

7TH CHINUA ACHEBE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

in collaboration with

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE, &
DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY, ILLINOIS



THEME:

**REIMAGINING AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT
IN THE UNCHARTED DEMOCRACY**

Institute of African Studies,
University of Nigeria, Nsukka

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



17–18, July 2026

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Arrival 16 July 2026

DAY 1: FRIDAY, 17 JULY 2026

8:00am – 3pm: Conference Registration

11am-2pm OPENING CEREMONY

Introduction of the guests by the MC

Opening remarks by the Chairman – **Rt. Hon. Dr. Peter Odey**, Deputy Governor Cross River State

Opening remarks by **Prof. Chima Korieh**, Chairman LOC

Remarks by **Prof Nkuzi Nnam**, Dominican University, River Forest, USA

Remarks by **Prof Valerie Ferim**, University of Fort Hare, South Africa

Remarks by **Prof James A. Robinson**, University of Chicago

Opening speech by **Prof. Dr. Tochukwu Omenma**, Director, Institute of African Studies

Welcoming address by **Prof Simon Uchenna Ortuanya**, The Vice-Chancellor, UNN

KEYNOTE ADDRESS [12.30 –1.15 pm

Professor Cheryl M. Hendricks

Director, The Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance,
University of Cape Town, South Africa

DIALOGUE SESSION 1.15-2.15 PM

Moderation by **Prof James A. Robinson**, University of Chicago

Panelists

Distinguished Senator, Osita Ngwu, Senator Representing Enugu West Senatorial Zone.
Rt. Hon. Chidi Mark Obetta, Member Representing Nsukka/Igbo-Eze South Federal Constituency.

Professor Orji Nkwachukwu, Institute for Developmental Studies, UNEC Former INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner, Anambra State, Nigeria.

Engr Professor Ozoemena A. Ani, Professor of Mechatronics and Agricultural Machinery, Director, Education Innovation Unit, UNN

Award presentation to our special guests/speeches

Chairman's closing speech

Vote of thanks: Rev. Fr. Dr. Dr. Dubem Nwaogaidu

Break and lunch 2:30:3.00pm

LUNCH 2.30-3.00 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION I [3:30 pm - 4:30 pm]

A. DEMOCRATIC SABOTAGE AND THE POWER OF AUTOCHTHONISM

Venue: Seminar Room 1

Panel Chair: Dr. David Ifeanyichukwu Nwakanma

- i. **Pietro Calice, Dimitri G. Demekas**, A comparative analysis of financial sector reforms and policies in countries exiting fragility
- ii. **Igwe, Kelechi Njoku**, Warfare and diplomacy: Nigerian foreign relations 1967-70 (Research Fellow – The Nigerian Institute of International Affairs kessiigwe@gmail.com)
- iii. **Tazhibayeva Uassima** (Farabi University) and **Svetlana Ananyeva** (Institute of Literature and Art named after M. Auezov), Conceptual and transcultural analyses of literary texts in the context of modern interpretative and comparative studies
- iv. **Abdulbasit Olalekan Abubakar**, Policy-reality gaps in Africa: Examining the dichotomies between formulation and developmental practices (Federal University of Health Sciences, Ila-Orangun, Osun State, Nigeria, basitolokuta23@gmail.com)
- v. **Nwabudike, Chukwuma Patrick** (chukwuma.nwabudike@unn.edu.ng); **Edeh, Nkechinyere Charity** (nkechinyere.edeh@unn.edu.ng); **Onwuzurike, Uloma Adaugo** (Uloma.onwuzurike@unn.edu.ng); **Nsude, Sampson Nnabuike** (samson.nsude@unn.edu.ng); **Omenma, Zipporah Onyinyechi** (University of Nigeria Nsukka, Zipporah.omenma@unn.edu.ng), Migration, political inclusion, and democratic accountability in Africa: A policy-oriented analysis of mobility governance and democratic outcomes.

CONCURRENT SESSION I [3:30 pm - 4:30 pm]

B. DEMOCRACY AS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Venue: Seminar Room 2

Panel Chair: Professor Ifeanyi Iwundu

- i. **Isaac, Baridapdoo Joy**, Reimagining African development in an age of democratic uncertainty: From instrumentalism to democratic quality (Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, baridapdoo.ngo@iaue.edu.ng)
- ii. **Onuegwunwoke, Cynthia Adaeze**, (cynthia.onuegwunwoke@alvanikoku.edu.ng) and **Amadi, Gloria Ukamaka** (gloria.amadi@alvanikoku.edu.ng), Syntactic construal of democracy and development in Nigerian political discourse

- iii. **Mimidoo Tijah** (Project Director, Gender Equality Club Nigeria, mimitijah92@gmail.com) and **Betty Bem** (Child/Women Rights Advocate Officer, Gender Equality Club Nigeria bemmtserngyorbetty@gmail.com), Investing in local leaders: Youth agency, democratic practice, and development in Nigeria
- iv. **Aniamulu Solomon Ebubedim** (Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam, Anambra State, aniamulusolomonebubedim@gmail.com), Developmental reform and democracy in Africa
- v. **Ngozi Omeje**, Hairstyle as a cultural statement: Looking the meaning, context, and evolution of hair practices in Nsukka, Nigeria (University of Nigeria, ngoziomejea@gmail.com).

