

NYASA 2010 Conference Abstracts
SUNY Binghamton

Hussein Adam (College of the Holy Cross) *From Neo-Marxist Tyranny to Neo-Talibanism*
No abstract

N'dri Assie-Lumumba (Cornell University) *Africa-Asia University Dialogue for Basic Education Development: A New Paradigm of Holistic Education for Social Progress.*

Formal education in Africa as a colonial legacy is designed on a hierarchical basis and generally compartmentalized with the higher education sub-sector being conceptually and functionally unrelated to basic education. In his book, *Educate or Perish*, (1990) Ki-Zerbo articulated that education in Africa must be re-conceptualized, planned, and managed with the philosophy of inter-dependent levels from pre-school and elementary school to higher education. In this new conception, production of knowledge in institutions of higher learning must contribute to providing, among other outputs, relevant information for policy formulations and quality education at the lower levels of the systems. The Africa-Asia University Dialogue for Basic Education Development project was designed to promote research by higher education researchers with practical educational objectives geared towards the development of basic education by addressing the most pressing issues that hinder efficient and quality education. Furthermore, it intends to promote a multi-sectoral approach to research as a means to foster sustainable social progress. The paper is a reflection on the broader philosophy of the specific project and it will analyze some of the results of its first phase.

Seth N. Asumah (SUNY Cortland) *African Cultures and the Quest for Modernization and Development in the Era of Globalization: A Stage of Benevolent Neo Imperialism?*

Globalization makes cultural and development issues in Africa inescapable to understanding the totality of the global human condition. African cultural studies and development research must, therefore, consider cross cultural dynamics, structural, and systemic variables that contribute to sustainable development. Yet, in the process of modernization and development, the convergence theory maintains that once African traditional cultures are exposed to the forces of modernization and development, the marginal propensity of abandoning African cultures in the interest of industrialized ones is very high, hence dependency, *Coca-colization*, and *McCulturalization*. *Mutatis mutandis*, Dr. Asumah argues that the forces of modernization, globalization, and development contribute to the bastardization and gradual extinction of African traditional cultures, and unless Africans are able to navigate the dynamics of cultural imperialism from the United States, Europe, and China to become true development partners and not just exotic “cultural objects” for the global village, African development problems will continue to be irrepressible.

Beniam Awash (Binghamton University) *Republic of Violence: Class and Nationality in the Making of Republican Ethiopia 1974 –Present.*

This paper explores the role of politicized ethnic identity and its relationship to violent conflicts and state building in Ethiopia before and after the formation of the federation of Ethiopia's 'nations, nationalities, and peoples' was instituted in 1991. The literature on ethnic federalism in Republican Ethiopia has interpreted the politicization of ethnicity in the Second 'revolutionary' Republic and its relationship to violent conflicts in several ways. One, the nationalist position holds that the introduction of ethnic federalism as a system of governance is a means of elite control and the reproduction of centralized authoritarian power. It also ethnicizes the state inducing violence opposing its autocratic tendencies. A variation of this view also holds the state to be a catalyst of communal struggles for power. A second, ethno-nationalist, position claims that processes of cultural liberation and gradual de-centralization of power to ethnic communities is the only viable means of maintaining a unitary state, eliminating inequality and economic marginalization and mitigating a recurrence of violent conflicts. A key failing of studies that reflect either of these positions is their neglect of 'class', as a political, social and economic category, and the dominance of primordialist conceptions of ethnicity that animates a significant amount of the scholarship and political activism. The absence of 'class' as an analytical category towards conceptualizing identity formation and politics in the analyses of Ethiopia's federal and republican experiences remains insufficiently explored. Lastly, while some scholars recognize the link of the Second Republic's ethnic federal experience to longer temporal dimensions, the majority of studies investigating the relations of politicized ethnicity and conflict in the Second Republic have treated it in isolation from the First Republic and have not contextualized it within the social and historical processes unleashed by the Yekatit 1974 revolution. Thus, there is a critical need to compare the continuities and discontinuities of the structural forces that reproduce authoritarianism and the transformation of violence in the First and Second Ethiopian Republics (Abbink, 2006).

