



## ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Royal African Society

# CONTENTS

About Us .....	02	All Party Parliamentary Group for Africa .....	16
Team and Council .....	04	Business Programme .....	17
A Note from the Chair .....	05	Public Events and Annual Lecture .....	18
Director's Report .....	06	Africa Writes 2018 .....	20
Honorary Treasurer's Report .....	08	Film Africa 2018 .....	22
Financial Summary .....	09	Education and Outreach .....	24
Strategic Review .....	10	Our Members .....	26
African Affairs .....	12	Our Partners .....	28
African Arguments .....	13	Our Audiences and Impact .....	30
ASAUK Conference 2018 .....	14	Thanks and Acknowledgements .....	31

## ABOUT US

The Royal African Society is a membership organisation that provides opportunities for people to connect, celebrate and engage critically with a wide range of topics and ideas about Africa today. Through our events, publications and digital channels we share insight, instigate debate and facilitate mutual understanding between the UK and Africa. We amplify African voices and interests in academia, business, politics, the arts and education, reaching a network of more than one million people globally.

### Find out more:

- [royalafricansociety.org](http://royalafricansociety.org)
- [facebook.com/royafrisoc](https://facebook.com/royafrisoc)
- [twitter.com/royafrisoc](https://twitter.com/royafrisoc)

Cover Image: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia and Nobel Laureate, delivering the 2018 Annual Lecture. Credit: Ivan Gonzalez.



Audience Member at Africa Writes 2018. Credit: Ivan Gonzalez.

## JOIN TODAY

The Royal African Society is uniquely placed to connect you with a diverse network of African professionals and Africa experts across a wide range of sectors. Our membership is open to all – you can join whether you are a company with a business interest in Africa or an individual with a personal or professional connection to the continent. As a Royal African Society member you will contribute to keeping Africa high on the UK's business, political and cultural agenda, enabling a positive shift in policy and public opinion. You would also be signing up to be part of the most dynamic, influential and (yes) fun Africa-focused organisation in the UK. So what are you waiting for? Join us today to become part of our vibrant network and start enjoying a wide range of exclusive members-only benefits!

Find out more about membership on page 26 or visit:  
[www.royalafricansociety.org/join-us](http://www.royalafricansociety.org/join-us)

## TEAM AND COUNCIL

### COUNCIL

#### Chair

Zeinab Badawi

#### Vice Chairs

Phillip Alier

Alistair Boyd

Professor Christopher Cramer

#### Honorary Treasurer

Innes Meek

#### Elected Members

Mohamed Amersi

Dr Titilola Banjoko

Susana Edjang

Afua Hirsch

Boko Inyundo

Nike Jonah

Razia Khan

Joel Kibazo

Gregory Kronsten

Anne McCormick

Robert Molteno

'Jide Olanrewaju

#### Co-opted Members

Baroness Northover

Dr Insa Nolte

(until Sept 2018)

Professor Ambreena Manji

(from Sept 2018)

ASAUUK Presidents (Ex Officio)

Chi Onwurah MP

Africa APPG Chair (Ex Officio)

#### Appointed Members

African Affairs

Co-Editors (See Team)

### TEAM

#### Director

Dr Nicholas Westcott, CMG

#### Deputy Director

Sheila Ruiz

#### Fundraising Manager

Caitlin Pearson  
(from Sept 2018)

#### Administrative Manager

Lizzie Orekoya

#### Membership Administrator

Melmarie Laccay

#### Africa APPG Policy & Advocacy Co-ordinator

Hetty Bailey-Morgan

#### African Arguments Editor

James Wan

#### Corporate Partnerships Manager

Shushan Tewolde-Berhan  
(until Oct 2018)

#### Corporate & Public Events Manager

Hoda Dahir (from Nov 2018)

#### Africa Writes Producer & Project Co-ordinator

Marcelle Mateki Akita

#### Film Africa Producer

Tega Okiti

#### Film Africa Co-ordinator

Abel Kemal Endashaw

#### Education & Outreach Programme Manager

Joanna Brown

#### Marketing & PR Consultant

Beth O'Connor

#### Consultant Accountant

Brian Johnson

#### 2018 Interns

Baindu Kallon

Ralitsa Chorbazhiyska

Rashidat Animashaun

Adam Rodgers Johns

#### African Affairs

#### Co-Editors

Peace Adzo Medie

Carl Death (until Jan 2019)

Ricardo Soares de Oliveira

(from Nov 2018)

Lindsay Whitfield

#### Book Reviews Editor

Dr Alexander Beresford

#### Editorial Assistant

Busani Mpofu

#### Auditors

Chariot House Ltd

44 Grand Parade

Brighton BN2 9QA

#### Branding & Design

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## A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIR



Dear Friends, Members, Partners and future ones!

Every year at the Royal African Society brings something new and interesting, and my fifth year as Chair has been no different.

Our objective is, as always, to expand and showcase Africa in culture, business and politics and to give a platform to African voices, promoting closer engagement between this country and the African continent.

In 2018 we were honoured to welcome one former and two sitting African Presidents in the course of the year – President Mutharika of Malawi and President Bongo of Gabon for events targeted at key investors, and Ellen

Johnson Sirleaf, Nobel Peace Laureate and former president of Liberia, to deliver our Annual Lecture. Her words on encouraging more women into political leadership on the continent were well received, but need to be acted upon.

A highlight of the year was the active engagement of our new Royal Patron, HRH The Duke of Cambridge. Attending our autumn networking reception at the British Academy, he met a wide range of our members, partners and friends. His own interest in and enthusiasm for Africa touched everyone, and we look forward to welcoming him at some of our future events.

