



KESSA Newsletter *Fall 2022*

Editor:

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Editor's note

KESSA Newsletter is the official newsletter of Kenya Scholars and Studies Association (KESSA). The newsletter aims to showcase members' achievements/accomplishments, share professional development opportunities/resources, and build a sense of community among members of the association.

KESSA Newsletter follows a Spring (March), Summer (June), Fall (August), and Winter (December) publication schedule as shown below.

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Submission deadline</i>	<i>Publication date</i>
Spring	February 15	March 1
Summer	May 15	June 1
Fall	July 15	August 1
Winter	November 15	December 1

To feature in an upcoming issue, please email your submission(s) to secretary@kessa.org with 'NEWSLETTER ITEM(S)' in the email subject line.

Late submissions will be considered for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading this issue and find it resourceful. Have a great fall semester!

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1. KESSA Announcements

1.1 KESSA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

“On behalf of KESSA leadership, I would like to express our gratitude for what we have been able to accomplish over the years due to your loyalty and support. I hope you have been able to benefit from your membership and if not email us with suggestions of how we can make our organization better. Your early renewal will help us plan for our yearly program in a timely manner. **Renew membership** at <https://kessa.org/membership/>” – Janet M’mbaha-Zarnesky (KESSA Secretary)

1.2 KESSA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Register for the 2022 KESSA Conference by August 7, 2022 to have your abstract(s) included in the conference program. Register for the conference at <https://kessa.org/membership/>

1.3 KESSA NEWSLETTER

KESSA Newsletter is currently seeking a volunteer to serve as an editor-designate. The position is open to KESSA members only and is an excellent opportunity for any member wishing to be actively involved in the Association. Please register your interest in the position by emailing your CV to secretary@kessa.org with ‘Editor-Designate’ in the email subject line by **September 1, 2022**. Whoever is selected as the editor-designate will be expected to collaborate with the editor in preparing the 2023 Spring and Summer Issues. Thereafter, he/she will take over as the new editor of KESSA Newsletter for a period of two years beginning Fall 2023.

2. Publications

2.1 BOOK(S)

Opiyo, M. (n.d.). *Stuck Here: African Immigrants Tell Their Stories*.

Abstract

Stuck Here is a collection of interviews with African immigrants in America as well as insightful analysis of their lives and experiences. The reader will develop awareness of factors that influence African men and women to migrate to the United States, relocating thousands of miles from their home countries where family and friends are left behind. Such factors include living in Rwanda during the infamous genocide and being the only one to survive a savage slaughter; residing in Zimbabwe before and after independence; living in South Africa during and after Apartheid; and much more. Read *Stuck Here* to discover how these immigrants adjust to life in



the United States and to appreciate the sacrifices and struggles these individuals have endured while trying to survive in a new and challenging environment as they seek to improve their lives. In *Stuck Here*, Dr. Opiyo gives voice to these representative subjects, enabling them to candidly tell their own unique stories. And they are indeed intriguing stories of mixed emotions full of anecdotal humor and occasional undeniable despair and daunting dilemmas. But most importantly, they are narratives of courage, hope, and determination.

2.2 BOOK CHAPTER(S)

Rombo, D. O., & Lutomia, A. N. (n.d.). Still at a Crossroad: Theories in Activism and Fight for Rights of the LGBTI Community in Kenya. In B. B. Muhonja & B. M'Baye (Eds.). *Gender and Sexuality in Kenyan Societies* (edition and page numbers not provided)

Abstract

This chapter applies content analysis to select (2014-2018) YouTube clips of TV interviews by LGBTI individuals in Kenya. We draw on queer theories to first determine and appraise the framing/lenses of interviewer questions faced by Kenyan LGBTI individuals and then map the responses to existing theoretical frameworks. Results show how interviewers presented questions that were anchored on the power of heteronormativity, patriarchy and religion under four moral compasses: (1) establishing acceptance within the microsystem of LGBTI people generally including family and friends, (2) seeking justification for going against social norms established by structural forces of religion, nature, and tradition; (3) offering anti-LGBTI critiques using binary lenses (e.g., African/un-African, moral/immoral, natural/unnatural), and (4) combinations of these approaches. Mapping the LGBTI and activist perspectives showed glimpses of decolonial theorization of LGBTI life as aligned to feminist, human rights, postcolonial, and ubuntu theoretical frameworks, we conclude that the public stance on LGBTI in Kenya at the period of data collection was still at a crossroad.

2.3 BLOG POST(S)

Asaka, J. O. (2022, July 6). Why US-Kenya cooperation on wildlife and drug trafficking matters. Retrieved from <https://theconversation.com/why-us-kenya-cooperation-on-wildlife-and-drug-trafficking-matters-184070>

3. Professional Development Opportunity

3.1. SENIOR RESEARCHER

The Nordic African Institute is currently accepting application for its 2023 Africa Scholar Program. Learn more on [how to apply](#).



4. Call for Submissions

4.1 KENYA STUDIES REVIEW

The *Kenya Studies Review* (KSR) editor invites submissions of original, previously unpublished article-length manuscripts between 6000 and 7000 words (not exceeding 30 pages in length) from a wide range of disciplines for a Special Fall Edition focusing on politics on Kenya. The title of your proposed paper should mention the term “politics” in some form. Thought-provoking essays, critical reviews of current scholarly books, narrative writing (prose and poetry), and opinion pieces will be accepted for consideration and possible publication. Articles that have been published elsewhere in any form will not be considered for publication, including those available on the Internet, nor will we consider multiple submissions by the same author. Professor Shadrack W. Nasong’o, in tandem with its current editor, will serve as a guest editor. Submissions should be made via email to editor-in-chief@kessa.org or our online website <http://kessa.org/ksr-journal>. **Deadline: August 31, 2022.**

4.2 KESSA NEWSLETTER

KESSA Newsletter editor is currently accepting submissions for the winter issue, which will be out in December 2022. Please send your submission(s) to secretary@kessa.org on or before **November 15, 2022**, with “NEWSLETTER ITEM(S)” in the email subject line to be considered for inclusion in the newsletter. Submissions received after this date will be considered for inclusion in the next issue.

Possible submissions include:

- Recent publications by KESSA members (e.g., articles, books, book chapters, blog posts etc.). All book, book chapter, and/or journal article submissions should include an abstract. All recent publication submissions should follow APA format
- Call for submissions (e.g., journal call for abstracts/papers, conference call for abstracts/papers, book project call for abstracts/chapters etc.)
- Professional development opportunities/resources including grants, fellowships, scholarships, teaching resources, and/or professional development programs/workshops among others
- Upcoming events of interest to KESSA members including conferences, workshops, and/or webinars among others



- Awards received by KESSA members including service awards, teaching awards, fellowships, and/or grants among others