John Ayotunde (University of the West Indies, Jamaica) *Education and Culture in Africa*

The last few years have witnessed increased critical interest in the continent of Africa, especially with a view to understanding the various problems facing the continent, for all kinds of reasons, ranging from the need to sanitize the conscience of the West regarding the denudation of Africa of her human and natural resources, to finding a solution to the HIV/AIDS problem which some have erroneously claimed to have originated from Africa, to stemming the flow of refugees from various African countries to metropolitan colonial powers in search of better life, to deliberate determination of what kinds of leaders Africa should have running the various puny governments as surrogates for the interests of the Western powers, to finding stability for the imposition of WTO-friendly stooges in power to assure the pillaging of African resources, to deliberate unleashing of mercenaries on some societies to destabilize the governments of the societies in the name of Human Rights and Democracy. It is with regard to the last matter that external observers are particularly confounded by the nature of and diverse manner of manifestations of the apparently intractable human and natural problems facing the continent. In this paper I trace a direct connection between education, ethics, leadership, corruption, and development in Africa, arguing that there is a need to urgently address the mis-education of African peoples, which will

then lead to the proper determination of home grown agendas that will eradicate corruption and lead to human and cultural development of Africa based on African determinations of what values are best for Africa.

Stephen Balkaran (Central Connecticut State University) *Race, Politics and the Obama Administration*
No Abstract

Jaimie Beck (Cornell University) *Foreign Aid in Mali.*
No abstract

Ayele Bekerie (Cornell University) *The Idea of Global Ethiopia*

The idea of global Ethiopia is an architectural and narrative scheme to look into Ethiopia and the global movement it has inspired. Ethiopia emerges in world history through the teachings and writings of both Ethiopians and non-Ethiopians. From Hebrew people's *Old Testament* to the Greek version of the *Bible*, vivid references were made about Ethiopia, a land of famed ancient people. Roman, Arabic and Ge'ez sources further solidify and propagate the mythology and history of Ethiopia. Ethiopia expanded and contracted through the ages and since the fourth century of the Common Era, the name is exclusively associated with present-day Ethiopia. The idea of global Ethiopia is a source of an intellectual and cultural tradition among Africans and the African Diaspora. The purpose of this paper is to look into such a tradition and continued relevance.

Zulema Blair (CUNY) *African-Americans, the African-Diaspora, the 2008-2009 Financial Meltdown, and the Obama Phenomenon: Between Postracial Ideology and No-So-Color-Blind Economic Recession*
No abstract

Ray Chandrasekara (Albany College of Pharmacy & Health) *China in Africa: Expanding the Strategic Periphery*

The African continent has over the last three decades grown to become one of the most strategic regions in global trade and security both for the United States and China. While the United States has always been the familiar hegemon in the region, China's current embrace of Africa has highly strategic consequences for both the region and for China and the United States. Since the global communist revolution subsided and China started economic reforms in 1978, the various countries in Africa that in turn have embraced China have found some benefits from this strategic alliance. Chinese corporations and business people have made their presence felt in several countries on the continent. Recently, China has begun a more coherent push to gain a

foothold by signing a huge contract in oil and hydrocarbon extraction in Congo. China has also a flourishing trade relationship in the region, best exemplified by its Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and what it has termed “soft power” diplomacy. Nonetheless, the United States continues to consolidate its strategic foothold with the setting up of AFRICOM. While the United States has extended much needed aid and investment to several countries on the continent, it is China that is slowly becoming the key stakeholder for trade and investment and large no-condition loans. With the burgeoning Chinese economy and its need for raw materials and ability to pay world market prices for these materials, the African continent has not looked better for its ability to provide China with strategic commodities that drive Chinese development. Like Southeast Asia, China sees the African continent not merely as a location to extract resources but also to situate itself globally and strategically to enhance its presence in a critical part of the world. This paper examines the possible scenarios of China’s rapidly rising economic position in the various countries in Africa and how this increased power will challenge current US policies and domination in the continent.

Fiona C. Coffey (Tufts University) *Funding for Black Theatre during the Great Depression*

In the current recession, economic hardship, more than any other obstacle today, threatens to impede the progress and growth of Black theatre. During the Great Depression, the Federal Theatre Project (FTP) created much-needed jobs for the thousands of theatre artists who were unemployed. The Negro Units within the FTP allowed the continuation and growth of Black theatre during a time that threatened to economically wipe out most opportunity for Black theatre professionals. Both the successes and failures of the FTP’s Negro Units can serve as a guide for how the National Endowment for the Arts should distribute relief funding during the current recession. This paper compares the position of African-American theatre artists during the Great Depression with those of today revealing the renewed need for funding for specifically Black theatre. It examines both the successes and failures of the FTP’s Negro units and uses them as lessons on how the NEA’s recently awarded \$50 million dollar relief grant should be distributed during the current recession.

