of the Journal, that is to say its articles, will be analyzed. By applying quantitative methods the dominating (A) periods, (B) regions and (C) approaches where the articles deal with, will be identified. Furthermore, some remarks on (D) trending topics shall be made.

#### III.A. Periods

As was stated in the introduction, originally the Journal focussed upon histories of the pre-colonial period. Today only 21% of the articles in the Journal deals with the pre-colonial past, supplemented by 2% of the articles which pay attention to the transition from the pre-colonial to the colonial era (see figure 1).<sup>24</sup> In the last five volumes the colonial period was most often explored: 31% of the articles analyze developments and events in relation to the colonial era, complemented by 22% of the articles which look at the contentious transitional period from the colonial to the post-colonial epoch. The post-colonial decades formed the subject of research in 20% of the contributions, but merely a single article analyzed events from beyond the beginning of the 1990's. The reticence of this *historical* Journal to assess developments which have not been completely crystallized, becomes very evident at this point. We will return to this maintaining of distance in section IV, as this forms in my opinion one of the borders to cross for the future issues of the Journal.

Figure 1 - Periods



<sup>24</sup> See Appendix VI.

### III.B. Regions

From the periods we shall turn to the regions where the articles focus upon (see figure 2). Two regions clearly stand out in this respect, namely West Africa (40%) and Southern Africa (22%).<sup>25</sup> When looking more in-depth to these dominating regions, we should notify that especially two countries have deserved significantly more attention than all others: Nigeria (29% of the articles on West Africa) and South Africa (26% of the articles on Southern Africa). As became clear in Chapter II.A. the South African and Nigerian universities were also the main African contributors to the Journal. This observation seems to lead to a certain nexus between the diversity of regions analyzed and the African universities involved.

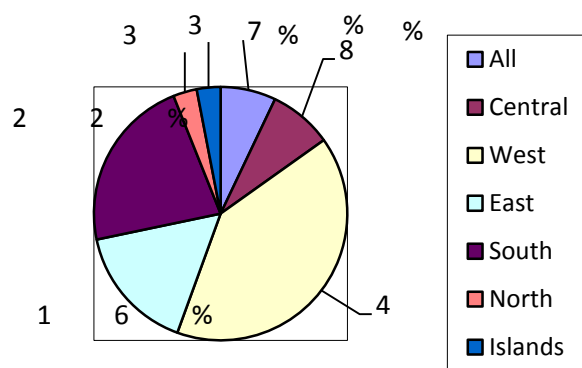
Another observation can be deduced from the quantitative analysis on regions, namely that the Northern region is strongly underrepresented (3%) in the last five issues of the Journal. Most African historians have made a distinction between Northern Africa/ the Maghreb and Sub-Saharan Africa as both regions followed a completely different path over time and have been largely unconnected – with the notable exception of the Trans-Saharan trade routes – for many centuries. When speaking about ‘African historians’ we generally mean historians of Sub-Saharan Africa, leaving North-Africa for the field of Arabic, Mediterranean or Middle-Eastern Studies. This Journal refrains from making such a distinction as it aims to include articles on every African region. However, de facto North-Africa has almost completely been excluded from the Journal; although, this might be caused by the fact that scholars researching this region prefer to publish in journals on Arabic, Mediterranean or Middle-Eastern Studies.

Besides Nigeria and South Africa some other countries have been the subject of three or more articles: Namibia (3), Ghana (5,5), Guinea (3), Tanzania (3,5), Uganda (5), Kenya (4) and Congo (3). On the other hand, several countries have not been discussed at all over the last five years, including Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Chad, Angola, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Liberia and Mozambique. Although I will elaborate upon this exclusion more extensively in section IV, we should signify at this point that all these countries have seen major – even in ‘African terms’ - civil wars, social-economic crises and extremely serious human rights violations including genocide over the course of the past three decades.

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<sup>25</sup> See Appendix V.

Figure 2 - Regions



### III.C. Approaches

Analyzing the approaches used by the different authors, requires definitions for the possible approaches. For this purpose I have used the ‘traditional’ distinction in historical studies, where the online description of the Journal also refers to, namely between: social-economic, cultural, political and archaeological history.<sup>26</sup> In the volumes of the last five years 28% of the articles applies solely a political, 13% a cultural, 13% a social-economic and 4% an archaeological historical approach.<sup>27</sup> The remaining 42% uses multiple approaches. Combining these figures shows that 60% of the articles have a political, 27% a cultural and 36% a social-economic historical component. In this respect the Journal seems to do exactly what it promises, namely include articles on all historical sub-disciplines. Nevertheless, we might question why historical theoretical or philosophical disquisitions are absent in the last fifteen issues of the Journal.

### III.D. Trending Topics

When looking to the topics of the eighty-seven research articles of the last five years merely a scattered picture of issues appears (see figure 3). Almost no debates or trending topics can be identified, but only themes and sub-themes where multiple articles can relate to. Only one exception might be mentioned as ‘hot topic’, namely legal enforcement by colonial administrations, where eight articles deal with. Nevertheless, to give some insight into the

