Abstracts, week 13

Africa
Abstract: The issue of the influence of poverty on early childhood development has received considerable research attention. Poverty has usually been conceptualised and measured in absolute terms, using a national and an international poverty line. Similarly, the outcome variables (such as cognitive ability, academic performance, personality, and behavioural patterns) have also been measured as if Western childhood developmental trajectories and ideals are universal. It is argued that when poverty is defined by biased attitudes and measures, children are improperly classified and judged and interventions are designed with the wrong goals in mind. It is against this background that this article provides a critical review of the existing literature. In particular, this article explores some definitional issues in the measurement of poverty and the presence or otherwise of Western biases in the conceptualisation and measurement of relevant outcomes in childhood. It is expected that there will be an appreciable improvement in knowledge production in respect of the influence of poverty on the African child when the issues explored in this article are addressed. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract] http://hdl.handle.net/10520/EJC185973 (Restricted access)

Africa

Burkina Faso
Abstract: This paper focuses on the independence-day celebration in 2014 in Burkina Faso, held six weeks after the overthrow of President Blaise Compaoré. On the one hand, the celebration demonstrated the functioning of the state and symbolized a return to everyday life; on the other
hand, it made visible a new page in Burkina Faso's history. Through the interplay of the state-directed performance and the playing along of the spectators, independence was reinterpreted as liberation from the Compaoré government. The interim government used the occasion to codify its interpretation of the political upheaval, which was presented as a moment that revealed the nation's unity and strength, as well as its longing for liberty and democracy.

Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
(Restricted access)

French-speaking Africa

Ghana
Abstract: Generally, psychologists are not well known in public policy and development circles as experts whose contributions are invited. This has been attributed, at the very least, to the inability of psychologists to communicate what they can contribute to public policy. To address this issue of lack of involvement, it has become necessary for psychologists, therefore, to claim part of the intellectual space in development circles in order to showcase what contributions psychologists can make to public policy and development planning. Thus, this article seeks to examine the potential contributions that psychology as a discipline can make to public policy making and development, particularly in Ghana. It concludes that public policy and development will benefit from the application of psychological research and principles. However, it is suggested that further studies should be conducted to assess the perceived acceptance of the involvement of psychologists in public policy from the various stakeholders on the one hand and the readiness of psychologists to participate on the other. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://hdl.handle.net/10520/EJC185972 (Restricted access)

Ghana
Sustainable rural development in the Northern Region of Ghana : innovate strategies for enhancing participation : research / Kofi Poku Quan-Baffour and David Addae. - In: Africanus: (2015), vol. 45, no. 1, p. 10-22 : tab
Abstract: Successive governments in Ghana have since the attainment of independence in 1957 initiated many programmes aimed at promoting sustainable rural development. The Northern Region of the country has benefited immensely from such initiatives. Many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and International Development Agencies (IDAs) have augmented the efforts of government by making the region a focus of their developmental agenda. In spite of the profound commitment exhibited by the government and external development partners in bringing
about sustainable development to the area, the Northern Region still remains one of the most deprived areas in terms of access to basic and necessary facilities and amenities. It can be argued that since rural leaders wield considerable influence over their people, their participation in rural development projects will go a long way to ensure the success of such projects. It is against this backdrop that this article sought to identify strategies for enhancing the participation of community leaders in the development of their communities in the Northern Region. The study was undertaken in the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba district of the Northern Region. It is the belief of the authors that the results from this study can be generalised to the entire region. This study employed the mixed methods research approach where 100 community leaders were selected for interviews. The study found amongst other things that community leaders in the district lacked basic literacy and numeracy skills, which hampered their active participation in the various stages of community development. It was recommended that the capacities of community leaders should constantly be built in order to promote their active participation in community improvement initiatives.

Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://hdl.handle.net/10520/EJC185974 (Restricted access)

Madagascar
Abstract: Aux XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles, la France a essayé à plusieurs reprises de prendre pied à Madagascar, sans aucun succès cependant. Traditionnellement cet échec est expliqué par les fautes des agents coloniaux, une interprétation sujette à caution tant elle considère les Malgaches comme des éléments réagissant simplement aux injustices des Français. Cet article s'appuie sur les avancées historiographiques récentes afin de proposer les bases d'un récit actualisé de l'histoire franco-malgache à l'époque moderne. Il considère que les Français étaient loin d'avoir une position dominante au-delà du Cap de Bonne-Espérance. De plus, il prend en compte les métissages, qui remettent en cause la dichotomie entre colonisateurs et colonisés. Les avancées historiographiques impliquent plusieurs révisions par rapport au récit classique de l'histoire franco-malgache. Avant tout, cet article considère les Français moins comme des colonisateurs en puissance que comme des acteurs parmi d'autres agissant au milieu des sociétés malgaches. Il étudie comment les Français s'intégraient dans des structures locales et devenaient partie prenante de conflits régionaux. Il prend également en compte le monde métis qui s'est développé au XVIIe siècle. Dans cette perspective, les guerres régionales n'apparaissent pas principalement comme des réactions aux velléités colonisatrices. Cette réévaluation de la place des Français permet d'analyser les causes de l'échec des entreprises coloniales sans partir du principe qu'un traitement plus juste des Malgaches ou une meilleure coopération entre agents coloniaux auraient pu permettre la conquête de l'Île Rouge. [Résumé extrait de la revue]

Malawi
Abstract: The article gives an overview of Malawian stamps depicting butterflies. Butterflies have been used for Malawian stamps issued in 1966, 1973, 1984, 1993, 1996, 2002, 2003 and 2007. The authors give a formal description of the stamps, including their designer, print format, and characteristics of the watermark and perforation. They also provide descriptions of the depicted butterfly species, including their Latin and English names, their habitat and distribution, and some notes about colour and size. Bibliogr. [ASC Leiden abstract]

Malawi
Abstract: Condoms are provided to the Malawian population through various government and non-governmental organizations. A common strategy, however, is lacking and condom use has remained low. In order to find out which factors contribute to the low level of condom use, field
work was carried out in Blantyre (Malawi) between April and July 2015. Data was collected through participant observation, in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and informal interviews. Additional material was obtained from diaries and other written sources. The population under study consisted of female sex workers (FSWs), clients of sex workers, bar owners, local men and women from Blantyre and voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) counselors. The author finds that several factors influence low condom use among these sex workers: their low socio-demographic status; lack of access to news media; lack of / incorrect knowledge about transmission and prevention of sexually transmitted infections including HIV; unequal gender and power relations; and economic factors. Economic factors can force FSWs to accept clients who refuse to wear a condom, in order not to lose them to another FSW. For some FSWs, however, the risk of contracting a disease prompts them to use condoms with their customers. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]

Malawi

In pursuit of 'Miss H.': the Polish - Austrian - Czech governess / Mike Bamford. - In: The Society of Malawi Journal: (2016), vol. 69, no. 1, p. 41-45 : foto
Abstract: The articles reports on some investigations after a woman called Miss Hlavácková (or Hlawaczeck or Hlaverceq), possibly of Czech descent coming from the Austrian Empire, who, for unknown reasons, had left her job in Cape Town (South Africa) and endeavoured to walk back to Europe with only local carriers for company. An editorial line reporting on her death in Mulanje (Malawi) in 1895, some one and a half years after she left Cape Town, appeared in July 1953 in the 'Nyasaland Journal'. Two evocative photos exist of her with a walking stick pausing on a path, presumably in Mulanje. The author has made inquiries among Czechs who have previously published about 'Miss H.'. He concludes that 'Miss H.' remains an enigmatic figure and expresses the hope that records may exist about her in South Africa that can reveal something of her background. Bibliogr. [ASC Leiden abstract]

