David M. Anderson is Professor of African Politics and a Fellow of St Cross College at Oxford University. He has conducted long-term research and published extensively on the history and politics of Eastern Africa.

His recent books include *Histories of the Hanged: Britain’s Dirty War in Kenya and the End of Empire* (2005, Norton) and *The Khat Controversy: Stimulating the Debate on Drugs* (coauthored with S. Beckerleg, D. Hailu and Axel Klein, 2007, Berg). *Histories of the Hanged* is the first full history of the Mau Mau rebellion and its brutal suppression in 1950s Kenya. The book has contributed to a wider debate on the character of British imperial rule in the twentieth century, as well as stirring up a great deal of controversy within Kenya. Drawing on a British Arts & Humanities Council-funded collaborative research project, Professor Anderson will discuss a critical moment in the ecology of Southern Ethiopia, the construction and ecological effects of the dams built on the river Omo valley.