Our *Africa Writes* festival, held in partnership with The British Library, proved the best yet with some tremendously stimulating writing, particularly from the growing number of African women writers making waves in the literary scene. *Film Africa* featured 39 top notch films representing 15 different African countries, with a specific regional focus on Nigeria and Kenya. Winning the Audience Award, the Kenyan film *Supa Modo* touched everyone's heart. The ASAUUK Conference held at Birmingham University was the largest to date, a rich feast of academic enquiry and stimulation. Our other programmes, including *African Arguments*, the APPG for Africa and our education and outreach work, continued to thrive and grow. You may read more on each of them in the following pages.

We are sad to bid farewell to two of our longest standing Council members who have finally insisted on retiring. We wish Alastair Boyd and Robert Molteno all the very best and thank them deeply for their commitment and contribution to the Society over many years.

Finally, I want to thank all our staff, our partners – academic, corporate, governmental, cultural – and particularly our generous donors and supporters who have continued to enable the Society to be active in such a wide range of areas. Enjoy the read!

**Zeinab Badawi**  
Chair



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT



For the Royal African Society, 2018 saw three significant positive developments: a return to sound financial health; a sustained level of activity with regular events attracting large and growing audiences; and a high level of engagement from prominent Africans and Britons.

For Africa itself, 2018 saw rather more mixed developments. There were some important steps forward, but also a number backwards. 2019 will be a critical year to see which direction dominates.

It is unwise to generalise about a continent as large and diverse as Africa. But some trends are striking. Well established, stable governments have been building solid economic growth, particularly across West Africa but also in parts of East Africa too, building on an increasingly inventive and entrepreneurial business sector that not only identifies opportunities but can access the skills and funds to exploit them. This is the Africa that is going places, when governments allow them to do it. Ethiopia, for example, has great potential to become a country transformed, but there is a risk that expectations will be too high and delivery too slow to satisfy popular demands.

Elsewhere, including in southern Africa, some new governments have found the problems left them by their predecessors – such as corruption, incompetence and economic mismanagement – make it very hard to turn their economies round and create the growth that will lift their economic and political prospects. Some, like Zimbabwe and Mozambique, have not helped themselves. Others, like South Africa, are finding they have a mountain to climb to return to healthy growth.

A number of other countries, in both East and Central Africa, have excellent potential, but are hindered by governments that fear rather than trust their own people, and devote more attention to securing their personal future than their countries'. The short-term gains are equivocal, but the long-term costs can be heavy. The Democratic Republic of Congo saw a peaceful transition to an opposition leader, but sadly not the one chosen by the people. Only time will tell whether this is a step forward, sideways or backwards. But the message to other incumbent governments fighting elections is not a healthy one.

Sadly, some countries remain mired in seemingly insoluble conflict. In South Sudan, the Central African Republic and parts of the Sahel and Somalia, people continue to suffer. The international community must remain engaged, but real solutions can only be found when African countries themselves decide the killing must stop and take serious action to achieve that.

Beyond the headlines, though, more significant trends are quietly emerging. The relentless growth of population and urbanisation are revolutionising African society far faster than we realise. This is generating an extraordinary outpouring of energy and creativity – in literature, art, music, social media, in sport and in religion. It is with all aspects – political, economic, social and cultural – that the Royal African Society is engaged, to bring to the UK African voices that need to be heard.

Our activities in 2018 ranged from events for two sitting Presidents (from Malawi and Gabon) and an Annual Lecture from former President and Nobel laureate, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, to events involving the cutting edge of recent African women's literature, and filmmakers from every corner of the continent. We launched books on Africa's business revolution and on achieving people's justice in Chad. We involved MPs in discussions on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa, and held roundtable discussions on the mega-trends that will impact Africa's future. We were delighted that our new Royal Patron, Prince William, was able to participate in some of these. It was also good to hold events outside London, in Bristol, Edinburgh and Birmingham, and team up with the Borderlines Film Festival in the north to present a special *Film Africa* strand. Both *African Arguments* and our education programme continue to reach an ever wider audience, in this country and globally.

I am particularly pleased we have expanded our partnerships with other organisations and people working in the same sphere. This is because it is only through collaboration, cooperation and dialogue, rather than through separation, confrontation and isolation, that Africa – just as much as Britain – will find a fruitful way forward. Brexit poses a tremendous challenge for this country's image in,

and continued engagement with, Africa, and the Society will do its utmost to sustain and expand the links between us. Our campaign to improve the visa service for African visitors, for example, is beginning to help.

So in 2019, as during 2018, we dedicate ourselves to exploring the full creative, commercial and cultural potential of Africa, and helping people in the UK listen, share and understand the voices coming from the continent. They bring laughter, experience, inspiration and wisdom as well as challenge and, sometimes, tragedy. All are part of the reality that we want to bring home. Enjoy!

**Dr Nicholas Westcott, CMG**  
Director

“

The relentless growth of population and urbanisation are revolutionising African society far faster than we realise. This is generating an extraordinary outpouring of energy and creativity.

Nick Westcott  
Director

”

## HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

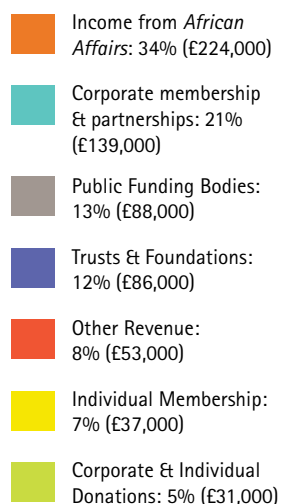
2018 was a good year for the Society. After several years running deficits, small at first, but reaching unsustainable levels in 2017, we can report a comfortable surplus of £48,000 in 2018. This was mainly attributable to careful management on the part of the Director, reinforcing existing relationships and controlling costs. The turnaround was more rapid than anticipated and is a credit to the diligence and loyalty of the staff.

