

Pondering African Futures 2021 Spring Conference

The Center for African Studies at the University of Pittsburgh

The Center for African Studies at the University of Pittsburgh is hosting a virtual conference to ponder African futures in the context of current challenges and to think about innovative strategies for moving forward with the continent's development agenda. This conference provides a platform for scholars and practitioners who work on Africa-related topics to engage in intellectual conversations about Africa based on their research, practice, and scholarship.

Please note that all times are in Eastern Standard Time (EST).



Sponsored by the University Center for International Studies at the University of Pittsburgh

Schedule

Thursday, 13 May

08:30 AM (EDT)

Poetry and Welcome

08:45 AM (EDT)

Keynote Panel

10:30 AM (EDT)

Panel: African Agency

Panel: Gender

12:00 PM (EDT)

Lunch

12:30 PM (EDT)

Networking Fun

01:00 PM (EDT)

Panel: Development- Natural Resources

Panel: Politics

02:45 PM (EDT)

Panel: Education K- 12

Panel: Health

04:15 PM (EDT)

Closing Remarks-Wrap Up

Friday, 14 May

08:30 AM (EDT)

Welcome, Keynote, Musical Performance

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

10:00 AM (EDT)

Panel: History

Panel: International Development

11:30 AM (EDT)

Lunch

12:00 PM (EDT)

Networking Fun

12:30 PM (EDT)

Panel: Blackness

Panel: Health Policy

02:15 PM (EDT)

Panel: Development: Overall Picture

Panel: Education- Higher Education

03:45 PM (EDT)

Closing Remarks-Wrap Up

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Allen, Michael

Critique of “Competitiveness” in African Developmental Discourse

In modernizing their countries, African states, firms and workers must compete to attract foreign capital. The resulting investments increase output and employment, but not usually in terms that allow development, the investment of savings, nor the complementary integration of African economic formations with each other. This paper looks critically at the notion of competitiveness as an integral part of a perverse discourse that describes “development” strategies for African countries. It explores how the imperatives of productivity for global enterprises in neoliberal capitalism requires the concept and dynamics of competitiveness in the drive to reproduce production on their terms, to the necessary detriment of states and peoples in Africa. This paper argues that this dynamic is no less evident when the globalizing enterprises originate on African soil from emerging centers such as Nigeria, Rwanda or South Africa.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Andrade, Susan

Title: *God's Bits of Wood*, Gender and Agency

This talk puts into dialogue a classic novel of decolonization, Ousmane Sembène's *God's Bits of Wood* (*Les Bouts de bois de Dieu*) with *Germinal*, a novel by French leftist Emile Zola 150 years earlier. The French novel influences the Senegalese so strongly as to shape its form. However, the important differences between the two illustrate how Sembène resolves Zola's problems and limitations. One reason *God's Bits* hasn't been read as rich recently is 1) it is not as important in the literary canon now as it was 25 years ago (having been surpassed by *Xala* and Sembène's film corpus), 2) and more unfortunately, perhaps, historians and anthropologists have disproportionately contributed poor readings. These readings have dwelt almost exclusively on whether the historical facts match what Sembène represents, which makes of the novel a sociological text, rather than a work of the imagination. The value of registering differences between history and fiction lies in understanding what Sembène contributes to the conversation about literary form, gender politics, and, especially, about the relation of riots to revolutions.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Ayeni, Sylvanus

Why Change from Africa Must Come from Within

Africa is the second largest continent in the world with a population of 1.3 billion people. It is also the most diverse genetically, ethnically, culturally and linguistically. Sub-Saharan Africa is the poorest region in the world or is it? The region has enormous natural resources. It is also the least affected by cyclical natural disasters like earthquakes, tornadoes, snowstorms, hurricanes, tsunamis and typhoons. Africa has received more than 1 trillion dollars in foreign aid in the last six decades and thousands of foreign “experts” in various disciplines have given their services to the continent. Despite all these favorable conditions, Africa remains the poorest continent in the world and Sub-Saharan Africa, the poorest region. The huge problems facing the continent cannot be solved by the West, East, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, United Nations and its various agencies, the multibillion dollar corporations or the celebrities from across the Mediterranean Sea or the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. For Africa to emerge from the bottom of the human ladder of development, the endemic corruption, poor governance, leadership failure and “Can’t Do Mindset” must be addressed from within these struggling nations.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Bandu, Chiudza

Nurturing Decolonization: US-Malawi Relations in the 1960s

The southern African country of Malawi fought for and gained its independence from Britain during the 1960s decade. This was during the so-called “classic age of decolonization.” Studies on the political and economic dynamics in the then newly independent country, by such scholars as John McCracken and Carolyn McMaster, tend to pinpoint the crucial and critical role that Britain, as a former colonial power, played to assist the Malawi government. However, one angle that has often been missing in post-colonial Malawi’s historiography is about the role played by Britain’s ally, the US. Malawi attained her independence during the peak of the Cold War, a time-period when the US needed allies in the then newly independent states of Africa and Asia (the so-called “Third World”). This study uses archival documents drawn from various archives and presidential libraries, to reconstruct the US – Malawi relationship during the 1960s, placing them within the academic fields of decolonization and the Cold War. It focuses on the governments of US Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson; and on the Malawi side, that of Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda. Doing so, this paper argues, and concurs with such scholars as Kevin C. Dunn, Pierre Englebert, and Jean-Francois Bayart, among others, that African states must be at the center, rather than always at the periphery, of global historical processes.

Key words: Malawi; Decolonization; The Cold War; Personal Diplomacy.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Choi, Donghyun Danny

Mobile Communication Technology and National Identity in Sub-Saharan Africa

We examine how the expansion of mobile internet infrastructure affects national identity in sub-Saharan Africa. In diverse societies where elections are contested along ethno-communal lines, we argue that access to mobile internet undermines national identity because it facilitates voter exposure to the polarizing tendencies of internet-based social media and communication platforms. Applying both difference-in-differences and boundary designs on mobile coverage maps and geocoded survey data of more than 100,000 African citizens, we show that access to mobile internet reduces identification with the nation by up to 5–7 percentage points. To establish support for our electoral mechanism, we exploit as-if random variation in the timing of individuals' survey interviews to presidential elections, during which we argue divisive and polarizing forces are at their peak. Our analysis shows that electoral proximity intensifies the negative effect of mobile internet. These findings highlight how technological innovations can inhibit the process of state-building in diverse societies.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Cossa, Jose & Matu

Developing Globally Competent TVET Teachers and Trainers for 21st Century Education in Africa: An uBuntu and Cosmo-uBuntu Approach

The international development community perceives technical and vocational education and training as a critical driver for Africa's economic development and a key factor to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 4 - i.e., reducing barriers to skills development. Advocates for TVET argue that TVET institutions and TVET teacher and trainer education are critical to ensuring that youth and adults have relevant and adequate training and employment. However, significant challenges stand in the way, which include the disconnect between the reality of what businesses and industry value and the expectations and promises of the TVET system; insufficiently qualified trainers; insufficient resources such as funding and equipment; TVET being based on a foreign model, which results in a mismatch between the model and the context; theoretical foundations of policy and implementation strategies; language barriers; and TVET education continues to be viewed as of lesser added-value than tertiary education. In order to address these challenges, we argue that TVET and TVET teacher and trainer education in Africa ought to be informed by uBuntu (at the philosophical level) and Cosmo-uBuntu (at the theoretical level), if it is to be contextual to Africa while contributing to a vocational education and training that is globally responsive and relevant.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Dennis, Dorcas

Clash of Cultures in the Homeland: African Diaspora's Spiritual and Identity Symbols and Ghana's Educational Institutions

As African nations such as Ghana are opening their doors to welcome home peoples of African descent, there is an emerging struggle for acceptance and inclusion of the forms of spiritual and cultural identity symbols of the African Diasporans in Africa's higher educational institutions. Ghana, the first African nation to open its doors, has received a backlash for its educational institutes' attitude towards Africa's Diasporans peoples' spiritual and cultural symbols of identity and connections to the motherland. The phenomenon raises concerns about whether Ghana, and for that matter, Africa, understands the struggles, continuous resilience, and identity symbols of its Diasporans. The phenomenon also raises questions concerning Africa's understandings of the Diasporans' spiritualities and desired connections to the homeland, or simply discouraging symbols of spiritual renaissance on the continent?

