



ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Royal African Society

www.royalafricansociety.org/annualreport

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ABOUT US

The Royal African Society (RAS) is an inclusive pan-African membership charity based in London that facilitates good relations and mutual understanding between the UK and Africa. Founded more than 100 years ago, the Society now works in the fields of academia and education, business, politics and policy, arts and culture. Through our events, publications and digital channels we share insight and instigate debate, reaching a global network of more than one million people.

We like to think of ourselves as a 'Big Tent' for everyone interested in Africa in the UK and beyond. Our membership is open to all and is made up of people and organisations from a wide range of cultural and professional backgrounds. Join us to become part of our vibrant network and enjoy a range of exclusive members-only benefits.

Find out more at: www.royalafricansociety.org

www.facebook.com/royafrisoc

www.twitter.com/royafrisoc

Join the RAS as a corporate or an individual member

The Royal African Society is uniquely placed to connect you with a diverse network of African professionals and experts. Our membership offers valuable insight and opportunities to establish mutually beneficial relationships with like-minded individuals and organisations that share an interest in and commitment to Africa.

To find out about joining visit

www.royalafricansociety.org/join-us

TEAM AND COUNCIL

Team and Council

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

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Sheila Ruiz

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A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIR



Dear Friends, Members and Partners,

It's my pleasure to write this welcome note and I hope it finds you all in good health and cheer. Since I joined the Royal African Society as Chair in September 2014, I've seen the RAS go from strength to strength and grow bolder and more encompassing in its undertakings. 2016 was an excellent year in which we saw the reach of our events, publications and digital channels exceed one million people globally and in the UK. And our audiences and followers continue to grow, in large measure because of our compelling offers.

In the UK, in this post-Brexit climate, we believe there is a real need to demonstrate that African countries are a vital prosperity partner for Britain and our current work very much reflects that view. The Africa All Party Parliamentary Group, which we organise and administer, published an inquiry report entitled "Africa-UK Trade and Development Cooperation Relations in the Transitional and Post Brexit Period".

We always bring an African perspective to all we do and last year Dr Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank, delivered our Annual Lecture asserting that "Africa's growth story is not over".

Our other programmes also share knowledge and provide great insight on all matters African. Last year we also launched a new 'Education and Outreach Programme'. This engaged with more than 1,000 school children through creative writing workshops and film screenings introducing them to contemporary African arts and culture.

In December 2016, on the occasion of her 90th birthday, Her Majesty The Queen stepped down as Royal Patron of the Society after 48 years. We thank Her Majesty for her patronage over the past five decades and we are delighted to welcome H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge as our new Royal Patron and look forward to engaging with him.

Your continued support and commitment are crucial to our success and we hope to be able to count on you in 2017 so we may build on the successes of the last year and establish a secure future in the longer term. For those of you who are new to the Society, I extend a hand to you to join us. We are going through an exciting period of development and are keen to welcome new members and partners on board.

Zeinab Badawi
Chair

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



As a new generation of Africans gets better education and more access to information, the pressure on African governments to deliver a better life for their people will grow stronger. In some areas there have been astonishing advances. Africans are living longer. The battles against Malaria, Aids, Ebola and other diseases are being won and infant mortality has declined dramatically. The population will double from a billion people today to around two billion in 2050. The median age of all Africans was 19.5 this year. In Britain it is 40.

Where are the productive jobs for this generation? In 2016 falling commodity prices reversed economic growth rates continent-wide. Overall they fell from 5.1% in 2014 to 1.4% in 2016. With a birth rate of 2% Africa is now in economic decline for the first time since the 1980s. Why are African economies still dependent on exporting unprocessed commodities? Why have successive African governments failed to develop industries that add value to these raw materials?

There is no doubt that democracy is now rooted in many African countries and presidents are finding it harder and harder to fix elections. But 12 out of the world's 20 longest serving heads of government this year are African. Most of them are some of the richest people in the world but they rule over the poorest populations and have the worst records on delivery. Young Africans are increasingly challenging their rulers. The internet and mobile phones let people connect. This creates movements, gives them confidence and power to ask why their continent is still the poorest. Connectivity allows them to mock their rulers, listen to sarcastic songs about them, create symbols of resistance, organise meetings, protest.

The internet also gives them visions of a better life. According to the World Bank the income of the average UK citizen is around \$48,000 a year. The average income of a Ghanaian is \$1,480. Aid will never close that gap. Scores of young Africans – often the brightest and most courageous – are leaving home and heading north to find a job they cannot get at home. This migration risks losing years of savings and even life itself but it shows the determination of young Africans to find a future.

African countries need to refocus their economies on energy, infrastructure and manufacturing to grow value-adding industries that can compete with China and India and provide livelihoods for their young populations.

The political success story of 2016 was Ghana. Its last three elections were passable but this one was exemplary with Nana Akufo Addo winning on his third attempt and the opposition elegantly conceding defeat. Is it time for Ghana to be the political leader of Africa once more?

