

CHIEF EDITOR'S NOTE

African Studies is currently being reconfigured through critical reassessments of inherited knowledge systems, the rise of decolonial perspectives, and the adoption of interdisciplinary approaches that engage both local contexts and global dynamics. The contemporary geopolitical developments, especially the ongoing US-Israel-Iran war 2026, highlight Africa's evolving position within fluctuating international relations. The ripple effects of this conflict extend into African contexts, influencing political orientations, energy dependencies, disruptions in trading networks, diplomatic alignments, foreign aid pauses, supply chain interruptions and regional security considerations. There is a necessity of situating African experiences within broader global frameworks while recognizing the continent's active role in shaping these interactions. Since its inception, the Department of African Studies has emphasized an interdisciplinary approach to understanding Africa's multifaceted realities. In alignment with this vision, the Journal prioritizes historically grounded and analytically rigorous scholarship that draws from diverse disciplinary perspectives. Particular attention is given to critical examinations of political systems, economic transformations, social systems cultural practices, indigenous knowledge systems, and the lived experiences of the natives. This publication is devoted to advancing original and critically engaged research that contributes to more pluralized understandings of Africa across temporal and spatial dimensions. The articles assembled in this volume exemplify both methodological robustness and conceptual innovation, reflecting the dynamic evolution of the field. We acknowledge with gratitude the continued engagement of our authors, reviewers, advisory board members, and readership, whose collective efforts continue to foster impactful academic discourse.

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