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## Patrick Chabal is no more

### Author:

Petr Skalník – Philosophical Faculty, University of Hradec Králové, The Czech Republic

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University of Hradec Králové  
Philosophical Faculty

## OBITUARY

### Patrick Chabal is no more

Patrick Chabal, one of the most influential writers on modern Africa, passed away in the middle of January 2014 and the news has stricken those who knew him like a lightning bolt. Patrick was a member of the International Advisory Board for this journal. He joined the board because he wanted to give support to a fledgling journal which aims at excellence in the „Other Europe“. Patrick Chabal worked mostly on Africa but he was also siding with the underdog beyond Africa. His latest book *The End of Conceit* which he gave to me last



November when he came to Hradec Králové to participate in an international seminar deals with the problem of how the West failed the „rest“. I met him at Cambridge in 1981 when he was working on his PhD. thesis which dealt with the great African revolutionary Amílcar Cabral. When one goes through his major books one can see a red line of empathy and sympathy for the wretched of the world.

Perhaps his visits to Africanists in the Czech Republic, starting in 2000 when he celebrated with Czech and world Africanists 40 years of African studies in Prague, and ending just a few months ago, were also motivated by this caring trait of his personality. In the memory of many of us living and working in the post-communist countries remains the Patrick who accepted our invitation to Hradec Králové in 2009 and addressed the participants at the 4th International Conference on African Studies „Viva Africa“. He was well acquainted with our limitations while studying Africa and gave us critical support. Though he was never a condescending mentor but a friend who understood our circumstances. Today when we seem to be putting African studies in this part of Europe on a par with those who for a long time have benefited from better access to Africa and literature on it we have to thank Patrick Chabal for his generous assistance which he offered us with his typical charm and modesty. Sadly, he will not see the first issue of this new journal but the second issue will be devoted to his memory. We will try to adhere to Patrick's legacy of the synthesis of high standards of scholarship and an uncompromising ethical approach.

Petr Skalník