The most positive – and enthralling – story from Africa was the slow departure of the Gambian president, Yaya Jammeh. For years he had behaved like a parody of an old-fashioned military dictator. When he lost the election he congratulated the winner but he then decided to stay on. Eventually he was persuaded by the neighbours to leave but he reportedly emptied the treasury and took the contents with him. Did this mark a full stop to untrammelled dictatorship in Africa or was this an aberration?

At the Royal African Society we have enjoyed another exciting year listening to Africa, talking Africa and celebrating Africa. The biggest success has been African Arguments. The website grew out of the book series launched in 2005. Now its website has become the global turned-to site that explains what is happening in Africa and why. This year it recorded 656,000 unique visitors from all over the world, increasingly from Africa. Our Africa Writes book festival in July and our Film Africa festival in November have established themselves as annual global events held in London for Africa. In October Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank, delivered a positive and lively RAS Annual Lecture to a packed audience at the Royal Society of Medicine.

In January our annual meeting looking ahead to the agenda for the following year was – like many of our meetings these days – heavily oversubscribed. We also launched the RAS Education Programme, holding workshops and screenings to showcase African arts and culture in schools across London. We plan to develop this curriculum and extend it to other parts of the

country. Our Business Programme held several meetings including one on Japan and Africa. Across all these activities the participants are mainly young Africans.

All this required well informed and reflective managers. The RAS staff, now 12 strong, have been brilliant, always working long hours with great enthusiasm and going the extra mile when the pressure is on. Thank you. The Society is now where it should be, staying close to what is happening in Africa in politics, economics, business, arts and culture and relying for quality and authenticity on advice from academics and experts who can explain Africa's past and present and suggest how it may change in the future. Stay with us and be part of this great African journey.

“
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”
Richard Dowden

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Income and expenditure were broadly in line with expectations in 2016 on most counts. The Society's journal, African Affairs, had another good year. Funding was procured for the Society's successful festival of contemporary African literature, Africa Writes. The exception to the generally satisfactory picture was Film Africa. The festival attracted more audiences than ever before, but the Society incurred an unbudgeted loss as a result of the failure of one its main sponsors to deliver a substantial amount of promised funding.

This has resulted in an overall deficit of £46,000. Fortunately, the Society has adequate reserves to cover this, but its ability to finance new initiatives is reduced. Management will not be in a position for the foreseeable future to enter into new commitments unless funds are in hand.

For 2017, the emphasis will be on accessing new sources of funding and income from companies and foundations and we are taking expert advice on how to improve our presentation in both these areas. In addition, costs have been kept under control and the Society continues to make its limited resources go a long way.

Innes Meek
Honorary Treasurer



Photo credit: Liam Dickson

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For the year ended 31st December 2016

	2016	2015
	£,000	£,000
Income and Expenditure Account		
Incoming from:		
Donations	163	115
Charitable Activities		
Publications	232	253
Events and Festivals	102	201
Advancement of Knowledge	79	92
Other Trading Activities	7	6
Investment Income	8	9
Total Incoming	591	676
Expenditure on:		
Raising Funds	70	60
Charitable activities		
Publications	166	237
Events and Festivals	245	260
Advancement of Knowledge	175	149
Total expenditure	656	706
Net operating income/(expenditure)	(65)	(30)
Gain/Loss on revaluation of investments	19	2
Total net income/(expenditure)	(46)	(28)
Total Funds brought forward	473	501
Total Funds carried forward	427	473
Balance Sheet		
Investments	214	195
Current assets	266	413
Current liabilities	(53)	(135)
Total net assets	427	473

STRATEGIC REVIEW



The Royal African Society's strategic plan for 2016 to 2020 follows on from our previous plan which ran from 2012 to 2015. This period has witnessed the expansion of RAS programmes covering four main areas: Academia, Business, Policy and Politics, Arts and Education. Our vision for 2020 is "to be the catalyst for more informed debate and equitable relations between the UK and Africa". Our current strategic plan employs five cross-cutting themes, which aim to provide coherence across the organisation and drive our vision 2020:

'Go Digital'

Building on our recent growth and success, we will reach a wider global audience through our digital channels. We are currently reviewing our messaging and branding to provide a stronger and more consistent link between RAS and its different programmes. We are also completing a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) project to optimise our contacts' data and valuable relationships.

Structured Engagements

We are working to create better structures to present the Society to the world more clearly, manage our programmes and engage with partners. We have developed a partnership framework to evaluate existing and potential partnerships, as well as different thematic strands to drive our programmes.

Better Africa Networks

We are taking a more strategic view to partnerships and developing relationships with African organisations as well as networks in the UK, Africa and globally. We are forging new partnerships with key institutions and organisations which have a presence in Africa including the African Development Bank, the British Council and UNECA.

