Abstract: This study is about developmental challenges and adversities to children and youth in Arba Minch, which is one of many emerging towns in Ethiopia. Primary data for the study was collected through case stories, in-depth interviews with key informants in families, experts from concerned organizations, focus group discussions (FGDs), and observational methods. The purpose of this research is to explore how emerging risk situations within the family, community and school environments are threatening the socio-economic and intellectual development of children and youth in the town. It has been proven that many children and youth within the family, school and community environments are in increasingly adverse situations. Risk factors in the community are a high rate of substance abuse, crime and violence, unemployment, idleness, and an absence of children and youth recreational centres. The increasing presence of shops that show pornography and action videos, illicit drug use around schools, a shortage of educational input or teaching-learning facilities, an absence of variety in learning styles, student misbehaviour, and low academic achievements have made schools ineffective. The family environment has also proven to be non-conductive to positive child development due to the prevalence of child abuse, child neglect, poverty and dysfunctional family situations. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract, edited]

Abstract: L’Afrique sahélienne est aujourd’hui une région en crise. Dans ce dossier, on propose de déplacer le regard porté sur les seuls faits saillants qui mettent actuellement en lumière l’Afrique sahélienne, pour interroger ces ‘crises’ à l’aune de la vie quotidienne des populations, ainsi qu’à celle des pratiques habituelles des acteurs institutionnels et des effets des politiques qu’ils mettent en œuvre. Contributions: Les "crises sahariennes" entre perceptions locales et gestions internationales (introduction au thème par Vincent Bonnecase et Julien Brachet); Le court terme de la légitimité: prises de position, rumeurs et perceptions entre janvier et septembre 2012 à Bamako (Julien Gavelle, Johanna Siméant, Laure Traoré); La gestion des migrations de retour, un paramètre négligé de la grille d’analyse de la crise malienne (Daouda Gary-Tounkara); De quoi la crise démographique au Sahel est-elle le nom? (Barbara M. Cooper, notamment sur le Niger); Politique des prix, vie chère et contestation sociale à Niamey: quels répertoires locaux de la colère? (Vincent Bonnecase); La guerre au Darfour au prisme des alliances du mouvement islamique: retour sur quelques trajectoires d’hommes d’affaires zaghouanais (Raphaëlle Chevrillon-Guibert); Les origines et la transformation de l’insurrection de Boko Haram dans le nord du Nigéria (Adam Higazi). Notes, réf., rés. en anglais et en français. [Résumé ASC Leiden]

Abstract: In the early 2000s, nationals of Sub-Saharan Africa who had settled in the market places of Hong Kong, Bangkok, Jakarta, and Kuala Lumpur, moved to Guangzhou and opened offices in the upper floors of buildings in Baiyun and Yuexiu Districts. Gradually these traders were able to create the necessary conditions of hospitality in order to live up to an African itinerant customer’s expectations. This article first highlights the economic logics which have contributed to the constitution of African trading posts in China and describes their extension from the Middle East and from Asia. The second part determines the respective roles of migrants and traveling Sub-Saharan entrepreneurs, before exploring their interactions with Chinese society in the setting up of these commercial networks. It also looks at the impact of toughening immigration policies. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract, edited]

Abstract: Post-colonial curricula taught at African Universities continue to dislocate Africans through school-related politics and a remaining sense of socio-linguistic colonialism in African education. The Euro-American legacy in African education creates an imposed definition of the people through the language that is taught in. The system teaches Africans to ignore the value of their languages which in turn pushes them to the periphery of knowledge production and true epistemic communication. It continues to teach them to hate themselves and to over-value ‘foreign ideas and values’ in school. Internationally recognized English language tests such as TOEFL and IELTS (International English Language Testing System) remain legitimate vehicles of the system and above all are the litmus tests for non-English intelligence. African children remain on the margins of real communication and knowledge production. Moreover, African intellectuals are contributing to this political discrimination in schools and this is nothing short of denying ones own access to the epistemic space. In this paper, the author discusses how imposed languages undermine the African people from academic and epistemic points of view. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: Cet article se penche sur les parcours citadins des Shégués, les enfants dits ‘de la rue’ de Kinshasa en République démocratique du Congo (RDC), ‘Prendre la rue’, c’est s’immerger avec ses pairs au cur de formes de sociabilités urbaines qui combinent l'apprentissage collectif de comportements spécifiques (techniques de vol, consommation de drogue, usage de la violence) et l'affirmation de soi. Entre la valorisation de qualités liées à leur mode d'existence ‘diffèrent’, l'aspiration à la reconnaissance sociale et les rêves de réussite personnelle, les Shégués se construisent au cur d'une société dans laquelle ils ne cessent de s'employer à ‘devenir quelqu’un’ et à simplement ‘exister’. Notes, réf., rés. en anglais et en français. [Résumé extrait de la revue]


