The Institute of African Studies, the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs (NPSIA), School of Journalism and Communication, and the Department of Political Science of Carleton University present:

A Poisonous Thorn in our Hearts:
Sudan and South Sudan’s Bitter and Incomplete Divorce

with
James Copnall

When: Monday, 20 October 2014; 7 pm
Where: 1201 River Building, Carleton University*

Why did the world's newest country, South Sudan, sink into a devastating civil war less than three years after independence? How did the secession of its southern region affect the 'rump state', Sudan? In the years after the split, the two Sudans dealt with crippling economic challenges, struggled with new and old rebellions, and fought each other along their disputed border. A former BBC correspondent for Sudan and South Sudan, Copnall draws a compelling portrait of two misunderstood countries. The critically acclaimed A Poisonous Thorn in Our Hearts (Hurst, 2014) argues that Sudan and South Sudan remain deeply interdependent, despite their separation. It also diagnoses the political failings that threaten the future of both countries, and scrutinises the international responses to the crises in the two Sudans. The author puts the turmoil of the years after separation into a broader context, reflecting the voices, hopes and experiences of Sudanese and South Sudanese from all walks of life.

James Copnall was the BBC Correspondent for Sudan and South Sudan from 2009-12. He reported on the independence of South Sudan, Darfur, inter-ethnic conflict, rebellions in both countries, and clashes between the Sudans. Since leaving Khartoum in late 2012, he has made frequent return trips to the two countries, including reporting on the civil war which broke out in South Sudan in December 2013. He has reported from more than 20 African countries, including as BBC Correspondent for Ivory Coast (2004-7) and Morocco (2008-9). He has covered refugee crises, rebel enclaves, bird flu, Ivorian pop music, two soccer World Cups and three African film festivals. As well as his TV and radio work for the BBC, Copnall has also written for the Economist, the Guardian and the Times Literary Supplement, among many others. He is married, and lives in his home town, London.

Copies of the book will be for sale.

* for a campus map, please go to: http://www1.carleton.ca/campus/