Joined up Working

We are encouraging more joined-up working within the Society's staff who head up the different programmes in order to be more coherent with our work, increase our productivity and overall impact.

'Think Funding'

All programme staff have been made responsible for the setting and management of their own budgets and contributing to the Society's fundraising efforts. We are developing strategies to raise funds and generate income both in the short and long term to ensure our future sustainability and success.

Progress on the above cross-cutting themes and the Society's programmes is reviewed monthly at RAS staff meetings and quarterly at Executive Committee and Council meetings.

Sheila Ruiz
Head of Programmes, Partnerships and Operations



Photo credit: Siddharth Kijajuria

AFRICAN AFFAIRS

2016 was another highly successful year for African Affairs, the Society's academic journal published by Oxford University Press (OUP). Interdisciplinary and peer reviewed, the quarterly journal is widely read and available by subscription to almost 3,000 institutions worldwide. The Society's members receive complementary copies as part of their membership.

African Affairs remains the world's top-ranked African studies journal by frequency of citation according to the Social Science Citation Index. The journal saw an increase in online usage with the number of full-text downloads rising to over 128,000 in 2016. Users in Africa now account for over a quarter of all visits to the journal website. The top-accessed article of 2016 was Tendi Blessing-Miles' State Intelligence and the Politics of Zimbabwe's Presidential Succession with over 3,140 downloads through the journal website.

African Affairs continues to enjoy a global readership, both through its traditional subscription channels and OUP's Developing Countries scheme. This philanthropic initiative now offers online access to journal content to over 5,500 non-profit research institutions in over 100 countries, including 38 African countries.

The African Affairs Reader

The African Affairs Reader is a new volume which draws together some of the most influential, important, and thought-provoking articles published in the journal over the last decade, along with four new framing chapters written by the editors to introduce key debates. The Reader collates cutting-edge research on Africa and makes it easily available for students, teachers and researchers alike. It comprises four sections covering some of the most important and pressing questions facing the continent today, including the African state, the political economy of development, Africa's relationship with the world, and elections, representation and democracy. Taken together, the essays and articles included in the volume provide a coherent introduction to the study of Africa. The African Affairs Reader is scheduled for release on 15th June 2017.

The Stephen Ellis Prize for the Most Innovative Article in 2016

The Stephen Ellis Prize for the most innovative article in African Affairs is intended to highlight and promote the kind of thought-provoking, politically engaged and path-breaking analysis that Stephen Ellis (1953-2015) himself pioneered throughout his hugely influential career. At the ASAU 2016 conference in Cambridge, the inaugural Stephen Ellis Prize was awarded to Justin Hastings and Sarah Phillips for their article Maritime Piracy Business Networks and Institutions in Africa. The article casts light on a murky area of huge importance. In the words of one of the judges: "It is not only highly original and well researched but it makes a very important theoretical contribution about the constraining effects of formal institutions on informal and illicit activities".

AFRICAN ARGUMENTS

African Arguments is a pan-African platform for news analysis, comment and opinion which grew out of the book series with the same name. We seek to analyse the key issues facing the continent, investigate the stories that matter and amplify a diversity of voices. African Arguments has become one of the top global websites for anyone trying to understand what is happening in Africa.

In 2016 African Arguments continued to grow its audience, gaining over one million page views over the course of the year. Readership increased particularly from Africa which again accounted for about 40% of the website's audience. Our network of contributors grew substantially with a considerable majority being African or of African descent. African Arguments articles were syndicated widely in national newspapers throughout Africa as well as international outlets such as The Guardian, The Conversation, Courrier International and AllAfrica.

In a bumper year of elections around the continent, African Arguments provided wide coverage, examining democracy at work from different standpoints. We focused in on the civil unrest in Ethiopia, the political impasse in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the escalation of conflict in South Sudan and we explored the issue of migration within and out of the continent. We also followed and kept close attention on issues that fell out of public view such as the ongoing crisis in Burundi.

We hosted insights from several high-profile figures, including articles by Somaliland's President Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud Silanyo, Zambian opposition leader, Hakainde Hichilema, and the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, Carlos Lopes. We also provided an international platform for lesser-heard voices from across the continent through our African Journalism Fund, which supports the work of African journalists.

African Arguments also published several investigative pieces throughout the year. This included an exploration of the role of Zimbabwe's secret police in the animal poaching crisis, showing how billions of dollars leave Africa each year in illicit financial flows. We examined a host of questionable mining projects in Cameroon – an investigation which revealed how these deals were made and exposed individuals who had made millions of dollars without extracting any minerals.

AFRICA ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The Africa APPG is one of the largest and most active APPGs in Parliament with over 200 members from both Houses of Parliament and across all parties. The RAS provides the secretariat and research for the Group. In 2016 the Africa APPG streamlined its strategic direction by appointing seven officers to represent the five main regions of Africa and establishing five key economic, political and social themes affecting the development of Africa.

