



## **Programme LeidenASA Annual Meeting**

13 December 2018, 14:00-17:00

Venue: Museum Volkenkunde, Steenstraat 1, Leiden

**14:00 Registration and coffee/tea**

**14:30 Prof. Jan-Bart Gewald** *Word of welcome*

**14:45 Keynote by Dr Amanda Hammar** (Centre of African Studies, University of Copenhagen)  
*Proximities: Reflections on Spatial and Temporal Positionalities in Knowing and Speaking 'Africa'*  
(Abstract below)

**15:30 Questions for Dr Amanda Hammar**

**15:50 Dr Yves van Leynseele (UvA, Chair of the Jury for the Africa Thesis Award)** presents the award to this year's winner Cynthia Olufade (University of Ibadan, Nigeria)

**16:00 Africa Thesis Award winner Cynthia Olufade** talks about her thesis *Oath taking and the transnationalism of silence among Edo female sex workers in Italy*  
(Abstract below and see also the [ASCL website](#) for more information)

**16:30 Questions for Cynthia Olufade**

**16:50 The chairs on LeidenASA 2018 in retrospect, what to expect in 2019, and lifting a tip of the Africa 2020 veil**

**17:15 Drinks**

## **Amanda Hammar**

Centre of African Studies, University of Copenhagen

### **Proximities: Reflections on Spatial and Temporal Positionalities in Knowing and Speaking 'Africa'**

We live in an era in which, increasingly, notions of 'decolonising' and 'theorising from the South' are generating important challenges to the production of knowledge in and about Africa, and to representations about African realities. This necessarily produces complex tensions within different contexts, and not least in African Studies itself, around who does, or can, or should 'legitimately' produce such knowledge, or speak knowingly about Africa. This talk will reflect on some of the questions that spatial and temporal proximities – that is, forms of closeness and distance – in relation to Africa, raise in defining and legitimizing knowing and speaking positions about African realities.

**Amanda Hammar** is a professor of African Studies and Director of the Centre of African Studies at the University of Copenhagen. A Zimbabwean, in a former life she worked for the newly independent Zimbabwe state and in several development arenas in southern Africa, before beginning doctoral studies in Denmark in the late 1990s. Informed by attention to crisis and its complex effects especially in southern African settings, her research has often addressed the links between authority, property, citizenship, and modes of belonging and (violent) exclusion. Her publications include the edited volumes, *Zimbabwe's Unfinished Business: Rethinking Land, State and Nation in the Context of Crisis* (2003, Weaver Press), and *Displacement Economies in Africa: Paradoxes of Crisis and Creativity* (2014, Zed Books), and most recently 'Certifications of citizenship: reflections through an African lens' (2018, *Contemporary South Asia*), 'Urban Displacement and Resettlement in Zimbabwe: Reshaping Property, Authority and Citizenship' (2017, *African Studies Review*) and "'Becoming Mozambicanised': Nostalgic amnesia among Zimbabweans adapting to 'disorder' in Mozambique' (*African Studies*, 2017). She is currently working on a project on property and personhood based on long-term fieldwork on urban displacement and resettlement in Zimbabwe. She is on the board of AEGIS (Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies) and of the Nordic African Research Network (NARN).

## **Cynthia Olufade**

Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan (Nigeria)

### **Oath taking and the transnationalism of silence among Edo female sex workers in Italy**

This study aims to interrogate the oath taking phenomenon among Edo female sex workers in Italy - in a bid to understand how the oaths taken back home in Edo State, Nigeria, translate into an intangible aspect of the trafficking process.

To achieve the aims of the study, the research utilized the qualitative method of data collection. It involved the use of in-depth interviews with 22 female returnees from Italy, 2 juju priests, 6 NAP TIP (Nigerian governmental organization against human trafficking) officials, 2 'trolleys', 3 heads of charity organizations in Benin and 1 prince. Observations were also carried out with the said returnees and some sex workers on the field.

The research reveals that the transnational silence exhibited by different categories of actors in the sex work network sustains the industry. The study also reveals that the oaths form only a part, albeit important, of the construction of debt and bondage in the context of Edo transnational sex work. In light of its findings, the study concludes that the idea of transnationalism of silence is as effective as the oaths taken in the context of Edo transnational sex work.

**Cynthia Olufade** completed an MA in African Studies (Diaspora and Transnational Studies) at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan (Nigeria) in March 2018.