Africa

The green, the grey and the blue : a typology of cross-border trade in Africa / Gregor Dobler. - In: *The Journal of Modern African Studies:* (2016), vol. 54, no. 1, p. 145-169 : tab

Abstract: What are the reasons for the extraordinary dynamism of many African border regions? Are there specificities to African borderlands? The article provides answers to these questions by analysing the historical development of African state borders' social and economic relevance. It presents a typology of cross-border trade in Africa, differentiating trade across the "green" border of bush paths and villages, the "grey" border of roads, railways and border towns, and the "blue" border of transport corridors to oceans and airports. The three groups of actors associated with these types of trade have competing visions of the ideal border regime, to which many dynamics in African cross-border politics can be traced back. The article contributes to African studies by analysing diverging political and economic developments in African countries through the lens of the border, and to border theory by distilling general features of borders and borderlands from African case studies. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0022278X15000993 (Restricted access)

Democratic Republic of Congo

Misguided and misdiagnosed : the failure of decentralization reforms in the DR Congo / Pierre Englebert and Emmanuel Kasongo Mungongo. - In: *African Studies Review:* (2016), vol. 59, no. 1, p. 5-32 : tab

Abstract: The Democratic Republic of Congo embarked upon decentralization reforms in 2006 to improve governance and accountability, undermine predation, corruption, and personal rule, bring government closer to the people, and promote local development. As of 2014, despite some regional variations, Congolese decentralization had instead increased the degree to which the state extracts the resources and incomes of its citizens. It had also fostered provincial centralization at the expense of local governments, produced largely unaccountable provinces governing with little transparency, and unleashed self-serving provincial elites. After providing original empirical evidence for these claims, this article suggests that decentralization was thwarted by the failure of formal reforms to affect informal ruling institutions and by an erroneous diagnosis of governance failures that singled out the abuse of elites without identifying the generalized nature of the instrumentalization of sovereignty by officeholders at all levels of the state. The article concludes by using this experience to illustrate important flaws in decentralization reforms in Africa. Bibliogr., notes, sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/asr.2016.5 (Restricted access)

Democratic Republic of Congo 2014, *Stranded in Canton / director Måns Månsson* Moscow : Antipode, (406406391).

Abstract: Lebrun is a businessman who sees an opportunity. Together with his partner, the young Congolese has a batch of T-shirts printed in China so that people in the Democratic Republic of Congo can show they are fans of President Kabila. But when he goes to the Chinese city of Guangzhou (Canton) to pick them up, it turns out the production is delayed. Delayed so much that the elections have already passed. So the financier refuses to transfer the money and Lebrun is stuck in Guangzhou. As an alien in a strange country, Lebrun now hangs around the neon-lit metropolis and tries to think up a plan. What if they change the text on the T-shirts? Not pro-Kabila, but Fuck Kabila? Maybe there will be a market for that? This tragi-comic docu-fiction sketches the new relationship between China and Africa. Large numbers of Africans are moving to Southeast Asia to start a new life there. But, as the woman says with whom Lebrun has now fallen in love, the Chinese have a proverb: "Fool the businessman, but dont kill him." That leads to quite a lot of misunderstandings. [Abstract reproduced from dvd-video]

Ghana

Formal party organisation and informal relations in African parties : evidence from Ghana / Anja

Osei. - In: *The Journal of Modern African Studies:* (2016), vol. 54, no. 1, p. 37-66 : fig., tab

Abstract: It is often assumed that political parties in Africa have only weak formal structures and are instead dominated by informal, personalised networks. This paper seeks to challenge this view by presenting a much more nuanced picture of intra-party dynamics. Based on unique survey data from Ghana, it is shown how formal and informal party structures co-exist and interact at the national and constituency level. Because informal relationships are not directly observable and difficult to study, the paper employs a social network approach to map the personal interactions between the Members of the 6th Parliament of Ghana and their respective parties. It is found that the local party organisation plays a strong role in both of the major parties NDC (National Democratic Congress) and NPP (New Patriotic Party). There are, however, also differences between the parties. At the national level, the NDC is strongly centralised and dominated by its national executives. The NPP, in contrast, has an informal power center located in the Ashanti Region. Ethno-regional factions play only a minor role in both parties. By demonstrating that the relative importance of informal relations varies even between parties in the same country, the paper contributes to a better understanding of the variation in party organisation across Africa Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0022278X15000981 (Restricted access)