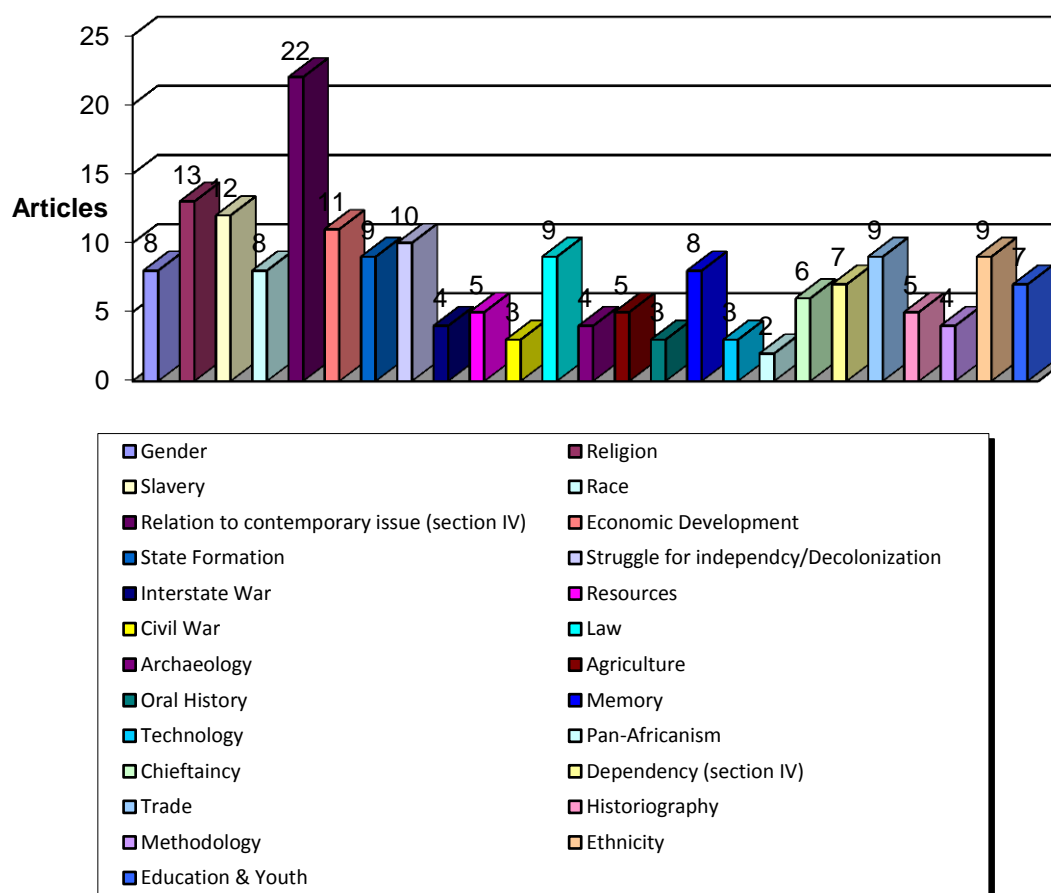
<sup>26</sup> Cambridge University Press, ‘Home Page – Journal of African Studies’  
 <<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayMoreInfo?jid=AFH&type=eb>> (seen: 04-10-2011).

<sup>27</sup> See Appendix IV.

thematic trends, I have made a selection of themes which, with the exception of two additional themes – dependency & relation to a contemporary issue – to which we return in section IV, all relate to the key words, which can be found online for every article included in the Journal. Four of these themes return in at least ten articles and can therefore be considered as the four core themes of the Journal over the last five years.

First of all, *religion* which forms a core theme in thirteen articles ranging from the praising tradition of Zulu chiefs in pre-colonial South-Africa to the role of Christian rhetoric in the Biafra war.<sup>28</sup> This theme is being considered in articles of all approaches, with the exception of archaeology, for all time periods and every region.

Figure 3 - Themes Articles



<sup>28</sup> Joel Cabrita, 'Politics and Preaching: Chiefly converts to the Nazareth Church, obedient subject, and sermon performance in South Africa', *The Journal of African History* 51.1 (2010) 1-20; Douglas Anthony, 'Resourceful and Progressive blackmen: modernity and race in Biafra, 1967-1970', *Journal of African History* 51.1 (2010) 21-40.

Second of all, *slavery* which is possibly the single-most researched topic in African history; it could hardly be called surprising that five of the ten most downloaded articles from the Journal deal with slavery.<sup>29</sup> Third of all, *economic development* which is mainly considered in articles on post-colonial history. Fourth of all, *the struggle for independence* which has been a core theme for African historians ever since the 1960's.

Although, I have referred to these four themes as 'core themes' of the Journal, they by no means represent the Journal in its totality. The Journal of African History, as stated, is too multifaceted, too all-encompassing to truly speak of trending topics. On the one hand, this versatility forms one of the strengths of the Journals, but on the other hand it is the product of a certain undesired reticence to cross important borders. To these borders we will turn in the final section.

#### **IV. Borders: the Purpose of African History**

In this final section we return to the central research question of this paper: *how should the purpose of the histories included in the Journal of African History be assessed?* In answering we first (IV.A.) define the current purpose of the histories in the Journal based upon the quantitative analysis presented in the previous chapters. Next, three borders which I believe the Journal should cross in the upcoming years are discussed (IV.B. – D.).

##### **IV.A. The current Purpose of the Journal of African History**

In the introduction it was already mentioned that the current editions of the Journal are quite difficult to characterize and that the eighty seven articles seem to have only two elements in common: Africa and the Past. However, the definitions of these two elements, which become apparent from the articles, can give some further characterization to the Journal.

First, which *Africa* does the Journal deal with? Most of the articles focus on a specific event, such as ritual murders in Nigeria in 2004, a development, for example the Tanzanian copal trade between 1820 and 1905, or an actor like the Ivorian Suffi teacher Sylla.<sup>30</sup> Generally, these events, developments and actors are discussed in their African context; in

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<sup>29</sup> Cambridge University Press, '10-most downloaded articles – Journal of African history' <<http://journals.cambridge.org.proxy-ub.rug.nl/action/displayJournal?jid=AFH&tab=mostcited#tab>> (seen: 04-11-2011).