The paper argues that any effort to engage the old African Diasporans in Africa's future (as they find *home* in the motherland) that ignores or does not educate its populace about the Diasporan experiences, symbols of identity, and connections to Africa will negatively impact the Diasporans' smooth transition and settlements in Africa.

Using ethnographic data and newspaper reports, this paper will provide an account of how recent clashes between Ghana's Education Service (GES), The National Association of Graduate Teachers (NAGRAT), the Parent Teachers' Association (PTA), The Achimota Senior High School and the Jamaican parents and wards who were refused admission to higher education because of their religio-cultural identity symbols (dreadlocks).

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Fapohunda, Abi

Rising Rates of Cancer in Nigeria: Leveraging eLearning tools to improve cervical and breast cancer screening and diagnosis

With a population of over 200 million— approximately 20% of Africa's population, and over half of West Africa's – Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa. It also has one of the highest incidence rates of breast (49.0 per 100,000) and cervical (18.4 per 100,000) cancers in sub-Saharan Africa. These two cancers combined accounted for over 35% of all new cancers across both sexes in 2018. Nigeria's breast cancer incidence rates constitute most of the new breast cancer cases in sub-Saharan Africa.

With rising rates of cancer, it is vital that the public health community identifies ways to effectively increase access to cancer awareness, prevention, and early diagnosis of the most common female cancers in Nigeria. Digital technologies can play an important role in scaling up the necessary skills for health professionals to increase screenings and referrals, and to enhance their knowledge of cancer control. Pivoting and adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic increased the acceptance of non-traditional ways of learning, creating new ways to disseminate knowledge across borders and different societies. eLearning can play a very important role in training healthcare practitioners in Nigeria, and further research into the feasibility, challenges and opportunities presented by eLearning platforms in the healthcare sector is crucial.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Fonjong, Lotsmart & Wanki
 Natural Resource Endowment and the Development Tragedy of Africa:
 Interrogating Evidence from Cameroon

Africa's natural treasure is unquestionable and well documented. What is, however, controversial is the extent to which this resource endowment has impacted on the development of the continent. From a rich and diverse vegetation embedded with enormous ecotourism potentials, through a vast hydrological network and abundant precipitation, to a fertile topsoil that positions her as a key producer of tea, cocoa, coffee, and cotton; Cameroon is one of the largest producers of oil and key minerals in sub-Sahara Africa. However, contrary to logical economic expectations, this country still suffers from poor infrastructures, high rates of poverty, unemployment, and armed conflicts. Cameroon's situation which is inconsistent with its natural riches has cumulated among other things, to rekindle the debate on the paradox of natural resource endowment and underdevelopment in Africa. This paper interrogates why natural resource blessings which have proved to be a critical development catalyst in a few African and other non-western countries have failed to bring prosperity to Cameroon. We use the example of Cameroon to interrogate natural resources governance and unfair North-South trade in the context of globalization in Africa. Through context analysis, the paper explores different development arguments and examples from academic scholarship to evaluate Cameroon's management paradigm and strategies and how each individually or/and collectively account for the current failed development trajectory of most sub-Saharan Africa.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Gajanan, S.N., Ekhaton-Mobayode & Ekhaton

Does Health Insurance Eligibility Improve Child Health? Evidence from the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) in Nigeria

Favorable child health outcomes are important for sustainable growth and development especially for developing economies. However, Nigeria has some of the worst health indicators. The problem seems to be inadequate access to affordable healthcare, especially for children. To improve policies aimed at improving access to affordable healthcare for children in Nigeria through health insurance, it is important to measure the extent to which health insurance affects child health. This study examines the effects of health insurance on child health and healthcare utilization in Nigeria using the implementation and expansion of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to introduce the exogenous variation in health insurance eligibility, a natural experiment that fits a difference-in-difference model. The findings suggest that health insurance increases birthweight. It also increases the probability that children receive polio and diphtheria vaccines. The findings suggest that the NHIS in Nigeria is effective in improving the health outcomes of children. Policies strengthening the take-up of the NHIS should be encouraged across all sectors and socio-economic groups in the economy.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Hanson-DeFusco, Jessi

Qualitative Analysis of Systemic Flaws Contributing to Rape Prevalence in Liberian Education for Girls

In face of the common belief that girls' education improves human security, a 2018 field survey in Liberia indicates that over 35 percent of young women are raped as children. Uneducated girls share similar risks of being raped as girls who complete primary or lower-secondary school. Among those who are rape survivors, men in school-based occupations make up a large proportion of their assailants. There are many national and international policy and programming support mechanisms that could prevent these abuses but instead continually fail many victims. Using a gender lens, this quantitative analysis explores data collected from key informant interviews of 16 stakeholders playing a role in Liberian policies promoting girls' education and banning child sexual abuse. The purpose is to develop insight of the potential causal mechanisms behind the tragic statistics of child rape related to girls' education. Each stakeholder has unique experiences and roles that inform understanding behind the magnitude of the problem, offering descriptions of gaps in the system compared to their intended design in a developing setting. This research demonstrates the importance of blending quantitative analysis with qualitative methods highlighting the experiences, perspectives, and voices of those who are intimately involved with the policy problem.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Harrigan, Shaquilla

“She Can Get a Visa”: How Intersectional Identity Shapes NGO Decision-Making in Africa

Several scholars have used intersectionality as a lens through which to examine the compounding oppression people who have multiple marginalized identities face in organizations, particularly workplaces. I extend that line of research to a setting that includes both people with multiple marginalized identities and those without to see how the salience of certain identities changes in varying organizational contexts. In this article, I argue that the staff and board members of Save the Street Kids, a small Kenyan NGO, engage in various modes of intersectional identity work to leverage segments of their multiple identities according to which identity they believe will lead to more successful outcomes. I note that intersectional identity work happens the most when individuals are seeking resources for the organization, crafting an organizational hierarchy, and establishing legitimacy with clients and other development stakeholders. This negotiation and re-negotiation of identity between each other and in various international development spaces highlights changing asymmetries of power and equality. I draw evidence from three months of participant observation in Kenya, twenty-four in-depth interviews with staff and board members, and archival analysis of organizational documents. This article shows that intersectional identity work is done individually and in social contexts. In addition, power dynamics are not static or unidimensional.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Ismaila, Waliu

Demobilization in Print: Newspaper Representation of Veterans' Welfare in Post-WWII Nigeria, 1945-1960

