For African Griot

Stephen Ellis (1953-2015) enriched the list of James Currey Publishers with three books of great influence. He made Africanists look at issues which they were sometimes slow, even reluctant, to acknowledge.

*The Criminalisation of the State in Africa* by Jean-Francois Bayart, Stephen Ellis and Béatrice Hibou 1999 drew attention to what had been previously little recognised. This was described by the African Studies Centre at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, of which he became the Director, as ‘his most popular work’. Stephen Ellis was a founding editor of African Issues.

The publication of Comrades Against Apartheid which he wrote with Tsepo Sechaba about *The ANC and the South African Communist party in Exile* was much attacked on publication in 1992 for revelations that the forces for change in South Africa were reluctant to have recorded.

*Africa Now; People, Policies and Institutions,* conceived and edited by Stephen Ellis, was rushed out in 1996 in both English and French for the international conference for African heads of state at Maastricht, organised by the Netherlands Ministry for Foreign Development. It gave an overview on Africa for opinion formers in the years after the end of the cold war.