Abstract: In recent years South African cities have become home to a large number of undocumented migrant workers. If trade unions do not organize undocumented migrant workers, it opens up such workers to exploitation and maltreatment by employers, thereby creating a split labour market that undermines the entire labour movement. This article focuses on the responses of the national trade union movement in the private security sector to the presence of undocumented workers at the grassroots level. Using a case study approach, the authors find that the pressures of labour market informalization in the industry prompt unions to seek to maintain and advance their position from their traditional support base of citizen workers rather than attempt to include new groups. The failure to engage is reinforced by anti-immigrant attitudes which link foreigners with problems in the industry such as low wages and portrays such workers as co-conspirators rather than comrades. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: The role of post-1991 ethnic-based federalism on conflicts along regional boundaries has been a topic of great dispute in Ethiopianist literature. This article sheds new light on the on-going debate based on original ethnographic material from the Afar-Tigray regional border zone. Contrary to other studies, this article shows that conflicts appear to have reduced in that area. Two key questions are addressed: how do different groups lay future claims to land; and which role does the post-1991 government play in those claims to land and in reducing conflicts? The case study reveals that people materialize religion to lay future claims to land and that conflicts have reduced with the increased involvement of the State over the past two decades, but
that this has come at a high cost and may therefore not be sustainable in the long term. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]

Abstract: Increasing participation in decision-making processes by service users is one of the objectives of decentralization reforms in Tanzania. The argument is that decentralization enhances participation by all sections of the community, and by women in particular, and results in decisions that better reflect local needs. This article examines the impact of decentralization reforms on service users' participation for delivery of water and health services in rural Tanzania, using a gender perspective and principal-agent theory. It shows that decentralization reforms have created spaces for service users' participation at the local level. Participation in these spaces, however, differs between men and women, and is influenced by the socio-cultural norms within the household and community. Men have gained more leverage than women to exercise their agency as principals. Women's participation is contributing to addressing practical gender needs, but strategic gender needs have been less adequately addressed because gendered power relations have been largely untouched by the reforms. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]

Abstract: This thematic section of 'African Renaissance' on the phenomenon of the life presidency in Africa contains the following articles: Life presidency in Africa: a historical perspective (Bhekithemba Richard Mngomezulu); The life presidency by African leaders: the case of Guinea (Bhekithemba Richard Mngomezulu, Rachidi Richard Molapo); The quest for self-perpetuating presidency: Obasanjo and the third term agenda (Okem Andrew Emmanuel, on Nigeria); and Robert Mugabe against all odds: a historical discourse of a successful life president? (Lucky Asuelime and Blessing Simura, on Zimbabwe). [ASC Leiden abstract]

Abstract: This paper summarizes a dissertation whose main purpose was to investigate whether or not the current government-sponsored resettlement programme is a successful option to attain sustainable food security and improved livelihoods in rural Ethiopia. Systematic and purposive sampling techniques were used to select sample households both from the host and the resettler communities in and around the resettlement sites. Livelihood frameworks, IRR Model and different food security indices were adopted to holistically examine the overall well-being and food security status of the resettler households. The results revealed that quite a large number of the resettler households were able to produce sufficient food for their family at least for the moment. However, the current traditional agricultural production systems seem to be environment-unfriendly and ruinous to the expected sustainable development in the area. Erratic rainfall, scarcity of moisture and soil degradation have been the main driving forces of impoverishment and food insecurity in the sending areas, and the subsequent massive and prolonged population displacement over the last couple of decades. The results also show that resettlement-induced risks can be eased through comprehensive resettlement implementation strategy incorporating clear duties and responsibilities of the resettlers, the host, aid agencies, NGOs and government bodies. In cases when/where planned resettlement is inevitable, the following points should be taken into account to minimize possible risks: comprehensive planning, unhurried and deliberate implementation, well thought-out and genuine recruitment and site selection procedures, adequate understanding of the causes and consequences of environmental degradation as well as environmental protection practices, and efficient assistance to the resettlers. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]

vol. 8, no. 1, p. 61-86.

Abstract: This paper discusses the political violence and the violation of human rights in Ethiopia in the post-Imperial period by examining different but interrelated factors to understand the contexts of the 'Red Terror' during the Derg regime. The paper identifies the institutional and political underpinnings of the transfer of State power from the 'ancien regime' to the military in Ethiopia in 1974. Moreover, it examines the multi-dimensional forces and factors that led to the escalation of political violence/terror and human rights violation in the country under the military regime. Finally, by evaluating the socio-political impacts of the 'Red Terror', the paper brings the discussion to its current relevance. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: This article examines the post-2002 State-building drive in Angola's periphery through the prism of both the MPLA regime's ambitions and the historical trajectory of the Angolan State and centre-periphery relations in the country. The article argues that, although it is phrased in developmental terms, the project of establishing State hegemony across the country is primarily about the achievement of political control. The first section surveys Angola's centre-periphery relations in historical perspective. The next section outlines the array of post-civil war strategies used to expand State hegemony from the political centre and provincial capitals into the remotest regions. Attention is paid to the decentralization process, the role of traditional authorities, and the transfer of State responsibilities to the private sector, arguing that the entanglement of apparently contradictory policies is a defining feature of Angolan State-making in the periphery. The last section provides a provisional interpretation of Angolan State expansion over the past decade. Notes, ref., sum. in English and French. [ASC Leiden abstract]


