Africa on the Global Agenda

Annual Report 2007
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Introduction

The Nordic Africa Institute is a leading research institute in the Nordic countries dedicated to providing timely, critical and alternative analysis of current African issues. As a hub and a meeting place in the Nordic region for a growing field of research and analysis, we strive to place knowledge of African issues within reach of scholars, policy makers, politicians, students, media and the general public.

The Institute combines its invaluable resources for interpreting complex developments on the ground with linkages to the national and global levels. The Institute provides a multidisciplinary research environment and has for many years built networks with Nordic and African researchers. Research cooperation in the fields of the humanities and social and economic development is geared towards interpreting contemporary history and rethinking development options for the future.

Last year, Professor Fantu Cheru (former professor of Development Studies at the American University, Washington D.C.) joined the Institute as its new research director. Prof. Cheru’s long and successful academic career adds a new dimension to the Institute. In one of his first initiatives at the Institute he will address his research to the emerging relations between China and Africa.

Also last year, Dr. Birgitta Hellmark Lindgren joined the Institute as the new head of publishing and information. As she writes elsewhere in this report “too often, fascinating and groundbreaking research does not reach beyond the academic field in which it was produced”. Bridging the gap between policy and research is a challenge for most academic institutes, including ours.

Books and reports published by the Institute over the years have been very well received. A new website was introduced in 2006 and it is rapidly becoming the main communications vehicle for commentary, events and reports on topical issues. New features are launched in 2007 are the Policy Notes and Policy Dialogues series.

When the Institute library received the Swedish ‘Library of the Year’ award for 2006, it was in recognition of the meticulous work being done on the huge collection of Africana as well as of the high level of services provided by staff to all Nordic countries. The award gave rise to new contacts and new ambitions. With this recognition, we could expand our services in several Danish catalogues leading to a dramatic increase in loans from Denmark in 2007. This effort will now be extended to the other Nordic countries.

The important work of the Institute is recognised in the generous funding from the Nordic governments and Nordic aid agencies, in particular Sida. During 2007, the Institute had the opportunity to engage with the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs by providing background research for the formulation of a new Swedish strategy on Africa. The Institute also hosted a meeting between Nordic foreign ministry officials on the ongoing work on national Africa strategies as well as providing information on the preparation of the joint Africa Union/European Union Strategy on Africa.

In 2007, the Institute embarked on a reform
initiative to develop a road-map to respond to new challenges and demands. The Strategic Framework embraces the period 2008-12 and outlines the way in which the Institute is initiating and implementing a series of reforms to strengthen and focus its work. We have called this initiative ‘The Nordic Africa Institute at Crossroads’.

One of our challenges is to capture the dramatic changes in Africa. In that spirit, we have introduced this Annual Report with a section on ‘Africa on the Global Agenda’, which outlines how we see the possible emergence of an African century out of the present resource boom and the quest for a more accountable and democratic state.

Europe and Africa in a multi-polar world
European research institutes and think-tanks met in Lisbon on 4-5 December 2007 – on the eve of the EU-Africa Summit. The Nordic Africa Institute participated in this conference, which was organised by the Institute for Strategic and International Studies. The conference looked primarily at values in Euro-African dialogue; multipolarity and multilateralism; peace and security; integration and regionalism; development and commodities; democratic governance and foreign aid; and the role of civil society in strategic partnerships. NAI was represented by its director, Carin Norberg.

A new network of European and African international relations and development institutes was inaugurated at the meeting. This network intends to contribute research and concrete proposals for the debate on themes of strategic importance in the relationship between the two continents. It also aims to increase the role and ownership of civil society in Europe-Africa strategic partnerships and dialogue.

NAI host of 2011 ECAS conference
Every second year, AEGIS (Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies) organises a European Conference on African Studies – ECAS. The 2011 conference will take place in Uppsala, hosted by the Nordic Africa Institute. The 2007 ECAS conference took place in Leiden, and the 2009 conference will be held in Leipzig.

Organising research around clusters
A key aspect of defining the new research profile of the Nordic Africa Institute has been the re-grouping of its broad research activities into six distinct research clusters or research domains. The clustering of NAI’s research is expected to bring greater coherence and integration to research efforts and to promote multidisciplinary inquiry among individual theme group researchers through collaborative research endeavours. The new research clusters are:

- Agrarian Change, Property and Resources
- Conflict, Displacement and Transformation
- Cultural Images and Expressions
- Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS
- Globalisation, Trade and Regional Integration
- Urban Dynamics
For the first time in more than two decades, Africa has found its rightful place in the world, attracting the attention of the traditional Western powers as well as the leadership of emerging powers such as China, India, South Korea, Malaysia and Brazil. The pervasive ‘Afro-pessimism’ of the 1980s and 1990s – which the Economist magazine aptly characterised as ‘Hopeless Africa’ – has given way to an image of Africa that is socially and economically vibrant and politically more open, with an assertive civil society, an entrepreneurial indigenous private sector and an aggressive free press playing a central role in articulating an independent and authentic African development agenda.

First, the conditions for Africa’s sustained growth and development are much more favourable today than ever before. Many African countries have put in place appropriate macroeconomic, structural and social policies, which have contributed to improved GDP growth rates and some progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Africa has become an attractive destination for foreign direct investment. Overall GDP growth rate has averaged in excess of 4.5 per cent annually since the mid-1990s. Some of the fastest growing African economies are on course to meet the income poverty target of halving poverty by 2015. Significant efforts are being made to reverse the decline in higher education and basic research. In a large number of African countries, heroic efforts are being made to reverse the productivity failure in agriculture by instituting enabling policies, investment in infrastructure, credit, agri-cultural research and expanded extension services.

The second most impressive development has been the movement towards democracy and a rule-based political system in a number of African countries. In response to pressure from below, African governments are embracing democracy and good governance, including economic governance, and decentralising authority to local structures, thus allowing local communities to have control over decisions that matter to them. Between 1990 and 2005, in more than 42 African countries peaceful changes of government took place as a result of competitive multiparty elections. Despite such impressive progress, the democratisation agenda remains unfinished in a handful of African countries.

Third, there is greater continental and regional consensus than ever before on what needs to be done to accelerate growth, reduce poverty and prevent deadly conflicts. Regional initiatives under the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) are allowing African countries to improve governance; assume leadership and accountability for their development; increase trade within Africa and the world; and enhance the provision of regional public goods such as cross-country transportation and electricity-pooling.

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), under which a country puts itself up for scrutiny by its peers to help identify its weaknesses and the actions required to correct
them, underscores the push for accountability in economic and political governance, which is also fuelled by an invigorated civil society. So far, more than 25 countries have voluntarily signed up for the NEPAD APRM and the process has begun with a number of reviews. Moreover, there are encouraging signs that the AU and regional bodies are playing an important role in dealing with potentially disruptive national crises, as in the Sudan and Somalia. More significantly, these African-owned and African-driven initiatives have resulted in a decline in the number of civil conflicts over the last four years from 16 to 6, including progress on such protracted wars as those in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

FOURTH, while Africa itself deserves the credit for much of what has been achieved, the response of international partners has been positive and enhances the prospects for sustaining the progress made so far. In 2005, the international community agreed to double assistance to Africa and to cancel the debt of 14 low income African countries. The success of the ongoing Doha trade negotiations will be determined in large part by breakthroughs on issues of particular concern to African countries – the elimination of trade-distorting subsidies in agriculture and the lowering of tariffs and non-tariff barriers for African products. In this content, the Commission for Africa made a compelling case for a ‘big push’ on many fronts to address the interlocking problems standing in the way of successful development in Africa.

FINALLY, the political role of the new Asian partners is equally important. Africa is already benefiting from an Asia-driven (China and India in particular) commodity boom and increased investment in infrastructure and the extractive industry sector. Exports are booming and consumer imports are more affordable. Net exports of crude oil, wood and precious metals have benefited from strong Asian demand. Financial flows are on the rise as well. China in particular has become a large provider of infrastructure loans, with no conditions attached. While China’s or India’s growing involvement in Africa is very much motivated by national economic interest, it offers a temporary breathing space for individual African countries to redefine their national development strategies without heavy-handed intervention by Western governments and aid agencies.

There is indeed good news coming out of Africa. It is too early to declare the beginning of an ‘African Century’, but this is indeed an African moment that we must take time to comprehend.

“Some of the fastest growing African economies are on course to meet the income poverty target of halving poverty by 2015”
As the Nordic Africa Institute approaches its 50th anniversary, it has begun to apply a number of reforms in order to prepare the Institute for becoming a centre of excellence in social science research on Africa in the Nordic countries. The impetus for reform has been prompted by a number of dramatic changes in the world as well as on the African continent itself since the end of the Cold War, which could have both positive and negative impacts on the future trajectory of African development. The African continent can no longer be understood as a single disciplinary binary and research on Africa must be positioned in a wider global context.

Second, the African studies research field more and more resembles a competitive market economy. There are now many players – policy NGOs, think tanks, to name just a few – in Africa and outside Africa that are playing key roles in shaping public policy on, as well as public opinion about Africa at the global and local levels. In this highly competitive environment, NAI must be prepared to reshape the debate on Africa through innovative and timely research; to bridge the artificial divide between basic research and policy research; and to communicate the results of research through an effective outreach strategy, which will in turn help build a strong constituency for Africa in the Nordic countries and in Europe. This means that the Institute needs to cater not only to the traditional academic audience, but also to diverse constituencies in government, civil society and the private sector.

Third, the current reform initiative at the Institute is centred on the development of a distinct research profile with an emphasis on quality and relevance in order to enhance the Institute’s identity and visibility. This boils down to planning research strategically: mechanisms for setting clear goals and targets, putting in place systems of evaluating quality and evaluating the way in which human resources are deployed. While an overall institutional strategic framework is being discussed, the Research Unit has embarked on its own strategic planning, starting out with a 2008-09 Action Plan. Along with the action plan, researchers are required to submit quarterly progress reports on the implementation of their respective action plans.

STRATEGIC ISSUES IN 2008 AND BEYOND
The first key aspect of defining the new research profile of NAI has been the re-grouping of NAI’s fragmented research activities into six distinct research clusters or research domains since May 2007. The clustering of NAI’s research programme is expected to bring greater coherence to and integration of research efforts and to promote multidisciplinary inquiry among individual theme group researchers through collaborative research endeavours. More generally, the intention is to use the cluster openly and creatively as a platform for exploring and deepening conceptual and methodological
approaches to the study of Africa; for supporting and disseminating empirically grounded research; and for engaging in public debate and policy dialogue. The new research clusters include the following:

**Urban Dynamics:** The urban dynamics cluster focuses on the state of African urban centres, on processes of social and political and economic change unfolding therein and on their impacts on the population in urban spaces, without discounting their strong connections with rural spaces. To a large extent, the African urban economy has remained a locus of consumption as well as employment, particularly in the so-called informal sector. The aim of the programme and the projects within this cluster is to explore empirically the ways in which this informalisation of urban economies affects different segments of the population and the various responses and strategies to which it gives rise. A second aim is to investigate how changing economic dynamics more generally impact on social and political dynamics in specific contexts.

**Conflict, Displacement and Transformation:** The conflict cluster aims to bring together research and analysis that explores key aspects of and relationships between various kinds of violent conflict and forced displacement, on the one hand, and processes of post-conflict peace building and modes of recovery and reinvention in the face of sustained uncertainties, on the other.

The current core foundations of this cluster combine complementary knowledge and experience in at least two regions of the continent, namely West Africa and Southern Africa, and different disciplinary perspectives, including political science, anthropology, human geography and development studies.

**Agrarian Change, Property and Resources:** Despite growing urbanisation on the African continent, the vast majority of Africans are still located in or are dependent in multiple ways on their relationship to rural or agrarian environments. Access to land and other natural resources; the nature of tenure regimes; the absence of various infrastructural, financial and social services; and the dynamics of power relations, are all critical dimensions of rural lives and livelihoods. Many older rural institutions are embedded in customary traditions and norms that emphasise redistribution and reciprocity, while at times reinforcing specific norms of exclusion. There are also increasing and often contradictory challenges raised by newer institutions and growing pressures towards modernisation, commercialisation and formalisation.

The crucial issue related to agrarian change, property and resources is whether appropriate democratic conditions exist as well as sustainable development paths that can combine rural material and economic surplus generation with meaningful social and cultural change, and whether and what social forces or agencies have authority and capacity to identify and promote change in this direction.

**Globalisation, trade and Regional Integration:** The objective of this cluster is to integrate perspectives of different disciplines and to take a broad view on globalisation processes and questions related to international and regional trade integra-
tion and poverty eradication in sub-Saharan Africa. Thematically, the cluster focuses primarily on African regional integration, trade and development issues, but it also relates to the discourses on how nation states and global economic forces impact on and can support African agriculture and rural development. The theme will relate to research conducted in various Institute clusters, but will be primarily related to the research programme, ‘Global Trade and Regional Integration: African Economies, Producers and Living Conditions’.

Gender sexuality and HIV and AIDS: During the last 20 years, the question of gender equality has emerged on the agenda of scholarship on Africa in a powerful way. At the same time, gender, power and embodiment have become key issues in social sciences and cultural studies. To translate the aspiration of ‘gendering’ into empirical research is, however, a challenge. The cluster focuses on contemporary theories on gender, power and sexualities and on empirical research into a range of issues in the field of sexuality and gender, such as masculinities in Africa, different women's movements and local responses to HIV and AIDS. Since gender clearly is a key concept both in research and development discourse, the gender research cluster aims to contribute through theoretically informed gender scholarship to a growing field of academic research on women and gender in Africa.

Cultural Images and Expressions: The cultural self-images of Africa have in the past decade undergone changes that merit new research and also attention as a factor in social change. The post-independence nationalist agenda stressed nation-building, with its emphasis on national unity, the return to traditions as a source of pride and identity and a universal subject’s quest for liberation. This agenda was modified with the recognition of the multi-ethnic city as a site both for contest and power struggle and cultural creativity and protest. In the more recent phase, there is a questioning of the national cultural agenda, with recognition of a great number of volatile and changing sets of identities. Female writers have been in the forefront in showing the complexities of the liberation process and the inadequacies of the universal (male) subject.

THE SECOND STRATEGY involves setting international standards for research quality and productivity: For the Institute to become a centre of excellence in research in African studies, the quality of the research must meet international standards. In academic contexts, research quality is assessed through various forms of peer-review processes and citation indexes. While the Institute recognises the limitations of most established social science citation indexes in measuring research quality, it supports efforts undertaken in the context of AEGIS to develop a system of academic quality assessment that does justice to the specific nature of African studies.

THE THIRD INTERVENTION focuses on bridging the gap between research and policy. Being a hybrid institution with multiple mandates and multiple constituencies, the Institute increasingly has to respond to demands from the Nordic governments and other constituencies. This is particularly so for the Nordic aid agencies and foreign affairs departments. A key aspect of this engagement is the need to translate the Institute’s reservoir of research outputs into digestible and easily accessible policy notes and policy briefs and to be at the forefront in framing the debate on critical issues of importance to the African continent. The fundamental principle that defines this engagement is, however, that independent critical research should be the point of departure for policy dialogue.

Increasingly, researchers at the Institute are called upon to appear in front of key parliamentary committees (e.g., defence commission and foreign affairs committee) and to testify on key policy issues on Africa being considered by the Swedish government. In 2007, the Institute played a key role in producing a number of background papers as input into the Swedish government’s White Paper on Africa. All the background papers will be published in 2008 in the Institute’s Policy Dialogue series. The Research Unit has also organised a one-day seminar and information session for Nordic development and foreign affairs officials where all the researchers made presentations on the specific thematic area that they cover.