CONCURRENT SESSION II [4:30 pm - 5:30 pm]

C. THE LIMITS OF DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION IN AFRICAN STATES

Venue: Seminar Room 1

Panel Chair: Dr. Ikpe Ibenekwu

- i. **Chinedu Henry Ibe** (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Ibehenrychinedu5@gmail.com) and **E. Ugochukwu Ekemezie**, The captured state: Prebendalism, institutional subversion, and the limits of democratic consolidation in Nigeria's Fourth Republic.
- ii. **Chisom Barnabas Amaole**, (Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka) Internal displacement and political in(ex)clusion in Nigeria (barnabasamaole@gmail.com)
- iii. **Cynthia Chigozie Egwuatu** (Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam, egwuatu1996@gmail.com) and **Ubaka Cosmas MOLOKWU**, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, cosmas.molokwu@unn.edu.ng), Contentious politics and the militarisation of protest: Unpacking the dynamics of insecurity in South-East Nigeria, 1999-2023.
- iv. **David Ifeanyichukwu Nwakanma**, Poetry as democratic vigilance: Watchdog imaginaries in Idris Amali's Efeega: War of Ants and Back Again at the Foothills of Greed (Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State, davidnwakanma54@gmail.com).
- v. **Edward Ukwubile Ukwubile & Patricia Chinwe Iloka** (Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam, eu.egwuaba@coou.edu.ng), Between movement and belonging: Migration, displacement, and democratic inclusion in Nigeria
- vi. **Assel Kundakhbayeva** (Farabi University) and **Svetlana Ananyeva** (Institute of Literature and Art named after M. Auezov), Narrative strategies and cultural memory in Kazakh literary discourse: Reinterpreting Vladislav Vladimirov's interpretative approach.

CONCURRENT SESSION II [4:30 pm - 5:30 pm]

D. FEATURES OF EFFICIENT DEMOCRACIES

Venue: Seminar Room 2

Panel Chair: Dr. Chidimma U.E. Inyima

- i. **Kalu, Ajike Okeh**, Public sector reforms, accountability, and e-governance: pathways to inclusive development in Africa's uncharted democratic transitions
- ii. **Chukwudi Onuigbo**, Masquerade system and conflict resolution in Northern Igbo society of South-Eastern Nigeria, (chukwudionuigbo@gmail.com)
- iii. **Elkanah Obiobarakuma**, Role of women groups of conflict management in Nembe Local Government of Bayelsa State (elkanahobiobarakuma@gmail.com)
- iv. **Eudora Ohazurike** (Imo State University, Owerri, udohazurike@gmail.com); **Christian Onyemaechi Osuagwu**, chrisonyema93@gmail.com); and **Lucky Saturday Eneyo** (University of Nigeria, Nsukka), Quest for Political Restructuring in Nigeria: A Root Cause Analysis of the Diverse Ethnic and Sectarian Agitations
- v. **Valery Ferim**, Contested Narratives on Democratic Backsliding in Africa (University of Fort Hare, South Africa, vferim@ufh.ac.za)
- vi. **Nwadike Tochukwu**, **Ubaka Cosmas Molokwu**, and **Ozioma Victoria Uchime**, Democracy Without Development? A Comparative Analysis of Nigeria and Ghana's Fourth Republics (1999–2024) (cosmas.molokwu@unn.edu.ng, ozioamauchime@gmail.com)

DAY 2

SATURDAY 18 JULY 2026

CONCURRENT SESSION III [9:00 am -10:15 am WAT]

E. RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL TONES OF DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

Venue: Seminar Room 1

Panel Chair: Rev Fr. Dr. Dr. Nwaogaidu

- i. **Ebuka Michael Okorie**, Christianity and Democratic Consolidation in Africa (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, okorieebukamichael@gmail.com)
- ii. **C. Arinze Omeh**, When Prophecies Meet Ballots: Charismatic Authority and the Decolonial Reconfiguration of Democratic Legitimacy in Nigeria (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, arinzeomehcollins@gmail.com)
- iii. **Happiness Kodichinma Ogiri** (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Happiness.ogiri@unn.edu.ng), and **Ikechukwu Maxwell Ukandu** (Veritas University, Abuja, ukandui@veritas.edu.ng), Rethinking Repentance and Reintegration: An African Religious Perspective on Operation Safe Corridor in Northern Nigeria
- iv. **Ukwueze, Chinedu E.**, Historical Behavioural Pattern and Moral Upbringing in Ede-Oballa, Nsukka Local Government Area (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, chyezeb@gmail.com).
- v. **Nweke Kenneth Akobundu**, The Role of Traditional Institutions in Maintaining Peace and Order in Ezza Communities of Ebonyi State, Nigeria (University of Nigeria Nsukka, kanweke1@gmail.com)

CONCURRENT SESSION III [9:00 am -10:15 am WAT]

