

AFSAAP Symposium 2023 (24 – 25 May)

Session 2

History, the Colonial Archive and New Directions in African Studies

Convenor: Helen Ware

University of New England

Jack Caldwell's contribution to African Social Sciences

By David Lucas and Helen Ware

Australian National University & University of New England

This paper discusses the contribution of Professor John Caldwell (globally known as Jack) to African social sciences, in the five decades after 1962.

Jack had a world-wide reputation and won the United Nations Population Award in 2004. A 2009 survey of 730 of his peers ranked him as the most respected demographer of all time.

Jack was better known in Africa than in Australia. He had an estimated 600 publications on African demography. In 1964, he joined the staff of the University of Ghana in 1964 where he published the first of his 27 books with *Population Growth and Family Change in Africa*. His most highly cited articles covered rural-urban migration, education and mortality decline, the cultural context of high fertility, and the social context of AIDS.

In the 1970s, the Changing African Family Study (CAF) investigated the pre-conditions of fertility decline, began in 12 countries, with a novel emphasis on anthropological methods

In 1993, Riedmann published *Science that Colonizes*, attacking the Western morality of the Nigerian CAF. Essentially, she objected to research on contraception in Africa as a neo colonial imposition.

In 1989 Jack began his work on behavioral health and sexual networking in Nigeria and Africa. The United Nations later recognised his research on framing the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa as “unparalleled”.

Jack's legacy survives in the African social scientists he trained and in the use of mixed methods in African demography.

The Authors

Between 1959 and 1973 David Lucas worked for the Governments of Basutoland/Lesotho and Kenya, and as the Population Council's Demographic Adviser at the University of Lagos. Since 1976 he has been a demographer at The Australian National University.

Helen Ware is the Foundation Professor of Peace Studies at the University of New England in Armidale. She worked with Jack Caldwell over many years and was the Field Director of the Changing African Family Project throughout the 1970s. Facilitated by Zoom, she now teaches and works with a

range of African PhD students researching issues relating to peace, governance and decolonization from Sierra Leone to Sudan. She was formerly Australian High Commissioner to Zambia, Malawi, and Namibia, and Ambassador to Angola.

Historians and the Archive: Writing indentured labour in South Africa

Goolam Vahed

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Recent overviews of indenture studies in South Africa have been critical of the indenture-as[1]slavery paradigm and underscore the limitations of land-based studies. In particular, there are calls for a pivot to the ocean. Here lies fluidity and plurality, and transformation. Alongside this is the argument that reference to race (Indian) in such studies implies essentialising and making absolute that which does not exist. This presentation will undertake an overview of the historiography of indentured labour in South Africa, including the historiographic shifts over the past three decades. Newer approaches focus on the agency, resistance and resilience of the indentured. In exploring migrants' lived experiences, such works effectively critique systemic histories. This study will look at newer approaches to indenture studies, including fiction, "critical fabulation", and "factional" writing. While these approaches enrich our understanding of indenture and its meanings for migrants, it will also be argued that it is shortsighted to hastily abandon the (colonial) archive, which still has a role to play in the recovery of the story of indenture and remains relevant as we ask new questions of the past.

Biography

Goolam Vahed is a Professor in the Department of History at the University of KwaZulu Natal. He received his PhD from Indiana University, Bloomington, USA. His research interests include identity formation, citizenship, ethnicity, migration and transnationalism among Indian South Africans and the role of sport and culture in South African society. He has published widely in peer-reviewed journals. His most recent co-authored books are *Durban's Casbah. Bioscopes, Bolsheviks, and Bunny Chows* (UKZN Press, 2023), *The Natal Indian Congress, 1971-1994* (Johannesburg: Wits University Press, 2021), and *History of the Present. A Biography of Indian South Africans, 1994–2019* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2019).

Afroenigmatism: The rise and fall (and rise again?) of African Studies in Australia

Valentine Mukuria

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This paper addresses the question(s), what is the state of African Studies today? and how is the Global South discussed in African Studies? The paper begins by providing an overview of the state of African Studies today, taking as its spring-board the 2003 paper "The State of African Studies in Australia" by Tanya Lyons and Elizabeth Dimock. What have been the developments and stagnations of African Studies in Australia in the past two decades, and how should African Studies be propelled into the next two decades? The response to the first part of this question will be analysed through the lens of afroenigmatism, a self-coined concept that

speaks to the lure of investigating, exploring and understanding things African, and yet there remaining an elusiveness about how and why things change, without really changing, in Africa. The response to the second part of the question will discuss pedagogical considerations in teaching African Studies, that leverage African ways of knowing, and contest the hegemonic structures that continue to dictate the content of African Studies. The paper argues that African Studies have been driven by the content, prevalence, uptake and skewed interest and fascination of the Global North, thereby perpetuating the cycles of hierarchical colonisation histories without offering a genuine break to this cycle. The paper therefore concludes by proposing considerations for teaching, research and engagement through African Studies, starting with African ways of knowing as the legitimate base and foundation of understanding “things African” well enough to teach them in African Studies.

Biography

Dr Valentine Mukuria is the Campus Dean at the Australian Catholic University in Blacktown. Valentine holds a doctorate in educational policy and leadership from the Ohio State University (USA), a master’s degree in international business administration from Alliant International University (San Diego, California) and bachelor’s degree in international business administration (Nairobi, Kenya). Valentine’s expertise is in university-community engagement and has worked extensively in designing and delivering service-learning curriculum in higher education institutions in Australia, USA, Canada, and Kenya. Valentine is currently undertaking a second doctorate investigating the role of universities in addressing the protracted refugee situation in Kenya.