THE FOURTH pillar of transformation focuses on strengthening research collaboration with research institutions in Africa: The core research activities of the Institute are very much dependent on stronger relationships and collaboration with researchers in Africa. Over the years, networks were primarily based on individual relations as opposed to more institutionalised forms of collaboration with key African research institutions. While, on balance, this approach has worked relatively well, it is nonetheless not realistic and sustainable in the context of the new cluster-based research strategy. Often, networks that an individual researcher has built while at NAI disappear when the researcher ends his assignment there. In order to meet the new challenges, the Institute will focus on establishing joint partnership with key African research centres – particularly those centres affiliated with CODESRIA and OSSREIA – by concluding memoranda of understanding that clearly stipulate the roles and responsibilities of our partnering African institutions.

THE FIFTH pillar emphasises a proactive outreach strategy to the media and constituencies: Enhancing the Institute’s visibility demands that it develops a very proactive media and outreach strategy. This might also include investment in new
technology, selected skills development of staff in popular writing and how to repackage research in a manner that is accessible to non-specialists, etc. It will also entail better planning and better targeting of key constituencies.

**Finally**, new initiatives are being taken to raise the Nordic profile. The Institute will embark on strengthening its relationship with Nordic universities and research institutions in order to capitalise on the regional and thematic expertise that exists in universities. This is essential, since the Institute alone cannot provide for the disciplinary strength of each branch of the social sciences and humanities. In this way, the tradition of empirical research on Africa will be situated in the study of the wider world.

As part of its strategy to raise its Nordic profile, the Institute will continue its Nordic Guest Researchers’ Scholarship programme, as well as provide study grants to MA and PhD students from the Nordic countries. Moreover, the Institute currently funds five Nordic Research Networks organised around narrowly defined research themes in order to generate more interaction between Africanist researchers in the Nordic countries. Each network has been given the financial means to enable it to meet twice over a period of four years. The five networks are: Islamic Movements in Sub-Saharan Africa (University of Copenhagen); Media and Communication and Popular Culture in Africa (Roskilde University); NGO-Civil Society Research Network (University of Bergen); State and Society in Nigeria (University of Copenhagen); and Diaspora and State Formation in the Horn of Africa (University of Helsinki).

In addition, the Institute will organise a one day brainstorming session with key academics and research institutions in the Nordic countries to explore the possibility of establishing a Nordic Association of African Studies, which will help strengthen the Nordic profile, and enhanced involvement of Nordic academics in the Institute’s research activities.

**Pan African Capacity Building Forum in Maputo**

The Second Pan African Capacity Building Forum was held on 1-3 August 2007 in Maputo, Mozambique. Organised by the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), the forum was hosted by the government of Mozambique, which was also the main co-sponsor. The Nordic Africa Institute was one of several other co-sponsors. The forum sought to examine key issues, strategies, experiences and lessons in capacity building on the African continent with a view to providing the ACBF with guidelines for the development of responsive interventions under the Foundation’s Second Strategic Medium-Term Plan for 2007–11.

The forum was attended by more than 700 participants, among them a number of heads of state and ministers who led country delegations that included representatives of the public sector, private sector and civil society. Other participants were ACBF partner institutions, representatives of multilateral and bilateral agencies and representatives of co-sponsoring institutions. The Nordic Africa Institute was represented by its director, Carin Norberg.

**New website:**

**Nordic Documentation on the Liberation Struggle in Southern Africa**

In April 2007, a new website on Nordic support to the liberation movements in Southern Africa was launched as a result of a documentation project at the Institute on Nordic involvement in the national liberation struggle in Southern Africa. The website is a reference source for everyone interested in the late-20th century history of national liberation in Southern Africa and the role of the Nordic countries. It provides lists of primary source materials available in government, NGO and personal archives. Online databases include interviews with important actors, photographs, publications, posters and scanned newspaper clippings from the period 1960–96. The website is found at www.liberationafrica.se.
During the apartheid era, the Bhangazi people were forcibly removed from their land in Kwa-Zulu Natal to make room for protected areas of a park. In 1999 a settlement agreement was reached to compensate the displaced people, but the sad fact is that they have received limited access to both the park and the resources flowing from the park fees. There is a serious lack of democratic procedures within the Trust that was formed to protect their interests and their rights to resources.

Situated 245 km north of Durban, the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, now called iSimangaliso, offers visitors from all over the world five distinct eco-systems: coral reefs, beaches, forested dunes, swamps and the bird-rich islands of Lake St Lucia. On the western shores there are sand forests and fossils dating from ancient marine times. The diverse vegetation stems from the fact that the park straddles both sub-tropical and tropical climatic zones. Since 1999, the 250,000 hectares of park have been designated a World Heritage Site.

On the ancestral land of the Bhangazi on the eastern shores, there are high vegetated dunes and extensive wetlands and grasslands. The ncema grass is abundant and local people use it to weave sleeping and sitting mats. Crafts are made for sale to tourists. Common reedbuck graze here. Other wildlife species are Nile crocodiles, hippopotami, giraffes, rhinos, various antelope species (impala, kudu, nyala) and birds such as fish eagles and herons. The coastline is a natural habitat for turtle species that use the beaches as breeding grounds. The coastal seas are rich in fish species, which also breed in the vicinity.
**RURAL**

**BETWEEN 1954 AND 1976** the Bhangazi people was forcibly removed from the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia and from Lake Bhangazi South and “dumped” in the surrounding communities. These cruel measures by apartheid government authorities were “to protect nature”. After apartheid had come to an end, the Bhangazi called for compensation and access to their ancestral lands and negotiations ensued with government officials and park authorities.

**IN 1999**, a settlement agreement was signed to compensate the Bhangazi people for the land lost on their removal. Processes of land restitution began after the ANC-led government came to power in 1994. In the Bhangazi case, the original land was not restored and no alternative land was granted. Instead, it was agreed that 556 families would be compensated financially while another 481 claimants failed to register before the closure of the process. Almost all the 556 families have been compensated in the amount of R (Rand) 30,000 per family (€ 2,500), payments being made to family heads. Seventeen of these families could not be found and received no payment.

The agreement also stipulated the formation of the Bhangazi Community Trust, whose role is to contribute to broader development in the communities. The Trust was to receive 70 per cent of gate levies charged on tourists visiting the eastern shores and a heritage site of 4.6 hectares that was to be established southwest of Lake Bhangazi. The funds were to be used for education and to benefit the whole community of land claimants. The negotiators also granted claimants right of access to burial sites on the eastern shores, a supply of seeds and cuttings, rights to harvest ncema grass and rights to culled animals. The claimants were also to be considered for employment opportunities.

In March 2006, a new agreement was signed partly replacing the 1999 agreement. It allowed for the relocation of the heritage site from southwest of Lake Bhangazi to the eastern part of the lake. The reasons for the relocation were that the initial site lacked the necessary infrastructure for the building of the lodges, heritage museum, etc., that were also part of the original agreement.

“Members of the Trust have access to the natural resources in the first place while we come in the second or third place. For harvesting the ncema grass we have to pay a fee of R5.00 without knowing for what purpose or who is benefiting from the fee”, said one woman who participated in the fieldwork.

**THE FIELDWORK** was conducted from mid-August to mid-September 2007 among forcibly removed Bhangazi people and their descendents in three wards of Umkhanyakude District. One of the wards shared its borders with the park. The area is among the poorest and most underdeveloped in Kwa-Zulu Natal. Of the 160 Bhangazi villagers who participated, a majority were women.

“If God had given us and the members of the Trust the key to heaven we would have been denied entrance into heaven by the members of the Trust. We would rather have kept heaven for ourselves”.

*Photo: Lisbeth Larsson Lidén*
Most Bhangazi villagers face hardships. Their livelihoods have deteriorated, despite the settlement agreement of 1999. The land is unsuitable for raising cattle and too dry and infertile for crop cultivation, so that villagers must buy maize meal. Before their removal, they had access to land, trees, water, animals, birds, medicinal plants, ncoma and reed grasses at Lake Bhangazi. The Trust receives a share of the gate levies collected by park authorities, but does not inform villagers about the money or how it is to be used. The community took the initiative to audit the Trust but the experience was painful for them as they never received a report from the person hired to undertake the exercise. Instead, they were contacted by members of the Trust who informed them that the hired person was on the side of the trustees. A deep distrust of the Bhangazi Community Trust prevails among the Bhangazi people. One Bhangazi woman put it this way: “If God had given us and the members of the Trust the key to heaven we would have been denied entrance into heaven by the members of the Trust. We would rather have kept heaven for ourselves”.

The chairman of the Bhangazi Community Trust has held the position since the Trust was formed in 1999. The Trust has 14 members, nine males and five females. Previously, there were 16 trustees but two had resigned some years ago and have never been replaced. In an interview prior to the fieldwork, the chairman said: “The Trust represents all of the Bhangazi people. It gives job opportunities, provides for training and gives access to harvesting of natural resources in the Park to accommodate those households who were not economically compensated in the restitution process”.

However, minutes of the Trust reveal that only five meetings have been held since its inception. Only a handful of trustees have been present at the meetings, with the exception of two when all trustees participated, and there have never been more than 16 trustees. Questions must be raised about democratic procedures. Have a majority of claimants been given notice to participate in annual meetings for the election and re-election of the trustees who represent them?

This three-year research project is entitled ‘Poor rural women co-managing protected areas – a viable option? The case of iSimangaliso Wetland Park, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa’. It is funded by Sida/SAREC. In South Africa, the project is hosted by iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority.

Dr. Lisbeth Larsson Lidén runs the research project ‘Poor rural women co-managing protected areas – a viable option? The case of iSimangaliso Wetland Park, Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa’.
In 2004, the Norwegian government pledged to fund the Property and Business Formalisation Programme, MKURABITA, of the Tanzanian government. The programme commissioned Hernando de Soto’s Institute for Liberty and Democracy (ILD) to map, register and formalise existing property relations. Its aim is to establish property rights and issue title deeds that can serve as collateral for credit to raise capital, and thus help people out of poverty. MKURABITA is also linked to the UN-affiliated Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, which is substantially funded by Nordic governments.

The ILD approach has been criticised from several angles: for instance, for advocating an externally imposed simplistic model; for disregarding gender issues and jeopardising women’s access to land; for neglecting the need for land reform prior to formalising existing property relations; and for inflating its macroeconomic consequences. More gravely, de Soto is criticised for downplaying the risk of poor people losing their land. While all these criticisms are valid, they overlook a deeper concern. ILD and MKURABITA aim to identify and formalise vernacular rules and make these the foundation for a legal economy. However, this approach is based on a specific philosophy of law that presupposes, among other things, the existence of a rights-bearing legal persona. Where such a notion is foreign to the organisation of property relations, it needs to be imported. Formalisation is thus a project of social engineering that aims to reorganise the ways people relate not only to things, but also to each other.

Fieldwork in Rombo District of Kilimanjaro Region reveals recurring debates about the ownership of land. These are not abstract debates about whether land as a general entity can or cannot be sold – debates that could be framed in terms of opposition and negotiation between ‘tradition’ and ‘modernity’. Rather, the discussions concern concrete cases about whether this particular person may or may not sell that specific plot of land. It thus emerges that land is a diversified entity, which different people can relate to, and dispose of, in various ways. Ownership of land does not consist of a right that an individual possesses and is free to alienate. Rather, ownership involves sets of claims that are in each case justified, but that can always be challenged and subjected to counter-claims and alternative justifications by others.

**THESE DIVERSE AND CONFLICTING** property claims suggest the existence of so-called relational and distributive notions of ownership. These concepts are central to investigations of new reproductive technologies and intellectual property rights legislation in Europe and the US. Over the past decade, they have also impacted on anthropological studies of kinship and marriage. My research extends this by investigating claims and counterclaims to property within the local conceptual and practical universe. More specifically, these claims are approached against the background of notions and practices pertaining to production, reproduction and consumption. Through these activities, human beings, livestock and vegetative matter interrelate in an encompassing network that includes human and non-human elements. The research explores how the local naming system and kinship terminology are part of marital
practices that constitute unique relationships between different categories of people. The significant fact is the manner in which people are able to claim one another, and in turn have particular claims to each other’s property. People are born into a web of relationships that constantly evolve through their engagement in these practical activities. It is their entanglement in this network that enables people to make claims on one another, and these claims are justified with reference to preexisting relationships.

**If the aim** of development policy is to expand and entrench people’s involvement in a monetary economy and increase economic growth, formalisation is probably a necessary and justified step. However, if the aim is to secure the livelihood of an overwhelmingly rural population, formalisation may be counterproductive. Poor infrastructure hampers access to larger markets, so the use of land as collateral endangers people’s livelihoods through default. The result would be an increase in the number of urban poor.

While the Norwegian government committed itself to the formalisation agenda, the Norwegian Nobel Committee, which is appointed by parliament, twice awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to individuals and organisations that represent alternative approaches. Wangari Maathai’s Green Belt Movement aims to conserve biodiversity, improve food productivity and provide firewood and building materials, as well as income and employment opportunities, through tree planting in Africa. Mohammad Yunus’s Grameen Bank provides credit without collateral to the rural poor in Bangladesh and gives access to capital without endangering livelihoods. Similar microfinance projects have been inaugurated locally in Kilimanjaro, but they are restricted by a lack of capital. Both the Green Belt Movement and Grameen Bank work through local groups and thus build on and extend existing social relationships to ensure and encourage mutual trust, accountability and participation. The organisations mainly involve and benefit women, for whom they represent capacity building, empowerment, education and health. They build on different assumptions and principles from the formalisation agenda, and have a proven record that neither threatens livelihoods nor presupposes social alteration. As such, they represent viable alternatives that presuppose in-depth knowledge of people’s situation on the ground.

Perhaps my greatest misgiving about the formalisation programme is that Africa is again defined in terms of a negativity – the absence of rights – that occludes the presence of positive principles that govern people’s lives. Historically informed studies that combine fieldwork with research of older sources help undermine this preconception.

“**Africa is again defined in terms of a negativity – the absence of rights**”

**Dr. Knut Christian Myhre** is Nordic Researcher from Norway. His project is entitled ‘Persons and Property in Kilimanjaro: Claims, Development, and Legal Anthropology’.
The subjects of my present research are mostly (but not exclusively) white commercial farmers and other related ‘investors’ who have migrated into the area since 2000, when Zimbabwe’s dramatic political and economic crises began in earnest and many lost either property or prospects of earning a living or both. The provincial capital Chimoio, with its dark verandahs and rain-stained walls and its vibrant if pot-holed streets – halfway between a rural and an urban space – is situated some 85 kms from the border and is the hub for many of the migrants, some of whom still retain links with Zimbabwe.

In many ways, this particular collection of estrangeiros in Manica Province is similar to any other group of (formally unrecorded) people forcibly displaced from their land, homes, businesses or countries. They have experienced loss on both material and symbolic levels; experienced the violence of a combination of physical, economic, social and emotional dislocation; and have been forced to confront life and rebuild livelihoods in a new place – indeed someone else’s place – on entirely new and often quite vulnerable terms. They’re similar too, in that they have had to negotiate largely unfamiliar spatial, social, linguistic and institutional landscapes without much certainty,
often having to rely on others to navigate their way. And much like other forced migrants, they have an ambivalent relationship to both the places from which they were displaced and the ones in which they are attempting to become emplaced.

At the same time, as with other identifiable groups of displaced peoples, this is a quite specific (if internally diverse) group, whose displacement needs to be understood in relation to particular historical, spatial, sociocultural and political-economic conjunctures. The causes, experiences, effects and responses associated with the forced displacement of these mainly white commercial farmers, for example, is significantly different from that of the hundreds of thousands of black farm workers who were displaced from the farms at much the same time, or the estimated three-quarters of a million people displaced by Operation Murambatsvina, the urban ‘clean-up’ operation in Zimbabwe in 2005-06. Many among those in the latter groups have also ‘migrated’ across Zimbabwe’s borders since 2000, often illegally and under extremely threatening conditions, with far fewer material resources than the white farmers, yet sometimes with more extensive, historically grounded social networks.

