Africa
Abstract: Many conflict scholars argue for the salience of large peacekeeping contingents to the success of peacekeeping. The argument for a large force borders on the provision of effective deterrence and containment of spoilers if the need arises to enforce peace. While this paper recognizes the need for robust peace support operations in achieving stability in mission areas, it also extends its focus to the issue of force integrity, which argues for less diversity within contingents. Force integrity facilitates greater bonding among troops and heightens the determination to achieve mission objectives. Using the six peace support operations undertaken by the African Union, the article argues that force integrity enhances a contingent's ability to achieve mission goals. This article goes beyond the common argument that the mere provision of a large and well-equipped contingent is sufficient for maintaining stability. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/africonfpeacrevi.6.1.03 (Restricted access)

Africa
Abstract: This research addresses the issue of transnational civil wars and United Nations peace operations in Africa and seeks to understand what is wrong with the current practices of international peacekeeping and why they underperform when confronted to transnational non-state actors. Based on a dynamic approach to armed conflicts and quantitative data, this paper finds that the current international peacekeeping practices are inadequate in the African context where porous borders and competing weak states dominate. It argues that border control should become a primary concern of every peace operation deployed in Africa. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19392206.2016.1132902 (Restricted access)

Africa
Abstract: One of the most novel ideas within the emerging African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) was the creation and adoption of the African Standby Force (ASF) policy framework in 2003-04. Since its adoption by the African Chiefs of Defense in May 2004, the focus has been on developing a multidimensional peace support operation platform. However, more than a decade after the adoption of the African common defense policy, the ASF's plan to achieve multidimensional capacities by 2015 or beyond remains elusive. This delay has been attributed to several factors, including civil-military tensions. While the ASF structures have made significant efforts in training peacekeepers, the possibility for a multidimensional force in the foreseeable future has not only been delayed, but also significantly undermined. This article points to the need for greater focus on developing civilian and police personnel in order to equip the ASF with the right mix of capacities to respond to the unprecedented asymmetric conflicts in Africa. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/africonfpeacrevi.6.1.04 (Restricted access)

Africa
Abstract: How does economic assistance influence the success or failure of peace processes in Africa? Can economic assistance act as an incentive to facilitate an end to conflict? The literature largely ignores aid as a factor supporting peace processes. In addressing this topic, the current study tries to assess the impact of donor economic aid on recent African peace processes. This research points to the conclusion that international assistance can be a positive incentive for lasting peace. App., bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]

Africa
Abstract: One of the most effective ways universities in war-affected countries can be functionally relevant to the everyday needs and challenges of their immediate environment is by promoting peacebuilding through peace education. This paper explores the role of universities in fostering peace education in diverse post-conflict and conflict-prone countries of sub-Saharan Africa and further investigates the contending models and strategies (notably the Bradford Model and the Centralized Unitary Model) of conflict-sensitive peace education in universities in the countries concerned. It also analyzes the problems associated with promoting peace education in sub-Saharan Africa and recommends policy-relevant measures designed to strengthen the process. The data was generated from secondary sources, as well as a raft of conflict intervention, regional security, and peacebuilding projects of which the researcher took part in countries such as Sierra Leone, Liberia, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, and South Sudan. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]

Cameroon
Abstract: This article examines the conditions under which state leaders chose to make territorial issues a point of contention using the Nigeria-Cameroon Bakassi Peninsula conflict as an empirical case. Drawing on the theoretical insights of neoclassical realism, the article surveys evidence from the importance of domestic political and economic conditions to the relevance of cultural and historical factors as well as from territorial and geopolitical issues to contend that the Nigeria-Cameroon conflict emerged from three theoretical logics: the territorial logic of aggression, the geostrategic logic of aggression, and the diversionary logic of aggression. The qualitative evidence is synthesized to enhance greater understanding of the domestic and international linkages that connect petroleum with territory and aggressive foreign policy. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19392206.2016.1132904 (Restricted access)

Abstract: The action takes place in a Bamun village, in Cameroon. Ncharé is only sixteen when his father passes away. He is taken in then by his uncle Achirou, and lands in a new village where on his arrival, he crosses the glance of a 14-year-old girl named Mapon. That was the click of their mutual love. Today an adult and a sculptor on bronze, Ncharé wants to deserve to be the official fiancé of Mapon, but some persistent rumours have it that he might not yet be circumcised. So he has to compete with the other pretenders during the periodic rite of the dance of seduction, under eye witnesses of all the villagers, and in the presence of "Nji-Mâh"Nkam", the High Dignitary of the village. Little time after the celebration of their engagement, the mother of Mapon gives birth to her fourth child. But this child very quickly falls sick, making the father to accept the financial support of a businessman named Moluh. The latter doesn't delay to set his cap at Mapon with a view to make her his fourth wife, thus becoming an unexpected rival for Ncharé. The film is entirely shot in Bamun language. [Résumé extrait de la dvd-video]