The most substantial contribution to the turnaround came from a dramatic increase in income, up from £499,000 in 2017 to £658,000 in 2018. There are several strands to this transformation. One was higher royalty income from *African Affairs*, the long-running and continuing buttress to the Society's finances. Another was an increase of £90,000 in net income from the Society's wide-ranging events programme, significantly attributable to the very successful event with our Royal Patron, HRH The Duke of Cambridge, in September 2018. This event was generously supported by the Amersi Foundation, Wilderness Safaris and TPG Growth, whom we are very grateful to. Finally, our cultural festivals, *Film Africa* and *Africa Writes*, came in within budget. Both festivals, along with our other programmes, were once again generously supported by the Miles Morland Foundation and the Garfield Weston Foundation.

Keeping income up will never be easy, but we are in a better position this year and are aiming to make a modest surplus in 2019.

**Innes Meek**  
Honorary Treasurer

### SOURCES OF INCOME IN 2018



Total Income: £658,000

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### For the year ended 31st December 2018

	2018	2017
	£,000	£,000
<b>Income and Expenditure Account</b>		
Income from:		
Core Grants & Donations	51	41
Charitable activities		
Connect	221	88
Learn	246	228
Debate	16	19
Celebrate	109	108
Other trading activities	7	7
Investment income	8	8
<b>Total income</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>499</b>
Expenditure on:		
Raising Funds	34	36
Charitable activities		
Connect	197	193
Learn	102	108
Debate	108	104
Celebrate	162	181
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>622</b>
Net operating income/(expenditure)	55	(123)
Gain/(loss) on revaluation of investments	(7)	17
<b>Total net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>(106)</b>
<b>Total Funds brought forward</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>427</b>
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>321</b>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
Investments	224	231
Current assets	315	161
Current liabilities	(170)	(71)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>321</b>



# STRATEGIC REVIEW



In 2018, the Royal African Society continued to be guided by the organisational objectives set out in the 2016-2020 strategic plan: "Go Digital"; Partnerships and Better Africa Networks; Joined-up Working; and "Think Funding". We made good progress overall with considerable advancement on the fundraising front, which we shall continue to prioritise as an independent charitable organisation.

## Looking back at 2018

In 2018 we deepened our engagement with our different partners (see p. 28) and continued our trend of steady online growth, with our social media following and online readership both increasing by an average of 20% from the previous year. As required, we became compliant with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into force in May 2018. However, the completion of our bespoke Customer Relationship Management system (Salesforce) and new website were outstanding pieces of work, which we are now due to finish by June 2019.

Our ramped-up fundraising efforts in 2018 yielded a surplus for the Society for the first time since 2011. With the help of our Council, we increased our corporate support – which continues to be a major source of income for the Society – and from September 2018 we created the new role of Fundraising Manager to explore a wider range of funding options from public funding bodies, trusts and foundations, and to maximise our individual membership base. Following the creation of this important new role, we took a step back to look at our organisation more strategically, which led us to formulate a new three-year strategic plan.

## Looking ahead: 2019-2021

We kick-started 2019 with a very productive staff and Council strategy day, facilitated by the Foundation for Social Improvement, where we collectively developed a new strategic

plan taking us up to 2021 – the year that will mark the Society's 120th anniversary. Our new strategic plan is action-driven and outward-facing, and it revolves around four key words, which encapsulate our main areas of work – **CONNECT, LEARN, DEBATE and CELEBRATE.**

Following the strategic plan, we developed a new fundraising strategy with clear targets and a business plan to track our work and progress in 2019. All three documents were presented and adopted by our Council at a meeting in February 2019.

Our long-term goal is to ensure the future sustainability of the Society by establishing a broad and mixed funding base, which will include income generation. In the short-term, we plan to use any surplus funds to expand our capacity by employing a Communications Manager, who will further support our fundraising efforts. In 2019 we shall also work on improving our membership offer and streamlining our administration and external communications with a view to embarking on a recruitment drive from 2020 onwards.

Progress on our strategic, business and fundraising plans will continue to be reviewed monthly at staff meetings and quarterly at meetings of the Royal African Society's Council and Executive Committee.

**Sheila Ruiz**  
Deputy Director



Audience Member at the Royal African Society 2018 Annual Lecture. Credit: Ivan Gonzalez.

# AFRICAN AFFAIRS

*African Affairs* is published on behalf of the Royal African Society and is the top ranked journal in African Studies. The latest Impact Factor (2017) is 2.500. This means the journal is now also ranked 29 out of 169 Political Science journals worldwide.

## African Affairs Prizes

In 2018, the journal awarded the biennial African Author and Stephen Ellis prizes at the ASAU Conference in Birmingham. The African Author Prize is awarded for the best article published in the journal in the previous two years by an author based in an African institution, or an African PhD student based in an overseas university. The African Author Prize winner was Godfrey Maringira for his article 'Politicization and Resistance in the Zimbabwean National Army', Volume 116, Issue 462, 2017, pp. 18–38. The Stephen Ellis Prize was awarded to Maya Mynster Christensen for her article 'The underbelly of global security: Sierra Leonean ex-militias in Iraq', Volume 115, Issue 458, 2016, pp. 23–43.

## Changes in the Editorial Board

The Editorial Board of the journal underwent significant changes in 2018, with the retirement of several long-serving editorial members and the entrance of a new cohort. The new members include Abdul-Gafaru Abdulai (University of Ghana Business School), Nana Akua Anyidoho (ISSER, University of Ghana), Rachel Beatty Riedl (Northwestern University, US), Biniam E. Bedasso (Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative, Pretoria), Jonathan Fisher (University of Birmingham), Julia Gallagher (Royal Holloway, University of London), Tom Goodfellow (University of Sheffield), Hazel Gray (University of

Edinburgh), Zachariah Mampilly (Vassar College, US), Amy Niang (University of the Witwatersrand), Folashadé Soulé (University of Oxford), Miles Tendi (University of Oxford), and Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso (Babcock University, Nigeria).