Robert Compton (SUNY Oneonta) *The New Scramble for Africa: Competing Western and Eastern Motive, Strategies, and Impact*

During the Cold War, the US, the USSR, and China battled each other for access to African natural resources, in addition to political influence. After the demise of the Cold War, Western analysts referred to the 1990s as “Africa’s forgotten decade.” During that time and into the 21st Century Asian countries, namely China and later India, “rediscovered” Africa and became investors and providers of foreign aid to the continent. Not to be left behind, the US and European countries started to re-engage African states. Is Africa experiencing a “new scramble” for its resources? This paper explores the changing dynamics of the relationships among the actors (African states, the West, and Asia) in terms of objectives, strategies, and impact by drawing on empirical examples from Africa, to include South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, DR Congo, and Equatorial Guinea.

Patrick Dikirr (Binghamton University) *Bridging the Digital Divide: Opening Up a Digital Dump in Africa*
No abstract

Jane Kani Edward (Fordham University) *African Immigrants in the Bronx: Building Communities Abroad and in Africa*

This paper examines the experiences of African immigrants in the Bronx with an aim of capturing their varied and multiple experiences. The paper analyzes various activities that Africans are involved in which benefited both the their adopted country and their communities in Africa. The main argument made in this paper is that despite the challenges faced by many Africans in the Bronx, they are making extraordinary contributions in building communities both in the Bronx and in Africa. The paper first provides brief background information about Africans in the Bronx, and the immigration research, then addresses different important activities carried out by Africans in the Bronx—activities ranging from entrepreneurships, social cultural organizations, faith based institutions, remittances, among many. The information used in the paper is drawn from on-going research among Africans in the Bronx. The project attempts to shift the discussion of African immigrants from assessing their needs and challenges, that tends to dominate the literature on African immigrants, into the analysis of their achievements and contributions to the host society as well as to communities in Africa.

John A. Eisler (University at Albany and SUNY Empire State College) *Energy Insecurity and the New Scramble for African Oil: Inevitable Resource Wars or Obligatory Cooperation in a Multi-polar World?*

The world's demand for energy is growing at a pace faster than production can match, leading to collective uncertainty about the availability of fossil fuels to sustain the economic engines of the major industrialized and ascending economies. This energy insecurity has led to an intensification of the competition for oil, particularly between the US and China. The continent of Africa, with its expanding oil reserves, has become the principle locus for this global struggle. These two countries have always had very different foreign policy approaches toward Africa, and they continue to have distinct approaches to energy security globally. Critically, how the US and China perceive and relate to each other and to their African "partners" in the next decade will shape whether energy and human security in Africa will be characterized by resource wars and proxy conflicts or multilateralism, mutually beneficial cooperation, and peace during the decades of decline.

Tsega Etefa (Colgate University) *China and the Darfur Crisis*

China is considered a close ally of Khartoum. Beijing has been blamed for preventing the United Nations Security Council from taking concrete measures against Khartoum. It is also accused of providing weapons to the Sudanese army which the latter used in the Darfur conflict. China has important oil investments in the Sudan. While Western diplomats and human rights

groups pressured China to exert its influence to halt the fighting, Beijing seemed unmoved. However, China has never used its veto power to block United Nations measures against the Sudan. China abstained, for example, from voting on the resolution referring crimes in Darfur to the World Court in March 2005 angering Sudanese officials, who wanted the permanent United Nations Security Council member to veto it. This paper attempts to look into the history of Sino-Sudanese relations and the role of China in the Darfur crisis.