Themes included 'Trade with and within Africa, with a focus on Brexit', 'Parliamentary and Democratic Oversight', 'Quality of decision making within UK Visas and Immigration' and 'Creative economy in Africa'. The Africa APPG held 11 meetings related to these themes including briefings, roundtables and panel discussions to contribute to the APPG's aim of helping Parliamentarians better understand Africa. The meetings fed into the APPG's 2017 inquiry report on 'Africa-UK Trade and Development Cooperation Relations in the Transitional and Post Brexit Period'.


In February 2016, the Africa APPG partnered with Polygeia, a student-run think tank on global health, to release an enquiry report entitled 'Lessons from Ebola affected communities: being prepared for future health crises'. Over 100 guests attended a meeting in Parliament to hear a range of high-profile speakers including Nick Hurd, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for International Development, and Professor Aliko Ahmed, co-convenor of the Better Health for Africa group and Chair of the Public Health Africa Initiative.

In September, the APPG sent a delegation of three MPs (Chi Onwurah, MP, Anne McLaughlin, MP and Amanda Holloway, MP) to Namibia and South Africa to conduct further research into its inquiry on Brexit, EPAs and future UK-Africa trade agreements. Funded by the Royal African Society and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (CPA-UK), and accompanied by the RAS Director, Richard Dowden and Hetty Bailey, the APPG coordinator, the delegation listened to parliamentarians and businesses and scrutinised the level of parliamentary

and legislative oversight of the negotiation of terms of EPAs in South Africa and Namibia. Through conversations with various stakeholders the delegation gained a better understanding of how the SADC EPA was negotiated. The findings were later reflected in the report highlighting the considerations and actions that both the UK and Africa must take to ensure that future trade agreements are not agreed only by civil servants in secrecy but involve parliamentarians and do not follow the same trajectory as the EPAs.



 royalafricansociety.org/africa-appg

 [@AfricaAPPG](https://twitter.com/AfricaAPPG)

BUSINESS PROGRAMME

Uniquely placed between business, governments and the policy-making community, our Business Programme encourages equitable trading and investment agreements with Africa. We provide insights to enable our corporate members to better understand the social, economic and political contexts in which they operate and to identify new investment and partnership opportunities. Underpinned by academic excellence and sector-specific expertise, our Business Programme continued to present a dynamic and nuanced series of events in 2016 with high profile speakers who discussed key trends shaping current business environments in African economies.

BUSINESS PROGRAMME MEETINGS IN 2016

Unleashing markets through digital transformation

James Irungu Mwangi, Executive Director of the Dalberg Group (3.02.2016)

At this breakfast briefing Mr. Mwangi discussed the continent's digital transformation and opportunities for investors in building strong and inclusive digital economies.

Mining for Prosperity: Fuelling Nigeria's industrialisation in the 21st Century

H.E. Kayode Fayemi, Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Nigeria (30.06.2016)

H.E. Kayode Fayemi shared his ministry's objective of increasing the mining industry's contribution to Nigeria's GDP. He highlighted his ministry's completion of a revalidation process to remove dormant license holders, opening up access to new investors and to rebuild government infrastructure to support the mining value chain.

Japan and Africa: A new kind of relationship? (19.07.2016)

In the lead up to the 6th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), which took place in Nairobi from 27th to 28th August 2016, the RAS hosted a special panel on Japan's new relationship with African countries featuring Dr Akihiko Tanaka, Former President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency; Charles Boamah, Finance

Vice President of the African Development Bank Group; and Dr Kweku Ampiah, Associate Professor of Japanese Studies at University of Leeds.

This panel marked Japan's departure from traditional financial aid to a new focus on forming sustainable partnerships for structural transformation in Africa, including skills transfer programmes, talent development initiatives and the provision of advanced technology to build high quality infrastructure.

Nancy Lindborg, President, United States Institute for Peace

Theme: Navigating fragility in African contexts (29.09.2016)

During this roundtable, Nancy Lindborg shared her insights on the responsibilities and opportunities for the international community and the private sector in improving socio-economic environments in fragile states. During this interactive discussion participants and attendees explored trends and drivers of fragility, conflict and insecurity and how these impact the operations and responses of both local and international actors.

PUBLIC EVENTS AND ANNUAL LECTURE

Our wide-ranging public events programme is our core offering to RAS members giving them free access or priority booking. In 2016 we hosted 44 public events across the areas of politics, history, development, literature, film and the environment welcoming an estimated audience of 3,500 people. These established and new audiences came together to explore, celebrate and debate contemporary and historical issues and achievements in Africa.

We began the year with our flagship panel Prospects and Forecasts, presenting a macro outlook on economics, politics, culture and development, throughout the continent.

