

EAST AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
RESEARCH: CONFERENCE PAPERS
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THE THIRD CULTURE IN THE THIRD WORLD

On behalf of the Social Sciences Faculty, Makerere College, it is my pleasant duty to welcome you all to this the first, Conference to be held under the auspices of the University of East Africa Social Science Council.

We are indeed honoured by the presence of the Minister of Education in the Uganda Government, Dr. Luyimbazi-Zake, who has kindly consented to open the Conference, which we very much appreciate, and the Permanent Secretary for Education Mr. Rwetsiba. And we welcome all our participants and visitors from outside East Africa, from Zambia, Ruanda, Ethiopia, Rhodesia, Ghana, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland, France, Germany, Britain, the United States, and Japan.

To Kampa~~la~~ of course we welcome our colleagues from Kenya and Tanzania.

The USSC exists to promote interchanges of all kinds between the Social Sciences Faculties in the three colleges of the University. It is particularly appropriate that it should have invited the East African Institute of Social Research to organize this week's Conference, the first to be held under USSC auspices. The first Director of the Institute, Dr. Stanner was appointed in 1948. Its research programme started in 1950. Its first research report, covering its first three years of work, lists projects in a number of fields in the social sciences - social anthropology, linguistics, sociology, demography and social psychology, carried out in each of the three countries in East Africa. The current annual report of the Institute, which is available here on the table, lists projects in similar fields. But the emphasis, according to discipline, has changed with the times. And, to meet East Africa's present needs there are more surveys, case studies of development projects, and policy-oriented research, than previously.

In the Departments within the Faculty, Economics, Political Science and Public Administration, Sociology, and the Unit for Social work and Social Administration, teaching and research both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, fortunately for all concerned, has to a large extent anticipated high level manpower needs for social scientists in both the public and private sectors. We are then increasingly able to meet East African needs from East African resources, given co-operation on an inter-territorial basis.

At the University College in Nairobi, an Institute of Development Studies has been started, and at the University College at Dar es Salaam, there is an Economics research centre. Outside the University, but linked with it in various ways, in Uganda a higher school for public administration is being built, and the teaching of social and legal studies at Nsamizi is expanding. There is the Kenya Institute of Administration, and the Kenya-Israel School of Social Work. In Tanzania, there is Kivukoni College and the Nyegezi Social Research Institute, and I have just learnt of the Tanzania Government's decision to establish, at Tengeru, a Survey and Evaluation Unit, to study the needs and attitudes related to social and economic change within the overall context of Community Development.

I am sure you would wish me to express our good wishes for the success of this new institution which, professionally staffed, could perform a most important function in the development planning process.

In addition, operating broadly within all three countries we have the East African Staff College, and the East African Academy.

In the face of this very wide range of activity in the social sciences, and the great variety of the types of social science research now in progress, it is not surprising that the organizers of this Conference found it difficult to decide on any particular themes, save in the case of two Symposium sessions, one on the recent election in Tanzania, and the other on land settlement schemes. The rest of the 70 or 80 contributions have simply been grouped either individually, or by discipline.

Lying somewhere between what C.P. Snow termed "the two cultures", that is the technological sciences and the arts, we could speak of the social sciences (with acknowledgement to Professor James Coleman's recent work) as the third culture. Africa, in its decolonization, rapid development planning, its receipt of foreign aid from the two worlds of the East and the West, and its expenditure of this foreign aid in its own ideological way, is part of what some have called the third world.

If there is one common theme that will run through most of our discussions, it is, simply, the importance of the third culture, in the third world, as we see it.

To dilate on this for a moment, it must be observed that the place of the social sciences in Africa in the colonial interlude, sometimes was even more of an expansion of Europe overseas than was so in other matters. Certainly in many cases there was an academic economy of colonialism, geared so to speak to meeting to needs, and satisfying the intellectual tastes, essentially of the metropolitan country, which sent out its scholars to quarry out whatever they could in the time available.