## New Co-Editor: Ricardo Soares de Oliveira

The close of 2018 also saw changes in the editorial leadership, as Carl Death stepped down and Ricardo Soares de Oliveira joined *African Affairs* as the new third Co-Editor. Ricardo is Professor of the International Politics of Africa at the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford; a fellow of St Peter's College, Oxford; and a fellow of the Global Public Policy Institute, Berlin. He is the author of *Magnificent and Beggar Land: Angola Since the Civil War* (2015) and *Oil and Politics in the Gulf of Guinea* (2007) and the co-editor of *China Returns to Africa* (2008). His research interests include the political economy of natural resources; conflict, intervention and post-conflict reconstruction; and African-Asian relations.

## Most Read Article published in 2018

The most read article published in 2018 was 'Responding to land-based conflict in Ethiopia: The land rights of ethnic minorities under federalism' by Tom Lavers, Volume 117, Issue 468, July 2018, with 4,497 full-text downloads.

# AFRICAN ARGUMENTS

*African Arguments* is a pan-African platform for news analysis, comment and opinion. We seek to analyse the key issues facing the continent, investigate the stories that matter and amplify a diversity of voices.

## Readership

In 2018, *African Arguments* received over 1.3 million page views and had over 765,000 unique users. Our readership in Africa was once again the largest portion of our audience.

We published over 200 articles in the course of the year, over two-thirds of which were authored by writers of African descent. *African Arguments* articles were syndicated widely in African national newspapers as well as international outlets including through a new partnership with *Le Monde Afrique*.

## Analyse

*African Arguments* published extensively on both key developments and under-reported issues facing the continent. We covered a fast-changing Ethiopia; elections in Zimbabwe; the uncertain situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo; protests in Uganda, Sudan and Togo; and much more from a wide range of original angles.

We ran a series entitled *The Thin Red Line* on the shifting relations between countries in the Horn of Africa and Gulf states. The special focus examined the issue from several different perspectives and featured in-depth essays from leading experts on the subject.

## Investigate

*African Arguments* conducted a number of investigative pieces in 2018, including an extensively-researched piece from Tanzania on the sale of large tracts of land to investors. Other highlights included a three-part series on what has been described as "Eastern Africa's largest and most ambitious infrastructure project", investigating the effects of development on three key hubs along the project.

## Amplify

*African Arguments* further expanded its roster of journalists, analysts and commentators. We worked with scores of different writers including many young up-and-coming writers on the continent.

## Insiders Newsletter

In 2018, we launched a new spin-off product to provide extra insights for paying subscribers. Our weekly newsletter has attracted over a hundred subscribers already. Any profits generated will be reinvested into *African Arguments*' core free content.

## Looking Ahead: Open Society Foundation grant

*African Arguments* was awarded a grant of \$65,000 over two years (2019–2020) from the Open Society Foundation. The funding is to hire a deputy editor and expand our commissioning budget. The grant will help create extra capacity that will go towards publishing and fundraising further to ensure the website's sustainability.



## ASAUK CONFERENCE 2018

The 27th biennial conference of the African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUK) was held on 11-13 September 2018 at the University of Birmingham, home to outgoing ASAUK President Insa Nolte. With 111 speakers, over 800 delegates and 15 exhibitors, contributing to 40 streams and 166 panels, 16 round tables, and 7 book launches, this was the Association's largest conference yet. There was a strong African presence with 19 thematic streams being organised by a colleague based on the continent, and 188 delegates coming from institutions across Africa. Feedback on social media was overwhelmingly positive, with many comments on the high quality and timeliness of presentations and discussions.

The excellent academic content reflected a high level of international and in particular African participation, with 19 thematic streams organised by a colleague based on the continent, and 188 delegates from institutions across Africa. The conference was opened with a welcome address by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, Professor Sir David Eastwood. Professor Grace Musila from the University of the Witwatersrand gave the conference keynote address on 'MAKHUMALO'S SPAZA SHOP - LENA MOI'S DANCE'.

### Awarding Excellence

At the conference dinner on 12 September 2018, the Audrey Richards Prize for the best dissertation in African Studies 2016-17 was awarded to Dr Simukai Chigudu, with runners-up Dr Nicki Kindersley and Dr Clara Devlieger.

The Fage and Oliver Prize for the best monograph in African Studies published or distributed in the UK in 2016-17 was awarded to Professor Francis Nyamnjoh for #RhodesMustFall: Nibbling at Resilient Colonialism in South Africa.

The Distinguished Africanist awards for 2017 and 2018 were awarded to Professor Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias FBA and Professor Karin Barber FBA. The Presidential Address focused on the topic "The future of African Studies: What we should do to keep Africa at the heart of our discipline".

### African Delegates and UK Visa Refusals

Attendance by African delegates was supported by a large number of conference bursaries from a range of institutions, over 50 of which were advertised, awarded, and administered by the conference organisers, often in close collaboration with stream and panel organisers.

To support the visa process for African delegates, the organisers worked closely with the University of Birmingham to provide 187 invitation letters for visa purposes and forwarded the GWF visa application numbers of delegates to UKVI and the relevant British Embassies and High Commissions.

The ASAUK President, together with the Director of the Royal African Society, also successfully challenged five visa rejections or delays. Unfortunately, by the time of the conference there were nonetheless 15 documented visa refusals and two visa application decisions were delayed so much that conference delegates missed the beginning of the conference.

Delegates at ASAUK Conference 2018. Credit: Victoria Beddoes.

The 28th biennial ASAUK conference will be held at Cardiff University in September 2020, home to Professor Ambreena Manji, current ASAUK President.



## ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR AFRICA

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Africa is a cross-party group of around 200 parliamentarians which exists to facilitate mutually beneficial relations between the UK and Africa, and to challenge negative stereotypes of the continent where they persist. The Royal African Society helped establish the Group in 2003 and has since provided the secretariat, research and policy coordination.

### Brexit and the future of Africa-UK trade

In 2018, the APPG remained as active as ever. With Brexit dominating the UK's political agenda, the group hosted regular high-level meetings throughout the year to keep abreast of the Government's evolving trade intentions post-Brexit and responses to it, including meetings with the Africa Directors at DFID, the UK Minister for Africa and Ghana's Minister for Trade & Industry.