<sup>30</sup> Stephen Ellis, 'The Okija Shrine: Death and Life in Nigerian Politics', *The Journal of African History* 49.3 (2008) 445-466; Thaddeus Sunseri, 'The political ecology of the copal trade in the Tanzanian Coastal Hinterland, c. 1820-1903', *Journal of African History* 48.2 (2007) 201-220; Sean Hanretta, 'To never shed blood: Yacouba Sylla, Félix Houphouët-Boigny and Islamic modernization in Côte d'Ivoire', *Journal of African History* 49.2 (2008) 281-304.

the political, social-economic and cultural climate of their region and of the African continent. Only in a handful of cases the relation between these events, developments and actors with the currents outside of Africa are brought to the front. This is to say that the Journal most often deals with Africa, to put it in terms of black and white, as an autonomous instead of an interrelated region. Moreover, as was noticed in chapter III.C., the Journal de facto excludes histories on the North African countries. Geographically the Journal limits itself to the region of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Second, which *Past* does the Journal look at? As was already noticed by Stephen Ellis in 2002, a very clear demarcation of time can be identified in the Journal, namely its articles almost completely refrain from analyzing contemporary events or developments.<sup>31</sup> This historical reticence or distance taking results in the nearly complete absence of articles looking at the African history of the last 25-years, which Ellis considered a shortcoming of the Journal. Nevertheless, his call in 2002 for more contemporary African histories has evidently not been taken up nor has it been discussed in the Journal since the article of Ellis appeared. Although, the website of the Journal mentions that it ‘*publishes articles (..) ranging widely over the African past, from the late Stone Age to the present*’ in fact most of its content does not look beyond the beginning of the 1990’s.<sup>32</sup> This temporal delineation combined with the autonomous approach to Africa results in a merely academic and to a certain extent artificial purpose of African history, namely to write histories on autonomous developments, events and actors in Sub-Saharan Africa before the 1990’s.

#### **IV.B. The first border: the relevance and purpose of African History**

When reading this purpose and especially the temporal demarcation, many if not most historians would respond by stating, that this distancing is also exactly what historians should do and often they would refer to the above mentioned interdisciplinary journals like the *Journal of Modern African Studies* as adequate academic forums to assess the developments of the past two decades in Africa. Unfortunately, this is in my opinion a complete undervaluation of the historical profession and the possibilities of the Journal of African History. In reaction four points should be advanced.

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<sup>31</sup> Stephen Ellis, ‘Writing histories of Contemporary Africa’, *Journal of African History* 43 (2002) 1-26.

<sup>32</sup> Cambridge University Press, ‘Home Page – Journal of African Studies’

<<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayMoreInfo?jid=AFH&type=eb>> (seen: 04-10-2011).

First of all, most of the published contemporary histories of Sub-Saharan Africa are outdated. The first contemporary histories were written in the 1960's in response to the political and economic developments of their time; in doing so they applied '*the intellectual models that seemed most convincing*' and for many African scholars this meant (neo-) Marxist theory.<sup>33</sup> Even in 1984 the widely praised African historian Bill Freund referred for his '*The making of contemporary Africa*' to the following as point of departure: '*The central themes which dominate the modern history of Africa are the penetration of capital with its relationship to political and economic imperialism and the resultant transformation of class and class struggle. On this basis my reconceptualisation of the history of Africa attempts to proceed*'.<sup>34</sup> The great ideals of the first post-colonial decades – nation-building, autonomy, economic development, Pan-Africanism etc. – formed the prisms that coloured the first contemporary histories of Sub-Saharan Africa. However, as Ellis rightfully pointed out, these works and their underlying ideals do not address the important concerns for Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and should be considered to be outdated.<sup>35</sup>

Second of all, due to the fact that many of the recent historical writings on Africa do not address their relation to the present, they become a-historical in nature. Since the 1960's the Hegelian criticisms have been put aside and the field of African history has seen a tremendous academic 'professionalization'. However, in exchange for the academic recognition of a separate field for 'the people without history', as Wolf expressed the Hegelian perception, the field had to detach itself from the contentious contemporary developments.<sup>36</sup> Distance became the magical term and contemporary histories of Africa were avoided or, if published, put aside as politicized. The resulting situation, as Achille Mbembe rightfully observed, is that western historians of Africa – who, as we saw in subsection II.A., dominate the academic discourse – have a strong tendency to think of African history as timeless or as a temporal black hole.<sup>37</sup> Historians talk about the colonial era, the struggle against colonial repression and the first years of independence as if nothing happened ever since. As an example the on itself very interesting article of Stacey Hynd, which discusses capital punishment in the British African colonies, can be mentioned.<sup>38</sup> The practice of public death sentences has clearly had important effects on both the African post-

<sup>33</sup> Ellis, 'Writing histories of Contemporary Africa', 1.

<sup>34</sup> Bill Freund, *The making of contemporary Africa – The Development of African Society since 1800* (1984) 14.

<sup>35</sup> Ellis, 'Writing histories of Contemporary Africa', 1.

<sup>36</sup> Eric R. Wolf, *Europe and the People without History* (Berkeley 1982).

<sup>37</sup> Achille Mbembe, *On the Postcolony* (Los Angeles 2001) 10-11.

<sup>38</sup> Stacey Hynd, 'Practice and Process of Capital Punishment', *Journal of African History* 49.3 (2008) 403-418.

colonial perception of the colonial administration and on the criminal laws adopted by the postcolonial regimes; nevertheless, Hynd completely neglects every contemporary consequence of her historical object.

This brings me to the third point which deals with the purpose of African history. Why do we need contemporary histories? Geoffrey Barraclough once stated that *'contemporary history begins when problems which are actual in the world today first take visible shape'*.<sup>39</sup> In my opinion this quote exactly touches upon the main reason why the purpose of African history and thereby the Journal of African History should be extended to look beyond the writing of histories on autonomous developments, events and actors in Sub-Saharan Africa before the 1990's. With autonomous I do not only refer to the geographical aspect, but also to a temporal component, the relation to *'the problems which are actual in the world today'*.<sup>40</sup> We need contemporary history to understand today's concerns and *vice versa* we need today's prisms to assess the importance of certain historical happenings for today's world. The present is coloured by the past, but the past is also coloured by the present. The story that we tell today will be determined by our contemporary conceptions as well as the contemporary perceptions of its readers. Talking about African history without paying attention to the present is not only artificial, but most importantly decreases its (social & political) relevance.

