In this lecture Timothy Raeymaekers will pre-launch his upcoming monograph provisionally titled 'Brokers and Big Men: Congo’s Liminal Order.' This book explores the deep social transformation brought about by a century of violent rule in the heart of Africa’s Great Lakes region, in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. From the vantage point of cross-border traders and their perennially unstable lives, it recasts the tumultuous history of this region through the lens of cross-border accumulation, rebellion and government on the Congo-Uganda border. In so doing, the author fundamentally questions the premises of Central Africa’s presumed social and political breakdown. By envisaging this situation of factual sovereignty on the border, he opens the window towards a political alternative characterized by hybridity and capitalist accumulation in the margins of regional power plays.

Timothy Raeymaekers (MSc London School of Economics, MA and Ph.D University of Ghent) teaches political geography and conflict studies in the Department of Geography at the University of Zurich. His work concentrates on informal economies and the political economy and geography of armed conflict. Concluded research projects include the analysis of war economic networks, hybrid governance and cross border trade in Africa's Great Lakes region, and studies on displacement and borderlands in Africa and Europe. In addition to numerous other publications related to his research, he is co-editor of Conflict and Social Transformation in Eastern DRC (with Koen Vlassenroot, 2004) and Violence on the Margins: States, Conflict and Borderlands (with Benedikt Korf, 2013).

Amanda Hammar, MSO Professor of African Studies at CAS, will host this event.

Wednesday 9 April 2014, 15:15 -17:15
Auditorium 12, Købmagergade 46