### Supporting the African Continental Free Trade Area

Following the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) brokered by the African Union in March 2018, the APPG also sought to build parliamentary support for the AU's regional trade ambitions by submitting evidence to two parliamentary committees – one scrutinising the Trade Bill and the other post-Brexit trade with the Commonwealth and developing countries.

To push further support for AfCFTA, the APPG convened two meetings on the fringes of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in April 2018, including a briefing with the UK's Africa Trade Commissioner, ahead of the Commonwealth Business Forum, and a post-CHOGM feedback session with the UK's Minister of State for the Commonwealth & the UK. Following these meetings, the APPG made presentations to

the Secretary of State for International Trade to ask the Department for International Trade to support AfCFTA in any future trade negotiations.

### Keeping Africa on the UK Government's agenda

Other activities in 2018 included a breakfast with both the AU's Trade Commissioner and the Lord Mayor of the City of London and a roundtable on Africa's private debt levels with the ODI and the IMF's Regional Director for Africa. A continued focus on strengthening UK-Africa collaboration for tech innovation saw the APPG host a public event on the fringes of the Africa Tech Summit London.

To complement the meetings programme, the APPG endeavoured to bring important and neglected issues to the Government's attention through tabling parliamentary questions and supporting debates, including a timely House of Lords debate on the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon at the end of the year.

The APPG's AGM held on 17 October 2018 saw the Group's officers re-elected and a forward agenda set. Aligning with the interests of both parliamentarians and the Society's members, the agenda included three key strands: the UK's Government's Strategic Approach to Africa, digital inclusion and visas and mobility, which will be the focus of the next APPG inquiry report, in response to the high rate of UK visa refusals for African visitors.

## BUSINESS PROGRAMME

At the Royal African Society, we believe the private sector is a key vehicle for achieving sustainable and inclusive growth in Africa. Leveraging our unique position and convening power, we curate high-level events providing a platform for in-depth and solutions-oriented debate with key decision-makers, experts and thought leaders from the worlds of business, government, civil society and academia. In 2018 our business programme explored contemporary trends including impact investment, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and business prospects for Ghana, Malawi and Gabon.

### The SDGs and business in Africa

We began the debate on the SDGs with a high-level dinner held in January 2018, in partnership with CDC Group, focusing on 'mobilising capital to achieve the SDGs in Africa' and featuring Mr Arnold Ekpe, former Group CEO of Ecobank, as the guest speaker. We continued the conversation with two other events, entitled "What do the SDGs mean for business in Africa?" and "SDG Zero Hunger: Driving agricultural transformation in Africa", held in March and September 2018 respectively. Both of these events were delivered in partnership with Dalberg Group, among other partners, and hosted by the London Business School's Africa Club.

### On the margins of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London

The Royal African Society organised three important events on the margins of CHOGM, held in London in April 2018. These included an Economics to Watch breakfast briefing with Ghana's Finance Minister H.E. Ken Ofori-Atta; an investor lunch with President Peter Mutharika of Malawi; and a high-level dinner discussing women's leadership and how to drive women's economic empowerment in Africa. The dinner roundtable, delivered in partnership with CDC Group, featured

a powerful list of African women leaders, including Nunu Ntshingila, Head of Facebook Africa; Debra Mallowah, General Manager at GSK East Africa; and Anne-Marie Chidzero, CEO at Financial Sector Deepening Mozambique.

### High-level dinners/lunches and meetings in Parliament

In addition to the invitation-only dinners and lunches listed above, we also hosted an investor lunch with H.E. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Republic of Gabon, and a VIP dinner following our Annual Lecture with Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia. As part of our corporate membership offer, senior company representatives also received special invitations to high-level meetings and closed briefings convened by the Africa APPG and held in Parliament (see p. 16).

To find out more about the Royal African Society's corporate membership, please visit:

[royafricansociety.org/join-us](https://royafricansociety.org/join-us)



## PUBLIC EVENTS AND ANNUAL LECTURE

Our events programme in 2018 offered a stimulating range of topics for public debate – from Zimbabwean politics to Kenyan history, justice in Chad and transforming tax systems. We welcomed over 2,000 attendees across 27 events and our members gained free or discounted access to all.

### Africa in 2018: Prospects & Forecasts

We kick-started the year with our flagship events in London and Edinburgh discussing the prospects and forecasts for Africa in 2018. Delivered in partnership with the British Council, both panels featured speakers Nanjala Nyabola, an independent political analyst based in Nairobi, and Sethembile Msezane, a visual artist based in Cape Town, both of whom offered valuable insights on Africa's youth movements, social mobilization and the creative industries. The future of Zimbabwe was a hot topic in these conversations – one that we continued later in the year, looking at the political situation post Mugabe, with Kenneth Mufuka, Mandipa Ndlovu, Julia Gallagher, Miles Tendi and Stephen Chan.

### African Arguments Book Series

Presented in partnership with the International Africa Institute and Zed Books, this series tackled some of the most pressing issues affecting the continent today. Mick Moore, Henry Saka, Jalia Kangave and Chris Cramer debated taxation – from tax evasion by multinational corporations and African elites to attempts to create social justice and push economic advancement through tax – while journalists Celeste Hicks, Thierry Cruvellier, JJ Wangui and Amnesty International researcher Gaëtan Mootoo looked at different forms of regional and grassroots justice in Africa, focusing on the African Union-backed trial of Chad's former dictator Hissène Habré.

### Literature Matters

We also held a series of special events on literature and non-fiction writing featuring speakers from Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa. In February 2018, we held an all-day celebration of the life and work of the late Nigerian novelist Buchi Emecheta in collaboration with a handful of partners. In spring, we marked five years of the Ugandan literary organisation *Writivism* and we welcomed Kenyan writer Peter Kimani to present his book 'Dance of the Jakaranda'; and in the autumn, South African journalist Simone Haysom joined us to present her book on crime and policing on the Cape Flats.