F. REGIONAL DEMOCRACY, INSTITUTIONS, AND FRAGILITIES

Venue: Seminar Room 2

Panel Chair: Dr. Dr. Paulinus Agbo

- i. **Egbule, Philip Onyekachukwu** (University of Delta, Agbor, philip.egbule@unidel.edu.ng; EMEDEM, Cecilia Ukaemeke, cecilia.emedem@unidel.edu.ng; AKAEZE, Chukwufumnaya Cynthia, akaezecynthia503@gmail.com), Reimagining ECOWAS at 50: Strengthening Regional Institutions for Democratic Resilience
- ii. **Joachim Chukwuma, Okafor**, Can development occur in the absence of democracy? Political Economy of Coup d'etat and Democracy in Burkina Faso (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Chukwuma.okafor@unn.edu.ng)
- iii. **Odey John**, From Hashtags to Ballot Boxes: Gen Z, Digital Activism, and the Reimagining of Democratic Participation in Sub-Saharan Africa Conference Theme: Reimagining African Development in the Uncharted Democracy Sub-theme: Gen Z and Digital Influence on Democracy in Africa
- iv. **Phemelo Michelle Mashamaite**, Pathways to Dystopian Governance: A Case of Democratic Deficiency and Erosion of Social Contract in the Sahel (Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), Developmental Capable and Ethical State (DCES); Ph.D Candidate, North-West University(NWU), Vaal Triangle Campus (VTC); Member of the Golden Key Society, PMMashamaite@hsrc.ac.za and michellemashamaite@gmail.com).
- v. **Onyishi Anthony U.**, State, Leadership and Military Re-emergence in African Politics.

CONCURRENT SESSION IV [10:30 am -11:45 am WAT]

G. DEMOCRACY AND ITS DISCONTENTS IN NIGERIA

Venue: Seminar Room 1

Panel Chair: Dr. Ubaka Cosmas Molokwu

- i. **Udeh, Livinus Ejike**, Things Fall Apart? An Analysis of Intra-Group Conflict among Biafra Separatist Agitators
- ii. **Fumnanya Ekwesaranna** (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, fumnanya.ekwesaranna@unn.edu.ng) & **Panden, Peter Emmanuel** (Federal University of Education, Pankshin), Evaluating the Parliamentary Effectiveness of Two State Legislatures in Nigeria, 2015–2023
- iii. **Akpomemie Akpore**, Voting without Improvement: Questioning the Accountability of Electoral Management Bodies (Embs) in Africa, (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, akpomemie.akpore@federalpolyoko.edu.ng)
- iv. **James Peter Ugwuidenyi**, Democratic and Electoral Reform in Africa: Challenges and Prospects ahead of the 2027 General Elections in Nigeria, Federal College of Education, Eha-Amufu, (jamespeteridenyi1@gmail.com).
- v. **Ugbagu Innocent Uchechukwu** (AkanuIbiam Federal Polytechnic Unwana) & **Magnus Chijindu Onyemaobi**, (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, ugbaguinnocent2@gmail.com), Political Party Financing and Democracy in Nigeria: A Study of 2015, 2019, and 2023 Presidential Elections in Nigeria.

CONCURRENT SESSION IV [10:30 am -11:45 am WAT]

H. AFRICAN DEMOCRACIES IN THE AGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Venue: Seminar Room 2

Panel Chair: Professor Valerie Ferim

- i. **Emmanuel Chukwudi Ugwu**, (Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, ec.ugwu@unizik.edu.ng; **Ebele Peace Okpala**, ep.okpala@unizik.edu.ng); & **Adaobi Olivia Ihueze**, oa.ihueze@unizik.edu.ng), Generational Variation in Nigerian English: A Comparative Study of Older Speakers and Gen Z Political Discourse on Social Media
- ii. **Onyinyechi G. Agbo**, (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, gift.agbo@unn.edu.ng); **Esther N. Nwakire** (esther.nwakire@unn.edu.ng); & **J. Tochukwu Omenma**, (tochukwu.omenma@unn.edu.ng), Rescripting the Language of Democratic Participation among Young Nigerians on Social Media
- iii. **Gloria Nwandu Ozor**, African Youths and Democracy: An Evaluation of Nigerian Gen Z's Engagement and Participation on Social Media (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, glo.nickozor@gmail.com)
- iv. **Nnadozie V. Kanu**, (nnadozie.v.kanu@gmail.com), **Tochukwu Omenma**, **Ogbodo Chijioke Sunday**, (ogbodochijiokesunday2000@gmail.com), Digital democracy and youth civic engagement in Nigeria.
- v. **Onuegwunwoke**, **Cynthia Adaeze** (cynthia.onuegwunwoke@alvanikoku.edu.ng); **Amadi, Gloria Ukamaka** (gloria.amadi@alvanikoku.edu.ng); **Anuonye, Florence Dakoru** (dakoru33@gmail.com) and **Duru, Lilian Oluchi** (lilian.duru@alvanikoku.edu.ng, Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education, Owerri), Language of Digital Activism: Gen Z and Democratic Discourse in Nigeria

CONCURRENT SESSION V [10:30 am -11:45 am WAT]

