

Extending the African Agenda

The growth of *The Journal of Pan African of Studies* since our online presence has been outstanding. We have touched thousands with our content (i.e., between February 2007 and February 2008, we had 25,554 visits, with "A Ghetto Education is Basic": (Jamaican) Dancehall Masculinities as Counter-Culture by Agostinho M.N. Pinnock as our most read article), and as a result, we have opened new doors to intellectual discourse in and around the African experience. In this context, we are pleased to extend this African agenda into 2008 with more content dedicated to the memory of three esteemed intellectuals on two continents. Thus, as Ossie Davis (1917-2005) said in 1965 as he eulogized El Hajj Malik El Shabazz (Malcolm X), '...in honoring him, we honor the best in ourselves', likewise, in honoring the life and work of Mazisi Raymond Fakazi Mngoni Kunene, Asa G. Hillard, III; and Vè Vè Amasasa Clark, we also '...honor the best in ourselves'.

The articles herein provide a critical examination of: the marginalization of African languages; a pseudo-textual analysis of democratic ideals in Nigeria; prisoner narratives in Mali, South Africa and Kenya; why African nations need to reconcile imported environmental conservation interventions with collective village lore; how to authenticate African philosophy to end controversy on its ontology; the idea of an educated person in contemporary African thought; Kwame Nkrumah's legacy juxtaposing controversies surrounding his relationship to Pan African social, economic, and political engagement; the global displacement of local axiology undergirding individual economic agency in African society; a look at the life and ideals of Marcus Garvey which suggest that he tended to place Western culture and civilization on a pedestal; Pan African metaphysical epistemology which collects concepts, practices/patterns from various African cultures to formulate a resource for discussing contemporary perceptions; the historical prevalence of a miscegenation ethos and pernicious racism as the cause of the decline of the African-Mexican population in Mexico; the argument that settlements on hills by the Shona of pre-colonial Zimbabwe were not determined by a need for defense, but rather for environmental, health and agrarian reasons, and last, a bi-lingual examination of the implications of using the Shona folktale as a tool/method for teaching environmental education.

Our 20th anniversary edition was rewarding, and again I thank our guest editors Babacar M'Baye (Kent State University) and Deidre Hill Butler (Union College), our web-person Chita Obasi, and those who sent us congratulations, like doctoral candidate Colita Nichols Fairfax of the Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work at Norfolk State University who wrote (26 November 2007) 'Thank you so much! I love this journal and its accessibility. Your work is so important!'; Dr. Michael Olatunji of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (Nigeria) who wrote (27 November 2007) 'A hearty Congratulation on your Anniversary Celebrations! I wish you many more years of productive services to humanities.

We really appreciate what you and the entire members of your organization are doing. It's indeed a good job. More grease to your elbow!', and Economics Department lecturer Osabuohien Evans at Covenant University, Ota (Nigeria) who noted (26 November 2007) that our '...articles are rich in thoughts'.

Future issues of JPAS will include two special issues, the first '(Product) Red: (re)Branding Africa?' edited by Natasha Himmelman and Danai S. Mupotsa (University of Cape Town) which invites papers that critique, analyze, and offer insights into (Product)Red, specifically, the image(s) of Africa it (re)presents and seeks to (re)present, as well as the forms and kinds of knowledgeableness it is creating and/or reviving wherein contributions may examine (Product)Red commercials, its business model, website, participating campaigns. And second, 'BioDun J. Ogundayo (University of Pittsburgh) will examine the question of African spirituality via the role of the Black church in America, African initiated churches in modern African politics, African immigrants and spiritual expression in the Diaspora, secret societies, women Black/African Spirituality and methods/modes of conflict resolution, the Black/African family as a spiritual unit, and a host of other topics/themes concerning Black/African spirituality.

And continuing in our innovation, we will also investigate expanding our reach by incorporating: a blog, blogtalkradio, video, a Marketplace, publishing select papers from the Global Peace Leadership Summit sponsored by the African Diaspora Foundation (www.theadf.com) held in Los Angeles, California in 2007 (in 2008 set for October 3-4 in Los Angeles, California), and *Sankofa Solutions*, a solution focused forum based on traditional African wisdom designed to transform the present, and empower the future edited by JPAS editorial board member Dr. Uhuru Hotep. In this process, and in the full depth of all our endeavors, I/we welcome your input, and continued readership, as we move the pivotal projector of the African agenda forward.

Sincerely,

Itibari M. Zulu
Editor-in-Chief