### Breaking barriers to African women's leadership

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia and Nobel Peace Laureate delivered our 2018 Annual Lecture to a packed auditorium at the Victoria & Albert Museum, reflecting on her own career and encouraging the next generation of African women leaders.

Royal African Society Public Events are available to stream or download as podcasts from:

[mixcloud.com/royafrisoc](https://mixcloud.com/royafrisoc)

“

Transformational change can start with one step – one brave woman, one young person who steps up to lead.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf  
Former President of Liberia  
& Nobel Peace Laureate

”

Audience Members at the Royal African Society 2018 Annual Lecture. Credit: Ivan Gonzalez.



# AFRICA WRITES 2018

Established in 2012, Africa Writes has become a leading platform to promote, discuss and celebrate contemporary African writing in the UK. The festival returned for its seventh edition from Friday 29 June to Sunday 1 July 2018, taking place at The British Library and Rich Mix, attracting 1,500 attendees. Over 60 writers and contributors took part hailing from more than 15 African countries. Foregrounding the women and queer writers who are changing the face of African literature today, the main themes explored over the three days included history, memory and spirituality.

## Headline Events

Poet Yomi Sode opened the festival with his deeply personal one-man show COAT, exploring migration, identity and displacement. Inspired by the blockbuster Black Panther, on Saturday night we took over the Rich Mix with a Wakanda-themed 'Year of the Womxn' party co-programmed with the Octavia Poetry Collective for Women of Colour. This event was BSL-interpreted and featured all of the collective's women poets including Momtaza Mehri, the 2018 Young People's Laureate for London. Opening the event, celebrated author and long-time advocate for writers of colour Bernardine

Evaristo rallied the crowd with a powerful battle speech on 'Warrior Womxn Writers'.

## High-brow Weekend Fun

The weekend programme was packed with panel discussions covering the intriguing history of African literary figures Phillis Wheatley and ABC Merriam-Labour in Georgian and Edwardian London; translation and inter-generational interactions in Somali literature; and the power of queer womxn's voices in contemporary African literature. We also marked the launch of a number of exciting new book titles, including 'Brit(ish)' by

Royal African Society Council member Afua Hirsch, 'The Hundred Wells of Salaga' by Ayesha Harruna Attah and 'Freshwater' by Akwaeke Emezi. At a key moment for Zimbabwe, young writers Panashe Chigumadzi and Novuyo Rosa Tshuma launched their respective new books 'These Bones Will Rise Again' and 'House of Stone', presenting new ways of telling the nation's history and discussing its future.

## Something for Everyone

The British Library came alive with conversation and laughter during the three days of *Africa Writes*. Budding writers, families and translators got involved in participatory workshops, shelves of books were stacked up high and then quickly emptied at the buzzing book fair and people talked and networked in between sessions. Attendees – half of whom were new to the festival – travelled from as far as Singapore, Brazil and the USA. This is a true testament to the growing audience demand for contemporary African writing, which *Africa Writes* shall continue to cater to.

“

It's important to acknowledge pain as well as joy. When it comes to African discourse, we always want to emphasize the violence . . . I am going to resist that and focus on how people try to express themselves in the fullness of who they are.

Bibi Bakare-Yusuf  
Founder of Cassava Republic Press

”

## AFRICA WRITES 2019

Africa Writes 2019 will take place from Friday 5 to Sunday 7 July at The British Library.





## FILM AFRICA 2018

The 8th edition of *Film Africa* took place from Friday 2 to Sunday 11 November 2018 at five different venues – the BFI Southbank, Rich Mix, The Ritzy, Bernie Grant Arts Centre and the South London Gallery. At just over 3,000, our audiences were young and diverse with 55% being of African heritage and 70% falling into the 16-40 age bracket. The festival presented 39 films from 22 different countries (15 of which were African), including 23 World, European or London Premieres, and hosted 16 African filmmakers for Q&As and panel discussions.

### Thematic Strands

Alongside new releases, the festival featured regional and thematic strands of contemporary relevance including *Afrobubblegum: Kenya's Movie Mavericks*, inspired by a term coined by director Wanuri Kahiu to describe 'a fun, fierce and frivolous representation of Africa'; *Up[Rooted]*, a selection of films reflecting on the sacrifice made by migrant communities in pursuit of better homes and futures; *The Naija New Wave*, a selection of titles showcasing the new Nigerian cinema that exists alongside the nation's popular Nollywood; *Young Rebels*, a strand exploring the universal themes of youth and rebellion; and *Film Africa LIVE!* music nights. Film Africa also presented a special strand at Borderlines Film Festival 2018, held in February-March, including four major titles from Algeria, Senegal and South Africa.

### Festival Awards

*Film Africa* continued to recognise and support African filmmaking talent through the jury-selected Baobab Award for Best Short Film (long-listed in partnership with the National Film and Television School), which went to Bariga Sugar by young writer, producer and director Ifeoma Chukwuogo from Nigeria; and the popular Film Africa Audience Award for Best Feature Film, which went to *Supa Modo* by first-time Kenyan director Likarion Wainaina.

### Film Africa Travel Grants 2019-2020, in partnership with the British Council

Film Africa has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 2011. Now that the festival is well established, we have taken the decision to move to a biennial model, which means we will hold Film Africa every other year. This will ensure the festival's future sustainability and allow us to better manage it as a small charitable organisation.

In this fallow year, we will continue with our mission of mainstreaming African cinema through a travel grants scheme, which will offer African filmmakers the opportunity to attend premier UK film festivals where their work has been invited to screen. Delivered in partnership with the British Council, this pilot scheme is primarily aimed at filmmakers aged 18-35 working in short form film, but first and second feature directors will also be considered.