Cary Fraser (Penn State University) *Citizenship and the Politics of Freedom: The Black Atlantic as a Crucible and as Paradigm*

No abstract

Roger Gocking (Mercy College) *Whom do Men Say I Look Like?*

From the earliest attempts to spread Christianity in Ghana, European missionaries used religious art as an important tool for spreading ideas about the Christian faith. This was particularly so for the Catholics and the Anglicans, who have long-established traditions of religious iconography. Initially, this art was highly Eurocentric in that Christ and Christian personae were represented as Caucasians. In the 1960s the need for what was described as enculturation, “the ongoing and critical dialogue between faith and culture” challenged this tradition, and there were a number of attempts to make religious art, especially in Catholic churches in Ghana, more Afrocentric. This paper looks at how this switch from a Eurocentric religious art to an Afrocentric inspiration developed and the reaction on the part of Ghanaian Christians to what Afrocentric clergymen in the United States have described as an attempt to “dehonkyfy Christ.”

Marame Gueye (East Carolina University) *Mothering While Illegal: An Emperical Study of the Stories of West African Women in the US*

No abstract

Sheila Harrington see Linda Lahey-Fay

David Harris and Simona Vittorini (School of Oriental and African Studies, United Kingdom) *Post-Clientelist Strategies in Democratizing Developing Countries.*

This paper examines the potential political implications for democratic consolidation in two very distinct West African states, Ghana and Liberia, following India’s growing engagement in the region. In line with the thinking that significant African economic development can only follow structural changes in politics, i.e. away from a reliance on neo-patrimonialism and clientelism, the paper explores the possible indirect political pay-offs emerging from the combination of three important coincidental factors: the rise of governments in Ghana and Liberia with a higher degree of democratic legitimacy and an accompanying electoral logic impelling governments to deliver in a somewhat developmental manner as well as in the time-honored patron-cliental fashion; the emergence of a new ‘multipolarity’ opened up by the Asian time-honored patron-

cliental fashion; the emergence of a new ‘multipolarity’ opened up by the Asian drivers’ mounting role in Africa and the potential gain in leverage of West African countries; and lastly, the influence in the region of India’s model as a rapidly developing country and a democracy. There may be direct economic benefits from Indian (and Chinese) investment, but a new-found greater governmental autonomy from pressures exerted by donors and by cliental forces could prove more instrumental in furthering economic development in the long run in these two countries.

Kevin Hickey (Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences) “*Enfouies dans les chairs:*” *European Body, African Body, Identity*

My paper focuses on “the body” in Africa – both the European’s and African’s – as the focus of a three-part argument: first, Western literature of travel in Africa – especially the literature of exploration – has promoted a dualism that has privileged the traveler’s mind and constructed the traveler’s body as an “animalistic” vehicle of consumption; second, this binary has “distanced” the traveler’s body in ways that have served also to distance and reduce Africans to objects whose literal and figurative “consumptions” have produced “their meanings;” and third, during the last century there has been a shift toward what can be called a “post” travel writing tradition that has worked to erase the binary that privileges the traveler over the native. Through a sweep of literature from Homer to Richard F. Burton and Henry M. Stanley, and then such post colonial writers as Egyptian Nawal el Saadawi, Mark Doyle and Cote D’Ivoirean Veronique Takjo (from whose *L’Ombre d’Imana*, *Shadow of Imana*, comes my title’s quotation, I argue that the always unsuccessful attempt at erasing this well-embedded dualism works to move Africa from Hegel’s “no part of the historical world” to a more global and inclusive understanding of Africa and its people.

Maccamas Ikpah (Rowan University) *Face Negotiations in 21st Century Relations*

New communication technologies have contributed to the global village perspective and also guaranteed business avenues in such areas as travel, tourism, and education for people from individualist cultures to visit and/or work in collectivistic cultures and vice versa. This creates a need for an intercultural understanding for an effective international transaction. Consequently, the author uses Stella Ting Toomey’s face negotiation (conflict resolution) theory as the foundation for the discussion. The paper is divided into four sections: Section one discusses StellaTing Toomey’s face negotiation theory as it relates to both African and Asian countries in conflict resolution situations. Section two discusses how people from collectivistic, low-context and polychromic time orientation cultural perspectives can effectively communicate with people from individualist, high-context and monochromic time orientation cultures in business transactions. Section three discusses how people from collectivistic low-contest and polychromic time orientation cultural perspectives, but with differing backgrounds can effectively communicate with people of same perspectives.