Speakers highlighted the falling price of oil and political instability in some of Africa's largest economies causing a potential decline in prospects for citizens. But matching this were conversations about innovation, creativity and youth, the potential of change and predictions of the demise of long-standing regimes.

These themes ran through the following events of the year and were particularly highlighted in our Annual Lecture, 'Africa's Growth Story: The Next Chapter' delivered by the President of the African Development Bank, Dr Akinwumi Adesina. At a packed event moderated by our Chair, Zeinab Badawi, Dr Adesina argued that the continent 'remains a vibrant, dynamic and resilient place to do business in'.

We held two historical discussions on Africa during the Cold War in partnership with Calvert 22 Gallery, and on Heritage and Politics in collaboration with the UCL African Studies Research Centre.

We hosted the launch of several books on contemporary African politics looking at a range of countries and regions including the Great Lakes, South Sudan, Ghana, Congo and Somalia.

The **How To Fix Nigeria** series, which discusses practical solutions to Nigeria's contemporary challenges, gained momentum and popularity

with events on the economy, dismantling patriarchy and tackling corruption. The series chair, Funmi Iyanda, was joined by a range of thought-leaders, led by Charles Soludo, Dorcas Erskine, Elnathan John and Ayo Sogunro. These discussions were live-streamed to a global audience.

The Society's partner organisation, the ASAUk, held its biennial academic conference at the University of Cambridge in September 2016, attracting over 650 participants and featuring over 250 panels with streams on slavery, the Great Lakes and African middle class formation. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Derek Peterson from the University of Michigan.

Our RAS Bristol Branch held a total of 11 lectures focusing on a wide range of issues and topics from African body art and ornaments to the impact of war on women in Somalia. The speakers were Stuart Mole CVO OBE, Professor David Zeitlyn, Lorraine Legg, Dr Charlie Riches, Rissa Mohabir, Michela Wrong, Alex Abacha, Julian Marcus, Dr Jonathan Lawley, Reverend Trevor Stubbs and our Director, Richard Dowden.

RAS Public Events are available to stream or download as podcasts from mixcloud.com/royafrisoc

 royafricansociety.org/events

 [@RoyAfriSoc](https://twitter.com/RoyAfriSoc)

Photo credit: Ivan Gonzalez



“We want to deliver a corrective to anyone that thinks Africa's growth story is over – there is no better platform than the Royal African Society to deliver the message to investors, the African diaspora and the British public that Africa remains a vibrant, dynamic and resilient place to do business.”

Dr Akinwumi Adesina

AFRICA WRITES 2016

Africa Writes, our annual literature festival, promotes, discusses and celebrates the work of contemporary African and diaspora writers. Since its inaugural edition in 2012, the festival has grown and become increasingly popular with London audiences. Last year we were proud to celebrate its fifth birthday.

Africa Writes 2016 welcomed an estimated 2,000 people and hosted 67 guest contributors – including writers, poets, publishers, translators, editors, academics and critics – from 18 different countries. Over half of our audiences were members of the African diaspora with 75% aged between 20 and 40 years.

Women's writing featured prominently in the programme and the headline author was the renowned Egyptian feminist activist and writer, Nawal El Saadawi. Her uplifting and heartfelt conversation with Margaret Busby on writing, Egyptian politics and her pan-African vision was the highlight of the weekend. We hosted the launch of *The Woman Next Door* by Baijan-Nigerian-South African Yewande Omotoso, and a the reading of the new poem *Kratoa Eva* by South African poet Toni Stuart.

The festival shone a light on narratives of displacement and migration. Writers Kayo Chingonyi, Inua Ellams and Zodwa Nyoni spoke at an event in Parliament as part of Refugee Week ahead of Africa Writes and shared their stories of asylum and migration. We also staged a reading of Joy Gharoro-Akjobotor's *The Immigrant*, a provocative new play set in the year 2116 about a desperate British migrant claiming

asylum at the African Union. Another programme highlight was the poetry evening we held on *Sex, Love & Poetry* hosted by world-renowned Nigerian LGBT rights activist, Bisi Alimi, in his drag alter ego "Ms Posh Pussy". Interwoven with poetry readings, Alimi led poets Caleb Femi, Rachel Long, Adam Lowe and SA Smythe in an uncensored conversation on race, relationships, gender fluidity, sexuality and class.

Panel discussions explored the role of non-fiction writing in developing Africa's development narratives, diversity in children's publishing, and new strands in contemporary genre fiction. Book launches included *Taty Went West* by South Africa's new sci-fi talent Nikhil Singh; *How to Spell Naija in 100 Short Stories (Vol 2)* by Nigerian Chuma Nwokolo; and several titles by Congo's writer in exile, Kama Sywor Kamanda.