For more information on Film Africa Travel Grants 2019-2020, please visit:

[www.filmafrica.org](http://www.filmafrica.org)

“Thank you *Film Africa* for the love and appreciation. I dedicate this award to everyone who has suffered loss. May you find your smile, your joy, your hope, your dream and may you find your own *Supa Modo*. Asante sana.”

Likarion Wainaina, Director of *Supa Modo*, winner of the Film Africa 2018 Audience Award

”

Still image from *Supa Modo* directed by Likarion Wainaina.



## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Now in its third year, our Education Programme continues to foster a better understanding of Africa through cultural education, while exploring new areas of activity through outreach and consultation.

### Africa Writes: Young Voices 2018

*Africa Writes Young Voices*, our creative writing workshops programme for schools led by professional facilitators of African descent, continued to spotlight exciting works of African literature for young audiences, whilst developing their creative voices.

In 2018, we worked in six schools with around 100 students, returning to schools we had worked with before to deepen our engagement, as well as bringing new schools into the programme. We saw the confidence of our young writers grow over the course of the programme as they progressed from reading African poetry and fiction, through developing their own writing, to producing powerful live performances.

The writing workshops, delivered by the Octavia Poetry Collective, Afrikult. and Ruth Sutoye, covered material as diverse as Nigerian women's poetry; self-portraiture in words; ghost stories; and performance and African languages. Workshops culminated in a fantastic showcase event held at the British Library as part of *Africa Writes* where the young writers performed their work in front of an audience made up of parents, teachers and other stakeholders.

In 2018 we expanded our programme offer through the curation of book packs for school libraries. We selected texts in partnership with New Beacon Books with a view to impacting on the reading habits of students. We look forward to reviewing what change this intervention will bring about.

### Film Africa: Young Audiences 2018

Working with Picturehouse Cinemas once again, we brought *Film Africa Young Audiences* to 370 young viewers over five school and family screenings – three of which had free admission. The screenings took place over the months of October and November at Greenwich Picturehouse, Hackney Picturehouse, Stratford East Picturehouse and Rich Mix. All included extended introductions or post-screening interactive sessions.

### Collaborations and Consultancy

The Royal African Society is developing a strong presence in the educational landscape. At *Africa Writes 2018* we hosted the panel discussion 'Why African Literature Matters' for education professionals, showcasing our own work alongside the work of other partners such as The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) and the African Women Playwrights Network.

In 2018 we were engaged by Mattel as educational consultants to work on the development of the new character of Nia, a Kenyan steam engine appearing for the first time in the film *Thomas and Friends: Big World! Big Adventures!*, which was one of the titles we screened during *Film Africa 2018*.

Our latest consultancy is with Penguin Ladybird UK, working on a complete refresh of their Key Words series for children in Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda and Kenya. We look forward to seeing the final fruits of this work in 2019.

The showcase event was a fantastic opportunity for children to express themselves in an articulate way, conveying their inner thoughts and feelings... Keep driving the children! I think you are onto something far bigger than expected.

Parent of student who took part in *Africa Writes Young Voices 2018*

Student at *Africa Writes Young Voices 2018*. Credit: Ivan Gonzalez

To find out more about our Education and Outreach Programme, please visit:

[www.royalafricansociety.org/education](http://www.royalafricansociety.org/education)

## OUR MEMBERS

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

Our individual membership is jointly held with the African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUk) – the national academic association for Africanist scholars within the UK – and provides members with a wide range of exclusive benefits and discounts. In 2018, we had a total of 732 members, including 533 individual members, 135 student members, 40 Life Members and 24 ASAUk Associates.

### Corporate Membership

Our corporate membership offers companies 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.

Our corporate members can also contribute to the Society's wide-ranging programmes, from partnering with us on high-level meetings with the Africa APPG to writing articles for *African Arguments* and sponsoring our cultural festivals. In 2018 we had over 40 corporate members and partners from a diverse range of sectors spanning financial and professional services to FMCGs and agribusiness.

### Autumn Networking Reception with our Royal Patron, HRH The Duke of Cambridge

In September 2018, we held an exclusive networking reception with our Royal Patron, HRH The Duke of Cambridge, for our members, partners and key stakeholders. Kindly hosted by the British Academy, in attendance were some of the leading figures from within the Royal African Society's diverse and influential network. The Duke was able to meet and greet some of the guests and find out more about the wide-ranging work of the Society, which he praised in the passionate speech he delivered to the guests. To enjoy future events and opportunities such as this one, join the Royal African Society today!



Reception guests networking. Credit: Ivan Gonzalez



## Membership Benefits

- **FREE subscription** to *African Affairs*, the world's top-rated African Studies journal (worth £82 for individuals and £540 for companies)
- **FREE access** to SOAS Library, the world's largest reference library on Africa (worth £200 for individuals or £450 for companies)
- **FREE or PRIORITY** entry to our flagship Annual Lecture, our festivals and other high-profile events
- **Discounted entry** to the ASAUk's Biennial Conference (£85 discount)
- **Discounted subscription** to *Africa Confidential* (50% off 1st year) and *The Africa Report* (30% off 1st year)
- **Plus exclusive** members' news and many other attractive benefits brokered through our partnerships!

