

From the Editorial Team

Dear readers and friends of CJAS:

On behalf of the editorial team, I am pleased to bring you the second CJAS issue of 2020, volume 7, number 2. I am equally delighted to introduce our four new editors who will begin “active service” starting with the next issue. We are so very fortunate to have them and I welcome them warmly as follows: Professor Sylvia Bawa, York University; Dr George Bob-Millar, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology; Professor Grace Musila, University of the Witwatersrand, and Professor Akin Odebunmi, University of Ibadan. Please read more about them [here](#).

With CJAS 7(2) we bring you a collection of very diverse papers. Kofi Takyi Asante’s paper, with a title that plays on the call by President Akufo-Addo to Ghanaians in his inaugural speech on January 2017, grapples with the important issue of civic citizenship. In “Citizens not Spectators’? Social Belonging, Civic Engagement, and Informality of Citizenship in Ghana,” Asante opens the door for us to consider citizen engagement as an active, intentional dialogue between citizens and public office holders whereas citizen participation is a process that involves citizens alone.

In “Democratization Trapped in Violence: Sub-Saharan Africa as a Dangerous Place for Democracy,” Mojeed Adekunle Animashaun compares political violence and democratization experiences in three countries with different decolonization and democratization experiences—Kenya, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. The paper allows us to consider political violence as part of a longer trajectory of the democratization project rather than merely as a more recent phenomenon.

“Unveiling the Mask of Innocence: Switzerland’s Covert Colonial Designs and Continuity in Africa Decrypting Crypto-Colonialism” makes some interesting and compelling arguments that unsettle some of the traditional conceptions of the colonial encounter, and hence the so-called post-colony. Nana Yaw Yeboah and Safowaa Appiah argue that colonialism should be seen as part of a complex, multifaceted holistic system that goes beyond the boundaries of the metropolises and their colonies. This perspective enables them to situate Switzerland, a country that had never had a colony, in a discourse of “invisible coloniality” and “colonialism without colonies” simultaneously bringing new meaning to the concept of white innocence.

Samuel Alhassan Issah, Avea Nsoh and Samuel Awinkene Atintono’s paper is titled “On self-intensifiers and reflexive pronouns in Gurene and Dagbani”. A technical paper that will interest linguistics scholars for its argument that “reflexive pronouns in both languages are bimorphemic, comprising of a personal pronoun and the reflexivizer”. However, differences also occur that have implications not only for “sub-types of intensifiers”, but also, for the more general scholar, the use of personal names as well as gender and language.

In recent years scholars who work on questions of decolonization have paid particular attention to indigenous knowledge. Abukari Kwame and Pammla M. Petruck do this by examining “Traditional reproductive health beliefs and practices among the Dagomba” of Ghana and show how an appreciation of Dagomba health beliefs and value systems regarding sexuality and the body’s functioning could help contribute to theorizing on why people from different cultures have varying interpretations and uptake of modern reproductive health practices.

In this issue's book review section, Yaa Oparebea Ampofo looks at Mohan Ambikaipaker's *Political Blackness in Multiracial Britain*, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2018. Although the book pre-dates the attention to the recent (2020) police killings of Black people in the U.S and the renewed discourse and activism around Black lives, the review shows how topical the book remains for ongoing conversations around a variety of themes related to race, racism, decolonization, BlackLivesMatter campaigns, to name but a few.

Let me conclude by thanking our anonymous reviewers whose intellectual roles and generosity to our contributors enables CJAS to continue our demanding but hugely satisfying academic work. We also thank our contributors, numerous readers, the board and all the staff in the Publications office at the Institute of African Studies for their continuing support and engagement with us.

Akosua Adomako Ampofo

Editor-in-Chief, CJAS.