Democratic Republic of Congo

Eritrea
Abstract: The Eritrean state has been depicted by media and by human rights organizations as a pariah and prison state violating the human rights of its citizens and engaging in senseless conflicts with its neighbors. The author examines these representations in mainstream, global media and the response to them in the rhetoric of Eritrea's leaders. The characterization of Eritrea conflates its human rights record with international policies, particularly support for Islamists in Somalia, and casts the country as rogue. President Isaias Afwerki's responses to these depictions draw on narratives of the international community persistently neglecting Eritrea, thus using discourses of isolationism and self-reliance to buttress his rule and situating critiques of Eritrea's human rights record as part of a broader attack on Eritrea's sovereignty. Eritrean leaders' assertions of sovereignty, the right to protect one's borders and govern within them, thus indirectly counter calls for an improved human rights record. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]

Ethiopia
Abstract: This article discusses the sociocognitive processes involved in the construction of identity, territory, and inter-group conflicts in eastern Ethiopia. The article is based on data collected through extensive fieldwork in the area. The article tries to show how macro-political and institutional orientations trigger ethno-territorial dynamics that change the meanings of territory, identity, and inter-group relations in the Jarso-Girhi territory. The article outlines the underlying processes and structures of identity-based categorizations and conflicts and how these are expressed and embodied through sociocognitive processes. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]

Ghana
An analysis of corporate social responsibility communication on the websites of banks operating in Ghana / Henry Boateng. - In: Communicatio: (2016), vol. 42, no. 1, p. 100-118 : tab
Abstract: Corporate social responsibility (CSR) communication has received increased attention...
from researchers in recent times. The extant literature indicates that philanthropy dominates the CSR communications of most firms in Africa. Furthermore, the existing literature shows that state-owned firms' CSR communication focuses more on environmental and community issues. This study examines the differences between local and foreign banks with regard to their CSR communications. It also examines which stakeholder groups banks pay great attention to, in their CSR communication. Data were collected from the websites of 26 banks operating in Ghana. Using quantitative content analysis as analytical technique, it was found that foreign banks are better at communicating customer and employee CSR information than local banks. In addition, the findings show that state-owned banks report more information on donations and philanthropy. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract] 
http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02500167.2016.1141228 (Restricted access)

Liberia
Abstract: Peacebuilding assumes that security and development foster the necessary conditions for a sustainable peace. No place is the coupling of security and development more evident than in postconflict natural resource governance. Natural resources are considered a security threat because revenues from them can fuel instability and finance war. Natural resources are simultaneously considered a peace resource that can help create jobs, provide revenue and spur economic recovery. It remains an open question the extent to which the dual objectives of security and development work to consolidate peace, especially when it comes to natural resources. This article examines the substantial international efforts to securitize and marketize Liberia's forests in the name of peacebuilding and illustrates how reforms have inadvertently exacerbated existing societal tensions and recreated governance arrangements that are counterproductive for building peace. Based on this, the author argues that the nexus of security and development as construed by international peacebuilders overlooks broader dimensions of human security and ignores other approaches to poverty alleviation and equitable development. The article concludes with a broad set of policy recommendations for governing natural resources in postconflict settings. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract] 
http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/africonfpeacrevi.6.1.01 (Restricted access)

Namibia
Abstract: There has been considerable attention to the influence of diamond wealth on conflict. By examining the role of diamonds in Namibia, this research shows that under some conditions diamond wealth can make conflict less probable. It examines possible conditions that may have made Namibia the exception to the rule by exploring five factors: the neighborhood effect, political dynamics, economic institutions, grievances, and political geography. Given these conditions diamonds have contributed to the absence of conflict in Namibia for two reasons: diamonds have historically been mined in the desert area that makes smuggling difficult and the joint agreement between the government and De Beers has led to a taxable base, strengthening state institutions. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract] 
http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19392206.2016.1132903 (Restricted access)

Niger
Abstract: Deadly attacks on Christians and mounting resistance to secularism in Niger raise the question of whether the Muslim-majority country is turning away from democracy and toward a repressive form of Shari'a law. The author argues that religious extremism in Niger has largely external roots and that domestic religious leaders are not pursuing a revolutionary agenda, even though they are increasingly involved in organizing social movements. The foreign nature of terrorist threats may even help preserve democracy by raising nationalist support for the state.
Everyday people, autochthony, and indigene-settler crises in Lagos commodity markets / Gbemisola Animasawun. - In: African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review: (2016), vol. 6, no. 1, p. 25-44
Abstract: Local markets in Nigerian cities are under-studied but ubiquitous and ancient sites of inter-ethnic conflicts and cooperation of everyday people (traders). Against the backdrop of indigene-settler conflicts in two major markets in Lagos, this study examines the causes of these conflicts, defined by the adversarial use of autochthony, their management and outcomes, and how macro-inter-ethnic relations inflect conflict and cooperation in local markets. While market leadership is a common cause of conflict, the management approaches adopted and outcomes differed in ways that reveal the impact of the macro on the micro. Also, post-conflict relations in markets underscore the utility of trade as a means of sustaining peaceful co-existence in a fractious country like Nigeria and the creativity of everyday people in peacebuilding, designing early warning systems, and conflict management.