Ghana
'Our daily bread comes from rocks' : the livelihood struggles of children at a quarry in Pokuase, Ghana / Prince Ofei Darko. - In: *Contemporary Journal of African Studies:* (2014), vol. 2, no. 1, p. 97-120 : tab

Abstract: Children's economic production has become an important survival strategy for households living below subsistence levels. The literature on child labour tends to portray children as passive and inactive agents in decisions relating to their participation in work. Using data from in-depth interviews, the study examines decisions relating to children's participation in work at a quarry in Pokuase, Ghana, and the role that agency plays in children's participation in work. The study found that although children are sometimes compelled by adults to work, they are active and strategic agents in labour market activities, as well as in decision making processes involving their participation in work and family welfare. Findings have implications for economic theories explaining child labour, and rights-based approaches to children's participation in work. Bibliogr., note, sum. [Journal abstract]

Ghana
Complement clause formation in Leteh / Mercy Akrofi Ansah. - In: *Contemporary Journal of African Studies:* (2014), vol. 2, no. 1, p. 59-75 : tab

Abstract: This paper explores the complementation phenomenon in Leteh. The discussion is done within the framework of Basic Linguistic Theory (Dixon 1997), and further appeals to the theory of grammaticalization to explain the multiple functions of Leteh complementizers. Leteh is a South Guan (Kwa, Niger-Congo) language spoken in Larteh, in the southeastern part of Ghana. In Leteh, complement clauses mainly function as sentential objects of main clauses. Complement clauses in Leteh are signaled by three complementizers: ye, n., and b.., which combine with complement-taking verbs from four semantic classes to produce the types of complement clauses that operate in the language. There are co-occurrence restrictions between complementizers and complement-taking verbs. For instance, when the complement-taking verb occurring in the main clause is an utterance verb, the complementizer that initiates the complement clause must be ye. Finally, the paper demonstrates that complementizers could have a verbal origin, contrary to assertions in the literature (Noonan 2007: 57). App., bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Ghana 2014, *The art of Ama Ata Aidoo / a film by Yaba Badoe* [Accra] : Fadoa Films, (406260540).
Abstract: This documentary film explores the artistic contribution of one of Africas foremost woman writers. The film charts Ama Ata Aidoos creative journey in a life that spans seven decades from colonial Ghana through the tumultuous era of independence to a more sober present-day Africa where nurturing womens creative talent remains as hard as ever. Over the course of a year the film follows Aidoo, born in 1942, as she returns home to her ancestral village

in the Central Region of Ghana, launches her latest collection of short stories in Accra, and travels to the University of California, Santa Barbara, to attend the premiere of her seminal play about the slave trade, 'Anowa'. With contributions from Carole Boyce Davies, Nana Wilson-Tagoe and Vincent Odamtten, the film gives an insight into the life of a feminist poet and novelist. [Abstract reproduced from dvd-video]

Ghana

The Ghana National Association of Teachers under the Provisional National Defence Council, 1982-1991 : caught in a warp of cooperation and unresolved grievances? / Samuel Amoako. - In: *Contemporary Journal of African Studies:* (2014), vol. 2, no. 1, p. 1-25

Abstract: This article examines the relationship between the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) and the Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) regime from 1982 to 1991. It pays attention to the grievances of teachers pursued by the GNAT, and analyses the methods employed to seek redress and what results it achieved. Faced with government insensitivity, the GNAT was unable to militantly agitate for its demands. Situating the analysis in the socio-political and economic milieu of the 1980s, the paper argues that the relationship between the PNDC regime and the GNAT remained frosty and unstable throughout the duration of the regime's existence, even though the GNAT did not see itself as an antagonistic opponent to the PNDC government. In addition to dissolving the political hub of the education sector, especially the Ghana Education Service (GES) Council, the PNDC engaged in subjecting some members of GNAT to ways of repression. Even as it accepted memoranda and engaged in round table discussions with the GNAT, the regime failed to actively resolve the grievances of teachers represented by the GNAT. The author concludes his analysis stating that in dealing with the GNAT, the PNDC government had employed both cooperative and repressive tactics. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Great Lakes region

