



KESSA Newsletter

Summer Issue, June 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. This is the Summer 2022 issue of the newsletter.

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. Below is a submission/publication timeline guide for your reference/information.

Late submissions will be considered for inclusion in the immediate next issue of the newsletter.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue and find it resourceful.

Have a great summer break!

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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 2022 Conference Call for Abstracts

"The Kenya Scholars and Studies Association (KESSA) wishes to announce the call for abstract submissions for the 15th Annual KESSA conference in Dallas, Texas at the Dallas/Fort Worth Marriott Solana on **September 9-10, 2022**. The conference theme is **Professionalism, Responsibility and Peacebuilding for Economic Revitalization**. We encourage submissions from all disciplines. Abstract submission deadline is **Sunday, June 19th at 11:59 PM EST (USA)**. Early submission is highly encouraged! For detailed information about abstract submissions see: <https://kessa.org/call-for-abstracts-2022/>" – Janet M'mbaha-Zarnesky (KESSA Secretary)

2. Awards

2.1 Fellowship Award

Dr. Jonathan Choti (Michigan State University)- won the 2022 winter Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP) funding to collaborate on a two-month scholarly project with Dr. Mohammed Karama of Kabianga University in Kenya. The title of the project is "Co-Develop New and Strengthen Existing Curriculum, Grow Research Capacity, and Mentor Graduate Students in Swahili" (CADFP: <https://www.iie.org/programs/carnegie-african-diaspora-fellowship-program>)

2.2 Grant Award

Dr. Jonathan Choti (Michigan State University, MSU)- won a 2021/2022 Network for Global Civic Engagement (NGCE) Grant [\$10,000] offered by MSU's Residential College of Arts and Humanities (RCAH) to support his project on Food Security in Naitolia Village of Monduli District in northern Tanzania. Naitolia is the site of his 6-week summer education abroad program known "Sustainable Community development in Tanzania" (NGCE: <https://rcah.msu.edu/uniquely-rcah/network-for-global-civic-engagement1/index.html>)

3. Publications

3.1 Book(s)

Asaka, J. O., & Oluoko-Odingo, A. (Eds.). (2022). *Human Security and Sustainable Development in East Africa*. Routledge.
<https://www.routledge.com/Human-Security-and-Sustainable-Development-in-East-Africa/Asaka-Oluoko-Odingo/p/book/9781032116969>

Abstract

This book investigates contemporary human security issues in East Africa, setting forth policy recommendations and a research agenda for future studies. Human security takes a people-centered rather than state-centered approach to security issues, focusing on whether people feel safe, free from fear, want and indignity. This book investigates human security in East Africa, encompassing issues as diverse as migration, housing, climate change, displacement, food security, aflatoxins, land rights, and peace and conflict resolution. In particular, the book showcases innovative original research from African scholars based on the continent and abroad, and together the contributors provide policy recommendations and set forth a human security research agenda for East Africa, which encompasses Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti. As well as being useful for policy makers and practitioners, this book will interest researchers across African Studies, Security Studies, Environmental Studies, Political Science, Global Governance, International Relations, and Human Geography.



3.2 Book chapter(s)

Asaka, J. O. (2022). Human security. In J. O. Asaka & A. Oluoko-Odongo (Eds.), *Human Security and Sustainable Development in East Africa* (1st ed., pp. 27–40). Routledge. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/oa-edit/10.4324/9781003221081-2/human-security-jeremiah-asaka?context=ubx&refId=e7b63c96-ec05-48a5-ab16-6c7dc5ad158a>

Abstract

This chapter introduces the reader to security theory and practice, including the concept of human security as conceptualized and operationalized in the book. The chapter begins by situating the book within a broader global context characterized by major global trends most notably: interconnectedness, interdependence, decline in multilateralism, proliferation of non-state actors, technological advance, and a security landscape in flux as exemplified in part by the current reality of COVID-19 pandemic. The chapter then discusses the lay of the land with regard to security theory and practice before tracing the history, origin, and evolution of the human security concept. Finally, it provides a working definition of the concept for the book and presents the book's human security conceptual framework. The chapter's main argument is that human security provides a better framework for understanding, preventing, and responding to 21st-century security challenges, including climate change, pandemics, disasters, and terrorism among others.

Asaka, J. O., & Oluoko-Odingo, A. (2022). Introduction: Human Security and Sustainable Development in East Africa. In J. O. Asaka & A. Oluoko-Odingo (Eds.), *Human Security and Sustainable Development in East Africa* (1st ed., pp. 1–26). Routledge. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/oa-edit/10.4324/9781003221081-1/introduction-jeremiah-asaka-alice-oluoko-odingo?context=ubx&refId=3693a1a0-ce52-41bc-9a5d-07b4edec5ef9>

Abstract

This chapter introduces the reader to the book and its main arguments. The chapter begins by situating the book within the broader policy and scholarly debates about sustainable development and sustainable development goals. The chapter then proceeds on to draw a link between sustainable development agenda, on the one hand, and human security agenda, on the other hand. After establishing the linkage, the chapter situates the book within its geographical context of focus by providing pertinent background information on the East Africa region, which is defined broadly to include eleven countries namely Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, and Somalia. Finally, the chapter describes the organization of the book and provides a concise summary of chapters of the book.

Wangia-Dixon, R., & Asaka, J. O. (2022). Human security implications of aflatoxins in East Africa. In J. O. Asaka & A. Oluoko-Odongo (Eds.), *Human Security and Sustainable Development in East Africa* (1st ed., pp. 123–134). Routledge. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/oa-edit/10.4324/9781003221081-8/human-security-implications-aflatoxins-east-africa-ruth-wangia-dixon-jeremiah-asaka?context=ubx&refId=c72ed2c8-916c-4b23-af1d-0bbec4a763c8>

Abstract

This chapter explores the implications of aflatoxins for human security in East Africa. The chapter establishes that the aflatoxins problem is pervasive in East Africa and present a unique challenge to human security in the region. Dietary exposure to aflatoxins results in negative health outcomes such as aflatoxin poisoning, increased incidence of liver cancers in adults, immune suppression, vaccine effectiveness interference, and possible growth impairments in children. The chapter establishes that because of scanty data on occurrences, the true magnitude of aflatoxin poisoning in the region is not known and at best grossly underestimated. The chapter identifies limited diagnostic capabilities especially in rural hospitals, as one of the reasons for the noted underestimation of aflatoxin poisoning in the region. The chapter also establishes that aflatoxins present significant barriers to trade and contribute to economic vulnerabilities and food insecurity. The chapter recommends (1) the creation of more testing facilities in rural areas, (2) increased investments in agriculture and food production, and (3) further research to understand the interplay between aflatoxins and COVID-19, and implications of the same for human security in the region considering the noted compounding effects of long-term exposure to aflatoxins, in particular immune suppression, and interference with vaccine effectiveness.

4. Call for Submissions

4.1 KESSA Newsletter

KESSA Newsletter editor is currently accepting submissions for the summer issue, which will be out in June 2022. Please send your submission(s) to secretary@kessa.org on or before **July 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