Malawi

Abstract: This special issue of The Society of Malawi Journal commemorates anti-colonial activist John Chilembwe (ca. 1860-1915). In 1915, Chilembwe organised an unsuccessful uprising against colonial rule in Nyasaland (Malawi). The issue commences with Chilembwe's letter of November 2014 to the Nyasaland Times, called 'The voice of African natives in the present war'. The letter expressed Chilembwe's fear and frustration about the exploitation of his fellow Africans for imperialist military objectives. The letter briefly appeared in the newspaper before it was censored and withdrawn. The next article, by David Bone, reports on the Chilembwe Revisited Symposium of 7 February 2015, organized at Edinburgh University. The following article, by David Stuart Mogg, offers previously unpublished accounts of the attack on colonists at Magomero on the night of 23 January 2015 as testified by Thomas Roach, engineer at A.L. Bruce Estates, whose wife and children were briefly kidnapped. Brian Morris contributes an article entitled 'The Chilembwe Rebellion', drawing attention to some of Chilembwe's confidants who, as independent businessmen and landowners, similarly aspired to establish an African middle class with Christian ethos but resisted Chilembwe's eventual call to arms. The issue closes with a paper by Stuart Mogg presented at the Chilembwe Revisited Symposium of 7 February 2015 called 'Some general observations on John Chilembwe's family'. [ASC Leiden abstract]

Malawi

Abstract: In this biographical article the author, originating from Malawi and a student at Oxford in 1964, recounts his chance meeting with African American political activist Malcolm X in a Nairobi hotel in October 1964. The meeting led to the invitation of Malcom X for a debate at Oxford University later that year. Bibliogr. [ASC Leiden abstract]
Malawi
A historical perspective of 50 years of mental health services in Malawi / Genesis Chorwe-Sungani ... [et al.]. - In: The Society of Malawi Journal: (2015), vol. 68, no. 2, p. 31-38 : foto
Abstract: This article traces the history of care for the mentally ill in Malawi since the early twentieth century. In 1910, Zomba Central Prison opened a wing for mentally ill inmates, wanting to separate them from the others. By the 1930s the view that mental illness was a medical condition that required proper medical treatment had gained ground. In 1943 Zomba Central Prison opened a wing where quieter patients could lead a less restricted life, growing their own food as a form of occupational therapy. In 1948 the Mental Health Treatment Act replaced the Lunacy Act and the Asylum Ordinance. The Mental Health Treatment Act was amended in the 1960s to deal with some forms of discrimination that existed in the ordinances. Zomba Mental Hospital was opened in 1953. The colonial administration did not invest in the training of native Malawian mental health professionals; only after Independence such training was taken up. A first National Mental Health Policy was developed in 2001. The policy was, however, not fully implemented by the time it expired (2005), nor was it replaced by a new national policy. The authors call for a review of the Mental Health Treatment Act and the development of a renewed mental health policy for the benefit of the mentally ill and their care givers. Bibliogr. [ASC Leiden abstract]

Malawi
Abstract: The author examines some of the underlying views in John Buchan's novel 'Prester John' (1910) and compares them with contemporary European attitudes to pastor and political activist John Chilembwa and his Rising in Nyasaland (now Malawi) in 1915. The author identifies a deep-seated European unease in the novel about what was called 'Ethiopianism' at the beginning of the twentieth century. The term 'Ethiopianism' had come into use in South Africa in the last decades of the nineteenth century and referred both to independent African initiatives in religion (considered manifestations of 'a kind of bastard Christianity') and to African political activists who were considered dangerous by many Europeans. The term was also associated with African Americans, or Africans who had studied in the USA, among whom John Chilembwe. The author argues that 'Prester John' expresses widely held views on British imperialism, African culture and religion, including Ethiopianism. These views can be paralleled in the Nyasaland of the time and form the context in which John Chilembwe felt pressurized to undertake his rebellion. Notes, ref. [ASC Leiden abstract]