This paper examines how the politics of African newspapers in colonial Nigeria changed from WWII into the postwar era. During the war, they played a crucial role in the mobilization of colonial subjects for enlistment and support, but then became increasingly critical of the British colonial administration after 1945. The problem of demobilization in the British empire and the failure to keep to the promises made to the WWII veterans shaped editorials and reportage in prominent newspapers, such as *Nigerian Daily Times*, *Nigerian Daily Service*, and the *West African Pilot*. A careful study of the patterns of reportage and editorials in these select newspapers shows varying ideologies towards the colonial administration and the welfare of WWII veterans. The popular notion in Nigerian historiography often equates WWII veterans' activities to militant nationalism. This article argues that the veterans were active agents of colonial development through their various welfare initiatives. The veterans' anti-colonial posturing stems from the Nigerian elite's propaganda, who used and controlled the newspapers as their tools for radical anti-colonial campaigns.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Jobo, Meshesha

The Impacts of Psycho-social Environments of Learning on the Academic Performance of Female Students at Higher Learning Institutions of Ethiopia

The purpose of this study was to investigate the impacts of psycho-social environments of learning on the academic performance of female students at higher learning institutions of Ethiopia. The subjects used for this study were second and third year female students selected by purposive sampling and their teachers selected by simple random sampling (lottery method) from five selected universities of Ethiopia. The descriptive research design was used to conduct this study by using both the quantitative and qualitative research techniques. Quantitative data were collected through document analysis, questionnaire and classroom observation. On the other hand, the qualitative data were collected through face-to-face interview to teachers and with the qualitative parts of the questionnaire. The result indicated that academic performance of female students at higher learning institutions of Ethiopia has been hampered by female-unfriendly psycho-social environments of learning: irrelevant instructional approaches, female-unfriendly social relations, lack of guidance and counseling, male-dominance, and lack of functional institutional structure for mainstreaming gender that resulted in negative self-concept by female students' in their academic activities. Based on these findings, therefore, inclusive teaching approach, special support to female students, the establishment of relevant and functional institutional structure for mainstreaming gender are recommended to be implemented in all higher learning institutions of Ethiopia.

Key Words: Psycho-social environment, academic performance, gender parity education.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Kasila, Hellen & Fonjong, Lotsmart

Transforming gender relations in Africa through women's participation in food value chain: challenges and prospects

Rural women in sub-Sahara Africa have been traditionally linked to subsistence agriculture. Generally, these women are working on land owned by men, without land security and improved farming method. While this form of agriculture may foster food security, it nonetheless renders rural women more dependent on men for land and other non-agricultural goods and services. The transformation of some of locally grown crops within the current high rates of agricultural depopulation provides opportunity for national food security and women's empowerment through their involvement in the food value chain. This paper examines how cassava and green gram transformation in Cameroon and Kenya respectively provide both opportunities and challenges for women empowerment and food security. It is based on a survey conducted among women involved at all stages in the cultivation and processing of cassava and green gram in both countries. Findings suggest that increased food production play a critical role in redefining opportunities for national food security, improved livelihoods, and women's empowerment in Africa. As more women get opportunities at various stages of cassava and green grams production and processing, they are better remunerated. Employment and incomes earned along these food value chain enable women to save, afford land, improve their farm and outputs, and can contribute just like men to household projects and decision making. However, women in some instances still face immense pressure from traditional practices and gender roles; necessitating policy interventions to promote and sustain the gains from/and their effective participation in food value chain.

Keywords: women's empowerment, sub-Sahara Africa, Value food chain, food processing, green gram, cassava, Cameroon, Kenya

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Kayira, Gift

Green Gold that Never Was: Some Reflections on the Viphya Sawn Timber Project of Postcolonial Malawi

In 1978, the World Bank vetoed Malawi's decision to establish the Vipya pulp mill, arguing that although Malawi had planted over 54,000 hectares of pine trees, the mill in question would enrich foreign investors more than ordinary Malawians. Instead, the Bank proposed a sawn timber project, much smaller than the original idea. Despite protracted negotiations with the Bank, this former British protectorate failed to change the latter's position. What is yet to attract scholarly attention in the story of the Viphya is the voice of local communities surrounding the plantation, whose life is intricately connected to the forest. I reflect on their voices, discussing how they perceived the project and the ways in which they interface with the state and authorities managing the plantation. I argue that right from its inception in the 1960s, the local communities have questioned how the Viphya is run, often doing so by appealing to a language of development. The communities consider the Viphya forest as an alternative to South African labor migration. They also perceive it as a step towards creating a viable town at the Viphya Plateau. This optimism remains a mirage as women are even forbidden from fetching firewood in the now privatized Viphya forest. As a result, contestations have emerged between the Viphya management and the communities as the latter, following the World Bank's footprints, remind the state about its responsibility to safeguard the "developmentalist" aims of the Viphya. By reflecting on these voices, the paper defers from typical studies on development that emphasize the modernizers' worldview.

Key words: Malawi, Development, Viphya Sawn Timber, World Bank

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Author: Kivuva, Joshua

Post-Barak Obama America and Africa's Democracide

Over two decades ago, the late Prof. Ali Mazrui wrote probably his least often quoted piece-- 'Who Killed Democracy in Africa?' in which he identifies multiple culprits responsible. The first culprit of democracide (the murder of democracy) in Africa is what he calls the magician who came from the North who — the one who introduced it, and the manner of its introduction. The second, was by a string of coups orchestrated by "The soldier who came from the barracks." The third, was the Cold War politics, perpetrated by "The spy who came from the cold." The fourth, was by the African educated elites, or what he calls, "The cultural half-caste who came in from Western schools and did not adequately respect African ancestors." Fifth, and final, by the "angry spirits of the ancestors (the curse of the ancestors)".

According to Mazrui, democracide on Africa did not succeed fully and the patient did not die, thanks to the multiple miracle workers and angels of life, who have provided first-aid resuscitation and a kiss of life. These angels include Africa's pro-democracy movements of the 1990s; several of the agents of death, but who had already seen the light and changed sides, (including: Westernized African cultural half castes, soldiers formerly from the barrack, and, Western Cold War worriers); and, other post-cold war developments, including the discrediting of one party state and the decline of Leninist radical politics, which have made political pluralism more respectable in the continent. The above resuscitation efforts were themselves sabotaged by September 11, whose counter-terrorism measures have demonstrated how fragile democracy is, even in the United States.

This paper examines the last two US administrations—Obama and Trump—and the role they have played in advancing or reversing Africa's democracide. The paper seeks to answer the question: To what extent have the two regimes either 'killed' or 'resuscitated' African democracy? The paper concludes that although the two regimes have pursued diametrically opposite policies and politics towards Africa, the results have enhanced the death, rather than resuscitation, of democracy in the continent.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Koroma, Nannah

The Effects of Corona Virus on African Economics and some solutions

Corona virus (civic 19 virus) originated or came from Wuhan (China) and has spread all over the universal. Since the inception of the corona virus the world is facing lot of economic challenges. On March 11 2020 WHO declaration of the virus been a pandemic, since then the labor market has been greatly affected with restrictions being made by one country to another.

This has affected the Africa continent because of its openness to international trade and migration, it has native effects on Africa

The exogenous this come from the direct link on the countries such as China, Europe and America, this affected Africa because the diaspora were not in position to sponsor their relatives in Africa, while endogenous is the effects that occur as a result of the rapid spread of the virus in Africa countries, which leads to the decrease of tax revenue and even the lives of the people are affected because the resources are going to the health section.

