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Book reviews are edited by Melvin E. Page, Associate Editor. All correspondence regarding book reviews should be addressed to Melvin Page, Associate Editor, African Studies Review, Department of History, Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky 42071, U.S.A.

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255 Kinsey Hall  
University of California-Los Angeles  
405 Hilgard Avenue  
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#### SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANISTIC RESEARCH ON AFRICA: AN ASSESSMENT

The Joint Committee on African Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council commissioned the paper by Paul Richards for presentation at the Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, November 1982, Washington, D.C., as part of its continuing series of papers assessing the current state of social science and humanistic research on Africa. Michael Watts has written a reply to the Richards paper based in part on the comments solicited by the Joint Committee from a wide range of scholars in the field. The reviews, which cover books relevant to the subject matter of Richards's paper, round out this number of the *African Studies Review*. Over the next several years, the *African Studies Review* will be publishing additional papers which the Joint Committee is commissioning for presentation at annual meetings of the ASA.

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## CONTRIBUTORS

**PAUL RICHARDS** is a native of England with a degree from Queen Mary College, University of London (1966). He has served as a lecturer in geography at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. At present he is a Lecturer in Anthropology, University College, London, after completing a Visiting Senior Lectureship in the Department of Environmental Studies, Njala University College, University of Sierra Leone. Richards has conducted field work in western Nigeria and Sierra Leone. His research interests are small-scale farming systems in West Africa, especially farmers' use of environmental resources.

**MICHAEL J. WATTS** is Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of California at Berkeley. He has undertaken village level field research in Nigeria on agrarian change, food production, ecology, and famine. His book, *Silent Violence: Food, Famine, and Peasantry in Northern Nigeria*, has just been published by the University of California Press (1983). Watts recently completed field research on irrigation rice production in the Gambia. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the *African Studies Review*.