**Understanding such differences**, as well as making links with a wider range of social, economic, cultural, psychological and other displacements, is a central aim of an ongoing collaborative and multi-disciplinary research project focused on Zimbabwe’s post-2000 period. It was initiated in late 2006 within the broader regional research programme I coordinate entitled ‘Political Economies of Displacement in Southern Africa’. Both the Zimbabwe-specific project and the overall programme necessarily adopt a regional and cross-border perspective on displacement.

**Among the major activities** in 2007 of these inter-weaving projects, in addition to individual field-based research, have been: (for the Zimbabwe-specific project) the running of several workshops (in Harare and London) and the writing of conceptual ‘think pieces’ and fuller commissioned papers by several researchers; and (more generally focused on the Southern African region) the co-convening of a panel at the AEGIS conference in Leiden in July 2007, following which an edited special issue of the Journal of Contemporary Africa Studies is currently in preparation for publication in autumn 2008. A full international conference on ‘Political Economies of Displacement in Post-2000 Zimbabwe’, combining empirical and theoretical work that will also go beyond Zimbabwe, is to be held in June 2008 in Johannesburg in cooperation with the Forced Migration Studies Programme at the University of the Witwatersrand. At least two major publications are expected to come out of this.

While the programme aims to be as productive as possible, there still remain those difficult but essential questions to answer: “So what’s the purpose of this research you’re doing? Who will be reading what you write?” Trying to answer such questions is a necessary challenge. It keeps you thinking and it keeps you trying to figure out the value of your work. I hold the conviction that producing independent, well-grounded,
deeply layered knowledge on complex social, cultural, political and economic dynamics in varied African contexts is valuable in itself. This knowledge is not only important in leading to better informed policies within and towards specific African states, it is also equally important in supporting critically reflective thinking about the diversity of African realities and by a diversity of African and non-African students and scholars. Specifically with regard to research on forced displacement, the intention here is to ensure a more nuanced understanding of what produces various forms of material and symbolic displacements in particular contexts on the continent, and what such displacements in turn produce.

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Dr. Amanda Hammar is Co-ordinator of the research programme 'Political Economies of Displacement in Southern Africa'.

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Inequality in wealth, gender and ethnicity is harmful to growth, democracy and social cohesion. Furthermore, the increased flow of information, contacts and tourism is revealing more and more of the inequality and the unfairness of existing global distribution. But does the inequality matter to climate change and what is the relationship to the African countryside?

Global Inequality and Climate Change

The existence of inequality is not contested, but there are different types of inequality. Branko Milanovic’s analysis, Global income inequality: what it is and why it matters, published by the World Bank in 2006 shows that the richest 5 per cent earns in 48 hours as much as the poorest 5 per cent does in a year. North America, Europe and high income Asia-Pacific together account for almost 90 per cent of global wealth.

Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest share of poverty, nearly 50 per cent, and it is not decreasing. Rural people struggle to survive by expanding agriculture and diversifying incomes. Deforestation takes place in developing countries, mainly in Africa and parts of Asia. Globally 13 million hectares of tropical forest are degraded or disappear annually. According to a study published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Watson et al., 2000), agriculture and deforestation account for between 25 and 45 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions and most of the emissions from these sources come from developing countries. African rural poverty, in a context of subsistence and survival, thus contributes considerably to greenhouse gas emissions.

By far the largest source of greenhouse gas globally is energy. It accounts for more than 60 per cent of the emissions, of which about 80 per cent occur in rich countries. In these countries, tourism is estimated to double by 2020, implying a massive increase in air traffic and greenhouse gas emissions. Likewise, production and consumption patterns among the rich in rich and poor countries show no trend towards reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Ways in which Poverty, consumption and climate change are addressed, tend to blur historical, structural and power features underlying global inequalities. This makes possible the focus on market forces, such as carbon trading, to resolve the problems. However, these market solutions will not suffice and may only delay a real solution, which will then have to be developed in a situation of more acute global social injustice and possibly deeper conflicts.

Rather than reducing global inequalities and resolving the problem of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change through reduction in the use of fossil fuels at the source, a grand design has emerged to develop liquid bio-fuels, in particular ethanol and bio-diesel. The objective is to reduce fossil fuel consumption, in particular in the transport sector. The most important determining factor in bio-fuel production is the feedstock factor (for example, sugar cane, maize and oil seeds), which accounts for more than half the production costs. The expansion of bio-fuel production has driven up food prices. For example, world prices of maize have more than doubled over the last two years! The competition between
energy and food already constitutes a real conflict. However, no developed country, except Brazil, can enhance energy security from domestic feedstock crops, since only a small portion of the demand for transport fuels can be met. For example, within the EU a conversion of about 70 per cent of agricultural land would increase the share of bio-fuels in domestic consumption of transport fuels to only 10 per cent. First-generation technologies, and in particular manual harvesting, such as in Brazil, also have serious impacts on health and the environment. Development of bio-fuel in Africa is currently based on the experience of Brazil and large and well-watered areas, in particular river valleys, are being brought into use or sought out by investors. Considerable interest in African production of bio-fuels for export has been shown by European companies and donors.

However, the net “climate outcomes” of, for example, ethanol for bio-fuel is questionable. First, it is being developed through large-scale commercial farming that often pushes smallholders off their land. This trend is likely to continue in Africa, where smallholder land rights are weak. Second, sugar cane production will lead to increased competition for the most fertile food producing areas. Third, as long as the production of feedstock crops leads to deforestation, the contribution of bio-fuels to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is questionable. Extremely good growth conditions in many African settings may generate large volumes of low-cost bio-fuels and investors show keen interest as long as they do not need to deal with the social, health and ecological problems associated with large-scale production. This may emerge as a role for donors and the pressure on European aid agencies in this regard already exists. The increasing intensity of bio-fuel production in rural Africa is leading to contestation over scarce land and the marginalisation of smallholders and livestock keepers – a new form of colonisation is emerging.

THE ARGUMENT that significant efficiency gains could result from reallocation of global production to low-cost producers, such as in Africa, does not fully account for the greenhouse gas impacts of long-haul transport. High petroleum costs may, however, make bio-fuel production economically viable in some oil-importing countries, in particular land-locked oil importing countries. More research is required to gain insights into the constraints and possibilities for African smallholders.

Issues related to inequality, energy and climate are of a global character: there is no longer one solution for the South and one for the North. Donor agencies have a particular South focus, which does not allow for an understanding of global-level complexity. At the national level, new institutions have to be formed for this purpose. Likewise, institutions of learning and research have to be reorganised to address real and complex problems and issues. In addition, global governance and agreements need to expand and be strengthened and include effective sanctions. Global taxation of the very rich in favour of the many very poor also has to be developed so that global inequality and injustice can be further addressed. Land rights of smallholders in rural Africa have to be strengthened in order to prevent bio-fuel colonisation from leading to increased poverty and inequality, with negative impacts on the climate.
It is around two in the morning. The Israel street corner is dark. Blackout is more or less constant in Freetown, Sierra Leone, and Berwick street in the western downtown is darker than most areas of the city. Some of the Pentagon Boys are sleeping in or on top of parked taxis. Others sit on the street corner drinking pega-pacs (20 centilitres sachets of alcohol) or smokinjoints as they talk about the hardships of life.

A radio standing behind a wall is playing a recent Sierra Leonean hit song by local artist Daddy SAJ. The lyrics are clear: Sierra Leone is not developing because of the greed of the political elite:

Black man is sad - it is a laugh
They have the mind to 'eat' [be corrupt]
When we play draughts
They 'eat' half
For gold they ridicule us
Mother, please don't laugh
419 [fraud] holds your staff
It makes young people work at the wharf
The dirty game must end
Seriously
But the seasoned thieves are still enjoying profusely

Daddy SAJ,
Corruption - E do so, 2004
(Translated from Krio)
Two Young Boys. Super Large and Base, have just earned 1,000 Leones (€ 0.30) from a prostitute and her customer by selling space on a blanket in an abandoned lorry, which serves as a popular makeshift for sexual activities. Fittingly, “Survival Transport” is written in big letters along the side of the lorry. Water and a dirty towel for post-sex cleaning are included as part of the service.

Out of the darkness a group of three police officers and two civilians in blue jumpsuits appears on the Israel street corner. The word spreads quickly among the Pentagon boys that the Babylonians (the police) have arrived. Drugs are hidden away. The boys come together in larger groups to outnumber the police and thus make it harder for them to extract anything from them. On dark street corners like Israel ordinary Sierra Leonean nightwalkers are protected from predatory state officials by the young men and women who live there, many of them ex-combatants.

Down the road, however, American is walking alone and the police arrest him for breaking the curfew. American knows that the curfew charge is false, but since he is alone he must comply with the police and let them empty his pockets, a normal night-time policing procedure.
gon boys, as well as to a larger segment of the Sierra Leonean population, the state, in the guise of the police, offers little social and physical protection to the citizenry – rather the state contributes actively to the uncertainties of everyday life.

PLAYING THE GAME

Parallel to Berwick Street runs the bigger and busier Adelaide Street. The bars here are natural waterholes for the Pentagon boys. Here they meet with ‘big men’ (men or women of some prominence) from their social networks. The prostitutes, some of whom are their girlfriends and breadwinners, work here and it’s also here that they rob or pick the pockets of customers or competing gang members.

Hard-to-Catch, a well-built 25-year-old ex-combatant, attractive yet troublesome, hangs around the bars. Although his ‘formal’ occupation is pushing drugs, he makes more money by snatching mobile phones. A few days ago, Hard-To-Catch was arrested for drug possession and has been released to ‘prepare’ his case. The police have given him one day to ‘kill the case’ (pay a bribe to the police officer). He needs 200,000 Leones (€60) tonight. In front of Biggies nightclub he seizes a fancy phone from a man in the crowd. The phone would indeed provide him most of the money needed for the bribe. Hard-To-Catch runs for the safety of nearby Jamaica, a residential slum area which the police do not enter by night. But a police officer who witnessed the theft catches him before he reaches the safety of the slum. The officer is not really interested in taking Hard-To-Catch to the station, well aware of the predicament of Hard-To-Catch, but wants instead to split the profits from the phone. In an attempt to retain his booty, Hard-To-Catch produces another phone from his pocket. The phone is evidently a much older one and the officer gets annoyed at the cheap trick. Hard-To-Catch is locked up in the police cell at the Adelaide Street police station – now with two cases to ‘kill’.

Not only are the Pentagon boys marginalised by the Sierra Leonean state, they are also economically marginalised. They are left to feed off the illegal or informal economy. Further, most of

Skin is shaving. Most of the Pentagon boys spend all their time on the street. At night, they sleep in or on top of parked cars. They take turns to stay awake, guarding their corner. By day, they work, eat and do their laundry in the open air. The heavy rains during the wet season seriously disrupt their lives and diminish their opportunities to earn an income.
Despite its abundant mineral and natural resources, Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries in the world. During the 1990s, a brutal civil war ravaged the country. Many of the soldiers in the war were young men and women, in some cases very young men and women. Since 2003, Sierra Leone has been experiencing peace and during the summer of 2007 the country peacefully changed government in democratic elections for the first time in its history. Still, survival is difficult for a majority of people and making do is especially hard for young people in the overcrowded capital, Freetown.

**URBAN**

them come from broken families. Their kinship ties are often severely compromised. The economic commotion in the 1970s and 1980s, which became chaotic during the civil war in the 1990s, split up many family networks. Poverty pushed urban children on to the streets and young rural dwellers were forced to migrate to towns and mining areas. Later on, many of the young joined warring factions.

Even though thousands of young people became marginalised within their own family networks, Sierra Leone has not become a social void, with individuals as ‘loose molecules’, as proposed by journalist Robert Kaplan in an influential article published in Atlantic Monthly in 1994. Yet the social map has certainly been redrawn. Although kinship remains important to many Sierra Leoneans, alternative social networks have either replaced the family (urban networks could be viewed as surrogate families) or eclipsed the family in importance. Informal social networks are absolutely crucial to our understanding of West African societies.

**MORALITY VERSUS LEGALITY**

Slim, like many Pentagon boys, has good driving skills and mechanical know-how. Equipped with a new driver’s licence, and with the backing of a ‘big man’, Slim becomes a driver for a court magistrate. With a formal job, he cruises around the city in an ageing Mercedes Benz. Soon, however, he finds out that a good part of his work is going around to pick up brown envelopes, envelopes containing bribes. When we discuss this, he appears morally disturbed by the job of picking up bribes and even though this job is a way out of his current predicament, he starts to doubt his future with the magistrate. In our discussions, he demonstrates profound moral disgust at the illegal business of the prominent civil servant.

It is indeed fascinating to hear a young former combatant react in such a moral way. Slim leaves the job of trafficking illegal brown envelopes for the predatory state employee after only a month and a half. It is not directly because of the bribery business – although it is in part – that he returns to an average salary of 3,000 Leones (€0.9) a day for washing cars. When he repeatedly tries to collect his final payment, the magistrate tells him to “come tomorrow”. In the uncertain social topography of Sierra Leone, Slim finally abandons the outstanding salary payment, being scared of the consequences of reporting a case against a magistrate: “I may end up in prison if I push the case too hard”.

As the marginal soul is not cast in a social void, we should not be surprised to find social rules, or a moral economy, among people like the Pentagon boys. There is a clear code of conduct even among thieves. It is well-known that youth groups in Freetown offer local forms of policing by organising neighbourhood watch groups, carrying out arrests and reporting wrongdoers to local authorities such as chiefs or informal ‘big men’. They also participate in local and alternative forms of social security. Pentagon youth, for instance,
Dr. Mats Utas runs the research projects ‘Youth and marginality in urban Sierra Leone’ and ‘Informal Security Structures in the Mano River Region: Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone’.

Situations in Sierra Leone is that many citizens, even after the civil war and the massive efforts at postwar reconstruction and development, still view the state as predatory and as a threat to individual well-being rather than as an avenue for individual aid and security. The everyday uncertainties experienced by a substantial segment of Sierra Leoneans, and the sense of being marginalised both by the state and the wider world, has led to alternative moral economies for these marginal selves. It is, therefore, by no means surprising when youths on the margins react with equal hate towards the state and state actors. A frightening fact is that despite their appalling experiences during the civil war they would most probably, if given a chance, fight another war: all too many ex-combatants have told me, “We will fight again, and this time we will not spare anyone”.

POVERTY AND EVERYDAY uncertainties tend to lead to violence. The ultimate power of the powerless is raw physical violence. For people like the Pentagon boys violence is an everyday way to secure their livelihoods. The uncertainty of peace became obvious during the 2007 general elections in Sierra Leone when street youths volunteered as informal security personnel for the various political parties, despite their general rejection of and lack of trust in politicians. This participation, just as in the case of the earlier popular participation by young people in the Sierra Leone civil war, ought to be viewed as a form of social rather than political navigation, and thus represents a desperate call from the country’s powerless citizens.

The predatory state is not a new phenomenon. Indeed, the Sierra Leonean state has since colonial days been the chief architect of social uncertainty by means of structural as well as physical violence. A sad conclusion to be drawn from the current
Mr. and Mrs. Hondo are both aged 63. They live in the low-income suburb of Mufakose in Harare, Zimbabwe, where they raised eight children. Mr. Hondo is a retired teacher. Mrs. Hondo has never had a formal job but earns her livelihood at the local market, where she owns a stall. Since retiring, Mr. Hondo has not had time to rest. He gives extra maths lessons to secondary school students for a fee and helps with his wife’s business by running around to get supplies or standing in when the wife is not feeling well, which is becoming increasingly frequent with advancing age.

