Abstracs, week 22

Africa

Africa
Abstract: HIV/AIDS-related issues can be better understood if the relevance of religion is acknowledged, and vice versa, if the study of religion incorporates the challenges arising from HIV/AIDS. This collective volume seeks to combine theoretical and methodological insights from the field of medical anthropology as well as from the study of religion, and to apply them to empirical studies on emerging religiosities in the context of anti-retroviral therapy (ART) in Africa. Some of the chapters of this collective volume were first presented at the international symposium on 'Prolonging Life, Challenging Religion? ARV, New Moralities and the Politics of Social Justice', organized in Lusaka, Zambia, 15-17 April 2009. Contributions: Introduction: religion and AIDS treatment in Africa: the redemptive moment (Hansjörg Dilger, Marian Burchardt and Rijk van Dijk). Part I, Agency, subjectivity and authority: Fashioning selves and fashioning styles: negotiating the personal and the rhetorical in the experiences of African recipients of ARV treatment (Felicitas Becker); The logic of therapeutic habitus: culture, religion and biomedical AIDS treatments in South Africa (Marian Burchardt); 'A blessing in disguise': the art of surviving HIV/AIDS as a member of the Zionist Christian Church in South Africa (Bjarke Oxlund); 'God has again remembered us!': Christian identity and men's attitudes to antiretroviral therapy in Zambia (Anthony Simpson). Part II, Contesting therapeutic domains and practices: Prophetic medicine, antiretrovirals, and the therapeutic economy of HIV in northern Nigeria (Jack Ume Tocco); 'Silent nights, anointing days': post-HIV test religious experience in Ghana (Benjamin Kobina Kwansa); The blood of Jesus and CD4 count: dreaming, developing and navigating therapeutic options for curing HIV/AIDS in Tanzania (Dominik Mattes). Part III, Emergent organizational forms in times of art: Societal dynamics, state relations, and international connections: influences on Ghanaian and Zambian Church mobilization in AIDS treatment (Amy S. Patterson); The role of religious institutions in the district-level governance of anti-retroviral treatment in western Uganda (A.M.J. Leusenkamp); Negotiating holistic care with the 'rules' of ARV treatment in a Catholic community-based organization in Kampala (Louise Mubanda Rasmussen); Notions of efficacy around a Chinese medicinal plant: artemisia annua - an innovative AIDS therapy in Tanzania (Caroline Meier zu Biesen). [ASC Leiden abstract]

Cameroon
Abstract: President John F. Kennedy had a special relationship with the African continent and
after his inauguration invoked an executive order to establish the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961. The first contingent of Peace Corps Volunteers arrived in the Republic of Ghana six months later. Peace Corps legislation was created at the height of the Cold War under the authority of the president in the Mutual Security Act, in order to assist developing nations. There is a dearth in scholarship on the Peace Corps and more especially on Volunteers' service in Africa and this paper is written to fill a little of the gap. Focusing on Volunteers' service in education and community health programmes, it examines Peace Corps work in Cameroon from the beginning to the present. It argues that the history of the Peace Corps in Cameroon shows more continuity than change and that the agency had mixed achievements in its goal to help Cameroon and other African nations meet their need for 'trained manpower.' Though Volunteers' work in Africa has made a difference, too often Volunteers were not prepared to work in developing countries, a weakness that highlighted the limitations of idealism. Goodwill alone was no longer sufficient to address the challenges of developing nations in the 21st century. Notes, ref. [ASC Leiden abstract]

Cameroon

The 'bildungsroman' in Cameroon Anglophone literature : John Nkemngong Nkengasong's 'Across the Mongolo' and Margaret Afuh's 'Born before her time' / Eunice Ngongkum. - In: Research Review: (2010), vol. 26, no. 2, p. 55-74
Abstract: This paper investigates the 'bildungsroman' genre in postcolonial Cameroon Anglophone fiction through a textual analysis of John Nkemngong Nkengasong's 'Across the Mongolo' and Margaret Afuh's 'Born before Her Time'. It seeks to show that these two writers have borrowed a foreign genre and successfully manipulated its original template to highlight the problems between the individuals' aims and the socio-cultural, political and economic values of the post colony. It also aims at demonstrating that a close reading of these texts deepens our understanding of the bildungsroman in the Cameroon literary context and its inevitable relationship to questions of identity. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]

Central African Republic

Abstract: After an historical overview of the conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR), this briefing documents and explores the international response to the crisis, mainly covering the period between the Sélékas rise to power in March 2013 and April 2014, when the UN Security Council passed resolution 2149 to establish the UN operation MINUSCA (Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation de la République centrafricaine). The briefing specifically seeks to scrutinize relations between the various stakeholders involved in crisis solution, including international and regional organizations, such as the UN, African Union and Communauté Économique des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (ECCAS) and individual States, in particular Chad and France. Notes, ref., sum. [ASC Leiden abstract] http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/content/113/453/601.short (Restricted access)

