

NOKOKO



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Nokoko is an open-access journal promoting dialogue, discourse and debate on Pan-Africanism, Africa, and Africana. *Nokoko* brings forward the foundational work of Professor Daniel Osabu-Kle and his colleagues when they started the Journal of Pan-African Wisdom in 2005. '*Nokoko*' is a Ga word that means something that is new, novel, surprising and interesting. The journal offers a venue for scholarship to challenge enduring simplified views of Africa and the African diaspora, by providing other perspectives and insights that may be surprising, interesting, and refreshing.

Combining spaces for academic and community reflection, *Nokoko* creates an opportunity for discussion of research that reflects on the complicated nature of pan-African issues. It provides a forum for the publication of work from a cross disciplinary perspective that reflects scholarly endeavour, policy discussions, practitioners' reflections, and social activists' thinking concerning the continent and beyond. Hosted by the Institute of African Studies at Carleton University (in Ottawa, Canada), *Nokoko* provides a space for emerging and established scholars to publish their work on Africa and the African diaspora.

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Contributors

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Fathima Bushra Zaheer is a 2020 graduate from the University of Toronto, where she specialized in International Development Studies. Her professional and personal interests lie in the realm of climate policy, environmental governance and indigenous affairs. Recently, she has completed an 8 month placement with a social and environmental justice NGO called Natural Justice. During her time at the Cape Town hub, she contributed to a publication about Biocultural Community Protocol (BCP) processes in Africa that was subsequently presented at the UN COP 14. She also assisted with the development of the South African indigenous Khoikhoi and San

people's Access and Benefit agreement around the uses of Rooibos, the first agreement ever signed between an industry (the Rooibos industry) and traditional knowledge holders of a genetic plant. Rooted in her experience being involved with the final stages of an accompanying Rooibos BCP, she wrote a thesis entitled *Biocultural Community Protocols: A Tool to Indigenize South Africa's Response to Climate Change*. In this paper, she explored the connections between traditional knowledge and community protocols as a way to meaningfully engage with indigenous peoples, ideas and governance structures in the climate change arena.

Ben O'Bright is a technology policy professional with deep experience in international development. His career includes time spent with the Global Affairs Canada Development Innovation Unit, the University of Ottawa's Centre on Governance, and Dalhousie University. He has further worked as a consultant with various United Nations' agencies and offices. He currently works at Google.

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Jackson Simon Lusagalika is a rising Researcher, Data scientist, and Filmmaker. Pursuing a Bachelor degree in International Program for Sustainable Development with concentrate modules Climate change and Watershed management at Chang Jung Christian University Taiwan. He holds a diploma of Computer engineering from JR Institute of Technology Tanzania. His research interests include Air quality, Environmental awareness, and Energy conservation. He has achieved several awards including an undergraduate research grant from the Ministry of Science and Technology Taiwan in 2020 for his

winning research proposal. His upcoming research paper will explore Energy literacy; University students attitudes and reported behaviors in four institutions of Taiwan and Tanzania. Jackson won 1st place at the 2019 Institute of African Studies Undergraduate Research Conference at Carleton University in Canada by writing on his study "The Role and Influence of Media in Creating Environmental Awareness in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania". He was awarded as Outstanding Delegate at the 2019 Taipei City Model United Nations Conference and he was also among the active delegates of the 10th University Scholars Leadership Symposium in 2019 at Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, prepared by Humanitarian Asia to represent Chang Jung Christian University.

Ifesinachi Nwadike is a Rapper, Essayist, Poet, Playwright and Radio Host. Ifesinachi Nwadike holds a BA and MA in English Literature from Imo State University and University of Ibadan respectively. A 2018 Ebedi International Writers Residency alumni, his works have appeared in *Ake Review*, *ANA Review*, *The Sun Review*, *Praxis Magazine*, *Lunaris Review*, *Black Boy Review*, *African Writer*, *Wreaths for a Wayfarer: An Anthology in Honour of Pius Adesanmi* and elsewhere. He is the Founding Editor of *Ngiga Review* and the Facilitator of *Ngiga Book Club*. He is the author of the poetry collection, *How Morning Remembers the Night* (2020).

Olúwolé Tẹ̀wọ́gboyè Òkẹ̀wándé has been lecturing in the Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria since 1998. His research interests include the fields of African Religions and philosophy, semiotics, stylistics and Culture. His Doctoral Thesis, "A semiotic Investigation of Links between *Ifá*, *Ìbejì* and *Ayò Ọ̀lọ́pọ̀n*," is a study that establishes *Ifá's* relationship with *Ayò Ọ̀lọ́pọ̀n* and *Ìbejì* around codes, symbols, icons and indices. He has published in reputable local, national and international journals.