Abstract: To Boko Haram, Nigeria is a colonial construct, lacking Islamic legitimacy and destined to lead society in a downward spiral of Western immorality. The only way to regain northern Nigerias former glory is through a repudiation of democracy, constitutionalism, and Western values and a return to Islamic governance on the model of the historic caliphates. The authors argue that Boko Harms leaders draw their inspiration and legitimacy from Usman Dan Fodios 1804 Fulani-led jihad and his subsequent establishment of the Sokoto Caliphate in northern Nigeria but seek to implement this style of caliphate in the Kanuri homelands of the former Kanem-Borno Empire.

Abstract: Identity conflicts, in their diverse ramifications, have been the subject of major studies in Nigeria. However, conflicts between students of higher education institutions and their host communities, now commonplace in the country, have not been given adequate scholarly attention. This paper examines the violent conflict in May 2000 between students of the Federal Polytechnic, Offa, (FEDPOFFA) and the Offa community in Kwara State, North Central Nigeria. Not only was the conflict unduly protracted, but it also led to the closure of the polytechnic for a year, while peacebuilding efforts continued. By offering explanations for this development, showing its policy and research implications, the study contributes to the understanding of a neglected aspect of identity conflicts in Nigeria.

Abstract: Representations of almajiri within popular literature often associate the system, and the attendant youth demographic, with youth delinquency and social violence. Yet few accounts correctly identify what almajiri is, how these young men are distinct from other youth categories in northern Nigeria, and why the system has undergone gradual collapse.
South Africa

"Just kidding. I'm white!" : knowledge, perceptions and attitudes of white and Indian male university students towards HIV prevention / Phebbie Mboti and Nyasha Mboti. - In: Communicatio: (2016), vol. 42, no. 1, p. 119-135 : ill

Abstract: This article reports the findings of a qualitative study that explored what white and Indian students at a South African university felt and knew about HIV prevention. The study explored the knowledge, perceptions and attitudes of white and Indian male students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's (UKZN) Howard College towards medical male circumcision (MMC) as an HIV prevention procedure. The study was prompted, in part, by a cynical tweet by Justine Sacco, which implied that HIV is an exclusively black disease. More substantially, the research aimed to fill a gap in studies of non-black student demographics with regard to HIV prevention. The level of knowledge and the attitudes of white and Indian male students were explored to establish the acceptability of HIV prevention amongst these two demographics. To what extent do non-black students care about HIV prevention and prevalence amongst themselves? The findings suggest a relatively widespread perception that white and Indian students are not at risk of HIV, demonstrating that the association of HIV with a specific race is both a sad fact and a sign of enduring prejudice and stigma. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract, edited] http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02500167.2016.1145711 (Restricted access)

South Africa

A survey of research foci and paradigms in media and communication Master's dissertations and doctoral theses in South Africa / Abiodun Salawu ... [et al.]. - In: Communicatio: (2016), vol. 42, no. 1, p. 136-154 : tab

Abstract: This study set out to evaluate the foci and paradigms of research in media and communication at Master's and doctoral levels in South Africa. A sample of 241 dissertations and theses in the communication, journalism and media studies programmes of nine universities, from 2004 to 2013, categorised into historically black, historically white Afrikaans-medium and English-medium, were obtained from the databases of the National Research Foundation and some of the universities. The findings show that the production of PhD theses is far lower than that of Master's dissertations. Qualitative design tended to be the dominant approach adopted, followed by a mixed methods approach, and the quantitative approach. The focus of most of the theses is journalism, followed by general media studies. The findings further show that historically black universities bottom the table in the production of related theses and dissertations, while white English-speaking universities top the list. Also, there is evidence of a relationship between the historical origin/language of the universities and the research designs adopted, as well as the research focus of the theses. The article recommends, among others, the need for a clear-cut statement of research methodologies and designs in such theses and dissertations, greater motivation for enrolment in PhD programmes, a strengthening of historically black universities for better performance in postgraduate research, and the incorporation of the experimental method in media research in South Africa. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract] http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02500167.2016.1140667 (Restricted access)