Côte d'Ivoire

Abstract: Although Côte d'Ivoire recently emerged from a long period of protracted conflict, peace is indeed precarious. This is particularly the case in the country's western cocoa regions, where tensions between indigenous and migrant populations continue to pose a threat to Côte d'Ivoire's economic and political recovery. These tensions revolve around longstanding land disputes that culminated in violent attacks in the late 1990s, early 2000s and in the recent 20102011 post-election crisis. Using insights from field work in 2012 conducted in the cocoa regions, this article explores the issue of land tenure reform and politics in post-conflict Côte d'Ivoire. In so doing, it considers the legal and political dimensions of land tenure in the cocoa regions and the highly controversial 1998 land law. This provides the crucial context for analysing the historical and enduring nature of these disputes, the critical importance of land reform in contemporary
Côte d'Ivoire and the relationship between the 'land question' and peace at both local and national levels. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]

**Côte d'Ivoire**
The progress in establishing the rule of law in Côte d'Ivoire under Ouattaras presidency / Maja Bovcon. - In: Canadian Journal of African Studies: (2014), vol. 48, no. 2, p. 185-202
Abstract: Creating an autonomous and efficient judiciary represents an important and necessary step for the consolidation of democracy and the reconciliation of a nation divided by almost two decades of conflict over the contentious issue of Ivoirité. The aim of this paper is to evaluate the progress that has been made in the establishment of the rule of law in Côte d'Ivoire under the current president, Alassane Ouattara, by comparing the period of his presidency to those of his predecessors, Henri Konan Bédié, General Robert Guei and Laurent Gbagbo. The author argues that the judiciary is still struggling to establish its autonomy and that one of its main problems is its lack of impartiality. She examines possible reasons for the courts' persistent weak accountability performance and discuss possible remedies. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]

**Côte d'Ivoire**
Abstract: This article examines the role played by strongmen in Côte d'Ivoire's post-conflict reconstruction. While many acknowledge the unhindered or even the enhanced political influence these actors often enjoy as a result of their relationship to the state in post-conflict contexts, existing debates in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as elsewhere, often remain couched in terms of the implications of these kinds of relationships. Does working with rural strongmen tied to former insurgencies enhance the authority of the central state? Or do such alliances wither state institutions capable of providing long-term political order in peripheral areas? This article downplays these questions. Instead, it examines the alliances which form between strongmen and other actors amidst conflicts over local authority during post-conflict reconstruction. It suggests that the specific configuration of these alliances matter in determining the utility of allying with local strongmen during war to peace transitions. This article examines these struggles through the case of Morou Ouattara and the local Forces Nouvelles (FN) administration in Bouna, Northeastern Côte d'Ivoire. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]

**Democratic Republic of Congo**
Abstract: The International Criminal Court (ICC) was established in 2002 to combat impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern. It seeks to do so in two ways: through a series of high-profile cases in The Hague, intended to deter future war criminals; and through its complementarity mechanism, which equips national legal systems to prosecute ICC crimes domestically. Through a case study of the prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, this article examines efforts by various stakeholders to realize the legal complementarity principle embedded in the Rome Statute. The article argues that the domestic prosecution of ICC crimes requires developments in four distinct areas: legislative reform, institutional reform, education and training, and the building of public trust and participation. The research also reveals that where developments in these areas have occurred, they have been propelled by a variety of domestic and international stakeholders. However, the ICC itself has failed to contribute significantly to the realization of complementarity that is central to achieving its mandate. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

**Equatorial Guinea**
They never finished their journey : the territorial limits of Fang ethnicity in Equatorial Guinea, 1930-1963 / by Enrique N. Okenve. - In: International Journal of African Historical Studies:
Abstract: Territorial borders represented one of the most conspicuous symbols of colonial domination in Africa. They introduced a new concept, territoriality, which transformed Africans' self-perception, their sense of identity, in ways that few other European ideas managed to achieve. The paper analyses how in Equatorial Guinea, the peoples known today as Fang or Beti, a highly segmentary society prior to colonialism, were impacted by colonial rule and how their social identities developed. A group of mission-educated Fang from southern Cameroon reacted to colonial rule by reinforcing the role of their clan and restoring ties between split clans. In the process, they ignored the colonial territorial borders, marching and spreading their 'affirmation movement' (Elat-Ayong) into northern Gabon and northern Rio Mundi. By the 1950s, the movement contributed to the development of a cohesive Fang ethnicity. The paper further discusses the contribution of ethnicity to the development of Fang identity and its relationship with Equatoguinean nationalism to demonstrate that territoriality became a dominant feature. The Fang were able to transcend the territorial borders that set them apart, and develop a trans-border ethnic identity, and some Fang even contemplated the possibility of political union across the existing colonial borders. The author concludes by showing the development of modern Fang ethnicity and how it played a significant role in the radicalization of sectors of Equatoguinean nationalism by providing an alternative 'African' ideology.