I. WELFARE, HARDSHIP, AND ACTIVISM IN AFRICA

Venue: Seminar Room 1

Panel Chair: Dr. Michael Ugwueze

- i. **Himanshu Jha**, UPES, After Backsliding: Democratic Resilience amidst Decline (himanshujha@u.nus.edu)
- ii. **Joshua Alade**, (joshua@nigerianyouthsdgs.org); **Michael Meduye**, (michael@nigerianyouthsdgs.org); and **Evangeline Olapade**, Beyond Awareness: Youth Participatory Evidence on Work Experiences, Rights Violations, and Barriers to Decent Work in Nigeria (Network of Youth for Sustainable Initiative (NGYouthSDGs, evangeline@nigerianyouthsdgs.org))
- iii. **Kennedy Ohazuruike**, Digital Activism and Democratic Participation: Examining the Role of Social Media Mobilization by Generation Z in Shaping Electoral Accountability in Nigeria (2019–2023) (Yakubu Gowon University, Abuja kennedyohazuruike@yahoo.com).
- iv. **Zakariyya Haruna**, Youth Civic Engagement in Northwest Nigeria: Pathways to Strengthening Democratic Participation and Accountability (Founder/Executive Director Rescue Future Generation Charity Initiative, zhlimankaura@gmail.com)

- v. **Samson Oyefolu**, Political trust and democratic governance in Africa: Interrogating the Nigerian experience during the COVID-19 pandemic (Lagos State University, Ojo, oyefolusamson5050@yahoo.com)

CONCURRENT SESSION V [10:30 am -11:45 am WAT]

J. ISSUES IN THE NIGERIAN STYLE OF GOVERNANCE

Venue: Seminar Room 2

Panel Chair: Nkuzi Nnam

- i. **Maureen C. Obalum**, Water Governance and Democracy in Nigeria (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, maureen.obalum@unn.edu.ng).
- ii. **Odigwe A. Nwaokocha**, The Coker Commission of Enquiry and the Fight Against Corruption in Nigeria's First Republic (University of Benin, odigwe.nwaokocha@uniben.edu)
- iii. **Ohia, Ugochukwu Godwin**, Diaspora Voting and Democratic Legitimacy in Nigeria: Inclusion, Rights, and the Question of Fair Representation (ugo.ohia@unn.edu.ng)
- iv. **Nwadike Tochukwu** (University of Nigeria), **Ubaka Cosmas MOLOKWU** (cosmas.molokwu@unn.edu.ng) & **Ozioma Victoria UCHIME** (Chukwemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbaram, ozimauchime@gmail.com), E-Governance and Public Sector Transparency and Accountability in Nigeria
- v. **Akogwu Noel Chidiebube**, Funding Democracy in Africa (chidiebubenoel@gmail.com)

LUNCH 12:00 –12:45 pm

CONCURRENT SESSION VI [1:00 pm -2:15 pm WAT]

K. HISTORY AND REALITIES OF THE NIGERIAN POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

Venue: Seminar Room 1

Panel Chair: Dr. Peter Musa Wash

- i. **Kenneth Asogwa** Party switching and participatory democracy in Nigeria: Exploring the Democratic-autocratic party system perspective
- ii. **Maureen Nwando Onyejebu**, Reimagining Africa's future: the question of realistic democracy and good governance in Nigeria (University of Nigeria, Nsukka nwando.onyejebu@unn.edu.ng)
- iii. **Egbuche, Nkiruka Miriam**, (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, nkiruka.egbuche@unn.edu.ng) & **Mubarak Saidu** (Gombe State University, mubaraksaidu54@gmail.com), Workplace Inclusiveness on Women's Participation in the Banking Sector in Enugu State, Nigeria
- iv. **Ononiwu A. Oparah**, The Struggle for Igbo Identity, Genocide Debates, and Changing Nature of Separatist Agitations in Nigeria, 1970-2023 (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, ononiwu.oparah@gmail.com).

- v. **Ekeke Obianuju Ezinwanne**, Intra-Ethnic Marriage and the Dialect Sustainability: A Study of Dialect Shift in Igbo Communities (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, obianuju.ekeke@unn.edu.ng).

CONCURRENT SESSION VI [1:00 pm -2:15 pm WAT]

L. AFRICAN SCHOLARSHIP AND CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY

Venue: Seminar Room 2

Panel Chair: Dr. Chikaodiri Nwangwu

- i. **Nkuzi Nnam**, Igbo Jurisprudence; & Colonial Mentality in Africa (Dominican University, River Forest)
- ii. **Nkama Obo Akaji**, Achebe's Poetry as Acts of Witness and Testimony of Loss in Democratic Catastrophe (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, akaji.nkama@unn.edu.ng).
- iii. **Onuegwunwoke, Cynthia Adaeze** (cynthia.onuegwunwoke@alvanikoku.edu.ng) & **Amadi, Gloria Ukamaka** (gloria.amadi@alvanikoku.edu.ng), Syntactic Construal of Democracy and Development in Nigerian Political Discourse.
- iv. **Richard Uzoma Gbemudia**, Mini-Publics and Democratic Practice in Africa: Insights from Things Fall Apart for Nigeria's Development (Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), Lagos Victoria Island, Richardbrown4u73@gmail.com)
- v. **Chidimma U.E. Inyima**, Language as Democratic Watchdog: Stylistic Strategies of Resistance in Toni Duruaku's Sihouettes (Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, chidimma.emea@funai.edu.ng; ugoemea@gmail.com)

CONCURRENT SESSION VII [2:30 pm -3:45 pm WAT]