South Africa


Abstract: China's multi-faceted endeavour to expand its influence in Africa has attracted worldwide scholarly and media attention. This article examines the different moments of China's soft power endeavour, from projection through its state media to representation and lived experiences in South Africa and Zimbabwe, two African countries which receive a significant level of attention in China's policymaking. Through interdisciplinary methodologies such as content analysis, online questionnaires and in-depth interviews conducted in China, South Africa and Zimbabwe, the authors found that China's state-engineered soft power initiatives have resulted in partial success in the two countries. The conclusions indicate that China faces many challenges in fully accomplishing its intended goal. The findings provide new insight into China's political impact in Africa within the context of Beijing's growing influence on Africa's political and economic
South Africa
Abstract: This article is framed by Adichie's (2010, 2) warning of "the dangers of the single story". It investigates the local specificities and global resonances of the representation of violence projected in two African films. The documentary by Ross Kemp on gangs in Pollsmoor Prison in South Africa (2003) captures and generates distinct cinematic biographies that extend our perceptions of production, exhibition and distribution. In contrast, the fictional film, "Dakan", by Guinean producer Mohamed Camara (2001), cinematises the enigma of homosexuality as taboo and an aberration, including the attendant socially constructed homophobia. Both films markedly underemphasise the political and pedagogical imperative of African film producers and audiences, and in this they contest "established" representations of violence that have characterised documentaries about Africa and "Third Cinema" (Solanas and Getino 1996). More critically, the article questions the palpable occlusion of systemic violence that characterises the multiple and complex views of Africa in these two films, to unpack the novel documentation and reformulation of violence, as disseminated by Kemp and Camara. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02500167.2016.1141229 (Restricted access)

Mobile communication privacy management in romantic relationships: a dialectical approach / Mthobeli Ngcongo. - In: Communicatio: (2016), vol. 42, no. 1, p. 56-74
Abstract: Communication technologies, such as the mobile phone, often represent a double-edged sword in romantic relationships. While the mobile phone can enhance the quality of communication, it can simultaneously become a source of conflict. The dialectic framework of communication privacy management offers a nuanced lens from which to investigate rules for the use of the mobile phone in the dyadic of romantic relationships. This study investigates mobile phone usage rules that are negotiated by adolescents and young adults in romantic relationships. The study specifically focuses on rules around mobile privacy management. Findings from in-depth interviews indicate that the negotiation of rules is a crucial part of young adult relationships. Enhancing trust and fostering harmony were important factors in the rule development process. The implications, limitations, and future possibilities for research are discussed. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02500167.2016.1140666 (Restricted access)

Sudan
Abstract: This paper examines the persistence of violent conflicts in the two Sudans. It examines standard macro-approaches to conflict resolution - democracy, inclusiveness, intervention, secession, as well as the more radical let-them-fight thesis - to demonstrate the limitations on the ability of outsiders to manage the conflicts. It concludes that relying on these approaches alone is not likely to lead to meaningful and lasting conflict resolution. The causes of Sudan's and South Sudan's wars run deeper than a failure to be inclusive and are instead connected to the nature of the state in Africa. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]

United States
The political economy of US security assistance to Africa: a research agenda / Faith I. Okpotor. - In: African Conflict & Peacebuilding Review: (2016), vol. 6, no. 1, p. 89-104
Abstract: Much of the literature on US security assistance focuses on national/strategic/international security interests, but little attention is paid to economic incentives driving this aspect of US foreign policy. This briefing paper aims to fill that gap by proposing a research agenda that draws connections between economic and security interests and seeks to
explain economic determinants of US security assistance to Africa. The author's methodological approach involves examining US national economic interests, recipient country economic interests, and the interests of industry groups doing business in Africa. Such an approach reveals connections not immediately obvious without viewing security relations through a political economy lens. The US's twin interests of global peace and security and uninterrupted oil supply align with those of the oil industry and private security contractors. Applying this approach could help us understand puzzling US-Africa relationships, such as the US-Uganda security relationship, which is heavily influenced by the need to root out the recalcitrant rebel group the Lord's Resistance Army. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]
http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/africonfpeacrevi.6.1.06 (Restricted access)

Zambia
Abstract: Zambia, like a few other African countries, has been grappling with the adoption of the Access to Information (ATI) law over the past 25 years. This article argues that the Zambian approach towards easing access to public information has been faulty, because it is narrowly focused and this has resulted in the process stalling. The argument is made here, that the ATI law is part of a global social movement towards greater transparency. Furthermore, the article focuses on Zambia's approach to the law, whose push is dominated by executive control, and how that approach has impacted on good governance. The article also discusses how some countries have dealt with similar laws, before concluding that unless Zambia's move towards this law is broadened, whatever may be enacted in the future could be faulty. Bibliogr., notes, sum.
[Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02500167.2016.1152991 (Restricted access)