The corona virus pandemic have affected Africa, that Africa is not struggling with its economic because Africa is largely dependable on the global value chains. Africa has obviously been suffered on abrupt fall in commodity prices, fiscal revenue, foreign exchange, low foreign financial flows, travel restrictions, declining of tourism and hotel frozen labor market. It has also affected the entrepreneurs are afraid to invest because of the covid 19 the economic is going to the health sector and food items.

The area of sports was ban because of the virus and in some Africa countries citizen are removing their money in the banks to be close to them, psychologically it has cause fear on the Africans.

In the area of meeting solutions in order to solve the economy problems cause by this corona virus, Africans should enable to develop agriculture, it will help to reduce the money spent on export food item if Africans are growing their own crops.

To solve this economy crisis Africans should make use of their local products, Africans should be able to promote and use their own home product in order not to spend too much on those things that are imported in their country.

The local industries should be value because it is what is close to us, Africa needs to promote the middle man power, am talking about the skill job, they are the aspect we should strength in order to develop Africa, for instance the carpenters, local builders, designers of dress, vocational skills like the people that make food, cake and so on.

Africa need to be self reliance, promote entrepreneur no matter how small or big a business is, let the people do things that will money instead of depending on the White people to come and help us all the time while we can do it our self.

Finally, Africans should believe in themselves that we can develop Africa and that we must because no other persons that can do it for us. We are Africans, if we want we can develop our economic after this corona virus.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Lehohla, Thakaramahlaha & Kholopane

Strategic Logistics and Operations Management Practices: Adding Value to the Manufacturing Value Chains & Trade

Logistics and operations management play a significant role in the movement and trade facilitation processes of goods and services. This takes into cognisance the point of origin to the point of consumption in the industrial supply value chains. The rate of efficiency and coordination between movement from the manufacture, or supplier of goods and service to the final customer or destination is very critical in terms of measuring the rate of total quality management, customer relations management and customer service management. The efficiency in the logistics and operations efficiency in the supply of goods and services in the economic and industrial value chains result in the worthiness of trade between countries, the good business to business relations domestically and internationally, the extent to total quality management and how customer relations and service management is embraced within organisational value chains. In reference to the South African scenario, the government has invested in special economic zones which are near the harbour's and airports referred to as aerotropolis. The significance of this research proves that efficient trade and logistics can be enabled by logistics and courier companies such as Swiss Port to facilitate the efficient and effective logistics and operations within the value chains from point of origin to point of consumption.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Lelei, Macrina

EDUCATION DURING A PANDEMIC Ensuring a Learning Continuity for All:

The Coronavirus Disease

(COVID-19) pandemic has affected almost every aspect of human endeavour, including the education sector. An upsurge in drop-out students has been observed across the globe. This can be attributed to the massive disruption towards education access because of the pandemic and the lack of resources. Countless communities across the continent have unreliable internet, access to electricity, and expensive broadband. Notably, Africa has been negatively affected by the pandemic; thus, derailing the entire education system. Most significantly, these disruptions constitute a “global education emergency,” threatening to disorganise at least 24 million students, according to the United Nations Children’s Fund. This is because 192 countries around the world have shuttered schools, leaving 1.6 billion students without in-person learning. Currently, more than 870 million students (half the world’s student population in 51 countries) are still unable to return to school. Unfortunately, the longer children remain out of school, the less likely they are to return to school when the time comes. To address these challenges, the most important question that African governments ought to answer is: do students wait until the pandemic is over to return to school or can governments offer students alternative means to continue learning whilst confined at home by the pandemic? The answer is that governments need to consider upscaling digital technologies that could allow students to continue learning whilst confined by the pandemic. Therefore, to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, African countries have to adapt in the “new normal” by harnessing technological innovations relevant for the education sector. This can significantly improve the medium through which students can learn under pandemic constraints. It can also significantly advance technological products available in the market and that can drastically alter the way education is conducted across the continent. This paper will examine how African countries can improve internet access for easier utilization of digital technologies suitable for online learning. Additionally, the paper will discuss how African countries can increase the variety of resources that can adequately support students’ distance learning. These resources can be instructional packages such as radio education, educational television, and online instructional resources.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Lubua, Filipo

COVID-19: A Wake-up Call for the Implementation of Tech-Based Education in the African Higher Education

The traditional educational system worldwide was hit very badly by the COVID-19 pandemic, and most educational institutions are still going through tough times as a result. More specifically, from the pandemic's onset up until a few months later, most educational institutions around the world were in desperate need of funding and appropriate technologies to adapt to the nature of the pandemic that required social distancing and virtual learning. The African higher education system was not an exception. From the first COVID-19 case in Africa was announced on 14th February 2020 to the day the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 as the global pandemic, the African countries were in a dire panic, and most schools and universities had to send students home without any proper plans for remote learning. This presentation will highlight how the COVID-19 pandemic acted as a wake-up call for most Sub-Saharan Africa higher learning institutions to plan and implement tech-based education in their daily instructional activities. It will describe the African higher education's preparedness to provide non-face-to-face education during normal and unprecedented times. The presentation urges that, while COVID-19 has already taken most Sub-Saharan African universities through 'baptism by fire', effective EduTech policies are still lacking in most of the African universities.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Mbaye, Babacar

The Relationships Between African Americans and Africans Through Hoyt W. Fuller's Writings

In December 2010, the third World Festival of Negro Arts (hereafter referred to as the WFNA) was held in Dakar, Senegal. Although it celebrated Pan-African renaissance and unification, the festival neglected the pivotal moments of black solidarity that evolved from the first WFNA which took place in Dakar in April 1966. Discussing selected works of the twentieth-century African American journalist and critic, Hoyt W. Fuller, this paper explores their depictions of the various relationships between African Americans and Africans that were reinforced during the 1966 Dakar Festival. Paying close attention to Fuller's memoir, *Journey to Africa* (1971), and several essays that he wrote about the 1966 festival, the paper examines how they help us understand the relationships between African Americans and Africans. The paper is specifically interested in how Fuller represented the ties between Léopold Sédar Senghor, the first president of Senegal, and African Americans such as Duke Ellington, Langston Hughes, and Josephine Baker in terms that dispelled the myths of African inferiority and essentialism which permeated most Western scholarship.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Mosugu, Tegan Joseph

Evidence-Based Management: Panacea or Placebo? Insights from Nigerian HIV/AIDS Service Delivery

New Public Management revolutionized the study of management, but increasingly, practitioners and academics focus on what is called evidence-based management and new public service. Evidence-based management can be defined as the manner in which organizations utilize data and information to inform the decision-making process and shape managerial practices. This research explores the manner in which the Nigerian public health delivery is shaped to address the origins and consequences of changes in managerial practice. It is organized around the notion that organizational performance, specifically service delivery, has two aspects: organizational technology (e.g., leadership techniques) and organizational capacity. The hypothesis in this research is that an organization that adopts an evidence-based management grounded in principles of new public service is better at service delivery. This is due to the shared vision, collaboration, and citizen-centered principles that result in more sustainable impact, provided an organization has the necessary capacity.

