

British Africa policy after Labour: Coalition, austerity, continuity and change
ESRC Seminar Series: Meeting 5 of 7
Oxford Brookes University, Wednesday 1st July 2015

Trade in UK-Africa Relations

This is the fifth seminar in an ESRC-funded series on UK Africa policy after Labour. Trade has long been seen as playing a (perhaps too) dominant role in UK-Africa relations. This seminar considers bilateral trade relations and the role of the coalition government in influencing both EU trade negotiations with Africa, and the multilateral agenda within the World Trade Organisation. In addition we will focus on the continued growth of fair trade markets in the UK and their consequences for African development. The UK is also home to a vast array of non-state actors such as the Trade Justice Movement, who seek to lobby the UK government on its trade policy. The seminar will also consider their role and effectiveness in shaping the debate on UK-Africa trade relations.

**Programme (Venue JHB128 [Executive Suite], John Henry Brookes Building,
Gypsy Lane Campus, Headington, Oxford)**

10.30 – 11.00 Registration and coffee

11.00 – 12.30 **Panel 1: The UK and African Development: Fair trade and/or trade justice?** (Chair, David Anderson)

Liz May (Head of Policy, Traidcraft) – *Challenging the UK Government to bring fairer trade closer: reigning in the supermarkets, re-thinking investment agreements and delivering access to justice*

Stephen Hurt (Oxford Brookes University) – *British Campaigns for African Development: The Trade Justice Movement*

12.30 – 13.15 Lunch

13.15 – 15.30 **Panel 2: UK-Africa Trade in a Changing Global Context** (Chair, Jonathan Fisher)

14.45 [Tea and coffee arrives]

Robin Gwynn (FCO Additional Director for Africa, and UK Envoy for the Sudans, 2011-13; since early 2014 has been a business consultant on Africa, with Lonrho and other companies) - *The development and significance of the UK government's view of trade relations with Africa*

Peg Murray-Evans (University of York) – *Agency, Resistance and Regional Disunity: Negotiating an Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and Southern Africa*

John Hilary (Executive Director, War on Want) – *Trade, investment and the 21st Century Scramble for Africa*