Oidinposha Imamkhojeva (Penn State University) *The New Great Game in Central Asia and Africa: US, Russia, and China and the Global Transformation in Africa and Asia.*
No abstract

Ibipo Johnston-Anumonwo (SUNY College at Cortland) *Women and Livelihoods in Africa's Globalizing Economies.*

Interdisciplinary and conceptual and empirical analysis of gender and development issues has encompassed how a gender perspective can enrich the understanding of many aspects of the global economy including economic restructuring and the feminization of the labor force. The conclusions from a variety of studies on Africa are that although women have made much progress toward gender equality, the results have been uneven, and often contradictory. Globalized markets brought new prosperity and growth to a variety of regions and sectors, but within the context of growing inequalities both within and between countries and among social groups. The paper uses the available empirical research on livelihood strategies to analyze women's diverse responses to the prospects, challenges, and multidimensional impacts of globalization in Africa.

Amadu Jacky Kaba (Seton Hall University) *Africa, China, and India and the 2009 Times Higher Education-QS Top 200 Universities in the World*

The 2009 *Times Higher Education-QS Top 200 Universities in the World* shows that Africa has only one university ranked, two for India, and six for China. This paper presents an analysis of the factors responsible for the inclusion or exclusion of colleges and universities in Africa, China, and India in the 2009 *Times Higher Education-QS Top 200 Universities in the World*.

Louisa Angelina Kabwila (Broome County College) *When Aid is not Aiding*

By definition, aid means to provide with what is useful or necessary in achieving an end. Donor aid according to this definition is supposed to be a way of helping with an expected result. Because of the way the donor aid system has been presented to the world, we tend to believe that it is out of good will that we get all the large checks, some in form of loans and others in form of donations. In this paper I will try to show how donor aid is not helping Malawi and it would be best to put to an end to it for many other African countries. To illustrate my argument, I will analyze the intentions of some donors, the process of aid, and the effects of the donor-aid system that we have presently. Since our ideologies and the way we look at life usually shapes our actions, I will look at the ideologies and philosophies of the donors themselves to show that even they, do not believe in what they are selling us. This paper employs Ayn Rand's arguments in *The Virtue of Selfishness* (1964) to show the philosophies of American donors. This illustrates the reality of ineffective donor-aid. I will engage John Perkin's arguments in *Confessions of An Economic Hitman* (2004) to demonstrate how donors strategize to profit from the countries they are giving aid, locking them in perpetual aid, in the name of giving them 'aid.' This paper argues that aid is unproductive to recipients.

Jessie Kabwilla Kapasula (Binghamton University) *Adzatola Chikawama Ndwodusa: Malawi Popular Culture and the Influx of Asians in Malawi*

A critical analysis of Lucius Banda's "Adzatola Chikwama Ndwodutsa," a popular song in his 2006 Album "Zakukhosi," illustrates the debate surrounding the massive mushrooming of Asians in Malawi, doing different kinds of businesses. In this song, Banda argues that if Malawians are not careful regarding the economic policies that govern trade in and out of the country, it is the visitor, that is Asians, "who will pick up the money bag" (enjoy the wealth of the country) and we (Malawians) will be left with a shell of a country, like what happened and is happening due to the Euro-western colonialism and imperialism. In this paper, I use Lucius Banda's popular song, to tease out the reaction of Malawians to the coming of the Chinese and Indians to trade in Malawi. I argue that Malawians need to take a class conscious perspective to trade agreements with China. If they adopt global capitalist policies, parrot the economic strategies of the Euro-west, it is only a matter of time before they have various forms of horizontal and vertical violence problems, manifesting themselves in various forms of class wars. Given Africa's colonial historiography, a capitalist model of trade is a recipe for danger. Such a model will only benefit the ruling elite that prefer it briefly. In the long run, it is a ticking time bomb, class wise, waiting to blow up. The paper employs a critical analysis of the film, *Tsotsi* (South Africa, 2005) and *Blind Shaft* (China, 2003) to advance the argument that if elitist economic policies are adopted in Malawi regarding trading with the Asian world, it is really "the visitor" who will pick up the money bag and the majority of the Malawian population will be people whom Rey Chow describes as "disposable" (2006), the ones Fanon calls, the "wretched of the earth" (1967). And, the disposable people will not take this lying down.