“

The pen is very powerful,
but it must be used correctly.
For justice. For equality.
For humanity...love

”

Nawal El Saadawi



Photo credit: Ivan Gonzalez

FILM AFRICA 2016

Established in 2011, Film Africa is now the UK's premier platform for African cinema and a key event in London's cultural calendar. The festival exists to celebrate the dynamism and diversity of African cinema giving filmmakers from Africa and the diaspora a platform to showcase their work to diverse UK audiences. Since its inception Film Africa has screened over 400 films, hosted 132 filmmakers and attracted audiences of over 20,000.

In 2016 Film Africa presented 53 films from across 23 African countries (including 33 World, European or UK premieres) and hosted 23 filmmakers in London to take part in post-screening Q&As. The festival attracted 5,000 people at 11 venues in London and over half of our audiences were members of the African diaspora. 75% were aged between 20 and 40.

Special thematic strands included a focus on migration, music on film, Nollywood (as part of the British Film Institute's Black Star season) and the 40th anniversary of the Soweto uprisings linked to the opening film, *Kalushi: The Story of Solomon Mahlangu*.

Film Africa is a festival of discovery. Our awards allow us to find new creative voices emerging from the continent and support the development of Africa's burgeoning film industries.

Palesa Nomanzi Shongwe's *uNomalanga and the Witch* (South Africa) was selected as the winner of the 6th Baobab Award for Best Short Film by a jury of industry professionals. Audience selected Priscilla Anany's *Children of the Mountain* (Ghana) for the Film Africa 2016 Africa Audience Award for Best Feature Film, a story of female empowerment in rural Ghana.

Every year Film Africa programmes a series of high profile networking events that provide a space for business to meet with culture. Our annual Industry Forum, held at the BFI Southbank, brings together key industry experts from Africa and the UK to discuss the business of film including financing, production and distribution, encouraging collaboration and the development of future African creative talent. The 2016 Industry Forum focused on the future of African film archives.

The 2016 edition of Film Africa received widespread media coverage, including: The Guardian, The Metro, BBC World Service, Time Out, Little White Lies, Shadow and Act and many more.