**Individual £85**

**Student £40**

**Friend £120**

**Corporate £2,400**  
inc. VAT



## OUR PARTNERS

Working in partnership is fundamental to our organisational strategy and future. As a charity, the Royal African Society fosters partnerships with organisations in the UK, Africa and internationally, which share our values and objectives. Through our partnerships we aim to increase the impact of our work and that of our partner's, and achieve the following objectives:

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

Our principal partners in 2018 are listed below. Through our partnership framework, we have divided our partnerships into the following categories:

**Corporate Partnerships** with companies operating in Africa, which are based on mutually beneficial relations. In 2018, our corporate donors and partners included **CDC Group, De La Rue, McKinsey & Co, MoneyGram, Shell, Standard Chartered, TPG Growth, Unilever, Wilderness Safaris and WorldRemit.**

**Event and Programme Partnerships**, which help us develop, enhance and deliver our events and programmes. In 2018 these included the **Africa Club at London Business School, the British Library, British Academy, the National Film and Television School and the Victoria and Albert Museum, among many others.**

**Funding Partnerships**, which enable our programmes to grow and flourish. In 2018, our funding partners included the **Amersi Foundation, Arts Council England, BFI Audience Fund, Foyle Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation and the Miles Morland Foundation.**

**Impact Partnerships**, which help us to deepen our engagement with organisations and academics to widen the impact of their research, as required by the Research Excellence Framework. This is a growing area of partnership work for the Royal African Society, which we hope to expand on in 2019 and beyond.

**Media and Marketing Partnerships** leveraged by our global network of over one million people. In 2018 we set up media partnerships and reciprocal marketing partnerships with **AFREADA, Colourful Radio, gal-dem, Granta, Lit Hub and Nataal.**

**Strategic Partnerships** with organisations and institutions, which help us to have a bigger impact. In 2018, we held strategic partnerships with the **British Council and SOAS.**

We also regularly consult our beneficiaries and other key stakeholders, which allows us to develop our programmes towards greater accessibility and contemporary relevance.



H.E. President Peter Mutharika of Malawi at an investor lunch. Credit: Ivan Gonzalez

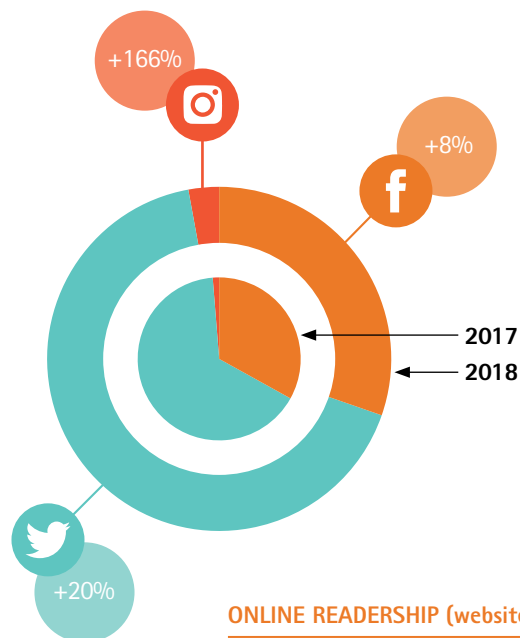
If you would like to partner with us,  
please get in touch by emailing:

[ras@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ras@soas.ac.uk)



## OUR AUDIENCES AND IMPACT

At the Royal African Society we now reach almost two million people globally through our events, festivals, publications, online platforms and social media channels. Our audiences are diverse and reflective of the continent's youthful demographic with almost half of them under the age of 35. Our audience reach and impact grew significantly in 2018. Below are some key stats and figures that demonstrate our impact.



### SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWING

2017	2018	Growth
39k	42.2k	+8%

2017	2018	Growth
77.5k	93k	+20%

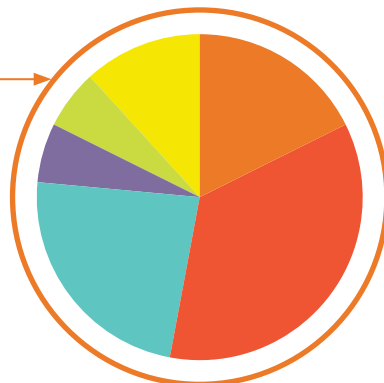
2017	2018	Growth
1.5k	4k	+166%

### ONLINE READERSHIP (websites)

2017 1.9M Hits	2018 2.2M	+17%
2017 1.1M Unique Users	2018 1.2M	+18%

### OVERALL LIVE AUDIENCES in 2018: 8,500

- Africa Writes: 1,500
- Film Africa: 3,000
- Public Events: 2,000
- Invitation-only Events: 500
- Education & Outreach: 500
- ASAUK Conference: 1,000



## THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank our donors, partners, members and every individual and organisation who contributed to the success of the Royal African Society in 2018. Our charitable work is made possible through your continued support and participation.

We thank the Co-Editors of *African Affairs* – Lindsay Whitfield, Carl Death, Peace A. Medie and Ricardo Soares de Oliveira; Vanessa Lacey, Senior Publisher at Oxford University Press, along with the rest of the team at OUP; and the many contributors to the journal, which was once again the top-rated African Studies journal.

Huge thanks to Zeinab Badawi, our beloved Chair who gives so generously of her time to moderate our trustees' meetings and many of our high-level events; to Baroness Valerie Amos, Director of SOAS, for continuing to house us and allowing us to be a part of the university; to Dr Insa Nolte and Professor Ambreena Manji, former and current presidents of our sister organisation, ASAUK; and to 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 and contribute significantly to our mission.

Our most appreciative thanks to all our supporters and principle partners in 2018 (listed on p. 28). Miles Morland of the Miles Morland Foundation and George Weston of the Garfield Weston Foundation deserve a special mention for their long-standing support and unwavering belief in the Society's mission and work. Our Council members – Mohamed Amersi, founder of the Amersi Foundation, and 'Jide Olanrewaju, Partner at TPG Growth – were both instrumental in increasing our core grants and donations in 2018 and we are very thankful for their support.

Our 2018 corporate and public events, the Africa APPG meetings, our *Africa Writes* and *Film Africa* festivals, our news and analysis site *African Arguments* and our Education and Outreach programme were delivered in collaboration with a wide range of partners, guest speakers and contributors – too many to mention here – all of whom we are very grateful for. Finally, to all our interns, volunteers and friends who devoted time voluntarily to the work of the Society – Thank You! We could not have done it without you!







# JOIN US IN 2019

CONNECT | LEARN | DEBATE | CELEBRATE

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## FIND OUT MORE

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