Ageing and its implications are one of the themes of the programme ‘Gender and Age in African Cities’ that I coordinate at the Nordic Africa Institute. The study of ageing and the situation of families such as the Hondos will refine our understanding of African urban dynamics.

If you ask the Hondos why they cannot truly retire, they will simply tell you “We can’t”. For one, they have no pension to rely on. The government pension Mr. Hondo gets is not even enough to pay for a one-way transport fare to the central post office where he is supposed to get the pension. Further, the two are still breadwinners for six orphaned grandchildren and two great-grand children. The couple have no savings and cannot rely on the extended family either. Their only remaining daughter has her own family and a sick husband to look after.

The Hondos’ experience is not unique: it is repeated many times over. But their fate and the fates of others like them remain hidden because talking about ageing in sub-Saharan Africa has been viewed as irrelevant. For one, life expectancy in the region is low, in fact so low that in some countries people born today are technically expected to die before they exit young adulthood. If discussing ageing in sub-Saharan Africa in general seems ill-advised, then talking about ageing in urban sub-Saharan African cities is commonly viewed as decidedly irrelevant. After all, it is conventional wisdom that when colonial settlers built cities, they never meant them to be for elderly natives. This perception seems not to have died with the demise of colonialism. It is buttressed by steadfast postulations that state that as soon as people get old and retire, they prefer to live the rest of their lives in their rural homes, which is where they supposedly belong. These perceptions are used to rationalise the dismissal of the elderly as an insignificant and irrelevant age group in urban sub-Saharan African.

However, there are very good reasons for reflecting and acting on ageing in that context. According to the United Nations, the largest increase in the number of the elderly in the world between 1980 and 2000 occurred in Africa and Asia. Africa has the highest growth rate of the elderly (people aged 60 and above) in the world, with an annual growth rate of 3.12 per cent compared to 2.39 per cent worldwide. At the same time, the growth in the number of older persons...
living in areas classified as urban is projected to accelerate even more. In the world, the current figure of 10 per cent of people aged 60 and above living in urban areas will double to 20 per cent by 2050. Notably, in Africa, where only one in 20 people reaches the age of 60, the figure for elderly townspeople will more than double.

Although it is correct that the proportion of the elderly to the total population in sub-Saharan Africa is low, in absolute terms the number of older people in Africa is already extremely large. According to the UN, there are more than 50 million older people in Africa with a projected figure of 85 million by 2025. By 2050, there will be 207 million older persons in Africa. This growth will be the fastest of any age group.

Ageing is more than just a curiosity. It is serious business. With the passage of time, ageing affects all of us. Therefore, ageing is everybody’s business, because everyone – even in societies with an extremely low life expectancy – expects or hopes to grow old. Indeed, when we start complaining about inadequate social security systems, prejudice and marginalisation, there is an element of selfish motivation because everybody is travelling along that path.

The condition of older people in Africa does not reflect well on social policy and social security systems. Social support networks can no longer be counted on to take care of the ageing population. As a result, the elderly who are already excluded from services such as health find themselves becoming increasingly vulnerable to poverty. By being ‘invisible’ and ‘forgotten’, the elderly in sub-Saharan Africa have become victims of prejudice, stigma, neglect and abuse – a situation that is exacerbated by under-performing economies, plummeting living conditions, poor political and economic governance and sociopolitical strife. This is not helped by the documented non-existent and defective social security systems and the erosion and disappearance of the traditional role of social safety nets such as the traditional extended family.

The preceding scenario suggests that the critical issues regarding the urban elderly in sub-Saharan Africa extend beyond economic and physical well being. There is a host of ‘elderly-relevant’ issues in urban economic, political and social arenas, including the overtly political, such as active citizenship, political participation, governance and democracy. But they also encompass burning social issues, among them the role, position, perspectives and experiences of the elderly in urban societies undergoing radical demographic, spatial and household transformations.

There are signs that ageing in Africa is gaining attention. Particularly since 1999, beginning with the ‘International Year of Older Persons’, and followed by the second United Nations world assembly on ageing held in 2002 in Madrid, the world has seen more actions focused on ageing. At a global scale, two efforts stand out, namely the United Nations Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and the World Health Organisation’s groundbreaking Active Ageing: A Policy Framework. Commendably, Africa has its own African Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing. The policy provides a common framework for the development of national action plans on ageing for African countries. Its goal is to guide member states as they design, implement, monitor and evaluate appropriate integrated national policies and programmes to meet the individual and collective needs of older people.

Ageing in urban sub-Saharan Africa is not a problem that should be addressed by the likes of Mr. and Mrs. Hondo alone. We cannot pretend that ageing is a peripheral issue in the cities and towns. Whichever way we choose to look at urban sub-Saharan Africa, ageing should be an integral part of that perspective, lest the picture that emerges be not only theoretically inadequate and conceptually defective, but also morally unjustifiable, politically ill-advised and practically indefensible.

Population ageing is an issue that cannot be deferred into the future. It needs attention now. While societies need to play a role in ameliorating the woes of the elderly, governments should seriously revisit their social policies and address the defects that have made people like the Hondos vulnerable to poverty and still having to bear the burden of fending for three generations.
In the Absence of Workers’ Rights

One Sunday, 19-year old David finished his day at the barbecue in Paspanga by emptying the cash drawer and fleeing the neighbourhood. When his boss found out, he was enraged and regretful. “The boy has taken more than 35,000 Francs (€53). But really, it’s my own fault because I never bothered to meet his family.”

The research project “Youth’s Independent Migration from Rural Burkina Faso to Ouagadougou and Abidjan” focuses on young migrants like David and on the conditions under which they find employment and income-generating activities in the urban informal economy. Furthermore, the project focuses on continuities and changes in family relations in contexts characterised by high mobility over several generations, as is the case in the West African savannah zone.

David’s employer had no clue about where to look for the boy. Besides, he was more worried about his small business in the midst of this lively neighbourhood in central Ouagadougou where scores of bars, clubs and roadside barbecues specialising in chicken, beef skewers or lumps of pork meat compete for customers day and night.

What the boss forgot to mention, however, was that he had rarely paid David his full wage. “Except for the first month, my boss never paid the 15,000 F (€23) that he’d promised me per month”, David said. “At least, I convinced him that if he didn’t have enough money at the end of the month, it was better to give me 500 F (€0.75) per day and subtract 200 F (€0.30) for food”. David solicited a literate friend to help him keep accounts because frequently his boss ran out of money before the end of the day, implying that still he was not being paid every day.

David is not the only migrant youth in Ouagadougou who has experienced irregular payments. Other migrants between 14 and 24 years who work in small restaurants, as itinerant traders in foodstuff and beverages, or as brick makers share the disappointment of dwindling wages. Some employers appeal to the youth’s understanding of the volatility of the informal economy; their own goodwill in respect of pay; and the virtue of patience when business deteriorates or employers miscalculate earnings and expenses or have unforeseen outlays. Others pick on the slightest mistake to cut pay in order to cover imagined or real losses.

Youth react in various ways to employers’ injustices, for example by stealing from the employer, by working with little enthusiasm, by searching for another job or by becoming independent actors in the informal economy. In other words, they are not without agency but they cannot raise their voices against an employer as this would amount to disrespect for someone of higher social and economic standing.
“MY BOSS’S WIFE WAS VERY KIND TO ME”, explained David. “At a time when he hadn’t paid me for a while, she advised me to run away with the earnings for one day. I hadn’t thought about this option and, in fact, I thought about it for a long time before following her advice. What finally made me do it was a call from home to let me know that my father had fallen ill. When I told my boss that I’d like to go home to help farm, he asked me to wait a little, as he didn’t have money right now. That day I took the earnings – 25,000 F (€38) – and I gave 5,000 F (€7.50) to his wife before leaving. My boss owed me 35,000 F (€53).” The wife’s behaviour might be viewed as disloyal to her husband, but in West Africa, where wives and husbands usually have separate economic spheres, a wife may act against his economic interests, especially if the husband has not fulfilled his responsibilities or has deviated from moral practices.

For hard-working youth like David, it is quite a blow to get less money than expected or not be paid at all. Often they do not discover the deception immediately because they leave some or all of their wages with their employer to save up. In spite of labour market legislation in Burkina Faso and the creation of institutions that should secure children’s and youth’s rights, it is difficult for them to claim their workers’ rights. Young migrant workers seldom have formal contracts and more often than not have accepted wages much lower than the minimum wage but including food and often also accommodation.

**Burkina Faso**

Burkina Faso is one of the poorest and least urbanised countries in the world. Fluctuations in agricultural output and lack of alternative sources of income prompt a continuous flow of young rural migrants into the cities. But few employment opportunities and low wages in Ouagadougou push them on to a longer migration trajectory which includes Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon or Equatorial Guinea and, if they are lucky, Europe. While most of the rural poor make it to Côte d’Ivoire, very few surmount the economic and political barriers to reach Europe.

**MOST AGENCIES** and NGOs in West Africa work with children under 14 years of age, leaving young migrant workers to their own devices. Sometimes, older relatives may put pressure on employers to pay the arrears by threatening to take them to the police. The youth point out that it is not worthwhile for them to take such cases to the police and it could also endanger them: “With our tiny wages the costs would surpass our claim”, explained a group of youth taking a break from itinerant street work. “Not only would we have to pay stamps and slip a few extra notes into the file for the police to open a case, we’d also spend several days coming to the police station, days where we could make money. It’s just not worth it! Besides the boss might know someone at the police station and he’ll turn around the complaint and say that we’ve stolen. Of course the policeman will believe his friend and not a poor youth from a village”.

This research project has generated new knowledge about labour in the informal economies typical of African cities. An important recommendation to policy-makers and development agencies is to address the employment situation of youth who have already entered the labour market. First, it is imperative to tackle exploitative labour relationships and enforce existing legislation even within the informal labour market. Second, current efforts to enhance youth’s skills through apprenticeships in three or four occupations need to take into consideration youth’s future job opportunities either through job creation or by increasing their abilities to set up individual workshops.

**Dr. Dorte Thorsen** is Nordic Researcher from Denmark. Her project is entitled ‘Youth’s Independent Migration from Rural Burkina Faso to Ouagadougou and Abidjan’.

**Burkina Faso** is one of the poorest and least urbanised countries in the world. Fluctuations in agricultural output and lack of alternative sources of income prompt a continuous flow of young rural migrants into the cities. But few employment opportunities and low wages in Ouagadougou push them on to a longer migration trajectory which includes Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon or Equatorial Guinea and, if they are lucky, Europe. While most of the rural poor make it to Côte d’Ivoire, very few surmount the economic and political barriers to reach Europe.
Policies of privatisation are looming large in Africa and beyond. Governments increasingly delegate responsibilities to a range of other actors. The consequences are heatedly debated among social scientists. In particular, there is a concern about the impact of such trends on the ability of the poor to access basic services. In some countries, these policies have given rise to considerable organised protest. This article describes a case where privatisation has contributed to the breakdown of existing grassroots organisations. It uncovers what has happened to vendors’ associations and their ability to organize where the management of city markets has been privatised. This is a pertinent issue, as large segments of urban populations in Africa today make a living through vending activities. The research setting is Kampala, Uganda.

In Uganda, as in other countries, the informal economy has expanded greatly in recent years. Of a total workforce of close to 11 million, only 2.5 million are found in the formal economy, while the majority earn their living in the informal economy. In the capital of Kampala the informal economy is particularly evident in the rapid growth of city markets and the increasing number of street vendors. According to the latest population census, trading is one of the most common income activities in the city. The attitude of city authorities towards the growing number of street vendors has been one of intolerance and harassment.

Most markets in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, have been privatised and now have private or cooperative management. In some cases this has had important consequences for market vendors and their associations.
Vendors have long been organised and in the mid-1980s there were vendors’ associations in 52 markets across Kampala. In the 1990s, when the Ugandan government embarked on national reforms to decentralise and privatise, local governments also began to privatise services, including management of city markets. At first, the existing vendors’ associations that managed the local markets were promised they would be given priority to be the managers of their respective markets. However, after a short while, the government abolished the ‘local artisan arrangement’ that had made it possible for vendors’ associations to manage the markets. Instead, it was decided that all contractors bidding for management contracts had to be Value Added Tax compliant, i.e., private companies or cooperative societies. Today, most of the markets within Kampala district are managed by private companies or cooperative societies. Today, most of the markets within Kampala district are managed by private companies or cooperative societies and this development has had consequences for market vendors and their associations.

In some markets, vendors formed cooperative credit societies in order to be able to bid for management contracts. This change has taken two different directions. In certain markets, the vendors’ association has ceased to exist, out-competed by the cooperative society that came into existence – for example, in Nakawa market, the second-largest in the city. In other markets, the vendors’ association and the cooperative coexist and adopt different roles – as is the case of Bugoloobi market. There, the cooperative is the highest management body, collects funds and provides basic infrastructure, while the association provides social services and resolves disputes between the traders.

In a number of markets, private companies have been awarded management contracts, with the result that the markets are being managed by ‘outsiders’ who are not traders in the markets. Relations between such private companies and vendors’ associations vary significantly. In some cases, the vendors’ association is allowed by the private company to continue to exist, as it is seen as a convenient tool for getting the practical administration work done, such as allocating stalls, resolving conflicts, etc. One example of this is St. Balikuddembe market, the largest in the country.

In other cases, however, the private company tries to break up the vendors’ association and hinder vendors in their attempts to organise, sometimes by using violence and force. This is what happened at the Parkyard market, where efforts by the vendors to form an association in 2003 met with serious harassment by the management company.

Cooperative societies are less inclusive than associations, in the sense that they are limited to a small number of members, i.e., those able to buy shares. In the cooperatives, the right to vote and to be elected to leadership positions are limited to members holding shares. In addition, cooperatives appear to have lost the rights-perspective that many of the vendors’ associations had. These features have sometimes given rise to conflicts in the markets. It appears that these cooperatives are less able than associations were to represent the interests of the majority of vendors in the public arena.

Where private companies have taken over the management of markets, market fees have been raised – without visible improvements in infrastructure or services – and in some cases vendors have been harassed by the companies’ fee-Collectors. Particularly in those markets where the vendors’ association was suppressed, vendors no longer have a channel of communication with the city council. Vendors perceive the council as being more interested in the revenue generated.

“The attitude of city authorities towards the growing number of street vendors has been one of intolerance and harassment”
by the private company and therefore as turning deaf ears to their protests.

**Organised Vendors** seem to be facing serious challenges in the context of the privatisation of market management. Large numbers of vendors are unable to become members of cooperative societies, while others see their associations being repressed or losing influence, for example in relation to the city council. This loss in representation appears to make them more vulnerable to the profit-making companies and the revenue-minded city council. However, recent developments might bring changes to this state of affairs. Among these changes is the emergence of an umbrella body for organisations of informal workers and of a close relationship between informal workers’ groups and trade unions.

This study is part of a larger research project entitled ‘Collective Organising among Informal Workers in African Cities’ led by Ilda Lindell at the Nordic Africa Institute. The project sets out to investigate the economic and political challenges that are facing urban informal workers today and their collectively organised responses. It also includes sub-studies in Maputo and Accra.

In informalising economies and new organising strategies in Africa

Organised within the NAI research project Collective Organisation among Informal Workers in African Cities, this conference gathered 43 participants, of whom 16 were African scholars. The keynote speakers were Pat Horn from StreetNet International in Durban; Jan Theron, the Institute of Development and Labour Law at the University of Cape Town; and Winnie Mitullah, the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi and Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO). Twenty-eight papers were presented, of which some are being edited for publication. The conference took place in Uppsala on 20-22 April.
The December 2007 EU-Africa summit in Lisbon failed to fully settle disagreements about the new Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs).

