

## **Outline for a book project on Secessionism in Africa**

As part of its publication series with Palgrave Macmillan, the African Borderlands Research Network ([ABORNE](#)) is planning a comprehensive edited volume covering all significant cases of secessionism, which occurred on the African continent since independence. Although a rich literature on individual cases studies exists as well as some works dealing with secessionism in Africa in a comparative fashion (Englebert 2005; Keller 2007), surprisingly to date nobody has ever published a comprehensive book on a topic of such fundamental importance to recent history, post-colonial state formation and politics in Africa.

The editors ([Jordi Tomas](#), Lisbon University and [Wolfgang Zeller](#), Edinburgh University) have previously collaborated on a new edited collection on the same topic in Spanish language (Tomas, J.(ed.): *Secesionismo en Africa*, Edicions Bellaterra, Barcelona, 2010). The current project intends to expand this idea into a rigorously peer-reviewed and edited English-language volume of the highest scholarly standard that aspires to define this research field for the foreseeable future. The volume will bring chapters addressing all major cases of secessionism in Africa since independence together in one book. Introductory and concluding chapters will thoroughly review the existing scholarship in this field and discuss the individual cases in relation to each other and a number of topics of broader relevance.

To ensure that the case studies selected for the book on secessionism are also comparable the editors would like to see some key questions addressed in each of the chapters.

All chapters should include a detailed section on the historical roots of the secessionist movement, a chronology of key events, and an assessment of the recent/present political situation in the area. We also hope that each author describes around which key issues (e.g. religion, ethnicity, language, ownership of land and resources, liberation struggle politics etc.) each secessionist movement has rallied, and how it did this. It will also be important to tell the readers if other, perhaps similar political movements that have challenged those at the centre of state power have emerged in the same country/region, and how these were or are related to the secessionist movement in question.

Apart from these more general points concerning all chapters, we anticipate a number of topics to emerge that are only relevant in some of the cases. These will be raised in the introductory chapter.

**A preliminary list of topics** includes:

- secessionism versus irredentism
- ideas of divided sovereignties
- mono-ethnic secessionist movements versus cases of pluri-ethnic "secessionist nationalism"
- colonialism, borders and secessionist movements
- cross-border migration, diaspora and secession
- the transition from peaceful opposition to violent movements and the role of state repression
- cross-border migration and secession
- mineral resources feeding secessionism
- land ownership laws, expropriation and conflicts
- the role of educational and other elites in raising secessionism
- catholicism and religion in secessionist movements
- the diffusion of secessionist ideas via the Internet and other new technologies

To keep the overall length of the book within reasonable limits, individual chapters will have to be limited to 8 000 words incl. footnotes.

[Prof. Paul Nugent](#) has participated in the process of identifying case studies and possible contributors and will co-author the introductory chapter. The editors are now approaching selected scholars with an established record of long-term field work and publication on their respective geographical areas of expertise to contribute to this volume.

A first meeting of some of the contributors and presentation of draft chapters will be organized by ABORNE and financed by its [Research Networking Programme](#) with the European Science Foundation. It will take place on **30 September - 1 October 2010 in the town of Turku (Åbo) on the Southwestern coast of Finland**, in the form of a double panel within the [Nordic Africa Days](#) conference. Expenses for travel and accommodation will be covered for all participants. Invited contributors who cannot attend the Turku meeting can still participate in the book project and instead deliver a draft chapter later, ideally by early 2011. A second meeting for the presentation of revised drafts will be organised in 2011 (see time frame below).

### **List of contributors**

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Options:

1. Miles Larmer, Sheffield

<http://www.shu.ac.uk/research/hrc/sp-miles-larmer.html>

Paul has told me that Miles Larmer gave an excellent presentation on the Katangan secessionist issue at a recent conference in Paris.

He is actually more a Zambianist and I assume he is more knowledgeable on the Katanga secession than other areas of DRC, but that is anyway the main case and he would bring a strong background on the importance of mining/natural resource exploitation (also important in Kasai), which I think is crucial also to feature in our book apart from "softer" issues like religion, ethnicity.

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**Tentative time frame**

28 June 2010: Participants in Finland conference submit abstracts

13 September 2010: Participants in Finland conference submit first drafts

30 September – 1 October 2010: Finland conference

10 January 2011: All other participants submit first drafts

28 March 2011: All authors submit revised drafts

April-September 2011: Peer review process and panels at conferences (ECAS conference  
in Uppsala 15-18 June, ABORNE annual meeting in Lisbon 21-24 September)

October-November 2011: Palgrave language check and copy-editing

December 2011: Publication of final book

During 2012: Book launches at several locations