M. NIGERIA AND DEMOCRATIC CREATIVISM

Venue: Seminar Room 1

Panel Chair: Dr. Kenneth Asogwa

- i. **Nwachukwu, Sandra C.** (sandrachideran@gmail.com); **Onyebuchi, Grace U** (grace.onyebuchi@unn.edu.ng); **Agu, Bartholomew O.** (frokeyagu@gmail.com); and **Agbo, D. Abaobi**, david.agbo@unn.edu.ng, University of Nigeria), Enhancing democratic inclusion and social re-integration of inmates through rehabilitation practices and information literacy strategies in Nigerian correctional centres.
- ii. **Oshie, Mathias Akpanyia**, Institutional Challenges in Developing Africa Through Democratic Reforms (University of Calabar, Calabar, oshiemaths@gmail.com)
- iii. **Eudora Ohazurike** (Imo State University, Owerri, udohazurike@gmail.com) & **Christian Onyemaechi Osuagwu** (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, chrisonyema93@gmail.com), Ideological deficit in democratic governance: A study of causalities of inter-party defections in Nigeria's politics
- iv. **Anyia, Obeni Peter**, Funding Democracy in Africa: A case of Nigeria's INEC, 2019 - 2023 (University of Nigeria Nsukka, peteranya404@gmail.com)

- v. **Samson E. Uzodinma and Chima. J. Korieh**, From Obedient Movement to City Boys: Resistant groups against Gen-Z political inclusion in Africa (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, uzodinmasam1985@gmail.com).

CONCURRENT SESSION VII [2:30 pm -3:45 pm WAT]

N. ISSUES IN AFRICAN GOVERNANCE PATTERNS

Venue: Seminar Room 2

Panel Chair: Dr. Ozioma Victoria Uchime

- i. **Vande Tahav** (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, tahavvande@gmail.com) and **Michael Mu'azu** (Mercy Corps, mykeazu@gmail.com), Funding Democracy in Africa
- ii. **Yildom Dungse & Tochukwu Omenma**, Electoral Process under Siege in Nigeria (University of Nigeria, Nsukka, yildomdungse@gmail.com).
- iii. **Kingsley C. Ezeuwa**, African Leaders and the Myth of Global Influence: A Discourse on Local Responsibilities in Nigeria (Marquette University Kingsley.ezeuwa@marquette.edu)
- iv. **Bissenbayeva Zhanat**, (Almaty, Kazakhstan, zhanat_2006@mail.ru); **Ospanova Zhanna** (Astana IT University) and **Kozhakhmetova Assel** (Border academy of the Republic of Kazakhstan), Democracy and Development in Africa and Central Asia: A Comparative Analysis of Institutions and Political Power
- v. **Peter Musa Wash**, Institutional Governance and Planning Deliverables in Peri-Urban Areas (Plateau State Polytechnic, Barkin-Ladi, peterwash98@gmail.com)

RECEPTION

5 PM –7 PM

ABSTRACTS

Conceptual and transcultural analyses of literary texts in the context of modern interpretative and comparative studies

Tazhibayeva Uassima,
Farabi University.

&

Svetlana Ananyeva,
Philological Sciences, Institute of Literature and Art named after M. Auezov

Abstract

The article examines the conceptual and transcultural dimensions of literary texts within the framework of modern interpretative and comparative studies. In contemporary literary scholarship, transculturality has become an important analytical category that reflects the interaction of cultures, values, identities, and symbolic systems in literary discourse. The study focuses on the ways literary texts construct cultural meanings through narrative structures, linguistic representation, intertextuality, and conceptual imagery. Particular attention is paid to the transformation of national literary traditions under the influence of globalization, migration, digital communication, and intercultural dialogue. The paper analyzes how literary texts function beyond the boundaries of a single culture

and acquire transcultural characteristics through the integration of universal human themes, hybrid identities, and multidimensional cultural codes. Comparative and interpretative approaches are applied to identify conceptual parallels and differences in various literary traditions. The study also investigates the role of cultural memory, symbolism, and discourse strategies in shaping transcultural literary space. The findings demonstrate that transcultural literary analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of contemporary literature as a dynamic system of intercultural communication. Literary texts are shown to operate as mediators between cultures, preserving national specificity while simultaneously creating new global meanings. The article emphasizes the importance of conceptual analysis in revealing hidden semantic structures and interpretative possibilities within literary discourse. The research contributes to the development of comparative literary studies, transcultural criticism, and interdisciplinary approaches to textual interpretation.

Keywords: Transculturality, literary texts, conceptual analysis, comparative literature, interpretative studies, cultural discourse, intercultural communication, narrative strategies.

Syntactic construal of democracy and development in Nigerian political discourse

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&

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Abstract

Contemporary debates on African development increasingly foreground the role of democratic governance in addressing socioeconomic challenges across the continent. However, political discourse often constructs democracy and development through linguistic patterns that shape public perception and accountability. This study investigated the syntactic construal of democracy and development in Nigerian political discourse to reveal how grammatical structures encode responsibility, agency, and ideological positioning. Anchored on Systemic Functional Linguistics as proposed by M. A. K. Halliday and complemented by insights from Critical Discourse Analysis advanced by Norman Fairclough, the study adopted a qualitative textual analytical approach. Data were drawn from selected Nigerian presidential speeches, policy statements, and media commentaries on governance and development. The analysis focused on transitivity patterns, voice constructions, and thematic organization to examine how actors, actions, and responsibilities are represented within democratic narratives. Preliminary observations suggested that passive constructions and nominalizations frequently obscure political accountability, while strategic thematic choices foregrounded development ideals without clearly identifying responsible agents. This study contributes to ongoing discussions on democratic accountability and the reimagining of African development by interrogating the syntactic patterns that frame governance narratives. The findings highlighted the importance of linguistic transparency in fostering participatory democracy and responsible leadership in contemporary African societies.