Finally, in reaction to any possible references to interdisciplinary journals like the *Journal of Modern African Studies* as more adequate forums to analyze contemporary developments, we should remind ourselves of the strengths of historians and their journals. Ellis formulated these strengths very powerful: *'Historians bring to the same or similar data a particular approach. Their special expertise consists in the techniques they use to recover the record of the past and the precise manner in which they arrange their data in sequences. Thus contemporary histories may bring a new perspective to Africa's present by viewing it through the prism of its past'*.<sup>41</sup> This new perspective to Africa's present can be found through an historical approach by applying our 'traditional' critical use of sources, contextual analysis and ordering principles.

To sum up, the purpose of the Journal of African History as well as of its academic field in general should be extended to increase its relevance. The past should be assessed

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<sup>39</sup> Geoffrey Barraclough, *An Introduction to Contemporary History* (New York 1964) 38.

<sup>40</sup> Barraclough, , *An Introduction to Contemporary History*, 38.

<sup>41</sup> Ellis, 'Writing histories of Contemporary Africa', 8.



more through today's prisms and vice versa by focussing upon the prisms of the past, historians can bring new perspective to Africa's present.<sup>42</sup> We now turn to the practical consequences of this extended purpose for the Journal.

#### **IV.C. The second border: substantive challenges on the horizon**

The first border that the Journal is suggested to cross in the years to come, is the extension of its temporal horizon. This broadening in addition requires dealing with new topics, periods, countries and approaches. The second border entails such a substantive deepening.

First of all, and most logically, a new *period* should be included in the scope of the Journal, namely the last two decades. In the last five volumes only one article looks to developments in the twenty-first century. This article on ritual murders in Nigeria in 2004 was not very surprisingly written by Stephen Ellis, who called for an additional focus on contemporary history writing in an article in 2002, which was referred to in the last paragraph.

Moreover, the present should take a more prominent place in accounts on earlier periods. In figure 3 twenty-two articles were marked as dealing with a relation to a contemporary issue. This number unfortunately does not indicate that all these articles discuss such a linkage, but solely that such a connection is clearly present with regard to the research subjects. In future issues these relations with contemporary issues require more attention. Reference could for example be made to the article of Chibuike Uche, who uses a landmark dispute between the British oil consortium BP and the Nigerian tax authorities to show the usefulness of the concept of neo-colonialism.<sup>43</sup> The role of multinational oil companies and supporting governments in Nigerian politics still raises many questions today and a reader aware of these questions will always read Uche's article with this contemporary prism in mind. Although the author is African, he apparently also suffers from Mbembe's timeless perspective on African history.

Second of all, new issues should redefine the *geographical borders* of Africa. Redefine instead of only extend, because I am certainly not a proponent of including articles on the history of the Maghreb region in the Journal. As sated earlier, the development of this region has extracted itself almost completely from Sub-Saharan Africa and therefore an article such as from Chouki El Hamel looking at Islamic legal code regarding the institution

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<sup>42</sup> Ibidem, 8.

<sup>43</sup> Chibuike Uche, 'British Petroleum vs. The Nigerian Government: the Capital gains tax dispute, 1972-1979', *Journal of African History* 51.2 (2010) 167-188.

of slavery in late 17th century Morocco, would fit better in journals on for example Mediterranean Studies.<sup>44</sup> On the other hand, Judith

Scheele's article on the ability of oases in Algeria and Northern Mali on the Trans-Saharan trade route to function without any form of outside investment, would still fall within the suggested future scope of the Journal.<sup>45</sup>

In another respect the geographical definition of Africa might also be extended, namely including more explicitly the nexus between African, western and global developments. This could be done, although not necessarily, by reevaluating the Dependency theory which was formulated in the 1960's by authors such as Walter Rodney and Samir Amin.<sup>46</sup> An article in which the relation between metro pole and periphery has been very well analyzed stems from Elizabeth Schmidt on the break within the Guinean division of the French communist party after the ousting of the French communist ministers in 1947.<sup>47</sup>

Third of all, especially the new temporal delineation requires the inclusion of multiple *new topics* into the scope of the Journal. Primary, articles should start to assess the problems and issues which are actual in Africa today (*from the present to the past*). In his call for more contemporary histories Ellis referred to an extensive range of issues which have insufficiently researched historical roots: from the high level of international public debt, the incapability of states to provide basic functions of social security and the revival of religion in public space to the extent of ethnic mobilization, the rise of Aids and the growing informal African economies.<sup>48</sup> To this long list many issues can be added. One topic which I personally find very essential for historians to address and which clearly shows the necessity for the Journal and the field to cross the first border, is the way African countries deal both legally and socio-politically with *past* human right violations; that is to say with their own perception on African history.<sup>49</sup> Unfortunately, the Journal has ignored all these topics, which are of such an imminent magnitude for the past and the future of Africa, in its last five volumes.

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<sup>44</sup> Chouki El Hamel, 'The Register of the slaves of Sultan Mawlay Isma'il of Morocco at the turn of the eighteenth century', *Journal of African History* 51.1 (2010) 89-98.

<sup>45</sup> Judith Scheele, 'Traders, Saints, and Irrigation: Reflections on Saharan connectivity', *Journal of African History* 51.3 (2010) 281-300.

<sup>46</sup> I wrote a bachelor thesis under the title: 'Dependencia reevaluated: dependency relations in contemporary Africa – The Revision of a Revolution Theory' (2010).

<sup>47</sup> Elizabeth Schmidt, 'Cold War in Guinea: The Rassemblement Démocratique Africain and the struggle over communism, 1950-1958', *Journal of African History* 48.1 (2007) 95-121.

<sup>48</sup> Ellis, 'Writing histories of Contemporary Africa', 11.

<sup>49</sup> This has for example been addressed by the dissertation of Berber Bevernage: *Time, Historical (In)justice and the Irrevocable* (Ghent 2009).