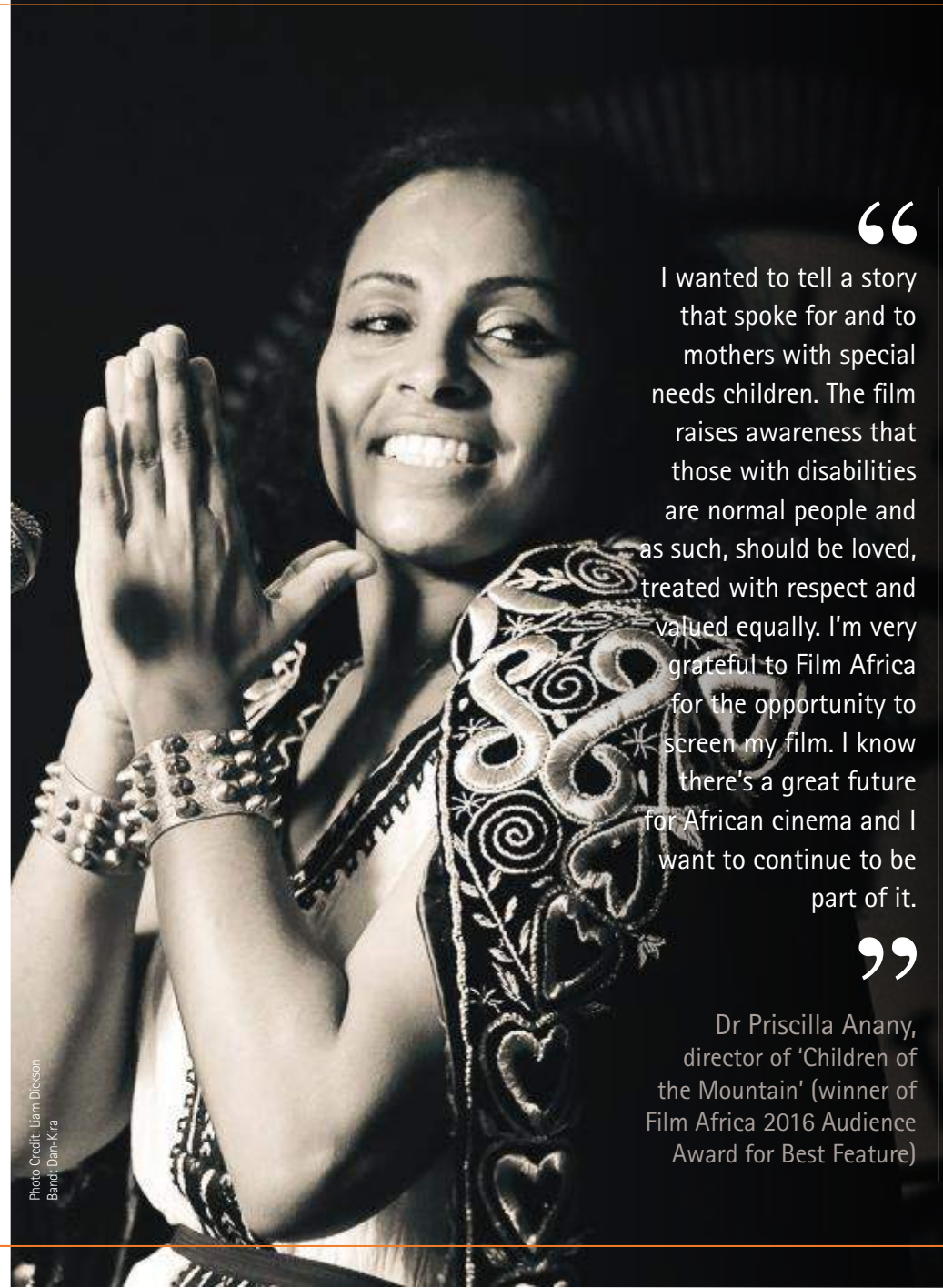


Photo Credit: Liam Dickson
Band: Dain-Kira

“

I wanted to tell a story that spoke for and to mothers with special needs children. The film raises awareness that those with disabilities are normal people and as such, should be loved, treated with respect and valued equally. I'm very grateful to Film Africa for the opportunity to screen my film. I know there's a great future for African cinema and I want to continue to be part of it.

”

Dr Priscilla Anany,
director of 'Children of
the Mountain' (winner of
Film Africa 2016 Audience
Award for Best Feature)

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

2016 saw the launch of a new Education & Outreach Programme at the RAS – a dynamic and inclusive programme aimed at engaging, inspiring and educating children, young people, their teachers and families about the rich diversity of the African continent through workshops, film screenings, family days and other events.

We set out to work with mainstream and SEN schools across London, meeting the requisites of primary and secondary school children from diverse backgrounds and with wide-ranging needs. In partnership with key cultural institutions such as the British Library and Somerset House, we shared London's rich cultural offer with children and young people, delivering fresh learning experiences inspired by African arts and culture.

Over 100 children attended creative writing workshops during Africa Writes 2016 and over 900 attended school screenings during Film Africa 2016. We also worked closely with the London Association of English Teachers, advising on curriculum content and offering professional development for English teachers.

In response to the resounding success and demand for the screenings and workshops delivered in 2016, we decided to develop the RAS Education Programme further in 2017 along two main strands, **Africa Writes: Young Voices** and **Film Africa: Young Audiences**.

We have established partnerships with other educational institutions to develop curriculum enrichment resources and teaching units. And we work with interested schools to design Continuing Professional Development events for teachers to help them enhance their subject knowledge of African history and culture.

“
Performing my
poetry made me more
confident”
”
Year 9 student,
Alexandra Park School

To find out more about the RAS Education Programme, please visit:

 www.royalafricansociety.org/ras-education



Photo credit: Laura Aznar

OUR AUDIENCES AND IMPACT

The Royal African Society now reaches more than one million people through its events, festivals, publications, online platforms and social media channels. Our audiences are growing and reflect the rising interest in Africa as well as the continent's youthful demographic. In 2016 our reach and impact grew considerably:

- Our public events and festivals attracted over 16,000 people.
- Audiences were young and diverse with over 40% between the ages of 18 to 35 years. More than 50% were of African descent.
- Our two annual festivals, Africa Writes and Film Africa, had a combined annual digital audience of 250,000 people.
- Over one million people interacted with us online via our websites and social media channels.
- Approximately 50% of our online community were based on the continent. Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa were the most engaged.
- Our Facebook fan base increased by 3.5%
- Our Twitter following grew by 8%
- African Arguments was read by more than 600,000 people in the UK, Africa and the US.
- African Arguments articles were syndicated widely in African national newspapers as well as international outlets such as The Guardian, The Conversation, Courier International and AllAfrica.com.
- Our Annual Lecture, Africa Writes and Film Africa received widespread media coverage, including The Guardian, The Metro, BBC World Service, BBC One, BBC Radio London, London Live TV, Little White Lies, New African, Time Out and Shadow & Act.
- We continued to benefit from the high profile of our director, Richard Dowden, and his appearance and commentary was very much in demand across various publications including The Times, The Guardian, The Independent, the BBC, Sky TV, Al Jazeera and Prospect Magazine.



Photo credit: Ivan Gonzalez

OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

The **Royal African Society** has a diverse and influential membership network made up of individuals, companies and organisations who take a proactive interest in Africa and value opportunities to connect, share ideas and develop partnerships. We offer individual, student and corporate membership packages.

Individual Membership

The RAS has joint membership with the African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUk), the national academic association for Africanist scholars in the UK. In 2016 we had a total of 1022 members, including 751 individual members, 193 student members, 43 life members and 35 ASAUk associates. Members enjoyed free or priority access to our events, complimentary subscription to Africa Affairs, SOAS Library membership, and a whole range of other exclusive benefits.