Ghana
Abstract: The intractable Dagbon Chieftancy Crisis between the Andani and Abudu families for royal supremacy reflects the dilemma confronting the relevance of chieftaincy in Ghana in the context of social change. The paper offers a poststructuralist explanation for the succession disputes, political manipulations, and perennial violence that have contemporarily characterized the crisis. It posits that the sources and dynamics of the crisis are found in the dominant norms, values, traditions, and common history of the Dagbon state. They are located in the cross-generational structural continuities that are drawn upon and reproduced by purposive actors in strategic interdependence at both the local and national levels. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]

Ghana
Abstract: The paper analyses political party activism in the pre-independence period in Ghana. The objective is to present an understanding of the culture of party activism in the 1950s. The type of political activism discussed in this article was of two kinds: micro- and macro-level activism, and rural and urban activism. The emphasis in the paper is on micro-level political behaviour. The paper begins with a survey of political activities leading up to the inauguration of the UGCC (United Gold Coast Convention), and later of the CPP (Convention People's Party). The next section discusses political parties, activists, particularly at the grassroots level, and their modes of engagement as evidenced in the three general elections. Special emphasis is put on activists and their organizational strategies. By detailing the two main parties’s activities, the author concludes that the CCP leadership managed to understand political organization far better than its competitors and was therefore much more successful in mobilizing grassroots support. Notes, ref. [ASC Leiden abstract]

Ghana
Abstract: The paper examines the processes of recognition and legitimization of traditional medicine in Ghana and indicates that in Ghana, indigenous medicine has been used as an instrument to help develop political consensus and consciousness and in the building of a
national identity. The Ghanaian government recognizes traditional medicine and has a policy for the integration of indigenous medicine; the paper shows that the policy limits traditional medicine almost exclusively to herbal products and the scientific elements of it without taking into consideration its other dimensions of treating illnesses. Thus the policy leads to bureaucratization of traditional medicine. The paper calls for a policy of integration that will promote a parallel and full development of both orthodox and indigenous therapeutic traditions to enable them to continue to provide the health care needs of the people. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Ghana


Abstract: Independent north-south migration of children has become a strategy in response to widespread poverty in Northern Ghana. Children migrate independently of their parents and other relations to southern cities, cocoa producing areas and mining towns. The majority of these migrants are females, often with little or no education. In the cities they work mainly as 'kayayei' or head porters at the main market centres and lorry parks. With some of them living virtually on the streets and in kiosks, in front of shops and in uncompleted buildings, the migrant 'kayayei' are exposed to physical, environmental, sexual and reproductive health risks, notwithstanding the valuable services they provide and from which they make a living. This paper examines this emerging phenomenon using a 2005 survey of 451 north-south independent child migrants in Accra and Kumasi to highlight the social and reproductive health implications of the movement of these youngsters to southern Ghanaian cities and towns. Using both quantitative and qualitative analytical techniques, the paper finds among other things that while some of the child migrants reduce their poverty by migrating to southern cities and towns, others return home with unplanned pregnancies and sometimes terminal illnesses which render their migration socio-economically unproductive. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]

Great Lakes region


Abstract: This book examines the impact of land grabbing and dispossession on smallholder farmers in the Great Lakes Region. It investigates this issue through case studies in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda. Contents: 1 Introduction: causes & risks of dispossession & land grabbing in the Great Lakes Region (An Ansoms & Thea Hilhorst); 2 Land grabbing & development history: the Congolese experience (Jean-Philippe Peemans); 3 This land is my land: land grabbing in Ituri (DRC) (Dan Fahey); 4 Land grabbing by mining companies: local contentions & State reconfiguration in South Kivu (DRC) (Sara Geenen and Jana Hönke); 5 Competition over soil & subsoil: land grabbing by local elites in South Kivu (DRC) (Klara Claessens, Emery Mudinga & An Ansoms); 6 The continuities in contested land acquisitions in Uganda (Mathijs van Leeuwen, Ilse Zeemeijer, Doreen Kobusingye, Charles Muchunguzi, Linda Haartsen & Claudia Piacenza); 7 Land grabbing & power relations in Burundi: practical norms and real governance (Aymar Nyenyezi Bisoka & An Ansoms); 8 Land grabbing & land tenure security in post-genocide Rwanda (Chris Huggins); 9 The reorganisation of rural space in Rwanda: habitat concentration, land consolidation & collective marshland cultivation (An Ansoms, Giuseppe Cioffo, Chris Huggins & Jade Murison); 10 'Modernizing Kigali': the struggle for space in the Rwandan urban context (Vincent Manirakiza & An Ansoms); Conclusion (Thea Hilhorst & An Ansoms). [ASC Leiden abstract]