Secondary, the Journal should address historical events, developments or actors which still have significance for the current state of affairs in Africa (*from the past to the present*). In subsection III.C. I already presumptuously suggested a connection between the exclusion of countries like Liberia, Sudan or Angola and their controversial past. Well, in all these countries socio-political or economic past crises still strongly influence present-day developments, which makes the distanced instead of the socially-involved historian, where this paper calls for, quite reserved. The result is obvious: ignoring these historical developments.

To summarize, the second border which the future issues of the Journal is suggested to cross, encompasses substantive challenges; new historical and present issues to address in upcoming articles as well a temporal extension and geographical redefinition of the scope of the Journal.

#### **IV.D. The third border: an institutional challenge**

The final border that the Journal is proposed to cross deals with an institutional challenge which might to a certain extent relate to the first and second border, namely the underrepresentation of African scholars and universities in the Journal. Partly this can of course be explained by the rather poor financial conditions of African universities. However, I also would like to mention another hypothetical explanation. It argues that the African approach to historical research distinguishes itself from the timeless or distant view on African history, which has dominated the field over the last decades, and that ‘true’ African historians aim to focus more on the presence of the past in the present. Another elucidation, as has been proposed by Ellis, reads that young African intellectuals regard history as ‘*a dead weight on the present that is best discarded*’.<sup>50</sup> Nevertheless, what in any case should be reminded is that if ‘we’ write histories for ‘the people without history’, we can not exclude these ‘people’, otherwise western academics only add another chapter to their own history.

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<sup>50</sup> Ellis, ‘Writing histories of Contemporary Africa’, 9.

## V. Conclusion

This paper has set out to assess the purpose of the histories included in the Journal of African History by identifying the trends and developments in the editions of the Journal over the past five years. In answering the first section looked to the Journal, being the leading journal of its field, as an institution and described its academic position, the editorial and advisory board, the selection process and its main sections in broad terms.

In the second section quantitative material on the authors of the articles published in the Journal was analyzed (the people). Three of the findings can be pointed out as rather striking. First, the relative underrepresentation of African scholars and universities; second, the strong dominance of Nigerian and South-African universities within the group of African universities; and thirdly, a strong overrepresentation of male scholars.

The third section dealt with the content of the articles (transactions). The quantitative analysis on the periods considered, showed that the colonial period was most often explored and moreover noticed that only in one article events from beyond the beginning of the 1990's were researched. With regard to the regional distribution an overrepresentation of West-Africa and Southern Africa was signified, while on the other hand the almost complete exclusion of Northern Africa became apparent. On the approaches applied the Journal proved to fulfil its 'promise' to include articles on all historical sub-disciplines. Finally, this section turned to the so-called trending topics of the Journal and identified four rather broad core themes. Most importantly, the qualitative assessment that the Journal is too multifaceted to truly speak of any trending topics at all, should be stressed in this conclusion.

In the fourth and final section the paper returned to the qualitative research question which formed its point of departure. First, the current purpose of the Journal was specified by defining at which Africa and Past it focussed according to the quantitative analysis of the first three chapters. The general purpose of the histories included in the Journal over the last five years was determined as writing histories on autonomous developments, events and actors in Sub-Saharan Africa before the 1990's. In assessing this purpose the paper continued by suggesting three borders that future issues of the Journal could cross. The first border called for a new temporal demarcation by stressing the importance of contemporary histories. Reference was made (1) to original contemporary histories on Africa of the 1960's which were determined to be outdated; (2) to the opinion that many of the recent historical writing on Africa do not address its relation with present developments which make them a-historical in nature; (3) to the purpose of contemporary histories to understand Africa's concerns of



today (from the present to the past) and vice versa the need of contemporary prisms to assess the importance of certain historical happenings for today's world (from the past to the presence); and (4) to the specific capabilities of historians to take up the task of analyzing contemporary developments. The second border entailed the resulting substantive challenges for the Journal. I suggested that future issues of the Journals should include articles (1) on developments in the last two decades, (2) which deal more explicitly and extensively with the relation between contemporary issues and historical events, actors or developments, (3) which exclude histories on North Africa, (4) which pay more attention to the interrelationship between African, Western and global developments, (5) which address a long list of problems and issues which are actual in Africa today and (6) on historical events, actors and developments which still have significance for the current state of affairs in Africa. Finally, the third border referred to an institutional challenge to increase the representation of African scholars and universities in the Journal.

In closure, I would like to stress that this combined quantitative and qualitative analysis of the Journal of African History showed limitations and thereby new possibilities for the purpose and relevance of the field of African History. With assessing the purpose of its leading Journal, the conclusions resultantly address the field of African history in its totality including all its institutions, peoples and transactions. It is the socially-involved historian speaking in me who closes off by saying that with the future as next exit African historians should better deal with the past of the present and the presence of the past instead of describing a distant, artificial and timeless history.

## VI. Bibliography<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Excludes the articles of the *Journal of African History* of the last fifteen issues.

## VII. Appendix

### Appendix I. – Editorial Board

#### *Background*

<b>Professor Akyeampong</b>	M	Ghana	<i>Harvard University, USA</i>
<b>Professor Teresa Barnes</b>	F	Zimbabwe	<i>University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA</i>
<b>Professor Iris Berger</b>	F	USA	<i>University at Albany, State University of New York, USA</i>
<b>Professor Florence Bernault</b>	F	FRA	<i>University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA</i>
<b>Professor Babacar Fall</b>	F	SEN	<i>University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar, Senegal</i>
<b>Professor Michael Gomez</b>	M	USA	<i>New York University, USA</i>
<b>Professor Sandra E. Greene</b>	F	USA	<i>Cornell University, USA</i>
<b>Professor Sean Hanretta</b>	M	USA	<i>Stanford University, USA</i>
<b>Professor Patrick Harries</b>	M	SWI	<i>University of Basel, Switzerland</i>
<b>Professor Robin Law</b>	M	UK	<i>University of Stirling, UK</i>
<b>Professor Ghislaine E. Lydon</b>	F	USA	<i>University of California, Los Angeles, USA</i>
<b>Dr Giacomo Macola</b>	M	UK	<i>University of Kent, UK</i>
<b>Professor Anne Mager</b>	F	S-AFR	<i>University of Cape Town, South Africa</i>
<b>Dr James McDougall</b>	M	UK	<i>SOAS, UK</i>
<b>Dr Peter Mitchell</b>	M	UK	<i>University of Oxford, UK</i>
<b>Professor David Newbury</b>	M	UK	<i>Smith College, USA</i>
<b>Professor Ayodeji Olukoju</b>	M	NIG	<i>University of Lagos, Nigeria</i>

