

Kenya Studies Review

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From the Editor-in-Chief

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This issue of the *Kenya Studies Review* (KSR) embraces the interdisciplinary spirit that Kenya Scholars and Studies Association (KESSA) embraces. At KESSA, we are happy to applaud the efforts of our members and non members who have continued to submit articles for publication. We are encouraged by the great confidence that readers have in KSR. The present edition has wonderful articles and reviews which will certainly enhance KESSA's contribution to knowledge on Kenya, and this is only possible with continued support from members.

The success of KSR depends on many people. My immediate thanks go out to my fellow editors Drs. Charles Manyara, Kefa Otiso and Francis Koti as well as all those who have contributed to this volume. Our joint efforts have made KSR to become one of the pre-eminent repositories of knowledge on studies on Kenya and East Africa. I am also grateful to the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, for the support that they have accorded me, and allowing for time to complete the editing of this volume. I would to thank the management of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, beginning with Rev. Prof. John Maviri, the Rector/Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. Justus Mbae, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Rev. Prof. Juvenalis Baitu, Vice Chancellor (Administration).

As KESSA, we are grateful to the anonymous reviewers and the great they have done in returning comments on time. We hope that this enthusiasm will continue. We have also been encouraged by the positive appraisal of Volume 1, Number 1 and would like to thank our readers for their positive comments and suggestions on how to improve the journal. It is such constant feedback that will make the quality of this journal to continue going up.

From the articles presented in this volume, the reader will notice the interdisciplinary breadth of the articles. The articles come from all disciplines and address a broad spectrum of issues and ideas in Kenya.

I am grateful to Obuya Bagaka, Augustine Gitonga, Eliza Johannes and Florah Karimi for their invigorating contribution to this volume. They have written excellent essays which I am sure will go a long way informing the discourse in Kenya. I also want to thank all the book reviewers – Robert Wafula and Mumo Nzau.

Obuya Bagaka's article is an insightful interrogation of the place and role of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF). It is an article which I would recommend for every Kenyan policy maker, especially given the fact that it implicates the political elite in Kenya. It is a superb appraisal that reviews a topic and issue that has not enjoyed great scholarly attention despite its tremendous impact on the lives of Kenyans at the grassroots. Bagaka's contends that the origins of CDF can be traced in "the executive/legislative struggles whose origins go back to pre-independence era." He suggest that this struggle is ongoing and is not about to resolved largely because of the unresolved land questions. Bagaka's article is particularly important in the new constitutional dispensation in Kenya, in which over 25% of development funds will be devolved and spent in county governments.

The article by Maurice Amutabi revisits the question of land in Kenya, but not in the Rift Valley and other areas, but along Kenya's border with Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda, in an area known as the Ilemi Triangle. What is significant about this article is that it interrogates the genesis and spread of tensions over resource use in a border area that is tumultuous, largely as a

result of insecurity. Amutabi assesses the place of transient and migratory ethnic groups in the nation-state, especially their lack of fixed abodes in any one nation-state and how this plays out in the countries of the region. The emergence of the phenomenon of small arms and light weapons threatens the security of this region and is a problem which new county government will be forced to deal with in the new political dispensation.

Augustine Gitonga argues that “politics play a major role in national education systems and successes.” In his article, he shows national policy formulation and budgetary allocations are political processes, reflected in the ways in which the education sector is run in Kenya. The article focuses on local media reports on educational issues, and seeks to challenge stakeholders to invest more in education by participating in decision-making and implementation, especially in the expected realization of vision 2030.

In her article, Eliza Johannes examines the plight of pastoralist women and their access to education. She argues that policies are often wrong and “geared towards assisting those already educationally advantaged groups.” She laments the problem of inequality in education and points that there is need to allocate more funds and commitment to women. She says that “education is necessary for women and men, either economically and socially, and it advances development for both women and men” in society, and should therefore be encouraged. Like Gitonga’s article, she calls for urgent intervention by stakeholders.

The last article in this issue is by Florah Karimi. It examines differential levels of academic performance and student’s internal predictors of academic success in the various categories of gender, mode of study, international students’ status and year of study, using undergraduate students of Daystar University. This article is based on data which was analyzed using both descriptive analyses and the Analysis of variance. Karimi observed significant differences in the various categories with respect to the levels of academic performance, attitudes, goal orientations, self-regulatory learning strategies and personality traits. She feels that attention should be given to enhancing students’ academic performance in the distinct categories through focusing on minimizing the differences in the levels of factors contributing to the academic performance of the students. She recommends further research on some of these issues in other universities in the country for purposes of generalizing the findings. In addition, she suggests that there is need for a further study on the differential effects of external predictors on the academic success of students in the university.