In this mixed-methods research study, seven respondents from six different nongovernmental organizations in Abuja, Nigeria were interviewed. Through qualitative interviews, themes centered around the incorporation of leadership, staffing capacity, funding streams, and evidence-based approaches to clinical care were assessed in order to understand how HIV/AIDS services are delivered. In addition, respondents were given a quantitative survey

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Mugane, John

Language: The Great Heist in African Studies

There is great unease in the African studies field -what is it, who is it for, and who is it by. Voices critical of the field of African studies are on the increase expressing dismay at the state of affairs. Articles including 'There is no Africa in African studies'¹ 'decolonizing African studies'², 'Is it ethical to study Africa?'³, indicate quite pointedly that all is not well with the field. This paper discusses the heist in intellectual production that underlies research and scholarship done on the African's back without the field ever having to acknowledge deafness/blindness to African languages and people, and more importantly the input afforded by vernacular languages as instruments of thought -i.e the actual descriptive, observational, analytical and interpretive lens. The heist is in posing as though the language question in Africa is one of translation -to pass information not to develop intellect.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Musoni, Fungisai

Public Health and Cold War Imperialism: University of Zimbabwe Medical School and Rockefeller Foundation

This paper examines the Rockefeller Foundation's (RF) attempts and failure to export US institutional structures and RF public health ideas to Rhodesia during the Cold War through its grants to the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (UCRN) which aimed at denying Soviets' control of Rhodesia. For example, in 1962, the foundation awarded Dr. Lindsay Davidson (Prospective Dean for the forthcoming Medical School and Medicine department head) and Alexander Thomson (Prospective Vice-Dean for the forthcoming Medical School and Pre-clinical Studies department head) a grant to tour the world to "study new developments in medical school planning, curriculum, equipment, and hospital design". Even though the University of Birmingham was overseeing the new Medical School facilities' designs, curriculum, and faculty hiring, the RF took charge of Davidson and Thomson's itinerary. As a result, the tour focused on institutions with ties to the RF, including University of Sao Paulo in Brazil one of the early Latin America universities to be supported by RF beginning in 1914 (Cueto, 1994). Despite this support, the study findings demonstrate why and how the British influence continued and overshadowed the RF's contributions.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Namusisi, Victoria

AFRICA AND THE EDUCATION OF THE GIRL CHILD: Tackling the Covid and Post Covid Challenges

The Baganda, a tribe am proud to belong to has a proverb that says “ when it rains on the poor, it never seizes”.

Literary meaning that because the poor has no umbrella, no vehicle, sleeping in a leaking house etc, etc, when it rains for him/ her it's endless. He /she can't run into a vehicle for shelter and neither does one find peace inside ones own house especially if it's grass thatched and leaking as well. It just never stops raining on this poor person.

Never has Africa as a Continent found itself so challenged to meet the Continents Development goals than the situation is today. You cannot talk about a development agenda minus putting emphasis on education and especially education of a Girl Child.

Forget the usual imbalances when it comes to education opportunities for different kids in the family where top priority is given to the boys.

The advent of Covid19 has affected the Girl Child in Africa much more than the boys when it comes to education.

It's the girls that are growing faster, getting pregnant, not given priority to be in boarding schools when some governments on the continent have agreed to re- open schools but have all students as boarders.

Thanks God for Uganda where the Minister for Education is a woman and mother who ruled that girls even if pregnant had to resume studies especially finalists and be allowed to sit for their exams. As I pen this, this morning one of the Girl candidates took her examination paper in a maternity ward having just delivered last night March 29th, 2021!!!

With already one academic year lost to Covid 19,how are we to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the education of the Girl Child?

WAY FORWARD

- Flexible Education laws
- Increase funding for the education of the needy girl child
- Increase access to micro finance for single mothers
- Putting up more Vocational Institutions to cater for school drop outs with priority being given to the Girl Child.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Ndung'u, Samuel

Complexation equilibrium studies of Cu^{2+} , Cd^{2+} and Pb^{2+} ions onto ethylenediamine quaternised *Artocarpus heterophyllus* L. seeds from aqueous solution

Heavy metals contamination in drinking water is of great concern because of their toxicity and non-biodegradability. Therefore, their removal is paramount. Recently, adsorption has gained a great attention from researchers due to availability of the materials and associated capacity compared to conventional methods of water treatment. Various chemical treatment methods have been employed to boost the capacity of the adsorbents, one of them being the use of ethylenediamine. In this study, a novel quaternised adsorbent was synthesized for complexation of Cu^{2+} , Cd^{2+} and Pb^{2+} ions from aqueous solution. Raw *Artocarpus heterophyllus* L. seeds were chemically modified with thionyl chloride followed by ethylenediamine. Both raw and quaternised adsorbents were characterized by FTIR and applied for equilibrium complexation batch experiments. Effect of pH, contact time, agitation speed, adsorbent dosage and initial concentration were investigated. FTIR results showed that amino groups were successfully anchored into the quaternised adsorbent and this increased its complexation capacity. Batch results indicated that complexation of the three metal ions was at optimal at pH values between 4.2 and 6.4. Contact time of 20 minutes and 15 minutes for raw and quaternised adsorbents respectively. Agitation speed of between 150 rpm and 175 rpm. Raw and quaternised dosage of 15 mg and 10 mg; 13 mg and 10 mg; 15 mg for Cu^{2+} , Cd^{2+} and Pb^{2+} ions respectively and optimal concentration of 30 ppm. Equilibrium experimental data fitted well in Langmuir isotherm with adsorption capacities of 21.3220 mg g⁻¹, 19.6850 mg g⁻¹ and 21.8818 mg g⁻¹ for raw and 33.7838 mg g⁻¹, 25.1256 mg g⁻¹ and 34.0136 mg g⁻¹ for quaternised adsorbent for Cu^{2+} , Cd^{2+} and Pb^{2+} ions respectively implying a chemisorption mechanism. The results confirmed potentiality of *Artocarpus heterophyllus* L. seeds for heavy metal ions removal from aqueous solutions.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Ngalamulume, Kalala

Epidemics and Pandemics in Saint-Louis, Senegal, 19th-early 20th c.

The paper will focus on the impact of epidemics and pandemics on Saint-Louis, Senegal. It will examine the role of the medical knowledge in shaping the urban landscape and in generating the conflicts of interests between the interests of commerce, public health, and civil liberties. It will also discuss the ways in which epidemics and pandemics underline the health disparities within the city. It will show how past epidemics and pandemics provide historical perspectives on the SARS-CoV-2, which caused the Covid-19.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Njathi, Anne

Technological Utopianism; The Technocratic Approach to Technology for African Development; A case study of Kenya

Technological utopianism and technocratic approach for Africa's development perspective coalesced suggest a hybrid of utopian promissory future reaffirming African's hope for a better future. A future bypassing erring system, with robust internet infrastructure (free of digital divide) that collapses economic and social challenges and opens up opportunities in education, health, agriculture among others that technology can bring. The technocratic approach assumes that access to technology will help countries achieve social/political/economic development. Worse still, this approach tends to place agency to technology as the central agent of development. Yet, it is difficult to articulate development through technology because there are multiple and competing discourses. Specifically, Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) and Mobiles for Development (M4D) are the two most popular theoretical frameworks that have been used to explain Africa's uptake of technology, its drivers, barriers, and impact. With this understanding, the study uses the paradigm taken by various scholars on how these frameworks are determining development in Kenya. Thus, this approach interrogates socioeconomic and political indices to highlight the key intertwined sociotechnical challenges and opportunities, at macro-and micro-levels. The findings suggest that, more often than not, technology access and use won't lead to economic development as it sustains economic inequalities and existing power imbalances.