Edward Kannyo (Rochester Institute of Technology) *Sino-Uganda Relations: A Political and Economic Outline*

The paper is part of a larger study that examines Chinese involvement in Uganda particularly in the spheres of trade and investment. The study begins with a historical analysis of the beginnings of Sino-Ugandan relations that began shortly after Uganda's attainment of political independence in 1962. The primary focus is on China's African policies in the 1960s and 1970s and how they interacted with Uganda's foreign policy concerns under difference regimes. The analysis is framed against the background of the academic and policy debate about the value of the China connection for African economic and political development and some of the contentious issues such as the impact on local industry, labor conditions, competition with local commercial entrepreneurs, and civil society.

Yayoi Koizumi (Cornell University) *The Uses of African Diaspora: Black Representation in Japan*

The history and use of the concept of African Diaspora has gone through a sea of changes in the past decade, calling for a more global and diversified understanding of African Diaspora that reflects complexities in the lives of people of African descent. As a result of such critiques in the past decade, new types of works are emerging. I would like to contribute to this expansion by

arguing for a use of the concept in studies of black influences in Japan. Specifically, I argue for an inclusion of representational study as a part of African Diaspora study. Such an approach is necessary to study the impact of the dispersion of African diasporic cultures to a location such as Japan with relatively small numbers of people of African descent. My paper will discuss the cases of popular cultural representation of blackness in Japan and its impact in the Japanese society.

Linda Lahey-Fay, Sheila M. Harrington, and Edouard B. Mafoua (SEM Fund and SUNY Canton) The Senegal Ecovillage Microfinance Fund: A Matter of Trust
No Abstract

Tukumbi Lumumba-Kasongo (Cornell University & Wells College) *China-Africa Relations: Neo-Imperialism or Neo-Liberalism?*

Based on the intensity and the volume of financial and economic dimensions related to China-Africa relations since the end of the 1990s, the debate on these relations has just begun within the world system. The discussion on the nature of South-South relations, especially a new emerging industrial country, located in Asia, and the African countries representing the least industrialized area of the world is bringing also the arguments and propositions of the non-alignment into an intellectual scrutiny. Many intellectual debates on China-Africa relations have been mostly reactive in the sense that many analyses have examined these relations within the background of the past Africa's relations with the Global North. The existing literature on these relations has, to a large extent, not sufficiently located the discourse within the existing dominant ideologies, namely neo-imperialism and neo-liberalism. It is also important to localize these relations within the World Trade Organization's dogmas and practices, the United Nations Charter, and African Union Charter in order to assess whether or not these relations can be characterized as either neo-imperialist or neo-liberal. Furthermore, it is important to identify which specific areas these economic relations have generally focused on and in which specific African countries they have been dominant. How do the Chinese government and the Chinese Communist Party perceive and define them? And how do African Union and specific African countries perceive and define these relations? And what are their policy implications in China and in the African public sectors? The main objective of this paper is, using the data and figures from the Chinese sectoral investments and export-import of China and specific African countries to make a critical evaluative analysis of these relations and project them if there are qualified to be either neo-imperialist or neo-liberal. The paper is both a reflection and an empirically-based analysis.

Edouard Mafoua (SUNY Canton) The Impact of Secondary Education on Rural Community Development: The Case of the Mashenga Secondary School in Northern Tanzania

Eduard B. Mafoua see also Linda Lahey-Fay

J. K. Marah (SUNY College at Brockport) *The African Union needs a Pan-African Educational System*
No abstract

Renu Modi (University of Mumbai) *Africa in Search of Alternatives: The Washington, Beijing, or the New Delhi Consensus.*

The global downturn has adversely impacted Africa, through reduced capital inflows, lower demand for exports, and commodity prices, and a decline in remittances. However, many countries have recorded unprecedented economic growth due to alternative sources of capital flows, mainly China and India. The Chinese policy, since the adoption of the so-called ‘Go-Out’ policy, in 2001, strives to ensure access to natural resources for industrial production as well as to new markets. The Indian private sector has similar motives, but the modalities of operation differ as India has respected human rights on the continent and its business practices are non-controversial. With the ‘Washington Consensus’ a discredited developmental model, Africa now has the option of the Beijing or the New Delhi Consensus, or a combination of them. The author analyses the alternatives ahead of Africa and with empirical data. ‘The old is dying, yet the new is yet to be born.’ (Gramsci)

Monageng Mogalakwe (Penn State University) *Botswana: Confronting the Myth of Afro-Pessimism*
No abstract