**Professor Jeanne Marie**

**Penvenne** F USA *Tufts University, USA*

**Professor Peter Probst** M GER *Tufts University, USA*

**Dr Richard Reid** M UK *School of Oriental and African Studies, UK*

**Professor David**

**Schoenbrunn** M USA *Northwestern University, USA*

### **Appendix I.A. – Websites Editorial Board**

**Professor Akyeampong** <http://www.aaas.fas.harvard.edu/directory/faculty/emmanuel-k-akyeampong>

**Professor Teresa Barnes** <http://www.gws.illinois.edu/people/tbarnes2/>

**Professor Iris Berger** <http://encyclopedia.jrank.org/articles/pages/4546/Berger-Iris-Brown-1941.html>

**Professor Florence Bernault** <http://history.wisc.edu/bernault/>

**Professor Babacar Fall** <http://fsi.stanford.edu/people/babacarfall/>

**Professor Michael Gomez** <http://history.as.nyu.edu/object/michaelgomez>

**Professor Sandra E. Greene** <http://www.arts.cornell.edu/history/faculty-department-greene.php>

**Professor Sean Hanretta** <http://www.stanford.edu/~hanretta/>

**Professor Patrick Harries** <http://www.ohioswallow.com/author/Patrick+Harries>

**Professor Robin Law** <http://www.historyandpolitics.stir.ac.uk/staff/history/RobinLawHistoryStirlingStaffInformation.php>

**Professor Ghislaine E. Lydon** <http://www.history.ucla.edu/people/faculty?lid=653>

**Dr Giacomo Macola** <http://www.ohioswallow.com/author/Giacomo+Macola>





<b>Professor Anne Mager</b>	<a href="http://historicalstudiesuct.wordpress.com/2011/03/29/hst2035s-gender-and-history/">http://historicalstudiesuct.wordpress.com/2011/03/29/hst2035s-gender-and-history/</a>
<b>Dr James McDougall</b>	<a href="http://www.soas.ac.uk/staff/staff36655.php">http://www.soas.ac.uk/staff/staff36655.php</a>
<b>Dr Peter Mitchell</b>	<a href="http://www.trinitysaintdavid.ac.uk/en/schoolofculturalstudies/staff/petermitchell/">http://www.trinitysaintdavid.ac.uk/en/schoolofculturalstudies/staff/petermitchell/</a>
<b>Professor David Newbury</b>	<a href="http://www.econ.cam.ac.uk/faculty/person.html?id=newbery&amp;group=faculty">http://www.econ.cam.ac.uk/faculty/person.html?id=newbery&amp;group=faculty</a>
<b>Professor Ayodeji Olukaju</b>	<a href="http://goodwaysnigeria.com/?p=464">http://goodwaysnigeria.com/?p=464</a>
<b>Professor Jeanne Marie Penvenne</b>	<a href="http://ase.tufts.edu/history/faculty/penvenne.asp">http://ase.tufts.edu/history/faculty/penvenne.asp</a>
<b>Professor Peter Probst</b>	<a href="http://ase.tufts.edu/art/documents/cvs/Probst.pdf">http://ase.tufts.edu/art/documents/cvs/Probst.pdf</a>
<b>Dr Richard Reid</b>	<a href="http://www.soas.ac.uk/staff/staff36656.php">http://www.soas.ac.uk/staff/staff36656.php</a>
<b>Professor Schoenbrunn</b>	<a href="http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayMoreInfo?jid=AFH&amp;type=eb">http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayMoreInfo?jid=AFH&amp;type=eb</a>

## Appendix II. – Sections

	Total							
	Pages	Articles Issue 1	Articles Issue 2	Articles Issue 3	Book reviews 1	Book reviews 2	Book reviews 3	
2010	432	98	126	129	24	32	23	
2009	463	122	138	107	30	37	27	
2008	514	135	138	127	31	35	40	
2007	514	147	144	132	24	32	29	
2006	533	137	124	133	42	38	43	
	2456	639	670	628	151	174	162	
Total Articles	1937	79%						
Total Book reviews	487	20%						
Additional	32	1%						
	2456							

## Appendix III. – Authors

### Appendix III.A. – Background Authors

s	Articles	African Background	European Background	American background	Unknown
2010	17	3	7	7	
2009	17	5,5 <sup>52</sup>	8	3,5	
2008	18	2	7	9	
2007	18	3	8	6	1
2006	17	1	6	8	2
	87	14,5	36	33,5	3
		17%	41%	39%	3%

s	Articles	African	Nigeria	South Africa
2010	17	3	3	
2009	17	5,5	0,5	3,5
2008	18	2	2	
2007	18	3		1
2006	17	1		1
	87	14,5	5,5	5,5
		17%	38%	38%

s	Articles	European	UK	France
2010	17	7	4	2.5
2009	17	8	5	
2008	18	7	6	1
2007	18	8	5	
2006	17	6	2	2
	87	36	22	5,5

<sup>52</sup> A factor of 0,5 has been applied in case the article was written by two authors.