Keywords: Syntax, political discourse, democracy, development, Nigeria.

Investing in local leaders: Youth agency, democratic practice, and development in Nigeria

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&

Betty Bem

Child/Women Rights Advocate Officer, Gender Equality Club Nigeria

Abstract

This paper argues that democracy in Africa should be understood not only as a route to development, but as development itself, because democratic practice expands participation, accountability, inclusion, and local problem-solving capacity. Using evidence field insights from the “Invest in Local Leaders: Impact Democracy Future”, a hybrid side event at the Democracy Moves Annual Conference 2024 organized by Gender Equality Club Nigeria, the study examines how youth-led local leadership shapes democratic outcomes in Nigeria. A qualitative methodology was adopted, drawing on structured dialogue, participant observation, and thematic analysis of contributions from 28 young leaders from Gboko, Benue State. Findings show that youth leaders are already advancing civic education, community advocacy, digital engagement, women’s inclusion, and peer mobilization. However, these efforts are constrained by weak institutions, limited access to decision-making spaces, poor infrastructure, gender inequality, unemployment, and digital exclusion. The study also situates these local realities within wider African democratic trends, including growing youth dissatisfaction, demands for accountability, and the strategic use of digital tools for mobilization. The paper concludes that sustainable development in Nigeria depends on deliberate investment in grassroots youth leadership, inclusive governance structures, and equitable digital access. Strengthening local agency is therefore not peripheral to democracy; it is central to democratic renewal and long-term development.

Keywords: Democracy, development, youths, gender equality, civic engagement, advocacy, leadership.

Language of digital activism: gen z and democratic discourse in Nigeria

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Amadi, Gloria Ukamaka. gloria.amadi@alvanikoku.edu.ng

Anuonye, Florence Dakoru, dakoru33@gmail.com,

&

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Department of English Language and Literature,

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Abstract

Digital media platforms have increasingly become significant spaces for civic engagement and political expression among young people in Nigeria. In recent years, Generation Z has used digital activism to articulate concerns about governance, accountability, and democratic participation. This study examined the language of digital activism in Gen Z political discourse in Nigeria, with particular attention to how linguistic choices construct democratic engagement and political consciousness. Anchored on Systemic Functional Linguistics as proposed by M. A. K. Halliday and complemented by Critical Discourse Analysis as advanced by Norman Fairclough, the study adopts a qualitative discourse analytical approach. Data were drawn from selected posts, hashtags, and commentaries shared by Nigerian youths on digital platforms like X, particularly in discussions surrounding civic advocacy and youth led movements. The analysis focused on transitivity patterns, evaluative expressions, and rhetorical constructions that frame demands for transparency, justice, and democratic reform. Findings suggested that Gen Z activists strategically deploy concise, emotionally resonant, and mobilizing language to challenge political authority and promote participatory democracy. The study highlighted how language functions as a powerful tool for civic engagement and the reimagining of democratic practice in contemporary Nigeria by foregrounding youth voices in digital political spaces.

Keywords: Digital activism, Gen Z, democratic discourse, language, Nigeria.

Policy-reality gaps in Africa: examining the dichotomies between formulation and developmental practices

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Abstract

African development is often driven by ambitious policy reforms. These reforms frequently outpace on-ground realities as measured by infrastructural, social, and institutional capacities. In Nigeria, between 1999 and 2023, four Electoral Acts have been enacted; yet each election cycle continues to generate intense controversies arising from persistent policy implementation gaps. This occurs because electoral reforms are repeatedly designed as technical solutions without adequate consideration of Nigeria's developmental and institutional capacities, thereby constituting a structural mismatch between policy ambition and developmental capacity. Therefore, this study examines the dichotomies between policies and realities in Nigeria's political space between 1999 and 2023. The study adopts a qualitative research methodology, drawing on secondary data from all four Electoral Acts. It combines policy analysis with development studies insights to identify patterns of reform–reality misalignment. Findings reveal that while successive electoral reforms are ambitious and crucial to democratic sustainability, they often do not conform to Nigeria's prevailing developmental realities. The paper concludes that sustainable African development requires context-sensitive, sequential reforms that reconcile policy ambitions with ground-level capacities and align modernisation efforts with developmental realities

Keywords: African Development, Democratic Reform, Electoral Acts, Infrastructure and Governance, Policy–Reality Mismatch