Encouraging rebel demobilization by radio in Uganda and the D.R. Congo : the case of "come home" messaging / Scott Ross. - In: *African Studies Review:* (2016), vol. 59, no. 1, p. 33-55

Abstract: For several years, local radio stations in Uganda have broadcast "come home" messages that encourage the rebel Lord's Resistance Army to demobilize. Since the rebels began carrying out attacks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Central African Republic, several international actors have introduced the same messages to these regions. This new effort has internationalized radio programming, benefited local radio stations, provided new forms of messaging, and functioned in collaboration with military actors. This article provides an overview of how "come home" messaging functions in different contexts, examines the effects of these actions, and calls for research into an important shift in military-humanitarian relations. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/asr.2016.8 (Restricted access)

Kenya

Boundary-making and pastoral conflict along the Kenyan-Ethiopian borderlands / John Galaty. - In: *African Studies Review:* (2016), vol. 59, no. 1, p. 97-122 : krt

Abstract: Boundaries are technologies of power and knowledge that shape spatial and social realities and our understandings of them. This article examines the effects of boundary-making between Kenya and Ethiopia, and investigates the effects of borders on states of peace and conflict among Turkana, Samburu, Borana, Gabra, and Dassanetch of northern Kenya. If borders divide people, people benefit nonetheless from the environmental, social, and political entropy that borders generate by using the energy of spatial differences to advance their own individual and collective life projects. Bibliogr., notes, sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/asr.2016.1 (Restricted access)

Kenya

Decentralisation in Kenya : the governance of governors / Nic Cheeseman, Gabrielle Lynch, and Justin Willis. - In: *The Journal of Modern African Studies:* (2016), vol. 54, no. 1, p. 1-35 : tab

Abstract: Kenya's March 2013 elections ushered in a popular system of devolved government

that represented the country's biggest political transformation since independence. Yet within months there were public calls for a referendum to significantly revise the new arrangements. This article analyses the campaign that was led by the newly elected governors in order to understand the ongoing disputes over the introduction of decentralisation in Kenya, and what they tell us about the potential for devolution to check the power of central government and to diffuse political and ethnic tensions. Drawing on Putnam's theory of two-level games, we suggest that Kenya's new governors have proved willing and capable of acting in concert to protect their own positions because the pressure that governors are placed under at the local level to defend county interests has made it politically dangerous for them to be co-opted by the centre. As a result, the Kenyan experience cannot be read as a case of "recentralisation" by the national government, or as one of the capture of sub-national units by "local elites" or "notables". Rather, decentralisation in Kenya has generated a political system with a more robust set of checks and balances, but at the expense of fostering a new set of local controversies that have the potential to exacerbate corruption and fuel local ethnic tensions in some parts of the country. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0022278X1500097X (Restricted access)

Mali
Joking through hardship : humor and truth-telling among displaced Timbuktians / Andrew Hernann. - In: *African Studies Review:* (2016), vol. 59, no. 1, p. 57-76
Abstract: This article argues that one way in which internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees from Timbuktu, Mali, negotiated and made sense of the occupation of northern Mali in 2012 and the hardships of displacement was through joking. A genre of unofficial communication, joking asserted local truths and produced counternarratives. Sharing in this humorous reproduction helped to alleviate some of the anxieties of displacement and strengthen interpersonal relationships. The result was a communitas that reproduced the local Timbuktian community in exile. Bibliogr., notes, sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/asr.2016.4 (Restricted access)