**Appendix III.B. – University Authors**

s	Articles	African University	European University	American University
2010	17	3	6,5	7,5
2009	17	3,5	7	6,5
2008	18	1	7	10
2007	18	3	8	7
2006	17	0	8	9
	87	10,5	36,5	40
		12%	42%	46%

**Appendix III.C. – Gender Authors**

Gender	Articles	M	F	Unknown
2010	17	10,5	6,5	
2009	17	10	7	
2008	18	12	6	
2007	18	13	5	
2006	17	13	3	1
	87	58,5	27,5	1
		67%	32%	

s	Articles	African Background	M	F
2010	17	3	2	1
2009	17	5,5	4,5	1
2008	18	2	1	1
2007	18	3	3	0
2006	17	1	1	0
	87	14,5	11,5	3
		17%	79%	21%



**Appendix III.D. - Overview Authors**

Author	Background Author	University Author	Academic 'fuction'	Gender
2010				
issue 1				
1 Priya Lal	USA	USA	phd	F
2 Joel Cabrita	UK	UK	phd	F
3 Douglas Anthony	UK	UK	Associate prof. History	M
4 Egodi Uchendu	NIG	AFR	Senior Lecturer	F
5 Chouki El Hamel	FRA	USA	Professor	M
issue 2				
Gerard L. Chouin &				
1 Christopher R. Decorse	FRA/US	USA/France	Professor of Anthropology	M/M
2 Mohammed Bashir Salau	USA	USA	Assistant Professor of History	M
3 Chibuike Uche	Nigeria	AFR	Assistant Professor of History	M
4 Meredith Terretta	USA	CAN	Professor of History	F
5 Gabrielle Hecht	USA	USA	Assistant Professor of History	F
John Thornton &				
6 Andrea Monsterman	USA/ NL	USA	Professor/ PHD Student	M/F
issue 3				
			Post Doctorate Reserach	
1 Judith Scheele	FRA	UK	Fellow	F
2 Giacomo Macola	UK	UK	Lecturer, PHD	M
3 Allison K. Shutt	USA	USA	Assistant Professor	M
4 Jonathan Roberts	CAN	CAN	PHD	M
5 Nicholas leawuchi Omenka	Nigeria	AFR	?	M
6 Miles Larmer	UK	UK	Lecturer, PHD	M
2009				
issue 1				
1 Linda M. Heywood	USA	USA	Professor	F
2 Nigel Worden	S-Afr	AFR	Professor	M



Harvey M. Feinberg &

3	André Horn	USA/ S-Afr	USA/AFR	Professor/phd	M/M
4	Sekibakiba Peter Lekgoathi	S-Afr	AFR	Adjunct Faculty	M
5	Ama Biney	Ghana	AFR	PHD	F
6	Lidwien Kapteijns	NL	USA	Professor	F

A

issue 2

1	A.G. Hopkins	UK	USA	Professor	M
2	Holly Hanson	USA	USA	Associate Professor	F
3	Rhiannon Stephens	UK	UK	Associate Professor	F
	Pauline von Hellermann &			Post Doctorate Research	
4	Uyilawa Usuanlele	UK/Nigeria	USA	Fellow/ Associate Professor	F/M
5	Erik Green	SWE	SWE	PHD	M
6	Klaas van Walraven	Netherlands	DUT	PHD	m

issue 3

1	Gregory Mann	USA	USA	Associate Professor	M
	Anne Haour &				
2	Boube Gado	UK/Niger	UK	Lecturer, PHD/ Professor	F/M
	David Anderson &				
3	Neil Carrier	UK	UK	Professor/ PHD	M/M
4	Wayne Dooling	S-Afr	UK	Senior Lecturer	M
5	Julie J. Taylor	UK	UK	PHD	F

2008

issue 1

1	Edda L. Fields-Black	USA	USA	Associate Professor	F
2	Lynne Brydon	UK	UK	Senior Lecturer	F
3	Richard B. Allen	USA	USA	Professor	M
4	Derek R. Peterson	USA	USA	Associate Professor	M
5	Jay Straker	USA	USA	Associate Professor	M
6	Chibuike Uche	Nigeria	AFR		M

issue 2

1	Frederick Cooper	USA	USA	Professor	M
---	------------------	-----	-----	-----------	---



2	Neil Kodesh	USA	USA	Associate Professor	M
3	Rachel Jean-Baptiste	USA	USA	Associate Professor	F
4	Chouki El Hamel	FRA	USA	Professor	M
5	Brian J. Peterson	USA	USA	Assistant Professor	M
6	Sean Hanretta	USA	USA	Assistant Professor	M

issue 3 Special issue on Death

Rebekah Lee &

1	Megan Vaughan	UK	UK	Senior Lecturer & Professor	F/F
2	Shane Doyle	UK	UK	Senior Lecturer	M
3	Megan Vaughan	UK	UK	Professor	F
4	Stacey Hynd	UK	UK	PHD, Lecturer	F
5	Wale Adebani	Nigeria	UK	PHD	M
6	Stephen Ellis	UK	DUT	Professor	M

A Bill Nasson

2007

issue 1

1	T.C. McCaskie	UK	UK	Professor	M
2	Bruce Mouser	USA	USA	Professor	M
3	Shobana Shankar	?	USA	Assistant Professor	F
4	Yusufu Qwaray Lawi	TANZ	AFR	?	M
5	Elizabeth Schmidt	USA	USA	Professor	F
6	Kate Skinner	UK	UK	Lecturer	F

issue 2

1	Koen Bostoën	BE	BEL	Professor	M
2	Thaddeus Sunseri	USA	USA	Professor	M
3	Paul Nugent	UK	UK	Professor	M
4	Lorena Rizzo	SWI	SWI	PHD	M
5	Enocent Msindo	Zimb	AFR	PHD	M
6	Daniel Branch	UK	UK	Associate Professor	M

issue 3

1	J. Cameron Monroe	USA	USA	Professor	M
2	Jeremy Seekings	S-Afr	AFR	Professor	M



	3	Katja Werthmann	GER	GER	PHD	F
	4	Lynda R. Day	USA	USA	Associate Professor	F
	5	Stephen Ellis	UK	DUT	Professor	M
	6	Pier M. Larson	USA	USA	Professor	M
A		Ehud R. Toledano				