Developmental reform and democracy in Africa

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Abstract

This study examines the interplay between developmental reform and democracy in Africa, with a focus on the impact of institutional frameworks and governance structures on sustainable development and democratic consolidation. This research aims to contribute to the ongoing debate on the role of governance in Africa's development trajectory, highlighting the need for context specific approaches that prioritize citizen participation, accountability, and inclusive growth. This study also draws on institutional theory and the capability approach, emphasizing the importance of effective institutions, and human capabilities in driving development and democratization. This research adopts a mixed methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data from African countries, including Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, and Ethiopia. It employs a comparative case study design, using data from World Bank, Freedom House supplemented by oral interviews with policy makers, civil society organization, and citizens. The study reveals that effective institutions, particularly those ensuring accountability and transparency are crucial for developmental reform and democratic consolidation, revealing that decentralization and participatory governance structures facilitate more inclusive and sustainable development, recommending that institutional strengthening be prioritized, focusing on building effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Keywords: Developmental reform, democracy, governance structure, institutional framework, Africa

Voting without improvement: Questioning the accountability of electoral management bodies (Embs) in Africa

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Abstract

This paper provides reasons for the deepening frustration and apathy among Nigerian voters towards elections. In Africa, particularly Nigeria, elections seem to have become a mere ritual rather than a platform for EMBs to first, explain what they do; second, justify their decisions; and third, face the consequences of their decisions. With particular focus on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), this study argues that essential elements of accountability – transparency, answerability, responsiveness, and enforcement – are lacking in the conduct of EMBs in Africa. Despite technological advancements by INEC since 2011, such as the Biometric Voter Register (BVR) and Smart Card Readers, Nigerian voters still feel short-changed and dissatisfied. Using the Principal-Agent Theory, this study argues that weak institutional enforcement leads to impunity among agents, resulting in an accountability deficit in which electoral participation does not translate into improved governance outcomes. This study's conclusion stresses that while Nigeria holds regular elections, a key component of a democratic society, they do not inherently lead to improved outcomes, underscoring the critical need for systemic reforms to restore citizens' trust and enhance governance.

Keywords: Voting, improvement, accountability, election, electoral management bodies

When prophecies meet ballots: Charismatic authority and the reinterpretation of democratic legitimacy in Nigeria

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Abstract

By utilizing qualitative discourse analysis anchored on semi-structured interviews, this study investigates how Christian prophetic pronouncements shape the voting process and voter behaviours in Nigeria. There has been growing involvement of Christian prophets, pastors, and men of God in Nigeria's electoral process, such as in campaigns and voter mobilization. These Christian leaders leverage divine command, visions and congregational strength to influence, support or undermine electoral candidacies. Existing literature suggests the visibility of Christian leaders in the country's supposed democratic elections. The will of the Christian voters is often swayed, controlled and redirected by prophetic utterances and sentiments of these Christian spiritual leaders. In an expected democratic mise-en-scène, the Christian voters are empowered by democratic principles to acquiesce to their inherent will and convictions regarding their inalienable voting rights. As underpinned by Max Weber's theory of Charismatic Authority, the study argues that the use of sacral or prophetic language generates alternate sources of political legitimacy in Nigeria. The findings indicate that Christian leaders significantly influence electoral outcomes, creating a paradigm shift in the interpretation of Nigeria's democratic electoral practices. The study therefore proposed that Christian pastors, prophets and men of God function as parallel means of mobilizing democratic legitimacy within the country's democracy.

Keywords: Prophecy, vote, elections, democracy, legitimacy.

Narrative strategies and cultural memory in Kazakh Literary Discourse: Reinterpreting Vladislav Vladimirov's interpretative approach

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&

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Abstract

This article examines narrative strategies and the representation of cultural memory in Kazakh literary discourse through a reinterpretation of Vladimirov's interpretative approach. In the context of contemporary гуманитарных studies and increasing scholarly attention to national identity, the analysis of narrative structures reflecting historical experience, collective consciousness, and cultural codes has become especially relevant. The purpose of the study is to reconsider Vladimirov's interpretative concept within modern Kazakh literature and to identify its methodological potential for literary discourse analysis. The research also incorporates a comparative perspective with African literature, emphasizing similarities in the preservation of collective memory, postcolonial identity construction, oral storytelling traditions, and the symbolic reconstruction of historical trauma. Both Kazakh and African literary traditions actively employ mythopoetic imagery, intertextuality, historical allusions, and polyphonic narration to preserve cultural heritage and articulate national consciousness. The study applies interpretative, hermeneutic, and discourse-analysis methods to reveal the mechanisms through which cultural memory is constructed and transmitted in literary texts. Particular attention is paid to the interaction between authorial intention, reader interpretation, and socio-cultural context. The findings demonstrate that contemporary Kazakh literary discourse, similarly to African literary narratives, functions as a medium of cultural continuity and identity formation. Reconsidering Vladimirov's approach allows for a broader understanding of the relationship between narrative, memory, and cultural representation in comparative literary studies and highlights new perspectives for interdisciplinary research in modern literary criticism.

Keywords: Narrative strategies, cultural memory, Kazakh literary discourse, African literature, interpretative approach, Vladimirov, comparative literature, national identity.