Submission Guidelines for *Kenya Studies Review*

Kenya Studies Review (KSR) is an online journal. The KSR is the principal academic and scholarly journal of the Kenya Scholars and Studies Association (KESSA). The KSR appears two times per year in April and December, and is sent to members of the Association as one of the many benefits of membership. Manuscripts submitted to the journal should be typed double-spaced, 12 point font (preferably Times New Roman). Submission must be in electronic version, saved as MS Word or RTF attachment (not as PDF). Articles should be between 6,000 and 7,000 words (25 to 30 pages). If copies of maps, charts and graphs are used, they should be provided in camera-ready form. For style manual, use the APA or Harvard Reference System (author - date) for bibliographic referencing, e.g.:

The *Kallu*, as a recognized ritual figure and authority, is increasingly serving as a link between Borana in Kenya and Oromo in Ethiopia (Amutabi 2005: 234).

Name and institutional affiliation: Authors should indicate their full name, address (including e-mail contact, fax and telephone), their academic status and their current institutional affiliation. This should appear on a separate cover page since manuscripts will be sent out anonymously to outside readers. Manuscripts should be submitted as Word or RTF documents via e-mail attachment to either the corresponding editor (Maurice Amutabi, amutabi@cuea.edu) or the editor responsible for a particular edition.

Articles submitted to *Kenya Studies Review* should be original contributions and should not be under consideration by another publication at the same time. If an article is under consideration by another publication the author should inform the editor at the time of submission. Authors are entitled to 40 complementary (free) electronic off-prints in form of pdf file for either printing or distribution.

Abstract and keywords: Authors should provide an abstract of their paper (not exceeding 150 words). The abstract should state the main research problem, major findings and conclusions. Articles that do not follow this format will have their processing delayed. A maximum of six words should be given below the abstract.

Line spacing: Articles should be double-spaced excluding abstracts, notes and references).

Font: Articles, including tables and illustrations, should be submitted in 12pt Times New Roman font.

Paragraphs: Authors should indent each new paragraph, except those immediately following a heading, which should be flush left. Do not leave blank lines between paragraphs.

Mission: The mission of the KSR is to publish the highest quality articles, as well as book and film reviews in all academic disciplines that are of interest to the interdisciplinary audience of KESSA members. The editors welcome manuscript submissions from scholars everywhere, whether or not they are members of KESSA. Each submitted article is usually sent out to panels of peer reviewers whose verdict the editors rely upon in deciding whether to accept the script for

publication. The articles that appear in the *KSR* are edited by Maurice Amutabi (Catholic University of Eastern Africa), Kefa Otiso (Bowling Green State University), Francis Koti (University of North Alabama) and Charles G. Manyara (Radford University). Book reviews are commissioned and edited by Maurice Amutabi.

The Review Process: Each manuscript received by KESSA for publication is immediately assigned a review number to facilitate tracking, and an acknowledgment is sent to the author. The editors read the article and decide whether to go forward with a peer review or to decline to consider it because it fails to meet the *ASR* mission or format. If the manuscript is to be reviewed, the editors consult the frequently updated reviewer database of members of Kenya Scholars and Studies Association (KESSA), to construct a unique panel of reviewers, whose expertise matches the content of the manuscript. Individuals on this panel are then invited to review the manuscript, and to return their reviews within 30 days. Once three peer reviews are received, the editors make a decision whether to accept, to decline the manuscript, or to invite the author to correct and resubmit it. The editors notify the author immediately, and in all cases, the reviewers' observations are sent to the authors, with the reviewers' personal identities masked. The revised articles are then published after satisfying remaining editorial requirements.

Manuscript Reviews: The *KSR* is a double-blind peer-reviewed journal. The editors, while knowledgeable in African studies, cannot possibly command the entire breadth of scholarship on Kenya, and so depend on a vast network of experts to evaluate manuscripts and to write substantive reviews. It is double blind because neither the reviewer nor the author knows each other's identity. The peer review process is the best assurance that *KSR* will maintain its scholarly quality into the future.

The title page: The title page of each paper or article should include, in the following order: Title of the article; Author name(s) (preceded by first names, but with no academic titles given); Name of the institution or organization (if there is more than one author or institution, affiliations should be indicated using superscript Arabic numerals); and an address for correspondence (including the name of the corresponding author with e-mail address and fax and phone numbers).

Reference citation: Reference citations in the text and in the reference list proper should follow conventions listed in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* latest edition, referred to hereinafter as the APA Manual. Provide a reference or bibliography that lists every work cited by you in the text.

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Language: It is recommended that authors use American English spelling. Standard US American spelling and punctuation as given in *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* should be followed.

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How to become a KESSA peer reviewer: because KESSA is a professional organization engaged in research, dissemination and mentoring, the editors of the *KSR* invite individuals, whether members of the Kenya Scholars and Studies Association (KESSA) or not, to participate in the process of reviewing manuscripts. No remuneration is involved, but you get to participate in shaping scholarship on Kenya by providing thoughtful and appropriate comments on research articles and assist editors to make accurate decisions.