

Africa

Print activism in twenty-first century Africa / guest ed. by Ruth Bush and Madhu Krishnan - Oxford : Routledge, 2016.

Abstract: This Special Issue explores continuities and discontinuities in activist print cultures in Africa and the African diaspora. Where bookshops and independent publishers such as New Beacon and Bogle LOuverture in London, Présence Africaine in Paris or Third World Press in Chicago once flourished as hubs for political and intellectual thought, the digital mediascape now provides unprecedented space and means for raising oppositional voices and forming complex communities of writers and readers. The issue contains amongst others a survey of fourteen new African publishers and original poetry and fiction from Mervyn Morris, Efemia Chela, Nick Makoha, Ladan Osman, Daouda Ndiaye, Ola Nwaozuzu-Ekechukwu, Dorothea Smartt and Felwine Sarr. [Abstract ASC Leiden]<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rwas20/31/4> (Restricted access)

Africa

Remedying Africa's self-propelled corruption : the missing link / Hirondina T. C. Mondlane, Fernanda Claudio, and M. Adil Khan. - In: *Politikon*: (2016), vol. 43, no. 3, p. 345-370 : ill., graf., tab

Abstract: This paper analyses mechanisms and circumstances that facilitate and mitigate against corruption in African countries. The authors focus on governance indicators that strongly correlate with corruption and suggest that this phenomenon in Africa results from poor democratic practice enabled by asymmetrical concentration of power in governments and the rise of alliances between elites and corporate interests within neo-liberal economic systems. Countries with low corruption have processes in which citizens engage robustly in public governance and public accountability, suggesting that solutions to corruption can originate from within existing governance practices in Africa. The authors explore African countries that manage to mitigate corruption by reviewing processes of citizen participation in governance occurring through innovations in contemporary mechanisms of decision-making and reintegration of traditional practices in public governance institutions and processes. They argue that corruption in Africa is not a 'cultural' phenomenon, but rather that long-standing cultural practices provide innovations in governance that reduce corruption. This paper concludes that wider citizen engagement in public governance strengthens 'voice and accountability', balances power asymmetries in decision-making processes of governments, and promotes 'socially conscious' leaderships committed to greater transparency and accountability in government. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02589346.2016.1160859> (Restricted access)

Egypt

Grey-scales : negotiating the civil state in post-revolutionary Egypt / by Sarah Wessel - Bonn : Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient (CARPO), 2016.

Abstract: As a slogan, *dawla madaniyya* (civil state) was one of the most often heard during the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings across the Arab World. In this Study, Sarah Wessel explores the changing state-society relations in Egypt, following the so-called 25 January Revolution until the ousting of Muhammad Mursi. By investigating the complex assumptions, perceptions and circumstances expressed in support of the civil state, the authors shows that the diverse notions indicate a deeper shared concern: whether the emerging political and social extremes can be reunified in order to rehabilitate the disintegration of the national collective. [abstract publisher]
http://carpo-bonn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/CARPO_Study_03_2016_Wessel_printerfriendly.pdf

Ghana

The Ghana reader : history, culture, politics / Kwasi Konadu and Clifford C. Campbell, eds - Durham [etc.] : Duke University Press, 2016.

Abstract: Covering 500 years of Ghana's history, 'The Ghana Reader' provides a multitude of historical, political, and cultural perspectives on this African nation. Whether discussing the Asante kingdom and the Gold Coast's importance to European commerce and transatlantic slaving, Ghana's brief period under British colonial rule, or the emergence of its modern democracy, the volume's eighty selections emphasize Ghana's enormous symbolic and pragmatic value to global relations. They also demonstrate that the path to fully understanding Ghana requires acknowledging its ethnic and cultural diversity and listening to its population's varied voices. Readers will encounter selections written by everyone from farmers, traders, and the clergy to intellectuals, politicians, musicians, and foreign travelers. With sources including historical documents, poems, treaties, articles, and fiction, 'The Ghana Reader' conveys the multiple and intersecting histories of Ghana's development as a nation, its key contribution to the formation of the African diaspora, and its increasingly important role in the economy and politics of the twenty-first century. [ASC Leiden abstract]

Ghana

The Ghanaian voter and the 2008 General Election / Emmanuel Debrah. - In: *Politikon*: (2016), vol. 43, no. 3, p. 371-387

