

## From the Editorial Team

Dear Readers and friends of CJAS:

Greetings from the Institute of African Studies, and the entire team at CJAS. We are pleased to bring you the second issue of 2022, volume 9, number 2. While we are not out of the throes of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the resultant upheavals that wrought untold hardship on millions, we can say, thankfully, that a degree of normalcy has returned to our publishing regime. You, our readers, authors, and reviewers, have been faithful and supportive. On the odd occasion where technology, or sheer exhaustion, has resulted in a dropped ball, most of you have been generously forgiving towards us. Thank you.

We have an eclectic collection of papers in this issue, and speaking about dropped balls in the middle of the World Cup season in Qatar, let me begin with the paper on Women's football and gendered nationalism by Anima Adjepong. In this paper Adjepong examines how reactions to the women's national team shape and reveal understandings of gender and national identity by challenging binary and exclusionary constructions of the nation. This is done by providing official (state institutions) and popular (fans/supporters) narrations of nationalism. The former use their support of the women's team to shore up heteropatriarchal national identity, while fans are quite deliberate in their insistence for a serious recognition of women footballers as professionals and citizens. These findings have implications for how activists and scholars engage the gendered terrain of sports as it intersects with understandings of citizenship.

Still on the subject of gender, Charmaine Perreira's paper focuses on the work of Professor Emerita Takyiwaa Manuh, a foremost gender scholar in Ghana, and a former Director of the Institute of African Studies. In the article titled "Knowledge, activism and institutions for Africa's transformation: Key strands in Takyiwaa Manuh's feminist scholarship," Perreira engages in a "meta-reflection" on ways in which selected texts by Manuh address feminist knowledge and activism for social and political transformation. An important aspect of this textual analysis is the emphasis on Manuh's decolonial approach, and her contributions to both Gender Studies in Africa as well as African Studies.

Our next three papers are about language and expression. The first, "Delineating the Image of Woman through Akan And Dàgàrà Proverbial Expressions" by Martin Kyiileyang and Bliss Acheampong, the second on "Verb-Noun Collocations in Newspaper Editorials In Ghana: A Corpus-Based Analysis" by Hamidu Alhassan, Millicent Akosua Bosompemaa Quarcoo and

Addae Aikins, and the third by Susanne Mohr and Dorothy Pokua Agyepong on “The cultural adaptation of quantity judgment tasks in Ghanaian English and Akan”. African Expressive Culture, including proverbs, contain linguistic features that add “flavour” to our use of language. Kyiileyang and Acheampong’s study takes a critical look at how a woman’s “personality and character” is portrayed through proverbial expressions in Akan and Dàgàrà societies and shows the sometimes ambivalent and contradictory ways in which “womanhood” is expressed. Alhassan, Quarcoo and Aikins profile the most frequent verb–noun collocations and their communicative functions in newspaper editorials in Ghana’s *Ghanaian Times* and *Daily Graphic*. The semantic prosodies of the profiled verb–noun collocations revealed five major discourses which constituted the most discussed issues in the newspaper editorials published in 2016 and 2017, namely, governance, politics and elections, peace and security, law and order, and corruption. Lastly, coming from the field of linguistics, Mohr and Agyepong discuss differences in the morphosyntactic marking of distinctions cross–linguistically, and their cross–cultural ontological–semantic conceptualizations. African languages and contexts have been relatively neglected in this context, and the article provides a methodological discussion of previously employed tools and makes suggestions for the Ghanaian, specifically Akan, context.

Our final paper by Helga Dickow attends to the subject of “religious terrorism”, or rather, lack thereof, in a paper titled “Satisfaction with the Status Quo: Why has Religious Terrorism not yet Gained Ground In Chad?”. Dickow explains the Chad situation using data from an opinion survey conducted in five towns in Chad in 2015–2016 and finds a high level of satisfaction among highly religious Muslims and Christians to live together. Her work draws attention to the importance of an obvious but often–neglected factor, namely, material prosperity and proximity to the regime as a discouragement to join terrorist organisations.

In addition to these insightful and topical articles, we offer readers an opportunity, as we sometimes do, to read articles from our archives. This time we present an article titled “Women in the History and Culture of Ghana” by Agnes Akosua Aidoo from a 1985 issue of the *Research Review*.<sup>1</sup> At the time Akosua Aidoo was a lecturer at the University of Cape Coast. She went on to spend several years working at the UN Economic Commission for Africa. Although a descriptive and perhaps somewhat romantic article, it remains an important overview of the place of women in Akan societies,

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1 Prior to re–branding that included a name change, CJAS was published under the title *Research Review* from circa 1965 to 2012

and one that colleagues at the Institute of African Studies have consistently used in a graduate course on Gender and Culture in African Societies. This issue also brings readers a review by Nana Ama Agyemang Asante of a film on Ghanaian women’s activism titled *When Women Speak*. Finally, we close with an important assessment of a musical concert, the Global Citizen festival, held in Accra and New York city in September 2022 in our Commentary section. Nii Nikoi’s review provides a critical analysis of the festival, its increasing depoliticization, while simultaneously offering a critique of the psyche of the contemporary Ghanaian state.

Let me conclude by once again thanking the editors and the rest of the editorial team at CJAS, as well as the board and all the staff in the Publications office at the Institute of African Studies, for all the work that they do to make our journal thrive. We are grateful to the many anonymous reviewers for their time, scholarly generosity and in some cases their commitment beyond the work assigned to them. There are many among them who have provided significant and continuing feedback to our authors to ensure that a diamond-in-the-rough can move from the rough cut to a publishable article. This work of mentoring those popularly referred to as “emerging scholars” forms an important part of the mission of CJAS and this has inspired us to participate individually, as editors, and collectively, as a journal, in writing workshops and panels, work we envision doing more of in the future.

**Akosua Adomako Ampofo**

*Editor-in-Chief, CJAS.*