Keywords:

Technology; Development; Digital economy; Socioeconomic development; Kenya; M4D; ICT4D; Utopia

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Nyaboke, Roseline

An Analysis of Kenyan Education (k-12) in the Vision 2030

There has been a rapid increase in research in the 21st century, which aims to reform education. Without well-trained teachers, countries cannot reach their target, especially for developing countries like Kenya. In the past, Kenya's instruction was for small scale and apprenticeship, but the current educational ministry's target is to implement active learning by 2030. Therefore, this paper seeks to provide an analysis of current Kenyan education and its future. Teachers play a crucial role in Kenya's development of market globalization and competencies, and quality education is the critical precursor for the country's development. Without well-trained teachers, Kenya cannot attain its goal. Therefore, teachers must actively engage students in the class to become creative thinkers and develop knowledge to create change. Therefore, this paper seeks to answers two questions 1. What do Kenyan teachers need to meet the 2030 vision? 2. What does Kenya need to ensure the proper implementation of active learning? Based on the analysis, Kenya has adopted pedagogical improvement activity-based & learner-centered for improving and competencies to guarantee quality and equitable education to its students.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Oduntan, Oluwatoyin
Towards a History of Modern Medicine in Africa

The burden of disease and epidemics in Africa invites a historical examination/reappraisal of how medicine is thought of and practiced in Africa. The history of medicine in Africa as currently conceived covers the European experience and represents African thoughts as reactions to European medical ideas. The earliest form of that history, consisting of academic microstudies of slave trade era surgeons, missionary healers, biographies of colonial physicians, and colonial policies towards epidemic outbreaks, aptly referred to as the thoughts and actions of “European doctors on African bodies” has proved to be historically inaccurate. It neither offers a knowledge necessary for medical policy nor a contextual account of the African medical experience. Its latter form, the practice of medicine in post-colonial Africa continues to be shaded by the assumption that modern medicine is not African, and to seek for medical explanation from the faulted Eurocentric paradigm. In the reluctance of historians, our knowledge of medicine in postcolonial Africa relies on the World health organization and Western dominated institutions which reinforce the notion that modern medicine is what is given to or done for Africa. This project challenges Eurocentric notions of health and healing in Africa by focusing on the thoughts and roles of African medical professionals since the 19th century.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Ogundayo, Biodun

Africana Transnationalism and Afrofuturism: New Pan Africanisms

This era of pandemics, internet, social media, and international travel has created a fresh awareness of global Blackness. We can therefore postulate new Pan Africanisms. Paul Gilroy's concept of the Black Atlantic is increasingly a part of our consciousness, just like the murder of George Floyd reminded the world of a global Blackness. In the 21st century the very idea of Pan-Africanism is being reassessed in multiple ways. This essay is an effort to discuss the challenges and opportunities for the new global Blackness and awareness of it as expressed through travel writings/media, Black syncretic religious practices, Black activism, Diasporan genealogy projects, Black fantasy and science fiction literature, Black feminism, and social media, among others. The essay is an attempt to answer the question (as framed by Manning Marable's descriptive-prescriptive-corrective paradigm) as to whether today's Blackness and Afropolitan really differ from the Pan Africanism of yore. Adjunct concepts such as Afro-optimism, Afro pessimism are discussed as responses to systemic racism and white supremacy just like Pan Africanism was primarily an anti-colonialist response to European imperialism and racism.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Okantuh, Mwatabu

“A Black Voice from the Wilderness”

From the ancient baobab to the haunted Oak, we live in troubled, but exciting times. A time for creative thinkers, artists, poets, storytellers, dancers, singers and players of instruments. Creative artists have an essential role to play joining with scholars doing critical research on Africa and in meeting the challenges of 2021 and beyond. In the winter of 1987, I was commissioned by the late James G. Spady and the Philadelphia Black History Museum Committee to write an epic poem in honor of Senegal’s Cheikh Anta Diop. Spady wanted as weeping, grand epic that would give, not only the world-at-large, but, more importantly, Africans in Africa a sense of who African Americans have become as a distinct New World people of African descent. He wanted a poem that spoke to the impact Diop’s groundbreaking work has had on our quest to reclaim a whole and a healthy cultural identity. This poem is intended to help reconnect a lost and still wandering Black living to our too long neglected Black living dead. Herein lies the source of the real Afreka that is still very much alive in our people today. Published as a limited, trilingual edition in English, French and Wolof, this is a narrative poem of self-discovery and Black love.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Olubenga, Pelumi

Title: Energy Poverty in Africa: Causes, Cost, and Solutions

Energy Poverty is one of the biggest challenges facing many African countries. Data from the International Energy Agency (IEA) shows that about two-thirds of the continent's population - equivalent to nearly 620 million people do not have access to modern energy services. This paper seeks to spotlight the systemic issues facing Africa's energy sector, its economic implications and how far-reaching reforms can help turn things around.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Oke, Oluwafisayo

Engaging Women with Disabilities in Conversations Critical to National Development in Nigeria

Societal issues such as negative attitudes and stigma (Obiakor, 1998), discrimination (World Bank, 2020), lack of political will and absence of legal enforcement (Obiakor, 2004) have contributed to the challenges experienced by persons with disabilities (PWD) in Nigeria. PWD are often viewed as different from the “norm” which results in rejection, loss of respect, being considered useless, neglect, and being thought of as unworthy of being alive (World Bank, 2020). However, the gendered nature of disability in Nigeria assumes that men with disabilities are the default such that all PWD experiences are highlighted through a masculine lens (Elekwe & Ebenso, 2016). This presentation adopts a feminist disability perspective to examine the experiences of women with disabilities (WWD) in Nigeria based on both gender and disability (Elekwe & Ebenso, 2016). Thus, as women, WWD are expected to become stay-at-home wives and as PWD, they experience discrimination and exploitation including sexual assault and rape (Elekwe & Ebenso, 2016). Using existing literature and data, this presentation will provide recommendations on the importance of using participatory research for collecting country-wide data to inform planning and policymaking with WWD to improve their life outcomes.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Otiso, Kefa

Every Dark Cloud Has a Silver Lining: Some Positive Externalities of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Crisis to Kenya and Her US Diaspora

The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has infected over 132 million people, killed close to 3 million of them, and devastated the socioeconomic lives of billions of people from around the world including Kenyans at home and in the diaspora. Some economic sectors, including the hotel and tourism industries, have been so hard hit that they will take many years to recover. Nevertheless, like many other crises in history, the COVID-19 crisis does have its silver linings or unintended positive consequences including greater creativity and innovation among individuals, organizations, institutions, and nations across the globe. This paper uses secondary data to explore these unforeseen positive consequences in relation to Kenya and her diaspora in the US. It ends with some policy implications.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Ouma, Anne

Harnessing traditional knowledge in communities in the promotion of health and well-being

