Johan Pottier
Dr. Johan Pottier is Professor of Anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University. He specialises in the social dynamics of food security, including urban security; media representations of conflict; and humanitarian intervention. Over the past three decades, he has researched in Central Africa and published on local-level perceptions of food security; food policy and land reform; post-drought and post-famine recovery; international press coverage of the crisis in Rwanda; refugee perceptions of humanitarian aid; and the impact of migration on rural livelihoods. Professor Pottier’s interest in food security and agrarian change in Rwanda stretches back to the mid-1980s, when he researched food provisioning in the southern town of Butare. Current research focuses on humanitarian intervention and post-conflict reconciliation in Ituri, northeastern DR Congo, and aspects of global food trade in relation to Bangladeshi food practices in East London. His most recent fieldwork-based research deals with urban food security in low-income urban settlements in Malawi and Uganda. He has published a number of books, most recently Negotiating Local Knowledge: Power and Identity in Development and over a dozen articles on Rwanda.