Kenya


Abstract: Contemporary scholarship on policy making in Africa tends either to view the process as being entirely divorced from international policy lessons and experiences, or to portray policy makers as prone to unreflective imitation of whichever countries happen to be economically and
politically ascendant. Kenya's Vision 2030 demonstrates both of these assumptions to be flawed: not only have Kenyan planners and technocrats consciously emulated foreign models in the formulation and execution of this long-term development plan, but the way in which they have done this is embedded in a historical reading of Kenya's development trajectory as well as the trajectories of those countries from which lessons are drawn. Thus, Vision 2030 bears the imprint of Singaporean and Malaysian policies, rather than only the more modish 'Chinese Model'. Far from heralding the birth of an entirely new East Asia-inspired development paradigm, this emulation echoes the early years of post-colonial Kenya, when technologically optimistic planners such as Tom Mboya sought to guide the country along the path of modernization, deploying tools such as technocratic rule, rapid economic growth, and social engineering. The Kenyan case therefore demonstrates processes of policy emulation in Africa to be both more prevalent and more nuanced than is commonly assumed. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/content/113/453/540.abstract (Restricted access)

Kenya


Abstract: Nearly every week there are stories of destructive fires in Kenyan secondary schools. Most of these are suspected arson cases, and the usual suspects are the schools’ current students. This article provides the first analysis of the recent spate of school-based fire incidents, based on a comprehensive survey of media, government, and court reports, as well as primary data collected through interviews with students, educators, and administrators. This evidence clearly demonstrates that school-based arson is a phenomenon that spans regions in Kenya, and occurs in boys’, girls’, and mixed schools, private and public schools, and across school calendars. Current and former students explain this trend in terms of arson’s effectiveness as a tactic in protest politics. Based on these findings, the author argues that school-based arson is indicative of more than the contested conditions of education in Kenya. The use of arson by students reflects what this generation has learned about how protest and politics work in Kenya. Students’ recognition that destructive collective actions are efficacious in winning a response from authorities highlights that learning and feeds a reactionary mode of governance in which citizens’ initiatives tend to be neglected until they pose direct threats to public peace and financing. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/content/113/453/583.abstract (Restricted access)

Nigeria


Abstract: The protracted conflict in Nigeria’s Niger Delta is linked to the power dynamics that define the interaction among micro- and macro-sociopolitical factors related to oil production. This paper examines how individual, interpersonal, community, and societal factors fuel violent conflict and affect efforts to build peace through cooperation, dialogue, and participation in the Niger Delta. Using a cohort of eighty-five focus group participants from fifteen oil-producing communities in Rivers State, this article analyzes the extent to which violent conflicts in the Niger Delta are produced by the exercise of manipulative and coercive power by the Nigerian government and multinational oil companies operating in the region. The participants identified several primary sources of conflict, including divide and rule policies, unemployment, rigging of elections, military raids and suppression, chieftaincy tussle, secrecy, bribery, corruption, and environmental degradation. These factors pertain to the exercise of manipulation and coercion by government and oil companies in the Niger Delta. Bibliogr., ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Nigeria


Abstract: This paper reports on an investigation into the influence of modernity as the possible
cause of decline in the traditional pottery industry in Igbo of Southeastern Nigeria during the colonial and post-colonial eras, with particular reference to Afikpo and Ishiagu, which are among the representative pottery centres still making pottery. The study adopted un-structured in-depth interviews involving twenty-seven potters from Ishiagu and fourteen from Afikpo. Altogether, the forty-one potters involved in the interviews were the only surviving potters, some of whom are still making pottery. The study revealed that the emergence of modern pottery products and the introduction of western education have had a devastating influence on the Igbo pottery tradition. The introduction of modern pottery and other related products such as plastics, aluminum, glass, and enamel wares into Nigerian markets affected and still affects the distribution and sale of local pottery products. The situation became rather complex with the introduction of western education, which led to the disappearance of apprentices who used to assist the potters in the production processes and who eventually had to carry on the tradition. Presently, the potters complain that the craft has become too tedious, which has led to its abandonment by some of them for other professions. The study also revealed other factors of decline in traditional pottery, which include occupational stigmatization, traditional belief systems and the deaths of renowned potters.

Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]