Traditional communities have clearly defined and dynamic sets of cultural values and belief systems which form and inform traditional health governance and well-being, which could influence and regulate the day-to-day relations within households as well as the entire community. Communities operate on a two-pronged system of health and well-being. There is the traditional system of health based on social ethno health knowledge, the norms and structures, mainly defined, in varying degrees, from community to community. In parallel are modern administrative structures of health and well-being, based on conventional health system structures with laws, universal health rights and values that regulate day-to-day running and decision-making. Critical reviews in research indicate that social and economic relations in health provision that characterize the prevailing knowledge on Traditional health and well-being and its use in communities are positioned against introduced public health policies that were inadequate in addressing socio-cultural issues of social health and well-being in the societies in the area of study. Based on a literature review and respondent interviews in western Kenya and western Tanzania shows that traditional knowledge on health and well-being today exists side by side with modern health systems with an evolving role that Traditional medicinal knowledge plays today in primary health care. Some examples of differential approaches to ill health by conventional health approaches and traditional health/ well-being approaches including some socio-psychological/socio psychosomatic challenges. Traditional health practitioners display possible unique allies to health and well-being while proposing sustainable approaches by/in communities.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Paolo, Bernadette

US Engagement with the Continent of Africa from Presidents Clinton to Trump: Perspectives of American and African Change Agents on U.S.-Africa Policy

America's engagement with the continent of Africa has had many pivotal periods during its history, but it is essential that this relationship be reexamined now not only from the US perspective, but also from the African perspective. The way forward requires a reboot which necessitates input from policymakers and stakeholders. Generally, US policy is subject to analysis by internal actors, rather than considering the views, needs and recommendations of partners or recipients. This is particularly true with respect to Africa.

In my research, I conducted interviews with a former African Head of State, African Ambassadors, four former Assistant Secretaries of State for African Affairs, and business and non-profit leaders to determine what US initiatives were beneficial or detrimental during the past four administrations. What emerged from these interviews were insights and recommendations on issues ranging from security to governance to the rule of law to facilitating better business and trade relationships that provide a roadmap for the future.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Petrie-Wyman, Jennifer

Pondering African Futures: Meeting the Challenges of 2020 and Beyond Critical Research on Africa: Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes Conference

Dr. Petrie-Wyman will present "Defending Business Ethics: The Power of Ghanaian Women's Leadership in Combating Corruption and Promoting Democratic Business." Situated within the context of #metoo, BLM, and counter-movements, Dr. Petrie-Wyman conducted interviews with mid to senior level female management in Accra to assess role of ethics in Ghanaian women's leadership in 2018 and 2019.

The data collected identified patterns and themes demonstrating the ways in which ethics in women's leadership combats corruption, reduces sexual discrimination, and promotes democratic workplaces. The next steps required to strengthen ethical business leadership in Ghana and Africa are also discussed particularly in the context of rising ethnocentrism and divisive politics. Dr. Petrie-Wyman has been conducting research on education and leadership in Ghana since 2010.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Picard, Louis
Hidden Peoples in Uganda

The ASA Social Fund for Hidden Peoples works on income generation, research and information dissemination, focusing on “Hidden Peoples” in Uganda. Hidden Peoples are those who are marginalized from society and left out of political, social and economic development activities. In order to survive and to re-integrate into society, these marginalized people seek support for income generation activities. Uganda has had hidden people in both peace time and in time of war. Particularly devastating has been the impact of the twenty-year war against the Lord’s Resistance Army which began in 1968. As a result of the war, Northern Uganda has been both economically devastated and socially and politically separated from their fellow citizens in the South. Focus of the discussion will be on the concept of “hiddenness,” hiddenness in Uganda and the various activities the ASA Social Fund for Hidden Peoples and the University of Pittsburgh has undertaken in Uganda since 2008.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Porter, Maureen K.

East African Kangas: Proclamations of Status, Provocative Proverbs, and Plausible Deniabilities

Kanga, or leso, are boldly patterned cloth wraps that have Swahili proverbs printed along one side. In Eastern Africa, women intentionally use kanga as gifts, worn texts, celebratory statements, warnings, and festive adornment. The provocative proverbs speak to common themes of love, good moral character, and neighborly relationships. Women typically own many for daily wear, and acquire specially annotated ones to make subtle statements about conflict or wishes among friends, lovers, and co-wives. Developed hundreds of years ago in Islamic coastal regions, formerly enslaved women eagerly adopted them as affordable, artistic ways of proclaiming their status of the demurely dressed classes. Today, they are ubiquitous in both traditionally draped styles and incorporated into high fashion and music videos. Kangas have been commissioned for auspicious occasions, such as celebrating Barack Obama's visit. However, their cumulative power lies in their affordability and range of subtle everyday wear, with plausible deniability of the actually intended sarcasm or flirting key to their use. Both anthropologists and local women know that meaning is the sum of both the medium and the message, or as the alliterative kanga itself states, *Haba na haba, hujaza kibaba*, meaning that small actions, bit by bit, fill up the container.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Proctor, Ralph

Recovering Ancient African stolen Artifacts and Controlling the Traditional African Art Market

Africa is the birthplace of present-day humanoids. It is the place of the Garden of Eden; the advanced civilizations of Egypt and Great Zimbabwe. It was the home of one of the first universities. African once controlled the world market in gold. Much of the world diamond supply comes from Africa.

Yet despite untold riches, Africans frequently do not reap the benefits of its many resources. Much of the wealth derived from Africa goes to benefit European wealth. Such is the case with a vast source of wealth derived from the production and sale of African Art/Artifacts.

The African Art. Artifact market is a billion dollar enterprise based on articles and items produced in Africa; many of which were looted and stolen by Europeans.

Even though many of the ancient cultural and religious practices that led to the creation of these items have been vanishing or have been killed by the conquering European powers, many of the artifacts are still being produced and sold by local artisans. Why do Europeans control this indigenous “art” form? Why are there many priceless treasures being sold and resold at European and American auction houses for billions of dollars and African enjoy almost none of these profits? Many of the items were looted from Africa during the colonization period.

I am proposing a multi-pronged national effort to control the sale of African art and artifacts and reclaiming the thousands of objects stolen from Africa that enrich Europeans, not Africans.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Ressa, Theodoto

African People with Disabilities as Guinea Pigs: African Scholars Becoming Academic Betrayers

Much of the historical research in Africa about people with disabilities was much conducted by Caucasian scholars who by the virtue of their access to western-developed and framed research tools easily accessed African research sites and people. Much of the research was done with the western audience in mind and to their benefit. Interestingly, post-independent African scholars in Africa and diasporic African scholars have quickly adopted this research approach by turning Africa into a rich mining field for scholarship but to the benefit of Global North country. Informed by the research on people with disabilities in Africa, I argue that there is a growing lack of moral obligation to act for the benefit of African people with disabilities by African researchers and that African scholars are committing a serious error of judgement and academic betrayal when they turn African people with disabilities into guinea pig to advance scholarship in the realm of disability and related areas such as health and technology that do not benefit the disabled community in Africa. I therefore call for the implementation of the principle of beneficence. re-evaluation of research goals in Africa to invest in scholarship and practices that empower the disabled community.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Sabuhoro, Edwin

The Relationship Between Household Livelihood Security and the Perceived Prevalence of Illegal Activities in the Greater Virunga Landscape

Illegal activities in the Greater Virunga Landscape (GVL) has been a major challenge affecting the conservation of Mountain Gorillas and their habitats. The purpose of this paper is to investigate the relationship between household livelihood securities and the perceived prevalence of illegal activities across GVTL. This paper uses data from 571 residents in Uganda and Rwanda. Residents were clustered between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries of community conservation programs. Results demonstrated; (1) evidence of relationships between illegal activities and household livelihood securities; (2) no difference in the relationship between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries; (3) illegal activities are mainly caused by the community's lack of alternative sources of livelihood. Overall, the results on specific household livelihood securities (food, economic, health, and education) relationship with illegal activities (poaching, water collection, medicinal herbs collection, wood cutting, bamboo cutting, and forest fires) supports the notion that addressing illegal activities requires an integrated community development approach.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Sackeyfio, Naaborle