Editor's Notes

Blair Rutherford

This latest issue of *Nokoko* continues its strength of providing an academic space for seasoned and new scholars, practitioners and cultural producers, providing new insights while pushing new boundaries on multiple areas of interest and concern within African Studies.

The issue commences with an essay that encapsulates both the experienced and the emerging, with the senior scholar and policy practitioner Hany Besada (whose career has been international) co-authoring an insightful analysis of governance and mining in Kenya with a Canadian doctoral student, Ben O'Bright. In "Policy Impacts on Africa's Extractive Sector: Kenya, Mineral Wealth, and Legislation Facilitating Inclusive Development," they astutely examine the political economy of Kenya in light of the growing importance of recently discovered but largely untapped petroleum and mineral resources. Through examining the fiscal and governance arrangements concerning minerals, Besada and O'Bright draw out both possibilities and dangers for national development in Kenya.

Olúwolé Tẹ̀wọ́gboyè Òkẹ̀wánde takes a very different theoretical lens to a very different subject matter. In "A Semiotic Investigation of the Relations between Ifá and Yorùbá Indigenous Markets, Markets Location and Marketing Theories," he draws on semiotics to trace how Ifá, the Yorùbá religion and practice of divination, inflects their economic marketplaces. Analysing the complicated Yorùbá market systems and their long histories, this University of Ilorin academic brings new insights into understanding some of the cultural

practices and logics infusing these importance places of economic exchange.

This issue also has two articles from authors whose papers were selected from the Institute of African Studies annual undergraduate conference. Although the upcoming sixth annual conference will be completely virtual due to precautions taken because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this unique conference organized by African Studies students (and mentored and championed by Institute of African Studies professor, and *Nokoko* editorial board member, Nduka Otiono) has long been having contributors participate from around the world through web-based means. Those whose papers are chosen as the best of the conference are then offered mentorship from a *Nokoko* editorial board member to help improve their manuscript to make it ready to be published in our journal.

Fathima Bushra Zaheer authors the first of these papers that carefully examines the growing phenomena of “climate refugees,” those displaced from their homes and communities due to climate change-induced environmental changes. Through working with our board member Sinmi Akin-Aina and with feedback from an anonymous reviewer, the author has crafted an excellent analysis built around her well thought-out research design to answer the question: does the migration of Africans to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) nations change as a function of increasing flooding frequency in Africa between 2014 and 2016? Her paper, “A Closer Look at Climate-Induced Human Migration from Seven African Nations to Seven OECD Nations,” offers a thorough analysis of relevant datasets and makes a number of important policy recommendations, showing the strength of this emergent African Studies researcher.

This strength is also apparent in Jackson Simon Lusagalika’s essay, which also addresses some of the plethora of pressing concerns emerging in Africa due to climate change. With our editorial board member Chris Huggins proving mentorship, “The Role and Influ-

ence of Media in Creating Environmental Awareness in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania" is also based on a blend of secondary and primary research seeking to understand how digital media in Tanzania influences environmental awareness among residents in the bustling port city of Dar es Salaam. Examining a range of environmental groups and campaigns, Lusagalika concludes with a suggestion that media needs to enhance the feeling of belonging and commitment of Dar es Salaam residents, so they take ownership of some of the environmental problems in the city.

This issue concludes with two book reviews as a way to signal a new aspect of our journal. Recognizing that it is important to contribute to the engagement with new scholarly literature as well as more popular cultural products, Nokoko is now aiming to have book reviews. As a way to meet our aim of fostering the inclusion of new and emergent voices in African Studies, we are striving to ask graduate students or relatively junior scholars or cultural producers, particularly those based in Africa.

Takudzwa Musekiwa, a PhD candidate in Development Studies at the University of Johannesburg, incisively reviews the volume *Racism after Apartheid: Challenges for Marxism and Anti-Racism*, edited by Vishwas Satgar. This Wits University Press publication from 2019 is extremely timely, given the growing strength of anti-racism movements around the world.

The Nigerian popular culture producer, Ifesinachi Nwadike, offers a thoughtful review of James Eze's book of poetry *Dispossessed: A Poetry of Innocence, Transgression and Atonement*, published by Daraja Press in 2019.

Both reviews furthers these important conversations concerning Africa and its diasporas, furnishing a suitable anchor to this latest edition of *Nokoko*.