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DR IVO MHIKE (1982 - 2021)

The son of Mr Cletos Mhike and Mrs Christine Mhike, Ivo Mhike did his first degree at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) between 2002 and 2005, winning book prizes on two occasions for the Best Student. While working as a Teaching Assistant from 2006 onwards, he completed his Masters. Both degrees were in African Economic History. Ivo then lectured at UZ until the end of 2012, when, in the face of stiff international competition, he won a PhD studentship with the University of the Free State's recently established International Studies Group (ISG). Research and writing for his thesis were finished in a little over three years, and at the June 2016 Graduation Ceremony Dr Mhike's doctorate in Africa Studies was conferred.

So good was his thesis that he was able immediately to take up the offer of an ISG postdoctoral Fellowship. Dr Mhike's aim was to expand and revise his dissertation, "Deviance and Colonial Power: A History of Juvenile Delinquency in Colonial Zimbabwe, 1890-c.1960" for publication as a book. When last I heard from him, he was a few months away from having done exactly this. He intended to submit the manuscript of *Degeneracy and Empire: Childhood, Youth and Whiteness in Colonial Zimbabwe, 1900-c.1962* to Palgrave Macmillan's Studies in the History of Childhood Series. Over the same period he published five book chapters and five articles. Prominent amongst these are his "Rhodesian state paternalism and the white working class family, 1930s- 1950s"¹

1 I Mhike, "Rhodesian state paternalism and the white working class family, 1930s- 1950s". In: D Money and D van Zyl-Hermann (eds.), *Rethinking White Societies in Southern Africa, 1930s-1990s* (London: Routledge, 2020).

and his "Intersections of sexual delinquency and sub-normality: white female juvenile delinquency in Southern Rhodesia, 1930s-c.1950², which appeared in *Settler Colonial Studies*, the leading international journal in its field. The author of numerous book reviews, Dr Mhike delivered papers at more than a dozen international and regional conferences. These included presentations in Britain, Sweden, and the Netherlands, as well as in South Africa, Botswana, Senegal and, of course, Zimbabwe. At the same time, he was a highly competent member of PhD supervisory teams, and a conscientious and thoroughly professional internal examiner.

While this sketch of Ivo Mhike's academic career captures something of his very great ability, energy, and determination, it tells us nothing about the man himself. Erudite, witty, generous and readily approachable, he had a wide circle of friends and colleagues. A passionate Chelsea Football Club supporter, Ivo will be remembered for his own considerable skills on the field. The ISG team won't be the same without him.

Possessed of a quiet sense of humour, Ivo was a fine man and a good friend. I can see him in my mind's eye, sitting across the table from me, laughing and shaking his head as he brought me up to date with the latest madness in Zimbabwe.

Believing as I did that Dr Mhike had a great career ahead of him, the news of his untimely death in Harare on Friday 25th June was shocking. The History Profession has lost a scholar of the first rank.

Dr Mhike leaves behind his wife Rejoice, and two daughters, Anopa and Munotida. The ISG extends its heartfelt condolences to them in their bereavement.

2 I Mhike, "Intersections of sexual delinquency and sub-normality: white female juvenile delinquency in Southern Rhodesia, 1930s-c.1950", *Settler Colonial Studies* 8 (4), 2018.