Besi Brilliant Muhonja (James Madison University) *From Bollywood to Riverwood: Female Characters in Emerging Film Industries*
No abstract

Jemimah Mwakisha (Binghamton University) *Parenting at the Crossroads*
No abstract

Calchi Novati (University of Pavia & Roma-La Sapienza, Italy) *Horn of Africa: Protagonist Hostage or Victim?*

Geography determines as anything else history and the political make-up in the Horn of Africa. Decolonization did not reproduce into sovereignty the colonial partition. However, the double or triple crisis that went to a conclusion in coincidence with the end of bi-polar system re-established between Ethiopia and Eritrea lined along the main cleavages of the international (dis)order. Who dictated the terms? Ethiopia tried to take profit from her historical status to play a major role as a “regional center” accomplishing the requirements of the world hegemonic power. Somalia was involved in a phenomenology tailored on the objectives of war on terror. Despite their claiming to pursue national projects, Horn states, like in the East-West

confrontation, pay the price of the enduring asymmetries of the Center-Periphery relationships: the uncertain role of Italy, the former colonial master.

Corinne Nyquist (SUNY New Paltz) *Sojourner Truth's Life Story Today: Conjecture, Confusion, Concoction, and Clarification?*

Sojourner is widely represented in books, articles, and websites. For the simple facts of her early life in Ulster County and New York City we look to her *Narrative*. But we soon encounter problems of geography when we try today to describe places where she lived. In addition to her *Narrative*, we have many books written about her, some with statements based on hearsay. Recent biographies have corrected much of this, but even there we encounter conjecture. The library at the State University of New York at New Paltz, where I am a librarian, is named after her. Locals have succeeded in efforts to discover documents and buildings that help to tell her early story. The unveiling of a bust in the United States Capitol to honor her, brings many queries to me as does my Website titled "On the Trail of Sojourner Truth in Ulster County," which is linked to from the Wikipedia article on her. Answering questions raises problems that I plan to present for discussion.

Lanre Olu-Adeyemi (Adekunle Ajasin University, Nigeria) *Globalization, Human Security, and Development in Afro-Asia*

Globalization increased optimism of Afro-Asia's development prospects. However, considering current trends and with few years to 2015, Afro-Asia is likely to fail to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Home to over half of the global poor, Afro-Asia's human security and development challenges remain as frightening as ever. Despite the celebrated increased economic growth in some countries, the combined economies of Afro-Asia have actually shrunk and are far from curtailing the extreme poverty consequent upon the global economic crisis. Based on the reality of the nexus of human security and development, Afro-Asians could be labeled as the most insecure across the globe. This paper reviewed and analyzed critical human security issues—economy, health, population, gender, debt crisis, etc., in Africa and Asia. It concludes that a holistic socio-economic and human approach to achieving the MDGs is imperative because the goals are sacrosanct to the socio-economic and human development of Afro-Asia.

Ayodeji Olukoju (University of Lagos, Nigeria) *Localized Impact of Nigeria's Relations with China and Japan since 1999*

This paper examines cultural, economic, and technical relations between Nigeria, on the one hand, and China and Japan, on the other, especially since Nigeria's return to civil rule in 1999. It compares relations between Nigeria and each of Asia's leading powers in the context of Nigeria's return to democratic rule, and assesses the localized impact of this relationship on the Nigerian political economy. From a strictly Nigerian perspective, though located within the domestic, continental, and global political economy, the paper analyses the impact of the

country's relations with Asia's pre-eminent powers in terms of formal and informal economic, technical, and cultural exchanges; and their impact on human capacity development, community development, and health and educational infrastructure in Nigeria. It also examines the Japanese response to the phenomenal increase of Chinese interest in Nigeria since the late 1990s and makes some projections for the future.