Abstract: Why do Ghanaian voters who vote for co-ethnics do so? Analysing survey and interview data drawn from segments of the voting population, the article demonstrates that the electorates vote for their ethnic group candidates because they believe in their ability to solve the prevailing economic problems of the country in terms of improving their living standards and delivering development projects to their constituencies. Ethnic voting, therefore, is not an end in itself rather it is a means to an end. The article notes that ethnic voting is relevant to the extent that it is directly linked to the economy and development projects. Ethnic voting contributes to democratic growth rather than disintegrating multiparty politics. It allows politicians and their parties to rely on ethnic groups for constant supply of votes thereby fostering regular mass/electorates participation in the electoral and democratic process. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02589346.2016.1197616> (Restricted access)

Lesotho

Political stability and peace through party engineering : the case of Lesotho / Martin Goeke. - In: *Politikon*: (2016), vol. 43, no. 3, p. 293-309

Abstract: Comparative scholarship suggests that sustainable democracy and conflict management are dependent on the existence of well-functioning political parties and institutionalized party systems. Surprisingly little attention has been given to how to strengthen parties by institutional means. Drawing on Lesotho, this article will discuss two different approaches of political party engineering: electoral system reform and banning party switching in parliament. Since the reintroduction of multiparty politics, elections in Lesotho were marked by post-election conflict and violence. Following violent clashes after the elections in 1998 Lesotho adopted a Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) electoral system to deal with electoral conflicts. The article argues that the introduction of Africa's first MMP system produced an inclusive parliament that mitigates violent conflict and the simultaneous introduction of a regulation of party switching was useful in preventing party system instability and could set an example for democracy building in other post-conflict societies in Africa. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02589346.2016.1146494> (Restricted access)

Nigeria

Literature, history and identity in Northern Nigeria / edited by Ismaila A. Tsiga, M.O. Bhadmus - Ibadan : Safari Books Ltd, 2015.

Abstract: This collection of articles on literature in northern Nigeria consists of three parts. Part one presents an overview of the running theme, in which NaAllah explores the theoretical relationship between literature, history and identity in northern Nigeria. Similarly, Tsiga

undertakes in a long bibliographical essay, a notable survey of the relationship between literature, history and identity in northern Nigeria, chronicling the development of life writing in the region dating back three hundred years. Part two focuses on the relationship between literature and history in northern Nigeria and begins with the article in which Illah investigates the theme. Equally in this part, Balogun discusses Yerimas Attahiru, Ameh Oboni: The Great as theatres of colonial resistance; just as Methuselah also examines the heroism celebrated in Ahmed Yerimas Attahiru. Adamu revisits the trans-fictional use of the Grimm Brothers tale in the early published Hausa written narratives, while Yunusa and Malumfashi examine similar historical concerns in Abubakar Imam and Saadu Zungur, respectively. This part concludes with Garba assessing the transformation of the written Hausa prose narratives into radio broadcasts; while Abiodun examines in a historiographic survey the various forms and composition of Ilorin music. Nasidi, in Part three, opens the debate on literature and identity in northern Nigeria, eloquently theorising on the relationship with Foucault, his favourite philosopher. AbdulRaheem illustrates how the literature of the people of Ilorin is their identity marker, while Kazaure investigates the split character in Labo Yaris Man of the Moment. Ibrahim explores identity in marriage between migrants and natives in Kanchana Ugbabes Soul Mates, while Aondofa investigates globalisation and indigenous television. Using Tiv film typology, like Aondofa, Sulaiman examines the use of diction in characterisation in the film industry. The third of the contributors on the film industry, AbdulBaqi, uses films shown on DSTVs African Magic channels to investigate matrimonial harmony in North Central Nigeria. Jaji revisits the antecedents and prospects in the relationship between prose and identity in northern Nigeria. Giwa offers a detailed investigation of Zaynab Alkalis The Initiates on gender politics. Similarly, Muhammad and Muhammad are concerned with identity and the gender politics in Bilkisu Abubakars To Live Again and The Woman in Me. The last article in the book, jointly written by Yusuf, Anwonmeh and Agulonye, offers the only viewpoint on childrens literature in northern Nigeria. [ASC Leiden abstract]

South Africa

From the RDP to the NDP : a critical appraisal of the developmental state, land reform, and rural development in South Africa / Abdulrazak Karriem and Mark Hoskins. - In: *Politikon*: (2016), vol. 43, no. 3, p. 325-343