The edge of transformation: Africa's knowledge production, technoscapes and eco-futures in motion

As we hurtle forth in the 21st century, Africa is at the cusp of puissant transformation. However, propelling the continent's promise further, requires dislocating the dominant and incongruent knowledge production systems—in effect paradigms that vacillate between a narrative of potency to enduring tropes about endemic malaise and marginality. While the continent's development trajectory remains overshadowed by fits and starts of uneven governance and deficits in sovereignty, an ongoing gambit for economic primacy through globalization is evident. This paper examines the role of decolonized Afrocentric knowledge production, technoscapes and an African renaissance to produce a resurgent continent that is a lone architect of its economic and political fortunes. This paper contends that Africa's ecological future is contingent on a Pax Africana that asserts ownership, agency through decolonization of institutional structures that include knowledge production.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Sikes, Michelle

'Rebels' on the Run: Kenyan Gambles on Intercollegiate Athletics, Apartheid Sport, and US Road Racing of the 1980s

In October 1988, a group of track-and-field athletes, almost all of whom were American, defied the international anti-apartheid sport boycott when they undertook the first major series of competitions in South Africa since the IAAF expelled the apartheid state in 1976. Perhaps the most surprising member of this 'rebel tour' was Kenyan Samson Obwocha, a recent graduate of East Texas State University and a seven-time NCAA Division II and junior college national champion then scavenging the US road race circuit for prize money. African nations, including Kenya, had long refused any contact in sport with South Africa, and news of his association with the tour made national headlines in Kenya, South Africa, and the United States. With livelihood, career, and reputation at stake, Obwocha left South Africa before the tour began, unremunerated. Activists' efforts to isolate the apartheid regime and the harsh economics of professional running in the 1980s shaped his athletics career, examination of which sheds light on the external anti-apartheid struggle, expands our understanding of sport, politics, and protests, and invites further investigation of the transnational history of Kenyan runners in the early years of professional road racing in the United States.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Soetan, Olusegun

The Elusive Auteur: Mo Abudu and the Cinema of Decolonization.

Nollywood has birthed its own feminist "cahier du cinema," that is, filmmakers with keen eyes for sophisticated cinematic and artistic details that render the crass materiality of old narratives stale and unappealing to global audiences. Through their films and television sitcoms, the new crop of women filmmakers challenges female bodies' pervasive objectification and toxic masculinities in Nollywood films. In their interventionist roles, they deploy cinema as a tool of women's re-empowerment, articulate intersectional feminism, and reinterpret the art of being African in transnational dimensions. Among these leading feminist auteurs is Mosunmola Abudu (popularly known as MO Abudu), a creative personality and a savvy media entrepreneur. In recent years, she has emerged as a dominant production figure in Nollywood, and her works have established her as a serious screen griot with a revolutionary vision. Although referring to her as an auteur is a controversial claim to make, it comes with a high theorization stake. Yet, I am willing to assert her authorial presence in Nollywood. Hence, in that regard, this paper focuses on the art of MO Abudu within the Nigerian film culture, and it argues for the rereading of "auteurism" as a media theory. This study employs Laura Mulvey's notion of "male gaze" and "visual pleasure" to articulate how Mo Abudu deconstructs hypermasculinity, over-sexualization of female bodies, and gender inequality in her films. The study also claims that feminist Nollywood filmmakers write female bodies as objects of pain and as a site of voluntary pleasure.

Wallace, Edward

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Food Truck Policies: Reducing Disparities for Africans and African Americans

We undertook this study knowing that having access to healthy foods for Africans and African Americans who live in low-income urban neighborhoods continues to be a problem throughout the Midwest. Africans and African Americans with less money are not only forced to spend money on food that is cheaper, but also must purchase food that contains high levels of fat, salt, and sugar. A review of the literature shows that very little is known about how mobile food trucks can increase accessibility of healthy foods in low-income Americans. We compared municipal codes for mobile food truck operators and evaluated the impact on cities in the Midwest to reduce health disparities by building a culture of health. We analyzed six Midwest metro areas with the highest proportion of Africans and African Americans who lived below the poverty level and had access to mobile food trucks in their neighborhoods. Overall, we found that developing more incentives for mobile food truck operators to sell healthier food options not only improves health outcomes, but also reduces health disparities.

Key words: Policy, Food Trucks, Disparities, Culture of Health

Wanjala, Emmanuel

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Addressing the Digital Literacy Gap in Kenya using Warwick's Transactional Framework of Policy Formulation and Implementation

With the suspension of in-person teaching and learning in most countries because of the outbreak of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching and learning has tremendously escalated. Many countries resorted to some form of remote instruction to mitigate the rapid spread of the Covid-19 as well as bridge the learning gap. While these efforts are laudable, learners from marginalized schools: public schools in rural, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), and slum areas in Kenya did not benefit fully from remote learning due to lack of access to digital devices, electricity, broadband, Wireless Fidelity (WIFI), and unpreparedness on the part of teachers as well as parents. The lack of access to resources that support the use of ICT and the subsequent lack of access to remote learning and teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic is a clear indicator that Kenya needs to urgently reform its digital literacy policy to address the digital literacy gap that exists between schools in marginalized areas and those in semi and urban areas. This paper discusses how Kenya can formulate and implement a sustainable ICT or digital literacy policy in schools using Warwick's transactional framework of policy formulation and implementation. While discussing this framework, the paper will underscore the relevance of paying attention to the context in which schools in marginalized areas operate, how learners in such schools learn, and the role that different stakeholders play in policy implementation. Furthermore, digital literacy will not be examined as a stand-alone factor that improves education quality and access but as a component of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).

Keywords: Coronavirus, Transactional Framework, Formulation, Implementation, Digital Literacy Policy, Marginalized Schools, Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).

Warner, Karin

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

The Importance of History in Pondering African Futures

In order to understand unrest and violence in many parts of Africa – we must look at the history without bias – and seek understanding. In order to envision peaceful ways forward – we must understand and acknowledge the past, motivations and drivers of current unrest, African leadership must hear and address grievances of her people – and the world community must allow Africa to have independence.

Areas of discussion: The Niger Delta, and South Africa.

Webster, Nicole

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.

Critical Patterns and Challenges of African Youth Engagement

Globally, there seems to be an understanding that young people contribute to societies' development and growth. They also provide centrality in the actions of social and economic movements pushing for change. While youth are often part of these grassroots movements for change, they are often excluded from political and major decision-making processes. Within the African context, these issues are even more salient. African leaders continuously fail to realize youth as crucial resources and valued members of society. This presentation will discuss youth participation within West Africa's civic groundswells through a critical study of patterns, challenges, and youth engagement perspectives. Data was captured from the Afrobarometer dataset and analyzed using quantitative techniques. Results reveal that, although youth comprise most of the population, they are mostly excluded from West Africa's socioeconomic and political spheres. And while many of these countries have protected and advocated for young people's rights, most policies and services relate to young people on a surface level. Therefore, more must be done to establish conditions that enable youth and prepare the way for their meaningful involvement in society.

The Center for African Studies has published the following abstracts with permission. The full rights to the abstracts are the sole property of the authors.