Corporate Membership

RAS corporate membership provides companies with valuable insight, networking opportunities, brand visibility and government relations. We enable our members to better understand the social, economic and political contexts in which they operate, giving them a competitive advantage when doing business in Africa. In 2016 we had over 50 corporate members and partners from a diverse range of sectors from financial and professional services to FMCGs and agribusiness. Some of our key corporate members and partners are listed below.



Our Partners

Working in partnership is fundamental to our organisational strategy and future. The Society has a long history of working collaboratively with a wide range of partners. Through our partnerships we aim to:

- Enhance our events and programmes
- Amplify ideas or campaigns
- Develop research and insight
- Reach new audiences and networks
- Share ideas, expertise and resources
- Achieve financial sustainability

In 2016 we developed a new partnership framework to map and evaluate our existing partners and identify new ones. We now have the following categories of partnership:

Strategic Partnerships with organisations and institutions which are aligned with our values and share our objectives, such as SOAS and UNECA.

Corporate Partnerships based on mutually beneficial relations. In 2016 our corporate partners and donors were Diageo, Inmarsat, Investec, Prudential, Shell, Standard Chartered Bank and Unilever.

Event and Programme Partnerships, which helped us develop, enhance and deliver our events and programmes. In 2016 these included The British Library, British Council, the BFI and Southbank Centre.

Funding Partnerships, which enable our programmes to grow and flourish. Our long-standing funding partners include the Arts Council England, Garfield Weston Foundation and Miles Morland Foundation.

Media and Marketing Partnerships leveraged by our network of over one million people globally. In 2016 we set up reciprocal partnerships with New African magazine and blogs Africa in Words, Bookshy Blogger and TRUE Africa.

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank our members, partners, and all the individuals whose vital support contributed to the success of the Royal African Society in 2016.

These include **Diageo, Inmarsat, Investec, Prudential, Shell, Standard Chartered Bank and Unilever**. The RAS, its programmes and networks, are made possible by your participation.

Thank you **Baroness Valerie Amos**, Director of SOAS, for continuing to host us at SOAS and all the support and encouragement you have given us this past year.

We thank the Co-Editors of African Affairs, **Lindsay Whitfield** and **Carl Death**, the many contributors to the journal and especially **Vanessa Lacey**, Senior Publisher at Oxford University Press and the **rest of the team at OUP** who continued to deliver our journal, once again the highest-rated African Studies journal.

Thank you **Chi Onwurah MP**, Chair of the Africa All Party Parliamentary Group, Co-Chair **Lord Chidgey** and **all the parliamentarians and staff** who work on Africa at Parliament.

We thank our programme partners and funders including the **Arts Council England, The British Film Institute, The British Council, The British Library, Film Hub London, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Miles Morland Foundation, MOFILM and The Centre of African Studies, University of London. George Weston of The Garfield Weston Foundation and Miles Morland of The Miles Morland Foundation** both deserve a special mention for their longstanding and continued support.

Our 2016 Public Events Programme was made possible through collaboration with the following partners: **University of London colleges – SOAS, UCL, LSE, KCL, and City University, The British Museum, Calvert 22, The Firoz Lalji Centre for Africa at LSE, The Frontline Club, Hurst**

Publications, International Africa Institute, International Crisis Group, Oya Media, Somali Week Festival, The Southbank Centre, Star 100, Tax Justice Network and Zed Books.

Africa Writes 2016 was made possible through the collaboration of: **Africa APPG, African Reading Group (ARG!), Afrikult., Africa in Words, Bahati Books, Barbican Young Poets, Black Book Swap, Bookshy Blogger, Cassava Republic Press, Commonwealth Writers, Counterpoints Arts, English PEN, Kwani? Trust, Numbi Arts, Refugee Week, SIDENSI, The Caine Prize, The Literary Consultancy, The Royal Society of Literature, TRUE Africa and Writivism.**

Film Africa 2016 was made possible through the collaboration of: venues **BFI Southbank, Bernie Grant Arts Centre, British Library, Ciné Lumière, ICA, Hackney Picturehouse, Phoenix Cinema, Picturehouse Central, Rich Mix, Ritzy Brixton and the South London Gallery**; sponsors **Aduna, Divine Chocolate and Morton Hotel**; partner festivals **Afrika Eye, Africa in Motion, Cambridge African Film Festival, Watch Africa**; and programme partners **Film London and Open The Gate.**

And finally to all our speakers, expert advisers, interns, volunteers and friends of RAS who devoted time voluntarily to the work of the Society – Thank You.

Join the RAS network, please visit:
www.royalafricansociety.org/join-us

For more information and to partner with the RAS, please email us:
ras@soas.ac.uk

JOIN US IN 2017



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Promoting | Discussing | Celebrating Africa

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