

From the Editorial Team

Dear readers and friends of CJAS:

This, our second issue for 2021, brings together a collection of papers that, while they were not written in conversation with each other, do speak to each other in interesting ways around questions of communication, language, and identity. While none of the articles speak to the major pandemic that has up-ended our lives, the question of identity is one that we face and have had to consider and reconsider in these difficult times, even (and perhaps especially) as academics – who are we *really*? what are we worth, and to whom? am I still a good academic if I have not been able to publish a single paper this year, or worse, submit one for publication? Publications are our stock in trade, so hopefully, we have survived the past two years to write another day, and fight for a kinder environment within which to share our research. We hope that you find this issue of CJAS stimulating.

The first article, “A Sociological Perspective on Pidgin’s Viability and Usefulness for Development in West Africa” by Victoria Tyme and Daniel Price examines the viability and usefulness of pidgin for development along a variety of criteria in West Africa. The authors debate the practical value of Pidgin as a growing, cross-cutting language across the region, as well as the contestations around the mobility barriers for people who may have limitations with “standard” English. Given that the BBC now has programmes in Pidgin, and given its currency in popular culture, especially music and film, this debate is far from over.

Eric Masese’s article, titled “Verbal interjections and the making of Awillo Mike as a social representation of “lived lives and storied lives” in live music performance in Kenya”, takes us further into the realm of communication. This paper studies audience–artiste intersections of realities and subjectivities through readings of the artiste Awilo Mike’s use of verbal interjections during performances.

Adapting to climate change in a sustainable manner requires several actors to work together, communicating with each other in ways that they can understand and accept. Kwabena Boateng and Reuben Tete Larbi examine how partnerships between traditional and civil authority duty bearers can enhance climate action and adaptation planning in local communities in their article, “Collaboration between Chiefs and Local Government Actors in Combating Climate Change: Evidence from New Juaben, Ghana”.

The fourth article in this issue is by Margaret Ivy Amoakohene, Jemima Asabea Anderson, and Jemima Opare-Henaku, titled “The Goof, the Bad and the Ugly: “Indecent” Language Use on Ghanaian Radio”. They argue that with the repeal of the Criminal Libel Law in 2001, citizens’ determination to participate in national, especially political, discourse on radio have been bolstered. Sometimes, however, the language used is considered indecent. The paper examines this data gathered from selected Ghanaian radio stations.

Finally, Kwabena Sarfo-Kantankah’s paper, “The policy or the person? A corpus-based functional analysis of manifestos of two political parties in Ghana” brings the curtain down on questions of communication, language and—in this case—political identity as expressed through party manifestos. He does this by studying the manifestos of Ghana’s two main political parties, namely the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC).

We really seek book reviews on topical issues to become regular features of CJAS, and we strongly urge students and young scholars who we know engage regularly with new books, to send us reviews of books they are reading. In that vein Anima Adjepong brings us a review of Serena Owusua Dankwa’s bok *Knowing Women: Same-Sex Intimacy, Gender, and Identity in Postcolonial Ghana* published by Cambridge University Press (2021). The review is particularly topical at a time when Ghanaians are debating the pros and cons of a [private members Bill that seeks, among other things, to criminalize expressions of same-sex intimacy](#).

CJAS is evolving and with future issues we will be including [review essays](#). We hope that graduate students, especially, who generally carry out a lot of reviews during their studies, will consider sending us submissions. We see this as a service to the community while also providing a platform for younger scholars to situate their work within the larger discourse relevant to their field. We continue to welcome book and film reviews, and where such interest exists, we encourage that an expression of interest first be submitted to the editors at CJAS.

Finally, all of us at CJAS wish to express our sincere gratitude to the numerous reviewers and authors who make it possible for the journal to continue to remain in existence. By entrusting your work to us, as authors, and by carrying out the labour of reviewing the submissions, as reviewers, you show your faith in us and your support for our Pan-African project of knowledge production.

On my own behalf let me express my deepest appreciation to all the editors, our editorial coordinator, our National Service persons, and our IT manager for their steadfast work on the journal during this tough period living through a global pandemic. Thank you to the Institute of African Studies and the University of Ghana journals office for supporting the work of CJAS.

Akosua Adomako Ampofo

Editor-in-Chief