The summit was expected to be an appropriate venue for leaders from both continents to come up with a collective solution on a trade deal that would be acceptable as a development instrument and promote regional integration within Africa. However, the summit wrapped up without achieving any clear answer on this issue. The controversy around the EPAs even prompted some African leaders, such as President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, to call for the rejection of the entire agreement.

The negotiations on trade relations between the EU and 77 nations in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) have not been easy, to say the least. The EPA is supposed to supersede the original Lomé Convention of 1975 and its continuation signed in Cotonou in 2000. Yet at the end of 2007, there were differences in opinion between the European Commission and the different clusters of the ACP countries on core issues. The Commission ignored the regional clustering and initialled an interim goods-only agreement with about 35 of the 77 ACP countries. There are disagreements on the meaning of development and the nature of the agreement needed. Before the deadline, most of these countries had requested that negotiations be extended at least two years. The Commission rejected such requests. The promised benefits of the EPAs need to be questioned. For instance, it is unclear how the EPAs will promote regional integration and development in Africa as promised.

Central to the agreement is the introduction of reciprocal trade liberalisation, which would open up ACP economies to increased levels of imports from the EU. While the potential benefits of such liberalisation are recognised on both sides, it requires careful sequencing to ensure that the development dimension that is the very purpose of the partnership is not undermined. The interim goods agreement is seen as a first step towards a comprehensive EPA while negotiations on issues such as services, investment, competition and government procurement continue. At the same time, it is not clear whether the Commission’s proposals on market access and rules of origin will work for development. Access to the European Union market has long been constrained by onerous rules of origin and strict standards. For instance, regarding standards, African exporters are required not only to meet a particular standard, but also to prove that their products have met those standards before they are accepted in EU markets. However, at present key questions remain
unanswered as to the nature of the rules of origin that the EU would place on African exports under the EPAs. This makes it very difficult for ACP negotiators to evaluate the EU market access offer.

There is a disconnection between the poverty alleviation goal and the reality of the negotiations, despite numerous political declarations by both the EU and ACP. In concrete terms, if some of these problems are not resolved before the signing of full EPAs, the eventual trade deal will be in real danger of being incongruent with other key development commitments made by the EU since 2000, including the EU-Africa Strategy. For example, EPA is incompatible with the EU commitments under the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

However, the current political reality in the negotiations is that it is now a matter of months before an agreement will be set in motion. From the EU’s perspective, it is expected that a complete EPA will be in place by the end of 2008. Hence, the crucial question facing the parties will be the post-EPA adjustment programme or how to ensure the agreements are not counterproductive to the development agendas of the countries involved. There seems to be some consensus on both sides on efficient post-EPA aid-for-trade support. In order to realise the full potential of such an initiative, it is imperative that the European Commission get to grips with both production and trade challenges in ACP countries arising from changed market conditions. While the participation of the private sector in this process is very important, there is a general understanding within the African countries that for aid-for-trade support to succeed, the delivery of an aid-for-trade package will need to be targeted and rapidly deployed.

Dr. Yenkong Ngangjoh Hodu is Coordinator of the research programme ‘Global Trade and Regional Integration: African Economies, Producers, and Living Conditions’.
In 2007, several significant elections took place in West Africa with farreaching implications for democracy and peace in the region. But for democracy to endure in West Africa, it will have to be relevant to, and guarantee the meaningful participation of the people at all levels of decision-making. It must also address the roots of violent conflict by promoting social justice and equality as key issues in post-conflict democratic governance.
elections, held earlier, in February, and won by incumbent President Abdoulaye Wade, were flawed. Partly as a result of the boycott, the June elections were won by Wade’s ruling Sopi coalition in polls also marked by a low turn-out of voters. In Gambia, Benin, Togo and Burkina Faso, parliamentary elections in 2007 resulted in predictable results, often in favour of the party of the incumbent president.

In Nigeria’s case, the April 2007 general elections were regarded as crucial. They marked the first time in the country’s post-independence history that it would transit from one elected democratic government to another, and the third post-military rule elections since 1999. There were high expectations both within the country as well as internationally and many hoped these ‘watershed’ elections would lend credibility to democratic consolidation in West Africa’s pivotal state and regional power. However, there were also some concerns that the elections would pose a major challenge to the democratic project in Nigeria, given the factor of incumbency – the immense political power and resources at the disposal of current officeholders with which they could manipulate elections, the high stakes involved in controlling power in Africa’s largest oil producer and exporter and the rather ‘imperfect’ nature of the 2003 elections. Such anxieties were heightened by outbreaks of violence in parts of the country, including the volatile oil-rich Niger Delta region, and the reportedly poor state of readiness of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Reports by international election observers and local civil society election monitors showed that the elections, upheld by the government, were marred by irregularities and flaws. Although critical, the international community grudgingly accepted the elections but called on those declared to have lost elections or feeling aggrieved to seek legal redress in court, while urging government to embark on electoral reform to guide future elections.

THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION of all West Africa’s elections in 2007 goes some way to proving that democracy is being broadly consolidated in the context of postwar peace, in a region that had a decade earlier been gripped by bloody civil wars. However, electoral democracy without the transformation of the fragile socioeconomic conditions and dominant power relations in the region poses potent challenges to the sustainability of the democratic project in the long run. For democracy to endure in West Africa, it will have to be relevant to and guarantee the meaningful participation of the people at all levels of decision-making. The trust of the people in the ability, neutrality and autonomy of political institutions to address the roots of conflict and to promote social justice and equality remain key issues in post-conflict democratic governance. Other critical issues include equitable access to social wealth through redistribution, gender equality and the guarantee of socioeconomic rights at every level of society. Elections have come to stay in West Africa, but the real challenge is not the holding of elections, though this remains crucial to advancing the democratic project, but the real challenge is not the holding of elections, though this remains crucial to advancing the democratic project. The challenge lies in how popular empowerment and participation within the context of people’s and citizenship rights can be framed as an answer to the fundamental question, whose democracy?

Sierra Leone’s 2007 Elections and the Search for Sustainable Peace and Development

This public research forum was organised by the research programme Post-Conflict Transition, the State and Civil Society in Africa. It was held on 30 August 2007 against the backdrop of Sierra Leone’s elections – the first since the UN-supervised post-conflict elections shortly after the end of the civil war in 2002. The forum provided an opportunity for members of the NAI Sierra Leone research network to present some preliminary research findings to the public and provide informed analysis of the elections.

Dr. Cyril I. Obi
is Co-ordinator of the research programme ‘Post-Conflict Transition, the State and Civil Society in Africa’.
Professor Charles Villa-Vicencio was the holder in 2007 of the Claude Ake visiting chair 2007 at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University and the Nordic Africa Institute. During 1996-98, he was the national research director in the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). In 2000, he established the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, of which he is the executive director.

It is now almost ten years since you handed the TRC report to President Mandela, in October 1998. Do you recall how you felt at that moment?

Relieved. Anxious. There were huge expectations as to what a TRC could do, and what the TRC in South Africa was going to do. Those of us who were engaged in the TRC process from the beginning knew we could never realise all the expectations. The anxiety was in relation to whether we had done enough to enable people to begin to say, we have got to deal with the past in a creative way and move forward. All we could do was to kick-start a conversation, a reconciliation process, and it was up to the nation and to the government to take the process forward.

The process of healing – is there an end-point to it, or should we see it as an everyday subject?

It’s a bit like asking “When will the transition end?” Well, not in my lifetime, not in my kids’ lifetime are we going to have economic equality in South Africa. Mr. Mandela has said it’s a long walk. We built an economy over 350 years to service 4 million white people. Overnight this economy was obliged to service the needs of 45 million people. The president keeps telling us that there is a subjective and a material side to reconciliation and nation building. We need both. There are memories to be healed. Somebody once said it’s those who have not suffered who are able to forget, whereas those who have suffered most are cursed with a good memory.

We are in the process of learning how to live together with justice and in peace. It’s going to take time. The remarkable thing is, however, that race relations in South Africa are infinitely better than they were, especially at the middle-class level. We are learning to live together. The kids of middle-class homes are going to the same school; they play for the same football team. This builds social tissue.

What can the international community, and, for instance, other African countries in transition, learn from the experience of the TRC in South Africa?

I think no transitional model can be transported from one place to another. We can’t go to Sudan and say “Here’s the recipe”. But I do think that the one thing we can say is that we learned to talk to one another. There used to be a joke that went around in South Africa in the 80’s and 90’s. It suggested we have got two ways to solve this problem, a miraculous one and a realistic way. The realistic one is to ask God to intervene and solve the problem for us. The miraculous way is to sit down with your enemies and talk. We keep saying to our fellow Africans in other parts of Africa, “If we could talk, then Hutus and Tutsis can talk, North and South Sudan can talk, Shona and Ndebele in Zimbabwe can talk”. A willingness to sit under the same tree with your enemy and talk is the one thing that got us through, and this is the one message that we can share with the world.

This is an extract from Michel Notelid’s interview with Prof. Villa-Vicencio in September 2007. The entire interview is available at www.nai.uu.se
In 2007, the Nigerian video industry, nicknamed “Nollywood”, was invited to Africa’s biggest and most prestigious film festival, FESPACO, in Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso. Film makers and enthusiasts had previously found it hard to accept the Nigerian videos as real cinema. They were not even filmed on celluloid! But Nollywood declined the invitation.

A generous offer from the Berlin film festival was given the brush off, too. Nigerian video film magnates did not bother – they have no interest in being welcomed and courted by international film festivals. They are not interested in producing films as high culture, nor do they share the dilemma of African quality film, which is that they reach a very small percentage of Africans on the continent.

Nollywood films have no problems in finding an audience. They are produced to make money, and they do. The video industry is the third biggest contributor to the GDP in Nigeria, surpassed only by the oil industry and telecommunications. Between 1,000 and 2,000 films are produced each year in Nigeria, already more than by “Bollywood”, the Indian film industry (nicknamed after Bombay), with its 700-800 films per year. The largest film centre, at least in terms of money earned, is still Hollywood, although in less than 20 years Nigeria has sailed upwards as a world centre of film production.

The market is first and foremost Nigeria, Africa’s most populous country, with an estimated 132 million inhabitants. In addition, there is the large Nigerian diaspora, chiefly in the US and Great Britain, and an expanding market in Africa.

Every Monday, around 30 new films appear on the street markets of Idumota in Lagos and Upper Iweka Street in Onitsha, the largest selling spots. Most of the video films do not enjoy a long lifespan on the market but a few are classics. New ones appear in a rapid stream, advertised on posters along fences. If a star features in a film, it sells well. An actor sitting at a recording has four scripts for different films taking place simultaneously. The rate of production for Nigerian films is breathtaking: video films are recorded like goods rolling off a conveyor belt. A week to ten days is the average recording time. A video or DVD for home use – the genre is called home videos – can
be bought at reasonable prices, around $1.50. The cost of production per sold video is approximately double that.

**THE NOLLYWOOD SUCCESS** was born out of the crisis within Nigerian society. The petrol boom of the 1970s did initially lead to increased welfare and wealth for a minority of Nigerians, but the 1980s meant farewell to dreams. Revenues from oil exports had not been invested in Nigerian economic growth. Loans had to be taken out with the IMF, which in turn required the usual structural adjustments such as introducing fees for services, including school fees. Jobs were harder to get. Nigeria alone has more universities that the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, but exams did not mean jobs.

Before the crisis, there was a very rich theatre tradition in Nigeria – the Yoruba travelling theatre among many others. During the oil boom, some playwrights and theatre directors started producing films but stopped when the economic crisis hit, since films were too expensive to produce.

The situation was made worse by political repression, which caused many of those writing and working in theatre and film to go into exile, among them Wole Soyinka. Many talents were lost. But some stayed, and some of the playwrights, directors and actors of the 1970s are now found in Nollywood.

With the economic and artistic crisis, the theatre houses and cinemas closed one after the other. Many of the halls have been taken over by religious movements of various kinds. Nigeria has thus accomplished the remarkable feat of having made a film revolution in a country where practically all movie theatres have closed down.

Living in Bondage, produced in 1992, is regarded as the first big Nigerian video film. It was written and produced by Kenneth Nnebe, an Ibo businessman who had previously financed a number of Yoruba productions. The main character is Andy. In a promise to a high priest in a devil cult, he offers his wife, Merit, and drinks her blood, in return for a good life with a house and cars. In spite of receiving all he had wished for – women, flashy clothes, foreign wines and all the chicken he can eat – matters do not turn out well, and Merit’s spirit haunts him.

Here are the ingredients that recur in many Nollywood films: the occult, the search for prosperity and moralising after the delectable and violent sequences. In an article in *Transition* in 2004, John McCall enumerated common video genres: horror, comedy, urban legend, mythical parable, romance, witchcraft, melodrama, Christian morality narrative and historical epic.
THE ELEMENTS OF DEVIL WORSHIP, occult sects and witchcraft caused many intellectuals to turn against the video industry. But film and literature professor Manthia Diawara dissociates himself from the attitude of his intellectual peers to Nollywood, which he describes as “snobbery”. He is mightily impressed and fascinated by these Nigerian video films and says he watches one every evening. His interest in Nollywood began when he lived for a year in Ghana, where the video industry actually started. But the Ghanaian video films “were bad”, Diawara says. Typically, they would be about a young man exhorted by his mother not to become involved with drugs in the big city jungle, but who then gives in to temptation. In the end he repents, realising that his mother was right. Nigerian-made films have a better tempo and less Sunday school sermonising, according to Diawara. Examples of the themes are the films about a man who comes home and finds his wife in bed with another man. In anger he shoots the man and is later shot himself by the man’s relatives.

When a heated debate arose over some films about women living with other women, Taiwo Oloruntoba-Oju at the University of Ilorin (guest researcher at the Institute in 2006) became curious. He found around 20 films that could be considered to have a lesbian theme. The plots, full of demons, amazons and devil worship, are perhaps not directly about emancipation, but the fact remains – Nollywood films shake things up by allowing taboo topics into the home. Still, the video films are not generally known to be particularly oppositional or critical, apart from a number of films in which corruption is a moral reminder.

“I think this is the real African film we have been waiting for”, says Kabat Esosa Egbon, who previously studied film at the University of Ibadan. However, he has never seen a film by arguably the best-known African film director Sembène Ousmane. He is not proud of this, but the university did not have the resources and everything was learnt from books. And African films are not something one stumbles across in Africa if one does not manage to get to the Pan African film festival in Ouagadougou.

MANY OF THE NIGERIAN video filmmakers are self-taught. The speed at which films are produced allows one to forego conventional quality criteria. The films often suffer from shaky images, bad editing, and contain plots that become
entangled in subplots. The sound quality is often poor, too.

Some Nigerians in the video industry believe that this is simply a matter of teething problems. “Hollywood is more than 100 years old”, they say, “and our industry is less than 20. Just wait!” Others believe that all the grumbling about quality is inappropriate and that the criterion that really counts is sales. Manthia Diawara stresses that Nollywood has succeeded where directors of quality films have failed – in generating an African film public. Millions of Nigerians – and an increasing number of other Africans as well – who have never seen a quality film are consumers of Nollywood films. The South African satellite channel ‘African Magic’ beams them over large parts of Africa. They find their ways to shops in many countries in Africa.

All of these video films are produced without reliance on foreign financiers or aid, or on domestic government contributions. Africa can do it, impressively, miraculously!

STUDIES OF CULTURE in Africa cannot ignore the extraordinary phenomenon of Nollywood. This cultural expression is popular in form, content and mass appeal. It is different. But it is not just the success of the industry that is remarkable. There are reasons for the films being bought in spite of their shaky quality. They say something. John McCall believes that video films have become points of reference for discussions on what it means to be Nigerian – or Ibo, Yoruba or Hausa – in today’s world. When Nigerian video films make a triumphal procession through Nigeria and across the African continent, it is because they have captured the hopes and fears of the people, and because they dramatise people who are torn between tradition and modernity.