2006

issue 1

	1	Paul K Bjerk	USA	USA	PHD	M
	2	David M. Gordon	S-Afr	USA	Associate Professor	M
	3	Giacomo Macola	UK	UK	PHD, Lecturer	M
	4	Achim von Oppen	GER	GER	Professor	M
	5	Richard Waller	USA	USA	Professor	M
	6	Carol Summers	USA	USA	Associate Professor	F
	7	Laurent Fourchard	FRA	FRA	PHD, Lecturer	M

issue 2

	1	Destombes	?	UK	PHD	M
	2	Florence Bernault	FRA	USA	Professor	F
	3	Sloan Mahone	?	UK	Lecturer	?
	4	Thomas McClendon	USA	USA	Professor	M
	5	Robert Trent Vinson	USA	USA	Associate Professor	M
A		Thomas Spear				M

issue 3

	1	Andrew Burton	UK	UK	PHD	M
	2	James R. Brennan	USA	UK	Associate Professor	M
	3	Piet Konings	Netherlands	DUT	PHD	M
	4	John K. Thornton	USA	USA	Professor	M
	5	Lynn M. Thomas	USA	USA	Associate Professor	F

Author

Source

2010

issue 1

	1	Priya Lal		<a href="http://www.scps.nyu.edu/faculty/all/I/O/13333/priya-lal">http://www.scps.nyu.edu/faculty/all/I/O/13333/priya-lal</a>
	2	Joel Cabrera		<a href="http://www.soas.ac.uk/staff/staff59444.php">http://www.soas.ac.uk/staff/staff59444.php</a>



- 3 Douglas Anthony <http://www.fandm.edu/history/fps>
- 4 Egodi Uchendu <http://www.egodiuchendu.com/>
- 5 Chouki El Hamel <http://www.public.asu.edu/~hel01/>

issue 2

Gerard L. Chouin &

- 1 Christopher R. Decorse <http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/faculty.aspx?id=6442451377>
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- 2 Bruce Mouser <http://www.blackpast.org/?q=contributor/mouser-bruce-l>
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**Appendix III.E. – Academic Function**

	Articles	Professor	Ass. Professor	PHD	Lecturer with PHD	PHD
2010	17		3,5	5	3	5,5
2009	17		5,5	4,5	1,5	5,5
2008	18		5,5	7,5	3,5	1,5
2007	18		10	3	1	3
2006	17		5	5	2	5
	87		29,5	25	11	20,5
			34%	29%	13%	24%

## Appendix IV. – Approaches

	Articles	Cultural (C)	Political (P)	Soc – Eco (SE)	ALL	Archaeology	C & P	C & SE	P & SE	
2010	17	3	6	3		1	3	1		
2009	17	4	5	3		1	1			3
2008	18	2	3	3			6	2		2
2007	18	1,5	5	1	2	1,5	1	2		4
2006	17	1	5	1			4	2		4
Total	87	11,5	24	11	2	3,5	15	7		13
		13%	28%	13%	2%	4%	17%	8%		15%

S-E component	Cultural Component	Political component	Archeaology	Interdisciplinary
31	23,5	52	3,5	36
36%	27%	60%	4%	41%

## Appendix V. – Regions

Articles	All	Central	West	East	South	North	Islands		
2010	17	0	2	8	1	4	2	0	17
2009	17	1	1	5	4	6	0	0	17
2008	18	3	1	9	3	0	1	1	18
2007	18	0	0,5	10	2	3,5	0	2	18
2006	17	2,5	2,5	3	3,5	5,5	0	0	17
	87	6,5	7	35	13,5	19	3	3	87
		7%	8%	40%	16%	22%	3%	3%	1



	Articles	South	S-Afr.	Namibia	Zimbabwe	Mozambique	Botswana	Zambia	Malawi	Region
2010	17	4	1	1	1			1		
2009	17	6	4	1					1	
2008	18	0								
2007	18	3,5	1	1	1					0,5
2006	17	5,5	4					1,5		
	87	19	5							
			26%							

	Articles	West	Nigeria	Ghana	Benin	Senegal	Sierra Leone	Guinea	Guinea-Bissau	Gambia
2010	17	8	4	1,5						
2009	17	5	1	1						
2008	18	9	3	1				2		
2007	18	10	1	1		0,5	2	1		0,5
2006	17	3	1	1						
	87	35	10	5,5						
			29%	16%						

	West	Mali	Niger	Togo	Ivory Coast	Cameroon	Equatorial Guinea	Gabon	Congo-Brazzaville	Liberia	Burkina Faso	Region
8		1					0,5					1
5			2									1
9		1			1			1				
10				1							1	1
3												
35												

	Aantal artikelen per jaar	East	Somalia	Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Sudan	Uganda	Kenya	Rwanda, Burundi	Tanzania	Region
2010	17		1						1
2009	17		4	1		2	1		
2008	18		3			2	1		



2007	18	2		1	1
2006	17	3,5	1	1	1,5
	87	13,5	37%	30%	

	Articles	Central	Chad	CAR	Congo	Angola	Region
2010	17	2				1	1
2009	17	1			1		
2008	18	1					1
2007	18	0,5					
2006	17	2,5			1		1,5
	87	7					

Articles	North	Egypt	Algeria	Libya	Morocco	Tunisia
17	2			1		1
17	0					
18	1					1
18						
17						
87	3					

## Appendix VI. – Periods

	Articles	Precolonial	Colonial	Post-Colonial	ALL	Pre/C	C/PC	Pre/PC
2010	17	3	4	6				4
2009	17	3	8	2	1			3
2008	18	2	4	5	2	1	1	3
2007	18	7	5	1		1		4
2006	17	3	6	3				5
	87	18	27	17	3	2	19	1
		21%	31%	20%	3%	2%	22%	1%