Abstract: After decades of neoliberal rule in which market forces held pre-eminence in shaping development, there has in recent years been a resurgence of an activist developmental state in promoting economic development and tackling poverty and inequality. This article explores the resurgence of developmental state thinking in South Africa. Specifically, the article critically appraises the functioning of the post-apartheid state as it relates to land reform and rural development and argues that a weak bureaucracy and a policy fixation on the neoliberal willing buyer, willing seller policy framework militates against the promotion of a thorough-going land reform and rural development programme to promote rural livelihoods. The authors argue that South Africa needs a developmental state that will construct a skilled and competent bureaucracy, a centralised planning agency with the power to coordinate and ensure that government departments work together, and that will actively intervene in the economy to meet developmental objectives. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02589346.2016.1160858> (Restricted access)

South Africa

Self-help governance and state dysfunction : exploratory perspectives on the South African state and civil society / Wynand Greffrath and Gerrit van der Waldt. - In: *Politikon*: (2016), vol. 43, no. 3, p. 389-409

Abstract: This article explores the phenomenon of self-help governance initiatives that manifest in the context of state dysfunction in South Africa. It is argued that the inability of dysfunctional states to render adequate public goods and services prompts civil society to respond in protests. Such protest may be violent and destructive, or assume a constructive 'do-it-yourself' character. The latter forms the focus of the article and is explored through means of a case study at local government level. It is concluded that self-help governance is one of a range of civil society responses to state dysfunction, and the phenomenon is conceptualised and integrated into an analytic framework to facilitate further scholarly investigation. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

abstract]

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02589346.2016.1205325> (Restricted access)

South Africa

South Africa's reform diplomacy and the legitimacy of the UN Security Council / Charalampos Efsthopoulos. - In: *Politikon*: (2016), vol. 43, no. 3, p. 429-450

Abstract: Using the case study of South Africa, this article examines how influential outsider states perceive the legitimacy of the UN Security Council and whether they can perform a critical role in affecting the legitimacy of the institution. The article demonstrates that South Africa's reform diplomacy challenges the authority of the existing membership of the Council but not the legitimacy of the original mandate of the Council as the guarantor of international peace and stability. Such a reform agenda allows for promoting South Africa's own candidacy as a new permanent member of the Council. Despite its activism in promoting such reform, South Africa's diplomacy is undermined by its incapacity to influence the positions of the permanent five members, the lack of support by other African states, and its own ambivalent foreign policy that oscillates between support for human rights and allegiance to the global South. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02589346.2016.1212560> (Restricted access)

South Africa

The 'born-free' non-voting youth : a study of voter apathy among a selected cohort of South African youth / Toks Oyedemi and Desline Mahlatji. - In: *Politikon*: (2016), vol. 43, no. 3, p. 311-323

Abstract: Many studies have engaged youth's apathy to electoral participation, but there is a special interest in South African youth. They are beneficiaries of long history of struggle for political equality. This study examines why some 'born-frees', those born since 1994, did not vote in 2014 General Election. It explores the socio-economic and political reasons affecting their participation in electoral process, and their opinions of the political process in the 2014 General Election. This study reveals that cynicism about politics and social economic concerns are some of the reasons affecting youth turnout. However, they are like youth in many nations with apathetic attitude to politics. The idealisation of struggle, freedom and democracy has created a narrative of a 'born-free' generation that should honour the legacies of the struggle by voting. Perhaps, they should not be burdened with this emotional expectation, but to address their concerns about poverty, unemployment and inequality. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02589346.2016.1160857> (Restricted access)

Subsaharan Africa

Claiming agency : reflecting on TrustAfrica's first decade / ed. by Halima Mahomed, Elizabeth Coleman - Dakar : TrustAfrica, 2016.

Abstract: The topic of African philanthropy might strike some as abstract. But very real images rise from the pages of this book. In Ghana, a smallholder farmer influences her nation's agriculture policies. In Liberia, advocates work with officials to make resource extraction more transparent and beneficial to communities. At the African Union, activist researchers advance a new initiative to stem illicit flows of money from the continent. These are just three examples of work supported by TrustAfrica, one of the continent's few multi-programme, pan-African philanthropic institutions. If you factor in the multitude of similar actions that the foundation has supported over the course of a decade, you get a palpable sense of African agency people across the continent who have taken it upon themselves to deepen democracy and promote the kind of economic development that benefits all people

<http://www.trustafrica.org/en/publications-trust/books-and-ebooks?download=433:claiming-agency-reflecting-on-trustafrica-s-first-decade>