Nigerian videos mean the rebirth of African film – Kabat Esosa Eghom is convinced of this. He says that Nigerian film directors have succeeded in tapping into people’s sensibilities – their lives, their ambitions, their family values, their world-view and their cosmology.

The Nordic Africa Days

The Nordic Africa Days, organised by the Institute every second or third year since the 1970s, bring together students and researchers mainly from the Nordic countries. The aim is to create a space for discussions on current research, theory and development. This time, the conference was structured around keynote speeches given by internationally known scholars and workshops led by researchers at the Institute and their networking colleagues. The guiding theme of the conference was Mobility, Citizenship and Belonging in Africa. The total number of participants was 96, and more than 50 papers were presented.

The keynote speakers were Prof. Rudo Gaidzanwa, University of Zimbabwe; Prof. Manthia Diawara, New York University, USA – also a renowned film maker; and Professor Gabeba Baderoon, Penn State University, USA – also a South African poet.
A Border Crosser

Manthia Diawara visited the Nordic Africa Institute in October 2007. A professor of comparative literature and cinema at New York University in the US, Diawara was invited to talk during the Nordic Africa Days in Uppsala about Nollywood and the African film industry.

Born in Mali and educated in France, he went to the US to complete his university studies. Today he is the director of New York University’s Department of Afro-American Affairs and director of the African studies programme. He has written extensively on African immigration and the African immigrant’s search for identity in the diasporas. Far from being ‘just’ an academic, Diawara is also a prominent film-maker and author.

Diawara takes issue with the idea that films and literature from Africa have to deal with village life and the countryside in order to be looked upon as African. There is another side of the African continent. He himself is a man influenced by big cities. He has grown up and lived in Bamako, Conakry, Paris, Washington DC and now New York.

Right now he is focusing on the film industry that has grown up in the Nigerian capital, Lagos, since the 1990s. Nollywood – Africa’s response to Holly- and Bollywood – is not about million dollar films. It is about hastily produced low-budget films that have become popular all over Africa and in the African diasporas.

Given that there are about 132 million people living in Nigeria and that the films are spreading all over English-speaking Africa and among Africans in Europe, Canada and the US, the press around the world is now talking about the Nollywood phenomenon. The reason for this is the money involved, Professor Diawara believes.

Everything started with an economic crisis 10-15 years ago. Cinemas closed down and were converted into storage space. Somebody got the idea to take a video camera and make a film. It was sold and for the money another film was made. And then still another one. Later on, the video camera gave way to digital equipment and the wheel began to pick up speed.

According to Professor Diawara, the African public wants to see this type of film since it is a way to escape reality, a tough everyday life. The actors and actresses wear chic clothes from Europe and the US. They own stylish cars and big houses with luxurious interiors.

Nollywood films correspond to what people are dreaming of, in contrast to the films financed by European money that currently deal with issues such as hiv and aids, poverty, discrimination against women or children living on the street. These films aren’t made for an African public. They are made for European and American markets and festivals, Manthia Diawara says.

Based on an interview with Manthia Diawara by Suzanna Petersson Kero, published in October 2007 at www.nai.uu.se

African guest researchers’ scholarships

This scholarship programme is directed at scholars in Africa who are engaged in research on the African continent. They are invited to spend 2–3 months at the Nordic Africa Institute. The aim of the programme is to provide opportunities for participants to pursue their own research projects, thereby indirectly strengthening the academic milieu in African countries and promoting scholarly exchange with Nordic research communities.

A list of all the guest researchers during 2007 is available on page 61. Information on all our scholarship programmes is available at www.nai.uu.se.
Ugandan Superstars

“There’s no music in Uganda”, Geoffrey, a 21-year-old sound technician told me as we walked down the slippery, muddy lane between two ramshackle lines of houses in one of Kampala’s slum valleys.

We had spent all morning talking about why many Ugandans have come to prefer local musicians and their music to international artists. Something was not making sense and, in reaction to the look of surprise on my face, Geoffrey continued: “In our traditional culture, those long-time-ago people would never sing for just singing. There, when there was a funeral or they did the traditional wedding, they would sing and play those drums. Then it was different. Now we are just sing-singing”.

This ‘sing-singing’ has been one of the fastest growing sectors in Kampala over the last ten years. After decades of political instability and civil war when entertainment was a rare commodity and the media was in constant crisis, today radio stations, tabloids, lifestyle magazines and TV, are booming. Every day of the week, fans flock to bars, clubs and stadium shows to see their favourite artists perform. The most popular artists are followed closely by a gaggle of friends and well wishers, paparazzi and groupies as well as corporate sponsors. Clad in the latest fashions and wearing sparkling oversized jewellery, the artists frequent VIP clubs and compete fiercely for the position of top-artist.

The social position of the artists is contested in public as well as among themselves. Is it appropriate for young people to behave like they are ‘big men’, earning more in one night than a senior civil servant would earn in months? And is it possible to remain a respectable person when working in a world associated with night-time activities, bars, sex, intoxication, violence and prostitution? Are artists role models for the next generation of Ugandans, or just a bunch of thugs who have watched too much MTV, pretending to be Tupac and 50 Cent?

The Ugandan Superstars has been inspired by the introduction in the late 1990s of karaoke shows in Kampala. Aspiring singers would copy their American or European idols or create their own lyrics. Through their inventive use of technologies, global popular culture and local social realities they created new genres and meanings and carved out new spaces for music.

My study sets out to explore the world of the young musicians. How are global elements such as fashion, beat and language given meaning in the local context of the artists? In what ways are they challenging ideas of traditional culture? What are the young people trying to gain by entering the entertainment sector? During five months of anthropological fieldwork, I followed some of the most celebrated artists in Uganda in their daily work to get closer to what it means to be a superstar in a place usually associated with poverty, civil war and the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

Geoffrey wraps up his tale of long-time-ago culture by concluding: “Today, I think culture is not strong, so you have to look for your own way”. He glances at the kids still dancing between the pools of mud. “Even if you grow up here in the ghetto, if you work hard you can become a man of your own. For us, that is music”.

Nanna Schneideman Thorsteinsson has a master’s degree from the Department of Anthropology and Ethnography, University of Aarhus, Denmark. In September 2007, she held a study grant at the Nordic Africa Institute.
“African Music Does not Exist but Means a Lot”

Dr Sylvia Nannyonga-Tamusuza is a senior lecturer in music at Makerere University, Uganda. She has published on popular music; church music; school music competitions; sexuality in music and dance; and politics, gender and music. She has performed and organised workshops in Europe and in North America on music based on Ugandan indigenous musical styles. From January to March 2007, she was a guest researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute and her research project was on how ‘African music’ has been conceptualised and practised in two medium-sized Nordic cities, Bergen and Uppsala.

The idea came to me when I visited the Grieg Academy, the department of music at the University of Bergen to speak on ‘African music’, and I asked myself what that was. It was difficult to make a general statement. Once I walked into an eating-place where they were playing the music of an exile Ugandan, Godfrey Orema. I asked the proprietor what this was and was told: “It is African music, I love it”. I was beginning to wonder what this ‘African music’ was. I met it again in classes in ‘African dance’ and ‘African drumming’. I started to ask what it was that drew people to African music, what cultural images were involved, and how those who consume African music also define it.

I have seen the concept of ‘Africa’ stand for weird exotic dresses, mostly accompanying music from West Africa, with batik shirts and kagasa, all generic markers to make the consumers feel they get the real African stuff. In Norway many people I talked to told me to see a video, which contrasted music in Norwegian and African lives. This video, ‘The Muse within with Africa in the Mirror’, was made by Professor Jon-Roar Bjørkved in Oslo. It says that Africans have rhythm, Europeans don’t, and that this music in the body shows something vital that is lacking in the West, a severance of roots to the sources of life. The film is illustrated by various Africans dancing – a woman in the market place, railroad workers, etc. But there is something artificial about the video sequences, the music is from a radio and those who dance look into the camera. It is a manipulated product. This film is a good example of how Africa, with its music and dance, is what Westerners desire it to be.

So what is African music? To me it does not exist. There are many musics from and in Africa. The concept ‘African music’ is a brand name, for marketing. Also, all music in Africa is hybrid in one way or the other, it is not pure. Blending cultures preceded colonisation and Christianity in Africa. There are many different kinds of music in Africa. The wailing music used at funerals would not fit the images of those who use African music for their lost rhythm and sensuality.

“I started to ask what it was that drew people to African music, what cultural images were involved ...”

Extract from an article by Mai Palmberg based on talks with and by Sylvia Nannyonga-Tamusuza. The full article is available at www.nai.uu.se
In the early 2000s, the media were full of stories of disaster, hopelessness and Africa as the “Dark Continent” beyond reach of meaningful interventions. Often, women were depicted as the passive, silent victims of their hopeless circumstances and of poverty, inequality and violence. Even though these negative images prevail, HIV activism in Africa has challenged both the imagery of HIV/AIDS in Africa and the politics of HIV/AIDS globally, and particularly in South Africa.

Activism challenges perceptions of, gender and sexuality

The activist women that are engaged in campaigns for better healthcare and life-saving anti-retroviral treatment add a different element to this picture: while they see themselves as victims of global and local injustices, they do not lack knowledge, skills or voice. They maintain that there are possibilities for action and political interventions, if there is a will. They direct their messages not only at the South African government, on which our media have focused, but also at global players, such as the pharmaceutical industry and the high-level politicians who make international trade agreements – do they allow for life-saving medications to become available to poor countries in Africa?

With antiretroviral drugs at the centre of the picture, funding policies have constantly changed direction and the HIV and AIDS field has become a huge international industry. We can find both engaging success stories and uncertainty, especially uncertainty about the commitment to long-term funding, sustainability and ownership of projects.

The politics around the HIV and AIDS epidemic in Africa have changed so dramatically during the last five years that doing research on gender and HIV is extremely challenging – interesting but difficult. In 2000, the focus was almost solely on prevention. Back then, the numbers of HIV-positive people in sub-Saharan Africa...
were alarming and although there were drugs that effectively prolonged lives in the wealthier parts of the world, they were beyond the reach of those in need in Africa. HIV-positive activists asked: “They say you must condomise, but what about us?”

**THE SERIOUSNESS** with which, and the pace at which anti-retroviral treatments (ARTs) have been introduced in different settings in Africa have been the impulse behind the most dramatic change during the 2000s. Still, medicines are not available to most people in need of them, and the provision of the treatment is a huge challenge both in the social lives of the affected communities and for the healthcare systems. Even so, the overall image of Africans beyond the reach of new life-saving technologies has been challenged. For social scientists and practitioners, a major lesson has been to regard healthcare as a social and political intervention. With this epidemic, there is no way to separate agendas in national health policies, for example, by focusing on only prevention or other social interventions and leaving the biomedical component for the future.

**THE FOCUS OF THIS RESEARCH** project has been on the social and political significance of ARTs, beyond the biomedical element. Even though they have not yet provided a cure, antiretroviral treatments have transformed the care of patients with AIDS by dramatically adding hope. Or, as activists put it, “Without hope, the education does not work”. Treatment and prevention should not be viewed as mutually exclusive: they belong together. “We do not need to fundraise for orphanages if the mothers can stay alive”, say women on the ground.

The presence of ARTs in resource-poor settings is a very interesting phenomenon for social sciences because it clearly illustrates that HIV and AIDS care is about so much more than a pill – it demands knowledge, activism, social support and welfare interventions to succeed. ART success stories can be found all over Africa, from Khayelitsha in South Africa to Mbuya in Uganda. In the Western Cape, the powerful activist base embodied in the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), the voices of our comrades, friends and children echo around the world to resist injustice. Our voices demand life even as our bodies resist death.

(John Foster Lecture 10.11.04)

Our bodies are the evidence of global inequality and injustice. They are not mere metaphors for the relationship between inequality and disease. But our bodies are also the sites of resistance. We do not die quietly. We challenge global inequality. Our resistance gives us dignity. In the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), the voices of our comrades, friends and children echo around the world to resist injustice. Our voices demand life even as our bodies resist death.

(John Foster Lecture 10.11.04)

“Gender’ is not about opinions and righteousness but about knowledge and analytical skills”
women's health and embodiment. Consequently, I am perhaps more directed to other researchers in this area rather than those working exclusively on Africa. Combining very different fields is a challenge, but an interesting one. Are there links between reproductive technologies in our Nordic hospitals and the reproductive concerns of women on ARTs in rural Uganda?

**INTERDISCIPLINARY WORK** is inspiring, but nothing can be taken for granted and one must always be prepared to explain everything from scratch. Situating gender and feminist questions in the centre of any field is still needed and demands expertise. ‘Gender’ is not about opinions and righteousness but about knowledge and analytical skills. Luckily, it is a topic that is currently high on the agenda, even if there is a tendency to examine gender inequalities elsewhere rather than at home. The Nordic myth of ‘us’ as superior is a burden in ‘development’ contexts, but we can take it seriously as a challenging starting point for how to move beyond such simplifying ideas of gender and equality.
The ‘Sexuality, Gender and Society in Africa’ research programme at NAI was concluded in 2007, after six years of work. It was co-ordinated by Signe Arnfred, now associate professor at Roskilde University in Denmark. The programme’s aim was to promote and enhance conceptual and methodological discussions on issues related to studies of sexuality and gender in Africa, and to encourage research.

The programme has operated an e-mail list with more than 300 gender researchers as members, and this initiative has been crucial to the programme. Equally important have been a number of meetings among gender researchers organised by the programme, including four conferences and several workshops, panels, seminars and lectures. The second aim of the programme, to encourage research, has had its largest effect in Africa. Three projects have been of particular importance. The largest one is the action research project on Sexual Harassment and Gendered Violence in Nigeria. This project is conducted in the context of the Network for Women’s Studies in Nigeria (NWSN), which organises gender researchers at Nigerian universities. The second associated research project has produced a book about sexuality in Senegal. The project is run by a group of women researchers in Dakar. The book, written in French, targets a popular readership: it is meant to be accessible to ordinary women. The third associated project is the compilation of an anthology of texts by African gender researchers from the 1970s onwards under the title African Perspectives on Gender: Theory, Methodology and Concepts. The selection includes texts from Francophone and Lusophone African countries that have been translated into English.

Another major result of the project is the book Re-thinking Sexualities in Africa (2004), edited by Signe Arnfred, which has been published in three editions. The volume brings together papers by African and Nordic/Scandinavian gender scholars and anthropologists, in attempts to investigate and critically discuss existing lines of thinking about sexuality in Africa, while at the same time creating space for alternative approaches.
OPENING A WINDOW TO FASCINATING AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH.
Issues that have a tremendous impact on everyday realities in Africa.
Challenges of Communicating Research

With an increased focus on Africa in general and an emphasis on development cooperation with the continent in particular, the role of the Nordic Africa Institute as a hub for research, analysis and information on Africa has grown in importance. As a sign of increasing public interest in the work and resources of the Institute, we are witnessing a steep rise in the number of visitors to our website, more books being requested from our library as well as an increase in media requests for commentary and analysis by our researchers.

During my first year as Head of Unit, Publishing and Information at the Nordic Africa Institute, I have been impressed and challenged by the richness of the research activities taking place at the Institute. One of the intentions of the 2007 Annual Report is, therefore, to open windows, with the guidance of qualified researchers, on to issues that have a tremendous impact on everyday realities in many African countries. Our hope is that these windows will attract readers to step in and experience more of the vast resources the Nordic Africa Institute has to offer.

Too often, fascinating and groundbreaking research does not reach beyond the academic field in which it was produced. Therefore our work at the Publishing and Information Unit has been focused on developing a communications strategy to enhance the visibility and accessibility of the research, resources and activities of the Institute.