Carine Omole (Binghamton University) *Arica and International Cooperation in Education: A Kenyan Study*

No abstract

Zakari Tata (Wayne State University) *Global Health Care Ethics: The African Experience*

No abstract

Meron Tesfamichael (New School for Social Research) *Corruption and the Dynamics of Anti-Corruption Norm Diffusion in Kenya*

Since the 1990s Kenya has been a conspicuous site for the global effort to fight corruption in Africa. Consequently, over the last two decades, under pressure from international organizations, financial institutions and transnational advocacy groups, the Kenyan government has taken a number of measures, and passed a number of laws to curb the problem of corruption. However, despite all the rhetorical postures, legal reforms, and promises corruption remains rife. And, enactments of anti-corruption laws are often simultaneously undone by the very political actors that endorsed them. This situation exemplifies a paradoxical situation where international norms are neither fully accepted nor widely rejected. This paper will use a Kenya case study to examine what happens to norms that are neither accepted nor rejected and rethink prevailing modes of international norm diffusion. Until recently, norms had been studied mainly for the role they play at the international system level and the way they provide solutions to cooperation problems, reduce transaction costs, and constitute state actors. Hence, the emphasis has been on the power of norms and the process through which states adjust their domestic policies to conform to universally recognized standards. This paper will demonstrate that (a) when it comes to norm diffusion political actors at the local level play a dynamic role; (b) domestic political context is not an obstacle to the process of norm diffusion but a framework within which local actors comprehend international norms. In other words, by examining how political actors in Kenya negotiate global anti corruption reform efforts, this paper will argue that our analysis of international norms should consider local actors' ability to choose among different courses of actions and to use reflexive knowledge to transform situations.

Darryl Thomas (Penn State University) *From Afro-Asianism, Non-Alignment to BRIC, and Group of 20*

No abstract

Simona Vittorini see David Harris

David N. Wachanga (University of Wisconsin Whitewater) *Media Deterritorialization and the New Diaspora*

Formulation of diasporic narratives as a crisis of subjugation and dislocation is increasingly being challenged. There is an emergent discourse seeking to articulate the Diasporas as a metaphor of ravel rather than of place; to formulate them as indicative of routes, rather than of roots; as sojourners rather than settlers. Although routed and roots are discrete elements, their intra and inter-mutative nature fosters deterritorialization; a complexity of making and re-making new cultural homes, of dying and resurrecting, of imaginatively seeking ways to be remembered with ones roots, to be reterritorialized. This quest for reterritorialization is not only uniquely framed by the media, but it is packaged as a commodity while at the same time is nurtured as a market for media products. In this discussion, we seek to examine how the media frame dynamics informing the diasporic deterritorialization and the media narratives emerging from this complexity. We examine Diasporas as sites-bound who are heavily connected to their homelands through a mutative mediascape.

Betty Wambui (SUNY Oneonta) *African and Asian Partnership in the Construction of Identity*

Africa is not only the home of humankind, it is also the home of new and interesting identities. These are identities that continue to take shape not only as given traditional memories and colonial histories, but also in the face of global travel and exchanges as individuals and families, cities and communities, nations and regions grow, mature and find themselves. In the forced interaction of colonial subjugation and further; contact shaped by social, political and economic interests, Africans and Asians have partnered together to produce new worlds. Given the material facts of their experiences which have been shaped commonly, sometimes together, not only by and in the face of colonial history, but also in the course of meeting their common needs and interests, Africans and Asians have worked to address the common problem of self identity. This paper shall take Kenya, indeed most particularly Nairobi, as a space in which to reflect on how contemporary identities are evolving as Africa and Asia meet. Such identities are emerging as Africans and Asians at home and abroad meet each other in interesting moments of interaction and in the midst of these everyday dealings which are themselves a means of creating self space, a way of seeking self identity, are in themselves opportunities for developing and transforming identities—national and international in this fast paced fast changing world, they are making this world their home and its systems—social, political, economic their own.

Dunia P. Zongwe (Cornell University) *China's Foreign Direct Investment in the Extractive Sector in Africa.*

This paper fills a gaping hole in the fast burgeoning scholarship on China's foreign direct investment (FDI) in the mining sectors of Africa by approaching the issue from the perspective of contract law. The paper proposes resource-for-infrastructure (R4I) investment contracts as a model for optimizing China's FDI in the mining sectors of resource cursed countries in Africa. Put another way, the paper aims at demonstrating how, if at all, R4I contracts benefit those countries more than traditional mining investment contracts. It compares R4I contracts with

production sharing agreements (PSAs) the most common types of oil investment contracts. It argues that by far the sharpest competitive edge of R4I contracts over PSAs is that R4I contracts produce better distributive outcomes. R4I contracts achieve wider distribution, thanks to its unique way of accomplishing intersectoral complementarities in construction and mining in Africa, thus extending FDI benefits from the mining to the infrastructure sector.