Nigeria
Abstract: Health service provision is a crucial aspect of everyone's well-being, especially pregnant women, who are often denied access to maternal health care. Previous studies on maternal health care focused mainly on economic factors as the main reason for poor utilization of maternal health care without looking at the availability of maternal health care facilities particularly in rural communities. This study examines the utilization of maternal health care provisions in Orumba North Local Government Area, in Anambra State, Nigeria. Findings reveal that respondents utilize modern maternal health care facilities in the area very often (82%), however the services rendered in the modern maternal health care were not satisfactory to respondents (84%). There is unwillingness among respondents to utilize modern maternal health care provisions (88%) and an above average willingness to visit Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) more than the modern maternal health care facilities (52%). This study therefore recommends equipping modern health care facilities with both human and material resources to enhance their performance. Also, periodic training of TBAs is recommended to enable them to render good and hygienic services that will reduce maternal mortality. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract, edited]
Nigeria
Abstract: Some scholars have argued that there is a relationship between deregulation policy and development, and support the call for government to remove all restrictions to private sector participation in the economy. Deregulation policy, which allows market forces to determine prices and promote efficiency in public sector management, is a response to this challenge. This study, with the adoption of the historical research method, examines deregulation policy in and the development nexus of the Nigerian petroleum sector. It concludes that for the deregulation policy of the petroleum sector to achieve its goal of development in Nigeria, government at all levels should put in place measures to fight corruption, reduce the cost of governance and earn citizens' trust in its activities. Activities must be geared towards effective service delivery as a catalyst for the successful implementation of government deregulation policy in Nigeria. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]

Nigeria
Abstract: This study investigates public awareness of cancer risk factors and suggests interventions aiming at behavioural change. A cross-sectional study was conducted among 117 pupils, students and teachers in selected primary and secondary schools in Offa Local Government Area of Kwara state, Nigeria. The focus was on risk factors such as alcohol consumption, tobacco smoking, obesity, poor diet, physical inactivity, infections such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and human papillomavirus, and exposure to ionizing radiation and environmental pollutants. Poor awareness about risk factors associated with cancer was observed. The author argues that public health professionals, policy makers, media, stakeholders and the public should act to ensure everyone has the most up-to-date information on how to minimise the risk of developing the disease. Anticancer clubs and societies should be formed in primary and secondary schools, with the single purpose of creating awareness of cancer risk factors through poems, drama, songs, slogans, posters, stickers and pictures. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]

South Africa
Abstract: While much research has emphasised either the host community’s support for or participation in tourism development, less attention has been given to an analysis of interrelationships between government-regulated participation in tourism and sustainable community support. This article seeks to explore the nature and extent of community participation and support for the Taung Skull World Heritage Site (TSWHS) scheme. Utilising the social exchange theory, the paper’s central argument is that meaningful community involvement in government-sponsored participation is a prerequisite for public support. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]

South Africa
Abstract: The purpose of South Africa’s White Paper on Science and Technology was to set South Africa on a path away from its historically exclusive and relatively dysfunctional National System of Innovation to one more inclusive in its representation and dealings with civil society, the private sector and the marginalised - particularly the poor. Despite the links of subsequent science, technology and innovation policies and strategies to development outcomes, the focus on the poor was notably overlooked. In the decade since the White Paper was released, the gradual and minimal ‘trickle-down benefits’ of innovation failed to address increasing inequality, unemployment and subsequent poverty across South Africa. Evidence from our study of four rural
district municipalities, using a purposively designed snowball sampling approach, indicates that current innovation activities in these areas appear prominent in the service or tertiary economic sector. This evidence reinforces prevailing ideas that the service sector is an important area for innovation and development, while the primary sector, including agricultural activities, remains important but perhaps less than previously emphasised. The high number of public, private and non-profit enterprises innovating in the service sector delineates this sector as a crucial entry point for innovation linked development. However, several prevailing trends with regard to innovation networks and the diffusion of innovations exist as challenges across all three sectors. These obstacles need to be overcome if the innovation and development nexus is to be strengthened and lead to broader local socioeconomic development and economic growth. Bibl., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://hdl.handle.net/10520/EJC185975 (Restricted access)

