

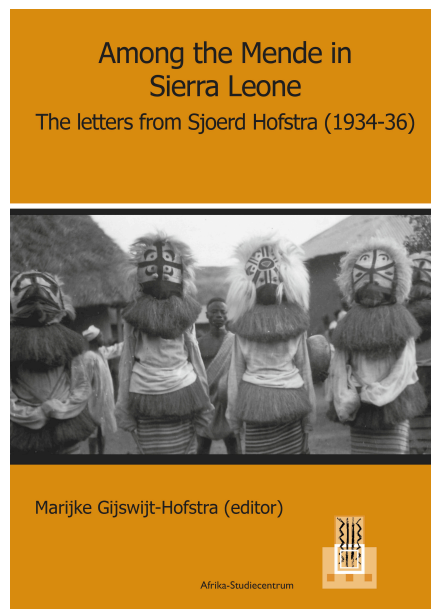
The International African Institute (IAI warmly invites you to the book launch and symposium discussion of

Among the Mende in Sierra Leone: the letters from Sjoerd Hofstra (1934-36)
 Edited and translated by Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra. Published 2014 by the African Studies Centre, Leiden

Panel discussion with:
Paul Basu, Krijn Peters, Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra, Paul Richards

Thursday 19 June 2014, 5.30-7pm, Room 116, SOAS
 Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

All welcome - rsvp/enquiries to sk111@soas.ac.uk



Sjoerd Hofstra was one of three anthropologists sent to British West Africa in the 1930s by the International African Institute to implement a programme of 'deep immersion' fieldwork, mentored by Bronislaw Malinowski. Hofstra's fieldwork in Panguma, Lower Bambara chiefdom in eastern Sierra Leone, was cut short by Blackwater Fever. The monographs by his peers, Frederick Nadel and Meyer Fortes, which appeared in the 1940s, became much better known. But Hofstra's letters from the field written to his adoptive mother are of considerable interest as ethnographic output. **Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra** (a former professor of social history at University of Amsterdam, and authority on European witchcraft) has newly edited and translated them from Dutch. **Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra** will introduce the work of Sjoerd Hofstra and discuss the detailed project of translating and editing his letters. **Krijn Peters**, author of the IAI's *War and the Crisis of Youth in Sierra Leone* (Cambridge Univ. Press 2011) will contribute a current anthropological perspective on the Lower Bambara region in Sierra Leone.

'...deserves to become a key reference in debates in anthropology about the nature and purpose of ethnographic writing. Here is the anthropologist unadorned - frank, straightforward, subtle and humane.' – **Paul Richards**