Nigeria
Transnationalism, home and identity in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichies 'The Thing Around Your Neck' / Eunice Ngongkum. - In: *Contemporary Journal of African Studies:* (2014), vol. 2, no. 1, p. 77-95
Abstract: Using tenets of postcolonial theory, this paper interrogates the different perspectives from which the lives of African women migrants to the United States of America are affected by sustained or unsustained connections with their countries of origin in some of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's stories in 'The Thing Around Your Neck'. It foregrounds transnational practices at the economic, social or political levels as instrumental in the way these migrants position themselves in the multiple spaces they inhabit. It aims at showing that the migrant experience complicates and problematizes home, family and identity, leading to a revision in our perception of these categories. It is argued that the migrant subject, in some of the stories, needs to renegotiate her identity in often new and innovative ways, giving rise to what O.M. Nonnini and Aihwa Ong refer to as 'new subjectivities in the global arena' (Nonnini and Ong 1997:10). Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Senegal 2015, *Sembène! : the inspiring story of the father of African cinema / a film by Samba Gadjigo and Jason Silberman* New York, NY : Kino Lorber, (406260478).
Abstract: This documentary tells the story of Ousmane Sembène (1923, Senegal) the father of African cinema, the dockworker and self-taught novelist who fought a fifty-year-long battle to give African stories to Africans. During a 1961 tour of Africa, then exploding with revolutionary fervor, creative possibility and post-colonial backlash, Sembène recognized that African people could not be effectively reached through written literature. Cinema, however, could tell the essential stories of Africa to the African people. Sembène chose to devote his energies to creating emancipating and restorative images for the African people. He enrolled in a filmmaking program at Moscow's Gorki Studios, and, in 1963, premiered the short 'Borom Sarret', a film that transformed Africa from a continent of media consumers into one with the potential to produce them. Throughout the

4

next fourty years, Sembène remained keenly aware of his entwined roles as artist and revolutionary, creating powerful works infused with his deep sense of social responsibility, which made him clash with the authorities in power. 'Ceddo', which was seen as an attack on islam, was banned in Senegal and Sembène did not make any film for ten years. His next film 'Camp de Thiaroye', denouncing the massacre of black Senegalese soldiers who had fought in World War II, was banned in France. The story is told through the experiences of colleague and biographer Samba Gadjigo, using rare archival footage and scenes of Sembène's films. [Abstract reproduced from dvd-video]

South Africa

The transformation of the South African Public Service : exploring the impact of racial and gender representation on organisational effectiveness / Sergio Fernandez and Hongseok Lee. - In: *The Journal of Modern African Studies:* (2016), vol. 54, no. 1, p. 91-116 : tab

Abstract: The transformation of the South African Public Service into a bureaucracy that is broadly representative of the population is one of the most significant public sector reforms to occur since the end of apartheid. Grounded in the theory of representative bureaucracy, this study examines demographic representation in the South African Public Service and how it impacts the organisational effectiveness of national departments. The empirical analysis is based on longitudinal data from 60 national departments from 2006 to 2013. The findings show that as these organisations become more representative by hiring a higher per cent of Africans, of Coloureds, and of Indians, they achieve a higher per cent of goals. The findings for gender representation are more mixed and show that female representation among most racial groups is unrelated to organisational effectiveness. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0022278X15000816 (Restricted access)

South Sudan

Crisis of governance in South Sudan : electoral politics and violence in the world's newest nation / Johan Brosché and Kristine Höglund. - In: *The Journal of Modern African Studies:* (2016), vol. 54, no. 1, p. 67-90

Abstract: Since mid-December 2013, thousands of people have been killed in armed conflict in South Sudan. The fighting is entrenched in a power struggle between the main political contenders ahead of elections which were scheduled for 2015. This article examines the violence in South Sudan since the North-South war ended with a focus on the consequences of the introduction of electoral politics. The research contributes to the literature on state-building and peace-building in war-torn societies, by exploring how the extreme levels of violence are linked to three groups of factors. First, the stakes involved in being part of the government are extremely high, since it is the only way to secure political and economic influence. Second, the actors involved in political life are dominated by individuals who held positions within the rebel groups, which increases the risk of political differences turning violent. Third, the institutions important for a legitimate electoral process, and which work to prevent violence, are weak or non-existent. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0022278X15000828 (Restricted access)

Tanzania

Development and progress as historical phenomena in Tanzania : "Maendeleo? We had that in the past" / Robert M. Ahearne. - In: *African Studies Review:* (2016), vol. 59, no. 1, p. 77-96

Abstract: Academic discussions of development continue to grow, yet critical engagements with communities affected by development interventions remain limited. Drawing from life history interviews conducted in southern Tanzania, this article details the varied experiences of development interventions among older people and how these affect broader understandings of progress. Many juxtapose their negative views of ujamaa villagization with more positive recollections of previous interventions (especially the Groundnut Scheme), which are infused with what is described here as "development nostalgia". Perceptions of the past clearly inform the social, political, and economic aspirations forwarded today, with the richness of the constructed narratives adding further nuance to existing depictions of Tanzanian historiography. Bibliogr.,

notes, sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/asr.2016.9 (Restricted access)