

EDITOR'S NOTE

Many things have happened in and around African Studies in the first decade of the journal's existence. *Modern Africa: Politics, History, and Society* celebrates its tenth anniversary as the main African Studies journal in Central Eastern Europe (CEE) at a time of great political challenges. The most recent reports on the racial discrimination of African refugees from Ukraine along Europe's eastern borders have been deeply upsetting and we stand in solidarity with African migrants. In the past few years, we have spent substantial time reflecting on various important issues affecting African Studies, in particular in the geopolitical space that is CEE. While the journal is arguably a manifestation of the fact that African Lives Matter, we are acutely aware that we also need to work on creating more just spaces for scholars from the African continent in African Studies and its publishing industry. Since I took over as editor of this journal in 2018, we have focused on diversifying our editorial board so as to invite more African scholars, in particular those located in Africa, women scholars and also junior representatives to join our journal.

Through partnerships with African institutions across the continent and by developing collaborations with scholars in Africa and beyond, the University of Hradec Králové has been able to include and involve a diversity of African scholars both behind the scenes, as reviewers and editors, and on stage, as authors. The vast majority of our scholars have always been from the African continent, and we believe that part of our strength as a journal is our commitment to foregrounding the work of African academics and scholars.

And yet, there is much unfinished business in front of us. The overwhelming majority of scholars whose work we have published so far are male, which is part and parcel of the more general problem of the marginalisation of African female authors in our study field. While we have diversified our editorial board to some degree, female scholars continue to be under-represented, also in our journal, and this deprives our platform of important voices that need to be heard. An essential aim for us in the coming years is to address these gender inequality issues in African knowledge production. We also wish to put a stronger emphasis on decolonising scholarship and work that systematically identifies areas where northern approaches and theories have been masked as universal.

As Benjamin Lawrence (2020: 444) has recently remarked, there is a “deep-seated problem of whiteness and anti-Black racism occupying African studies” and we, as editors of *Modern Africa*, need to play a role in the critical

shift towards a more socially and academically just African Studies publishing industry. In particular, we support work that includes conceptualisations, methodologies, theoretical frameworks and indigenous knowledge systems emerging from Africa. We regard it as quintessential to rethink and further interrogate how we come to know what we know, and we would like to dialogue with colleagues who argue that an epistemic shift in African Studies is “a precondition for any meaningful engagement with the decolonial challenge” (Ndlovu-Gatsheni et al. 2022: 96). One of our forthcoming special issues deals with various decolonising approaches from Southern Africa.

So while there is still a bumpy road ahead of us, we hopefully, step-by-step, reach a place where *Modern Africa* can represent a gender equal and racially just platform. At this point, I would like to sincerely thank our authors, editorial board members, reviewers, the executive editor, and the copyeditor for their splendid work during the past few years. I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful work of the guest editors of the preceding special issue on “Eritrea’s Uneasy Future” which already was a highlight marking our ten-year anniversary (O’Kane et al. 2022).

This December 2022 issue begins with two articles about political developments in Nigeria. The first by Akali Omeni shows how a twitter-based social movement mobilised against the criminal Special Anti-Robbery Squads (SARS) in the country and how it largely contributed to the dismantling of the unit. The second contribution by Adebisi and Olowa examines the socio-political issues that emerged through the 2010 amendment of the Electoral Act, also in Nigeria, and interrogates its consequences in the context of the 2019 elections. Following this, Amanuel Gebru Woldearegay presents a detailed analysis of how an interstate media war unfolded between the parties at work in Ethiopia’s coalition between 2016-2020. The last contribution by Negedu and Ahiokhai is an article-length review paper on African philosophy with reference to a previously published article in our journal by Alena Rettová (2021). We thought it to be valuable to provide a space for these authors to be in a dialogue with each other. Therefore, we also experiment with a new format in this issue, a discussion forum, in which Rettová was provided space to respond to her critics.

Finally, I would like to thank the authors of this issue for their contributions and the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové for their continuous support of *Modern Africa: Politics, History, and Society*. We will continue our mission of offering great research on, about, and

from Africa by welcoming cross-continental collaborations, decolonising scholarship, multidisciplinary research, and studies of climate change and its consequences.

Stephanie Rudwick

Editor-in-Chief

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