The role of the social sciences in Africa today is, or should be, in contrast to this. It is far more dedicated to institution-building. And we are moving more and more towards closer integration of teaching and research. But we labour still under a handicap. By far the greater part of social research is sponsored by external funding bodies. While we are most indebted to them, a great stride forward would follow if more research appointments in the University could be financed from East African sources than is presently the case.

At the same time, both the faculty and research student bodies could be made more inter-African in character than is presently the case if Governments and University Grants Committees could see their way to facilitating more international exchanges. Possibly the Organization for African Unity, and UNECA, would be the appropriate bodies to initiate discussions on this important subject on an all-Africa basis.

There is now a vast corpus of substantive research in the social sciences in East Africa (almost 500 titles of books, pamphlets and papers are associated with the EASR alone), and the USSC quarterly newsletter will make the nature and extent of urging research more widely known. In addition to this substantive research, several social scientists (and others) this past month at Makerere for example (and I have no doubt that the situation is not very different in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi), have been directly and in some cases full-time employed on plan evaluation work for Government. Others serve on Working Parties - on Minimum Wages, Transport, Banking, Central Planning, and so on. Others are members of Committees, Adjudication Boards and Statutory Bodies. We divide our time between our University teaching and research duties, and these other commitments which include lecturing and tutoring in Government training programmes. The Department of Sociology during the past long vacation, carried out a social survey of Kampala to find out the answers to some questions bothering the Kampala town planners. This exercise, which relied mainly on student manpower, at the time contributed to their coursework and practical experience, and satisfied some immediate Government needs.

In view of all this, you can imagine that I was amazed to see in the high level manpower estimates for a five year period in one country in East Africa, that, generically, the social sciences were not included at all in one vital section. If, in such statistics, the contribution made by the social sciences at the present time to development planning is concealed, and the financial costs of it are concealed, then a Conference like this one can only have the advantage to all concerned of identifying the social sciences as an entity in their own right, alongside the sciences and the arts, and of bringing this third culture to wider notice.

I would now invite our Minister of Education, Dr. Zake kindly to open our proceedings.

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OPENING OF EAST AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
BY
DR. LUYIMBAZI-ZAKE

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The Chairman, Ladies and gentlemen:

I am grateful to the Chairman for associating me with this year's annual conference of East African Institute of Social Research by asking me to give the opening address.

I am also particularly delighted because although I am an active politician my heart lies in research. This interest of mine in research goes back to 1954 when I started practising law here at home and then found that every week I handled one case or another which involved not only conflicts of personal laws which governed the interests of the parties to the disputes but also sometimes conflicts in the attitude of the disputants. If one party to the conflict was of Asian origin and the other African and the dispute was over real property you have a conflict in the attitudes of the parties because "property" does not mean the same thing to both people. Thus my client once told me, "you just win the case never mind the law". There was also another added aspect of the conflict of the total picture. This was the projection of the conflicts of culture in the mind of lay-judges of the native courts as they were called then. In the handling of disputes which came before them for decision. This I found so fascinating that I had to give up my legal practice in 1957 to go back to University for more. I first went to the University of Chicago where I read comparative law. It was there that I was advised by Professor Max Rheinstin to go to Northwestern University to study Anthropology and to pursue inquiry in the problems that fired my enthusiasm and studied under the direction of Professor Paul Bohanam the late Professor Henskovitz and in the programme of African Studies there. Ever since then the more I participate in practising politics the more my love for research is whetted and perhaps the only mitigating circumstance is the fact that I find that practical politics in itself is one long research project.

I do not have any particular topic to address you on since my function is merely to open this conference. I would, however, like to emphasize the need for applied research as distinguished from purely academic research. Since the commencement of this Institute 1948 a lot of people have come and gone; a very great deal of ink has been spent on paper. Much of the materials that has been produced lies somewhere in the archives of one University or another all over the world. Some of this material have found themselves in book form and are lying on the shelves of many libraries in many parts of the world. The question that I want to pose is how much of those books or papers have we ourselves here at home put to use? This of course is the area of applied research. Far be it from me to discourage or speak disparagingly of research but at the moment here in Uganda there is so much that we have to do that applied research must hold first place, that is to say, I would like to ask those who are involved in research in Uganda especially if they are teaching here or intending to teach here or they are our own nationals to address themselves to this problem so that we are assisted in our own national planning.