Abstract: Between the Middle East and Eastern Africa, the city of Harar is often considered as the main historical centre of Islam in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. Until recently, the cultural hegemony of the Muslim elites inhabiting Harar was commonly opposed to the almost pagan behaviours of the Oromo, or "Galla", farmers and cattle herders living in the wide rural vicinity of the town. The 1995 Constitution provided the different "ethnolinguistic nationalities" of the new Ethiopian federation with the same institutional recognition. However, the institutionalization of the two Harari and Oromo "nationalities" seems to foster the historical duality between the city-dwellers and their close neighbours. This article proposes another political history of Harar and its ambivalent Oromo partners through the local dynamics of the Muslim city/countryside models. It reveals the both competing and complementary orders that have probably bound together the populations of Harar and its rural hinterland for more than five hundred years. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: Although much has been written about the ideology of Laurent Gbagbo's Front Populaire Ivoirien in Côte d'Ivoire and its impact on the Ivorian politico-military crisis, little attention has been paid to the ubiquitous role of the law in the discourse and political strategy of the pro-Gbagbo elite. The Ivorian case may provide important insights about the connection between ultranationalist ideology and a legalist, formalist conception of democracy and national sovereignty. The article analyses the circumstances of the emergence of "legalist nationalism" in Côte d'Ivoire by looking at key episodes of the Ivorian transition between 2002 and 2012. The article discusses the relevance of Pierre Englebert's concept of "legal command" and the turbulences of democratic transitions in accounting for the prominence of legalism in Ivorian politics. It explores the implications of the Ivorian case for understanding the connection between law and politics in Africa. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Abstract: Les conditions topographiques, pédologiques et surtout pluviométriques sont très favorables à la culture de lorge de brasserie dans les alvéoles d'Ambohimanjaka, d'Ilaka centre et d'Ambositra à Madagascar. La culture est pratiquée pendant la période de contre-saison de mai à septembre sur des parcelles ayant porté du riz en saison des pluies. C'est une période de faibles précipitations, c'est-à-dire 257 mm de pluies recueillies soit 18 pour cent du total annuel. Le cycle végétatif de l'orge exige 500 mm de précipitations. Aussi, pour combler le besoin en eau de l'orge, on pratique l'irrigation, grâce à la présence d'infrastructures hydrauliques locales héritées des projets rizicoles ODR1 et ODR2. L'orge est une culture génératrice de revenus pour les paysans grâce à l'appui technique et aux achats de la société privée Malto. Actuellement, la production nationale d'orge de brasserie ne couvre qu'un tiers de la demande de cette société; cette culture peut encore s'étendre. Bibliogr., rés. en français et en anglais. [Résumé extrait de la revue]


Abstract: Between 1952 and 2012, there were a total of 88 successful military coups in Africa. Of those, 63 occurred prior to 1990, and 10 cases have occurred since the adoption, by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), of the Lomé Declaration in July 2000, banning military coups and adopting sanctions against regimes born out of this. The article shows that the African Union (AU) has followed in the footsteps of the OAU in this regard. Assisted by some African regional organizations and international partners, the combined effect of this policy of the AU has been a significant reduction in the occurrence of coups d'état. The article also reveals some challenges the AU is facing regarding this issue. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: The Oromo of Ethiopia are the largest single ethnic group speaking the Oromo language as a mother tongue, which is part of the Cushitic branch of the Afro-Asiatic family. Historic sources reveal that the Oromo religion was neither Christianity nor Islam but an indigenous religion known as Waaqeffanna. Before the introduction of Christianity and Islam, the Oromo people practiced their own religion. They believed in one Waaqayoo, which approximates to the English word God. Adherence to traditional practices and rituals is common for the Oromo, which could be an important asset for democratization creating harmony, understanding and better integration among the population. Among the Oromo there are 'priests' called Qaallu (male) and/or Qaafitti (female) and he or she is a religious and ritual expert. The Qaallu institution is one of the most important in the Oromo culture and has political importance even though the Qaallu himself does not possess political power as such. But they play a spiritual and political role in the Gadaa system of governance. The Waaqeffanna practice is closely linked with the Gadaa system. Using the paradigm established by L. Bartels in his work on Oromo religion, this paper discusses continuity and change in the Oromo religious beliefs, the tolerance they have developed, and the impact of Christianity and Islam on Waaqeffanna. Whether the Oromo are Christians or Muslims, a true belief in one God remains the basic tenet of Oromo identity. The paper also discusses the extent to which religious freedom is enshrined in the country's constitution. Conflicting identities and the State's intervention in religious affairs are very likely to hamper peaceful co-existence, democracy and integration. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract, edited]