South Africa
Predictors of knowledge of HIV/AIDS and uptake of HIV counselling and testing among undergraduate students at the North-West University, South Africa / Bigala Paul ... [et al.]. - In: Journal of Social Development in Africa: (2015), vol. 30, no. 2, p. 27-50 : graf., tab
Abstract: The aim of this study is to determine predictors of HIV/AIDS knowledge and voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) of undergraduate students in two campuses of the North-West University, South Africa. The paper uses cross-sectional data of 1,498 and 1,392 university students from Mafikeng and Potchefstroom campuses. The major source of information on HIV/AIDS for the students were university programmes. At the Mafikeng campus, 9 out of 10 undergraduate students had taken an HIV test, compared to 4 out of 10 at the Potchefstroom campus. Age and level of education were found to be the main predictors of knowledge of HIV and uptake of voluntary counselling and testing, while race was a predictor of knowledge of HIV and uptake of VCT services among Potchefstroom undergraduate students. The authors recommend that free VCT services are offered to males and that programmes should provide more detailed information related to HIV/AIDS prevention. Bibl., sum. [Journal abstract]

South Africa
Abstract: The use of indigenous knowledge (IK) and indigenous bio-resources by pharmaceutical and herbal industries has led to concerns about the need to protect indigenous communities’ interests in regards to the use of IK and indigenous bio-resources. Some commentators believe that intellectual property rights (IPR) law can effectively be used to protect IK and indigenous bio-resources, while others are more sceptical. An analysis of the Masakhane Pelargonium case reveals that while the Masakhane community's successful use of IPR law in a case against Schwabe Pharmaceuticals has been lauded as a successful example of a marginalised community using South African IPR law to protect IK, the facts and results of the case are more ambivalent. Importantly, the Masakhane case shows that existing community resources and the level of mobilisation of the community affect the community's ability to use IPR law effectively. A consideration of the broader context in which IPR law is used is required in order to determine how useful IPR law may be for a particular indigenous community seeking to protect its knowledge and bio-resources. In addition, it also indicates that we need to start recognising communities' existing resources and their determination to be more pivotal to the success of IK-IPR cases. Bibl., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://hdl.handle.net/10520/EJC185971 (Restricted access)

Zimbabwe
Abstract: Families, communities, schools and churches play a crucial role in reducing or reinforcing both social and educational inequalities in Zimbabwe. Leadership in schools plays a pivotal role in ensuring discipline and promoting quality education. This paper highlights the issues that affect schools in their efforts to achieve quality and equitable education in Zimbabwe.
The study on which the paper is based adopts a qualitative research design. Experiences of a selected group of women school heads are used to discuss some of the challenges that constrain schools to achieve quality and equitable education. Views and experiences of participants were described through in-depth interviews which were dialogical in nature. What emerged is the importance of leadership and school community partnership in achieving quality and equitable education. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]

Zimbabwe
Abstract: Globally, late presentation with advanced disease among people diagnosed with cancer is a major concern to oncology, to government health ministries and to cancer service organisations. The phenomenon is thought to be more pronounced in Sub Saharan Africa. This paper draws from a wider phenomenological study on the lived experience of selected people diagnosed with cancer in rural and urban Zimbabwe. It seeks to identify and examine the interplay of factors which results in late presentation for a cancer diagnosis and for treatment. A total of 30 adult participants diagnosed with cancer and 5 key informants took part in the study. Semi structured interviews, focus group discussions and key informant interviews were used as tools for data collection. Key results indicated pronounced late presentation due to low levels of basic knowledge of cancer symptoms by both clients and health care professionals, widespread consultation of traditional health practitioners before and after a diagnosis, financial handicaps and varying symptom interpretation. These results are crucial for nursing and clinical practice for educational programming and for people who provide care and support to people with cancer. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]