I know that already some work which has been done at the Institute is being of value to our planning bureau and this we appreciate very much. Nevertheless, we have not yet established the basis upon which to make calculations necessary for informed conclusions in our plans whether they are in the area of economic and industrial development or whether they are in the area of social development.

At the moment we rely rather a lot on figures from our various government offices, but I personally believe differently. We have, and I am sorry to say this, also been hounded by pamphlets from everywhere for our man power needs. I am not a great believer in manpower projections and I defy anybody to say to the people of this nation how many, for example engineers, teachers, we shall need in the next five years, for the very simple reason that no man gauge need. My view therefore is that we should proceed along the path of pragmatic pluralism which as you might know is a term I have borrowed from somewhere and in this is we are to be guided by the political feelings of our people which we can always gauge through our political and administrative units. Then, we would intensify inquiry in the various aspects of our national life for example in local produce marketing, who controls the market, to what extent, why so much is bought and by whom and what happens to those who do not buy and who does what and so on; or to take a problem much recently looked and that is the one of domestic relations between man and woman. We have to ask, first, what is marriage and divorce in our own community? What happens to the divorced and their children? Who takes care of the children; what sort of problem does this mean for the national welfare and so on? Or again what is property in our own community? Does it mean just the earth and everything fixed there on or does it mean the earth itself and then the house built there or do we simply have the English Law of property? Findings from all these inquiries would then guide us in our pragmatic planning so that as time goes on we would establish not only a changing consensus of opinion on the ways of our lives but also on how to direct the planning and laws we need. In a developing country people's thinking changes rather fast and so must state operations. Value judgments are of course to be made by those in the cabinet. What now we are doing is to make a so called "intelligent guess of our needs" of say, doctors, teachers, health visitors, shopkeepers, Enguli Breweries, then having done that we sit down to plan how we get those. This seems to be putting the cart before the horse. What we are really doing is projecting how many teachers, doctors, engineers, etc. we can get through our educational system at a certain given pace. And this does not represent our needs. It merely represents our efforts.

Out of all that I have said one need stands out and that is a correlation of our research efforts. What Kwashiorcor people are doing should be correlated with that the people in the agricultural research centres are doing and this in time to be connected with whatever research is going on in the pharmacautical department. We in schools are also in very great need of research especially in such matters as the types of examinations to conduct in our schools and also the marking of the answers and so on. All this is needed to guide those who are involved in planning for the nation. This really means that we must establish a National Research Council. Research projects going on in the various parts of the country but correlation should be done at some point and it seems to me that since we already have got a Social Research Institute here at Makerere then our research efforts already have a home and this is it. Therefore, the research centres should in my view be broadened so that various other departments are created here and so that we should now have a nerve centre of our national research efforts here at the institute. We would certainly find it necessary to change the name so that it is no longer an Institute of Social Research but National Research Institute. I must heston to add here that these views are not yet in the processes of Government planning so that I do not want anybody to go away from here and say that the Uganda Government is now planning this or that or to accuse us as is the habit of many that Uganda is coming up with something anti-East Africa or anti-federal. These are my personal views as one who has done some kind of research myself and also as one who is involved in National Planning. As a politician, my very strongest view is that we must

take political decisions not as researchers direct but as the feelings and the needs of our people can be assessed. This we must do and then research must come in to put us wise along the path which we have chosen to walk.

Before closing I would like to pay tribute to those who are doing work here at the Institute and who have made valuable contribution by producing reports in their various fields and reports which have been of service to us in our planning either in the planning bureau or elsewhere. I wish to assure everybody that whatever studies are made here and come to us will be of the greatest value because we need to be informed.

I do wish all participants at this conference some very useful time. I would like finally to thank Mr. Tanner and all those who have been connected with organising this conference for all the efforts they have taken to bring it about and I hope that it will be another successful conference, and if I may be allowed, I wish to say that the conference is now officially opened.

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