Our work has also focused on how we can make the activities of the Nordic Africa Institute more visible and accessible to users outside our home base in Uppsala. One of our main windows for those interested in Africa and our research is the website, which is updated daily. We work proactively, encouraging our colleagues and the extended networks of the Institute to use the website as a strategic arena of communication. As a result of this work, our website, relaunched in 2006, is now attracting more visitors than ever. The total number of visits to the website as a whole rose from an average of 61,000 visits per month in 2006 to 88,000 visits per month in 2007! As a further service, we now provide web feeds in RSS enabling frequent users to keep track of recent updates.

We are also reviewing our publishing activities. Those who have regularly followed our work know that Nordic Africa Institute publications are well known and well disseminated in Africa, Europe and the US. In order to allow open access to our publications as well as to offer an alternative to printed copies, more than 350 titles are available as full text versions on our website. Quality and relevance are of the utmost importance and to ensure this all texts are peer-reviewed before publication.

**OUR RELEVANCE** needs to be regularly revisited in relation to our different target groups as well as to changes and new demands from our users. Two new publications have been created in order to bridge the gap between research and policy, a priority for the Institute. Policy Note is a publication with brief and easily accessible research information on themes such as conflict and trade. By contrast, the Policy Dialogue allows for lengthier and more complex analysis. In 2008, we aim to strengthen the dialogue with potential readers of these two publications.

During 2007, several of our researchers appeared...
on Swedish public radio/TV as well as in the printed media in Sweden, Norway and Finland. The media are an important channel for mediating knowledge-based research and we are always happy to provide journalists with experts to interview on current topics. If the expert is not available at the Institute, we can recommend one from our wide network of researchers in the Nordic countries as well as in Africa. This media service is consistent with our ambition to become a more active voice in the Nordic debate on African issues.

Our library is an excellent resource for and guide to information on Africa. If you are in a hurry to find information, we recommend you to start by consulting ‘A Guide to Africa on the Internet’. This is a guide to freely available Africa-related material on the Internet. It is a research-oriented link collection and is divided into country and subject resources. Another service provided by the library is ‘Ask the library’ and ‘Consult a librarian’.

We have continued our work through external communications events. At the Göteborg Book Fair, the Institute organised five seminars on various themes: China in Africa, the situation in Darfur, images of Africa, post-apartheid South Africa as well as issues of democracy. At the book fairs in Cape Town and Frankfurt we organised panels on the conditions relating to publishing and disseminating research on Africa. In Uppsala, we gathered researchers and policy makers to discuss the issue of blood diamonds and during the Human Rights Days in Stockholm we launched a Policy Note under the title “Young Women and African Wars”. On our website, you can find more examples of external communications events organised by us.

**OUR CHALLENGES FOR 2008** are to work further on the visibility and accessibility of the Nordic Africa Institute. We plan to deepen the way we provide information on the activities initiated by the Institute. If you cannot participate personally in our events, we want you to be able to take part in the analysis, perspectives and conclusions expressed and captured at our lectures, seminars and conferences. This can be done through more extensive reporting from the events as well as through publishing of filmed lectures on the website. As noted earlier, our work at the Publishing and Information Unit aims at heightening the visibility and strengthening the accessibility of the work taking place at the Institute. Our efforts to reach out to a broader audience will be further facilitated by the co-ordination of the research unit into clusters, as explained by our new research director. By the time the Annual Report for 2008 is published, the visibility and accessibility of our research will be even greater.

### BIRGITTA HEllMARK LINdGREn
Head of Unit, Publishing and Information
The author is the most central person in the entire publishing process. This applies in fiction, non-fiction and academic publishing alike. The role of the publisher is to be a mediator and a facilitator both in the editorial process and in disseminating the publication. One of the values a publisher can add is to provide a professional framework and adequate tools to disseminate research to academic communities, policymakers and other interest groups alike.

Researchers and publishers operating in developing countries constantly face a number of barriers. In order to cross some of these barriers, the Nordic Africa Institute initiated a forum in 2007 that brought together researchers, publishers and librarians to reflect critically on publishing and distribution of research and knowledge in and on Africa. The purpose was to find out how to build more effective synergies and cooperation between actors, both in Africa and in Europe. The first panel was at the Cape Town Book Fair in June, and was organised cooperatively among the Nordic Africa Institute, CODESRIA, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal Press and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation.

One of the conclusions was that it is important for publishers in Africa to be practical and to develop local models or strategies to disseminate research, for example, by finding the means to publish simple, cost effective publications that can be easily disseminated locally. Another part of the problem of disseminating research is how to publish in Africa and at the same time secure access to other markets, both in terms of intercontinental and intra-African book trade promotion. These are not easy questions and there are no simple answers, but a dialogue between all actors in the publishing chain – producers, publishers and librarians – is important.

In an information-saturated world it is not only African publishers or knowledge producers who have problems in disseminating information. African Studies have become a niche area and one way to survive as a publisher is to develop co-publishing and to use various formal and informal models as well as local co-publishing partnerships. However, co-publishing doesn’t solve all problems because there is a discrepancy between what is produced in Africa and what is found to be interesting in Europe or in the US. It is important to produce material that makes sense locally.

At the Frankfurt Book Fair’s International Centre in October 2007, a panel organised by the Nordic Africa Institute, CODESRIA and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation continued the dialogue under the provocative title ‘Has Africa got anything to say? Academic, Cultural and Publishing Perspectives’. It inspired one of the participants, Professor Fred Hendricks from Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa, to argue that “the ‘brain aid’ from Africa towards the North is the immediate result of the failing structures in Africa”. Research and knowledge produced by African scholars are visible, not in Africa but in the North, because that is where the most established scholars are settled. And it is in the North where publications are both produced and where the major distribution chains are located.

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR is the world’s largest gathering of publishing professionals and even if sub-Saharan publishing is hardly a frontrunner, the provocative title helped to spotlight the topic. And, of course, Africa has a lot to say. The improving economies, with strong growth rates, together...
with increasing knowledge production in many African countries have fuelled innovative new publishers and publishing solutions. Brian Wafawarowa and his New Africa Books in South Africa is just one example, but there are many others ready to meet the needs of a growing audience in Africa.

Access and visibility are key elements of success in publishing any publication, but the market for academic and scholarly works is much more limited than for fiction. Therefore promoting publications and increasing their visibility are probably even more important for academic than for other publications. But whatever excellent information and communications technology solutions publishers can come up with, they will not suffice as long as there are invisible gatekeepers who decide what is worth publishing and what earns the right to be disseminated – gatekeepers whose considerations are more based on an old fashioned status hierarchy and who decide which knowledge producers or publishers are first rate and which are second or third rate. Their considerations are based more on locality, race and historical record than on factual quality. Only when this non-scientific approach to ranking is gone will it be possible to talk about Open Access for everyone – from knowledge producers to knowledge users, which in the scholarly world are two highly overlapping categories.

Book and library fair, 27–30 September in Gothenburg, Sweden
The Nordic Africa Institute was a major participant in the annual Swedish book fair ‘Bok & Bibliotek’ 27-30 September 2007. The Institute had its own stand at ‘Internationella Torget’ (‘The International Market’) and also organised several events, seminars and presentations with leading Africa experts. These included seminars on China in Africa (with ambassador Börje Ljunggren and Henning Melber, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation), on Democracy in Africa (with Per Nordlund, International IDEA and Fantu Cheru, research director of the Nordic Africa Institute) and on Darfur (with Jan Eliasson, former Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs and UN representative in Darfur).

Book launch in Stockholm
On 14 November 2007, the World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development was presented at Sida in Stockholm. Gunilla Carlsson, minister for international development cooperation, and representatives from the World Bank, the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and the International Federation of Agriculture Producers (IFAP) participated.

In the afternoon, Sida and the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry held an open seminar on Agriculture for Development in Africa. In connection with this event, the Nordic Africa Institute presented its publication, African Agriculture and The World Bank – Development or Impoverishment?

Human Rights days
The Human Rights days (‘MR-dagarna’) is the largest forum for human rights in the Nordic countries. It is organised by Föreningen Ordfront and is centred around seminars and an exhibition with NGOs and other organisations. In 2007, the event took place in Stockholm on 19–20 November. The Nordic Africa Institute participated by co-arranging two seminars: one on ‘Dialogue or Confrontation in Zimbabwe?’ and the other on ‘Young Women in African Wars’. The Institute also had an information stand, where the new Policy Notes publications series was launched.

Policy Notes & Policy Dialogues
Nordic Africa Institute Policy Dialogue is a series of reports on policy issues relevant to Africa today. Aimed at professionals working in aid agencies, ministries of foreign affairs, NGOs and the media, the reports aim to inform public debate and to generate input into policymaking. The writers are researchers and scholars from several disciplines who are engaged in African issues. Most have an institutional connection with the Nordic Africa Institute or its research networks.

The Policy Notes provide brief, easily accessible research information on themes such as conflict and trade.
We have just come to the end of an extraordinary year, a year that marked a new beginning for the library. After dealing with water leaks and building renovations, we were preparing to settle down to work as usual when we were nominated for and received the distinction of Library of the Year 2006.

The Nordic Africa Institute Library is the only Nordic library that specialises in contemporary African issues. Nordic users can access our library resources with a click of a mouse button. All of our books and reports can be requested through interlibrary loans by placing an order at a local library. The free electronic material provided through the library catalogue AfricaLit and the link collection A Guide to Africa on the Internet give users easy access to resources.

The library collection focuses on politics, education, economics and other social science fields, as well as on African fiction. In addition, the library houses a comprehensive collection of African official documents. The collection is mainly in English and French, although material is also available in German, Portuguese and the Nordic languages. As a research library targeting researchers and students in the Nordic countries, the primary goal of our library is to provide high quality library services throughout the Nordic regions. The library also serves the general public, aiming to assist anyone with a serious interest in Africa.

The holdings of the library consist of approximately 60,000 books and also include reports, pamphlets and around 500 current periodicals in print. In 2007, new library acquisitions amounted to approximately 2,636 volumes. The collection also includes 130 e-journals of different kinds, such as daily newspapers, journals, annual reports, etc. Special collections, such as a pamphlet collection and a large selection of official documents from all African countries, contribute to the uniqueness of the collection as a whole.

The one-of-a-kind library collection and the Nordic mandate were motivating factors for the jury. These are the strengths of our library, but also serve as challenges for us.

Do all of our Nordic users enjoy similar access to our resources? Unfortunately not, since access to these are at present hampered by distance, costs, e-resource licence restrictions and lack of visibility. The main drawback of having a Nordic identity is that we are not seen as a national resource and, therefore, are not automatically included in the national information services set up by library communities in the respective countries.

Receiving the Library of the Year Award has opened many doors for us. The most evident of these has to do with our contact with our Nordic colleagues. Our aim involves the ‘moving out’ of the NAI library so that it can be available to our Nordic users wherever they might be. Therefore, we are dependent on our colleagues and on other libraries for spreading knowledge about our library and for marketing our resources to their users.

We had already begun the process of reaching out to our Nordic users by approaching other Nordic union catalogues as a way of making our books visible to Danish, Norwegian, Finish and Icelandic users. However, backed by the Library of the Year distinction, within the space of three months our books were visible first in the Danish union catalogue, Danbib, and then, in September 2007, in the Danish national database, bibliotek.dk.

Danish users can now search for and order our books by using those information services they are accustomed to using without having to make a detour via the Nordic Africa Institute website. In addition, loan statistics from Denmark have increased dramatically, indicating a previously unfulfilled need. Now what remains is for us to become visible to our Norwegian, Finish and Icelandic users in a similar way.

We have material that cannot be found elsewhere in the Nordic countries. The unique NAI library collection fills the gap that is a result of university libraries spending less and less on regional literature due to budgetary restrictions while interest in Africa is growing.

The mark of quality implied by the Library of the Year distinction has been used in different ways, not only by the
Institute, but by our collaborative partners as well. The Institute entered into a number of collaborative agreements in the past year in which the library was represented as an asset.

Our study visit to London resulted in new marketing options for the library and the Institute. During this time, we hosted a seminar entitled 'Africa from a Nordic Perspective' on behalf of SCOLMA, a forum for libraries in the United Kingdom with an African focus. The NAI library was noted in the newly established network of Africa-oriented libraries in Europe.

The role of the library as a marketing agent for the Institute has become more defined after receiving the distinction. Whenever a new user borrows a book, one more person becomes aware of the Institute. Resources on contemporary Africa to be found in the Nordic regions at the NAI library exclusively are attractions in themselves. The library as a documentation centre has played a well-established part in the core operations of the Nordic Africa Institute since 1962.

Interestingly enough, the library was the reason for the Institute being located Uppsala, since the Uppsala University Library already housed a large collection of literature on African languages, ethnography, theology, archaeology, geography and history. Today, the collection of the Nordic Africa Institute Library, which focuses on contemporary Africa in the field of the social sciences, together with that of the Uppsala University Library provides scholars, students and private persons interested in Africa with a rich and unique African studies collection.

Most pleasing is that we are no longer perceived as a small end-user Swedish institute library, as our name sometimes leads our users to believe. ‘Open to all’ has meaning for our users and for our Nordic colleagues. Our loans have increased and a number of libraries have come to our library on study visits to find out more about our resources.

As we see it, the distinction of Library of the Year is not only a flashback to past activities, but is also an incentive to continue enhancing our operations so that we meet the demands of our users and financiers.

The jury motivation for the award of 'Library of the Year 2006' ----------------------------------

"The Nordic Africa Institute Library in Uppsala has skilfully and systematically built up a unique collection on contemporary Africa. Nordic scholarship holders, international researchers and Uppsala residents can bear witness to an abundant library that takes pains to provide a first-class service. With the mandates assigned to the Nordic countries, the library has broadened its horizons and made literature and study material available globally, but also locally, to schools and an interested public."

Åsa Lund Moberg
Chief Librarian
Votes, Money and Violence
Political Parties and Elections in Sub-Saharan Africa
Matthias Basedu, Gero Erdmann and Andreas Mehler (EDS.)
SBN 978-91-7106-579-7 (302 pp.)
The book presents comparative studies of 28 sub-Saharan countries and discusses whether parties and party structures in Africa are different from those in other parts of the world, the relevance of party systems to democracy and the prevalence of vote buying and electoral violence.

Transitions in Namibia
Which changes for whom?
edited by Henning Melber
ISBN 91-7106-582-7 (262 pp.)
This book describes the historical legacies and analyses the current social realities in Namibian society, and explores both the achievements and the shortcomings.

How to Be a ‘Proper’ Woman in the Times of AIDS
Katya Jassey and Stella Nyanzi
Current African Issues no. 34
The report consists of a dialogue between a European and an African anthropologist. They address a number of key questions: What kind of sexuality is portrayed in the anti-HIV/AIDS campaigns? What does it mean to be a proper Woman in a time of AIDS? And how are young people affected by the fact that being sexually active has become a potentially deadly activity.

China in Africa
by Margaret C. Lee, Henning Melber, Sanusha Naidu and Ian Taylor. Compiled by Henning Melber
Current African Issues no. 35
ISBN 978-91-7106-589-6 (46 pp.)
The report addresses China’s role in Africa and particularly the new scramble for Africa’s resources. The publication reflects on and provides insights into a topical and controversial theme, which is widely debated in Africa and elsewhere.

Conflict as Integration
Youth Aspiration to Personhood in the Teleology of Sierra Leone’s ‘Senseless War’
Nathanael King
Current Africa Issues no. 36
ISBN 978-91-7106-604-6 (32 pp.)
Was the rebel war in Sierra Leone exceptionally senseless and is it at all possible to tackle the post-war challenges? What was the logic of the violence and did the youth become maladjusted to peace and adjusted to war?

Does One Size Fit All?
Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission Revisited
Amadu Sesay
Discussion Paper no. 36
Is the TRC phenomenon a good way to heal the wounds and does it offer a fair platform for victims and perpetrators alike? This report documents the TRC process in Sierra Leone and provokes discussion of the impacts of the phenomenon on post-conflict developments.

Political Opposition in African Countries
The Cases of Kenya, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe
Karolina Hulterström, Amin Y. Kamete and Henning Melber
Discussion Paper no. 37
This publication examines the role of the opposition parties and explores the relationship between government and opposition in a dominant party state like Namibia; the role the opposition can play in urban local governance in a country like Zimbabwe; and the role of ethnicity in Kenyan and Zambian party politics.

Governance and State Delivery in Southern Africa
Examples from Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe
Edited by Henning Melber
Discussion Paper no. 38
The report asks what kind of parliamentary and administrative reforms are necessary to improve the efficiency of lawmakers and how can the African Peer Review Mechanism be used to help bring about better governance.
Perspectives on Côte D’Ivoire
*Between Political Breakdown and Post-Conflict Peace*
Edited by Cyril Obi
Discussion Paper no. 39
ISBN 978-91-7106-606-0 (65 pp.)
The paper discusses whether it is possible to achieve a new social contract on the basis of which political representation and citizenship can be recreated and nurtured and what kinds of support by civil society and the international community make the best sense.

Begging and Almsgiving in Ghana
*Muslim Positions towards Poverty and Distress*
Holger Weiss
Research Report no. 133
This study focuses on the conditions of poverty and the debate among Muslims in Ghana, a West African country with a substantial but largely economically and politically marginalized Muslim population.

**POLICY NOTES**


*The Development Dimension or Disillusion?* by Marikki Stocchetti.

*Young Women in African Wars* by Chris Coulter, Mariam Persson and Mats Utas.

**POLICY DIALOGUE**

*African Agriculture and the World Bank. Development of Impoverishment?*
By Kjell Havnevik, Deborah Bryceson, Lars Erik Birgegård, Prosper Matondi and Atakilte Beyene.

**ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS**


Utas, Mats, 2007, “Sierra Leones vacklande demokrati” (Sierra Leones faltering democracy), Tidningen Kulturen No 20–21.

1 February: Darfur from a regional historical perspective: Background to the current conflict.

15 February: Bush wives and female fighters: The complicated reality of women's participation in the Sierra Leone war.
Lecturer: Chris Coulter, Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology, Uppsala University, Sweden.

15 February: Darfur from a socioeconomic and political perspective: Reasons for the conflict.

1 March: Embodied Histories: Royal investiture, youth and remembering in the Cameroon grassfields.
Lecturer: Nicolas Argenti, School of Social Sciences and Law, Brunel University, West London.

1 March: Darfur from a humanitarian and military perspective: Consequences of the conflict.

6 March: The pharaoh and the prophet: The legacy of Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Kofi Annan as African UN secretaries-general.
Lecturer: Adekeye Adebayo, Centre for Conflict Resolution, Cape Town, South Africa.

Lecturer: Sylvia Nannyonga-Tamusuza, Makerere University, Uganda.

16 March: Seminar on diamond trade and the film ‘Blood Diamond’. Panel with Helene Averland, the Swedish Foreign Ministry, Chris Coulter, Uppsala University and Dalarna University, Mats Utas, NAI. Moderator: Carin Norberg, NAI.

17 March: Darfur: What can the world do?
Panellists: Jan Eliasson, UN representative for the Sudan; Ove Bring, Swedish National Defence College; and Björg Mide, Norwegian Church Aid. In Stockholm in collaboration with Life and Peace Institute and ABF Stockholm. Panel discussion in the Darfur series.

21 March: Consolidating democracy in Angola.

29 March: The trade/development nexus: African countries in the global trading system and the future of Africa’s trade with the European Union.
Speakers: Asif H. Qureshi, University of Manchester Law School, UK; Paul Goodison, European Research Office, Brussels, Belgium; Edwini Kessie, Trade Negotiating Committee, WTO; Jacques Debeglo, Trade Policy Review Department, WTO. Research Forum.

23 April: Informal economies, organising strategies and solidarity across borders.
Lecturers: Pat Horn, StreetNet International, Durban; Jan Theron, Institute of Development and Labour Law, University of Cape Town; Winnie Mitullah, Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi and WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising). In Stockholm. In collaboration with ABF Stockholm.

23 April: Knowledge, women and power.
Lecturers: Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, UN Habitat, Nairobi; Prof. Göran Tomson, Division of International Health, Karolinska Institutet. In Stockholm. Co-arranged with Karolinska Institutet.

24 April: Launch of the new website liberationafrica.se.
With Per Wästberg, author, Marianne Lidskog, NAI and Nina Frödin, NAI. In Stockholm.

25 April: Peace and development through reconciliation: The role of the Liberian TRC.
Lecturer: Jerome J. Verdier, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia.

4 May: New agrarian questions in Africa.
Speakers: Henry Bernstein, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London; Fred Hendricks, Rhodes University, South Africa; and Carola Lentz, Johannes Gutenberg University, Germany. Research Forum.
14 May: The land is (not) ours: Land reform and urban expansion in Zanzibar.
Lecturer: Garth Myers, African Studies Center, Kansas University, USA.

31 May: Problematic youth? Young people’s livelihood strategies and their quest for a future in Africa.

4 June: Documenting Apartheid: 30 years of reporting on South Africa.
Film seminar with filmmaker Peter Davis. Villon Films, Vancouver, Canada.

30 August: Sierra Leone’s 2007 elections and the search for sustainable peace and development.
Convener: Cyril Obi, Nordic Africa Institute. Panellists: Osman Gbla, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone; Tunde Zack-Williams, University of Central Lancashire; Wai Zubairu, York University, Toronto, Canada. Research Forum.

Lecturer: Joost Beuving, VU University, Amsterdam.

17 September: Technological choices in South Africa: Ecology, democracy and development.
Lecturer: David Fig, South African environmental sociologist and political economist.

27 September: China in Africa.
Ambassador Börje Ljunggren, Fantu Cheru, NAI, and Carin Norberg, NAI. At ‘Bok & Bibliotek’ in Gothenburg.

27 September: What is happening in Southern Africa?
South African ambassador Zepth Makgetia and Roger Hällhag. Moderator: Marianne Lidskog, NAI. At ‘Bok & Bibliotek’ in Gothenburg.

27 September: How is our image of Africa shaped?
Mai Palmberg, NAI, Stefan Jonsson, Dagens Nyheter and Joakim Palme, Institute for Futures Studies. At ‘Bok & Bibliotek’ in Gothenburg in collaboration with the Institute for Futures Studies.

27 September: When and how are our images of Africa created?
Mai Palmberg, NAI, Stefan Helgesson, Gunilla Lundgren and Åsa Lund Moberg, NAI. At ‘Bok & Bibliotek’ in Gothenburg in collaboration with DIK.

27 September: Democracy in Africa.
Per Nordlund, International IDEA and Fantu Cheru, NAI. At ‘Bok & Bibliotek’ in Gothenburg in collaboration with International IDEA.

28 September: Darfur between hope and despair.
Lecturer: Jan Eliasson, UN representative, and Carin Norberg, NAI. At ‘Bok & Bibliotek’ in Gothenburg in collaboration with Life and Peace Institute and the United Nations Association of Sweden.

29 September: The art of reconciliation.
Professor Charles Villa-Vicencio, Cape Town. At ‘Bok & Bibliotek’ in Gothenburg in collaboration with Life and Peace Institute and the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.

30 September: China in Africa.
Carin Norberg, NAI, and Henning Melber, the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. At ‘Bok & Bibliotek’ in Gothenburg.

5 October: Gendered citizenship, mobility and belonging in contemporary Southern Africa.
Lecturer: Rudo Gaidzanwa, University of Zimbabwe. Part of the Nordic Africa Days.

6 October: Nollywood and the African film industry.
Lecturer: Manthia Diawara, New York University, USA. Part of the Nordic Africa Days.

7 October: Minorities in Africa: The case of Islam in South Africa.
Lecturer: Gabeba Baderoon, Pennsylvania State University, USA. Part of the Nordic Africa Days.

9 October: The history of Somalia and the causes of conflict.

16 October: Legitimacy and authority: The role of religion.

Lecturer: Charles Villa-Vicencio, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, Cape Town, South Africa. Claude Ake Lecture arranged in collaboration with the Dept. of Peace and Conflict, Uppsala University.

30 October: Women’s contribution to peace in Somalia.
This is a selection of interviews, op-eds and articles with NAI staff and researchers during 2007.

“Orenat dricksvatten förvärrar krisen i Zimbabwe”
16 January in Göteborgs-Posten (Sweden). Interview with Amanda Hammar.

“En ny strategi för Afrika”

Rapport
16 March on Swedish Television . Interview with Cyril Obi on democratic processes in West Africa.

“30 års arbete med solidaritet ut på webben”
30 April in Göteborgs-Posten (Sweden). On NAI’s new website ‘Nordic Documentation on the Liberation Struggle in Southern Africa’.

“Korrespondenterna, Dahlbäck i P1”
8 August on Swedish Radio. Carin Norberg contributed to a discussion on the Africa image.

“Eksporterer miljøbevegelse”
13 October in Klassekampen (Norway). Interview with Cyril Obi on oil and environment.

“På marsj for et valg uten vold”
11 August in Dagsavisen (Norway). Interview with Mats Utas on the elections in Sierra Leone.

Göteborgs-Posten
27 September (Sweden). Interview with Mai Palmberg on the Africa image.

“Afrika i våra tankar”
9 October in Aftonbladet (Sweden). Interview with Kjell Havnevik on bio-fuel.

“EU och u-länderna försöker pressa fram enighet före nyår”
30 November in Hufvudstadsbladet (Finland). Interview with Yenkong Ngangjoh-Hodu on the EU–ACP trade agreements.

“Mycket positivt är absolut på gång”
1 December in Sydsvenskan (Sweden). Interview with Fantu Cheru.

Studio Ett
7 December on Swedish Radio. Carin Norberg contributed to a discussion on the Lisbon Summit.

7 November: **Biofuels – a growing solution or decomposing illusion?**

8 November: **Africa and the international property agenda: A view from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).**
Lecturer: Edward Kwakwa, WIPO, Geneva.

17 November: **Somalia – Is the whole more than the sum of its parts?**
Panellists: Jens Odlander (Sweden’s ambassador to the Somali peace process), Shane Quinn (Horn of Africa Programme, LPI), Sahra Bargadile (president of the Sweden-Somalia association) and Hayan Ismail (director of the employment office in Spånga-Tensta). Moderator: Marika Fahlin. In Stockholm in collaboration with Life and Peace Institute and ABF Stockholm. Panel discussion in the Somalia series.

21 November: **South Africa and the Zimbabwe crisis.**
Lecturer: Brian Raftopoulos, Zimbabwean scholar and activist.

Lecturers: Kjell Havnevik, Nordic Africa Institute; Deborah Bryceson, African Studies Centre, Oxford University; and Atakilte Beyene, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

6 December: **Between shadow and line: Re-imagining the local.**

11 December: **EPAs debates at a crossroad: What next for the future of EU/Africa trade?**
Lecturers: Paul Goodison, European Research Office, Brussels; Luisa Bernal, South Centre, Geneva; and Yenkong Ngangjoh Hodu, Nordic Africa Institute.
Workshop with the Swedish Interdisciplinary Research Network on livelihood diversification, land and natural resource governance in sub-Saharan Africa.
15 March in Uppsala, Sweden.

International Interventionism and Peace Building in Sierra Leone.
20–21 March in Free Town, Sierra Leone.

Nordic Workshop on Strategies for Africa.
27 March in Uppsala, Sweden.

Informalising Economies and New Organising Strategies in Africa.
20–22 April in Uppsala, Sweden.

Political and Economic Aspects of the EU Africa Strategy.
Biennial Africa Days for Desk Officers at Aid Agencies and Ministries of Foreign Affairs.
26–27 April in Uppsala, Sweden.

Livelihoods for Transformation and Development.

7–8 September in Uppsala, Sweden.

Mid-review Workshop of Sierra Leone Research Network.
11 September in Free Town, Sierra Leone.

Africa Day for Ambassadors
20 September in Uppsala, Sweden.

24–25 September in London, UK.

Nordic Africa Days.
5–7 October in Uppsala, Sweden.

Africa Days for Librarians.
15–16 October in Uppsala, Sweden.

The Cultural Construction of Zimbabwe.
20–22 November in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Seminar on the Africa strategy papers.
26 November in Uppsala, Sweden.

Ageing in African Cities: Revisiting the Issues, Responses and Outcomes.
29 November–1 December in Zomba, Malawi.

NAI had book exhibitions at the following book fairs and conferences:

Cape Town International Book Fair
16–19 June. The Nordic Africa Institute organised two panels on academic publishing in and on Africa together with University of KwaZuluNatal Press, CODESRIA and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation.

International Conference of Ethiopian Studies
2–6 July in Trondheim, Norway.

European Conference on African Studies (ECAS)

Book and Library Fair (Bok & Bibliotek)
27–30 September, in Gothenburg. The Nordic Africa Institute had a stand at ‘Internationella Torget’ and organised several seminars at the fair, including on China in Africa, the image of Africa and on Darfur.

Frankfurt Book Fair
10–14 October. In cooperation with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and CODESRIA, NAI organised a panel debate entitled ‘Has Africa got anything to say? Academic, cultural and publishing perspectives’.

African Studies Association
18–21 October. ASA Annual Meeting and Book Exhibit, New York.
CHAIR
Asbjørn Eidhammer, Director of Evaluation, Norad.

MEMBERS AND DEPUTY MEMBERS

DENMARK
Mette Knudsen, Head of Africa Department, Foreign Ministry, (autumn 2007).
Niels Kastfelt, Director, Centre for African Studies, University of Copenhagen.
Johnny Flentø, Africa Department, Foreign Ministry, (spring 2007).

FINLAND
Juhani Toinvonen, Deputy Director General, Foreign Ministry, (spring 2007).
Jeremy Gould, Senior Teacher, Institute of Development Studies, University of Helsinki.

ICELAND
Margret Einarsdottir, Director, ICEIDA.
Jonina Einarsdottir, Professor in Anthropology, University of Iceland.

NORWAY
Asbjørn Eidhammer, Director of Evaluation, Norad.
Kjell Harald Dalen, Senior Advisor, Africa Section, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Randi Rønning Balsvik, Professor, Department for History, University of Tromsø.

SWEDEN
Anders Hagelberg, Head of Department, Foreign Ministry.
Inger Österdahl, Professor in International Law, Uppsala University.
Ulf Göransson, Director, Uppsala University Library.
Göran Holmqvist, Sida.

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES
Jack Hagström, Receptionist.
Amin Kamete, Researcher.
Guest Researchers

Dr. Maria Ericson
Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Lund University, Sweden.

Prof. Fred Hendricks
Faculty of Humanities, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa.

Dr. Kalpana Hiralal
School of Anthropology, Gender and Historical Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa.

Nathaniel King
Department of Sociology, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Dr. Sylvia Nannyonga-Tamusuza
Music, Dance and Drama Department, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

Dr. Massoud Omar
Department of Local Government Studies, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria.

Dr. Marja Tiilikainen
Department of Sociology, University of Helsinki, Finland.

Lists of awarded travel scholarships and study scholarships are available at www.nai.uu.se.
**Financial Statement 2007**

All amounts are in SEK.

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<th>INCOME</th>
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<td>Other contributions</td>
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<td>Income from publications sold</td>
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**Total Income:** 44 824 004 48 341 489 52 557 660

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**Total Expenditures:** 43 986 155 48 860 677 53 056 838