Rethinking development in Africa: Indigenous socio-economic systems in *Things Fall Apart*

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Abstract

One of the central goals of democratic governance is the promotion of social welfare and the well-being of citizens. Democracy is often presented not only as a political system but also as a pathway to development. Yet, despite the adoption of modern democratic institutions across much of Africa after colonial rule, many African states continue to face persistent challenges such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality. This raises an important question: can development be understood only through the framework of modern liberal democracy, or can alternative historical experiences offer insights into development? Through Achebe's literary depiction of precolonial life, the paper examines how indigenous economic practices and social institutions contributed to stability and development. This paper engages this debate through a literary analysis of Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart*. It argues that precolonial Igbo society, as represented in Achebe's work, illustrates how indigenous socio-economic systems sustained communal development prior to colonial disruption. In particular, agriculture functioned as a central economic foundation that structured productivity, social organization, and communal well-being. By examining Achebe's literary representation of precolonial life, this paper highlights how literature can serve as a form of

“witness narrative” that illuminates indigenous development practices and offers insights for contemporary debates on development in Africa.

Keywords: Agrarian development, Igbo society, indigenous African society, democracy and development

Funding democracy in Africa

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Abstract

This study, “Funding Democracy in Africa: Rethinking Financial Sustainability in Uncharted Democratic States,” examined how democratic governance is financed across African states. In many countries, elections and political institutions rely heavily on external donors, while domestic revenue systems remain weak and political financing is poorly regulated, shaping the quality of accountability and institutional independence. This study pursued two objectives: to examine how funding sources influence democratic accountability, and to identify sustainable domestic financing options for democratic processes. Guided by Political Economy Theory, the study adopted a qualitative approach using secondary data and comparative analysis of selected African countries. The findings showed that donor dependence is linked to reduced institutional autonomy and policy inconsistency, while stronger internally generated revenue supports more stable democratic practices. It also found that weak regulation of political finance encourages corruption and electoral malpractice. The study concluded that strengthening domestic funding, improving transparency, and enforcing clear regulations are essential for building credible and resilient democracies in Africa.

Keywords: Democracy, political finance, donor dependence, domestic revenue, accountability, political economy theory.

Reimagining African development in an age of democratic uncertainty: From instrumentalism to democratic quality

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Abstract

This paper challenges the lingering assumption that democracy mainly functions as a tool for economic growth, arguing instead that democratic quality is a core part of genuine development. In Africa’s current uncertain democratic environment, characterized by electoral manipulation, constitutional erosion, institutional weakness, populist resurgence, and frequent military interventions, the study supports the view that sustainable development is linked to the integrity of democratic practices. Moving beyond narrow, growth-focused metrics, the paper views development as rooted in the norms and processes of participation, representation, the rule of law, accountability, and inclusiveness. Using Amartya Sen’s development-as-freedom framework, the study employs a qualitative, descriptive, and comparative approach by analyzing secondary governance indicators and institutional performance reports from selected African countries with varying levels of democratic practice. The findings indicate that democratic deficits are not just accidental governance failures but structural issues that distort accountability and hinder development. The paper concludes that rethinking African development requires a firm shift from viewing democracy merely as a means to an end toward recognizing democratic quality as a fundamental component of development itself.

Keywords: Democratic quality, development as freedom, governance institutions, political accountability, African democracy

The captured state: Prebendalism, institutional subversion, and the limits of democratic consolidation in Nigeria's fourth republic

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&

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Abstract

In May 1999, Nigeria buried its military past and inaugurated a civilian order that promised accountability, representation, and the rule of law. Twenty-five years later, the promise endures mostly as rhetoric. Elections occur, governments change hands, and constitutions are cited—yet the lived experience of most Nigerians remains one of exclusion, institutional betrayal, and governance captured by the same recycled political class that administered military misrule. However, the existing scholarship on Nigerian democracy in the Fourth Republic argues that the country has experienced democratic consolidation. This paper advances a different argument: Nigeria's Fourth Republic has not consolidated democracy—rather, it has consolidated elite power within democratic forms. Drawing on Richard Joseph's theory of prebendalism and a longitudinal historical reading of the four civilian administrations from Obasanjo to Tinubu, it traces how state offices, electoral commissions, anti-corruption agencies, and judicial appointments have been systematically colonized by patronage networks whose survival depends on preventing institutions from functioning as designed. The result is a captured state—one that wears the garments of democracy while serving the interests of a governing class whose roots reach back through military misrule to colonial administrative culture. The study adopts a qualitative research methodology employing primary and secondary data sources. The finding suggests that Nigeria's democratic deficit is not accidental. It is produced, and it is reproduced, cycle by cycle, institution by institution.

Keywords: Democracy, elite capture, prebendalism, fourth republic.

Internal displacement and political in(ex)clusion in Nigeria

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Abstract

Beyond its humanitarian concerns, internal displacement poses a serious question for democratic governance, especially in the areas of political inclusion or exclusion, equal representation and rights protections. Displaced populations are often confronted with difficulties in accessing voting rights, dividends of democracy, and related benefits. This raises concern about the inclusiveness and quality of democracy in Nigeria. Looking at the various responses of the Nigerian government agencies and humanitarian agencies, this article makes a case for the political challenges confronting internally displaced populations in Nigeria. Using qualitative research approach, this article relies on data from agencies like the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and selected case studies of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in mostly conflict-affected Northeast region in Nigeria. The findings highlight the political challenges confronting internally displaced populations in the Northeastern Nigeria, and weights the effectiveness of the present and emerging policies in protecting political inclusion while reducing political exclusion. The article contributes to the body of discourse on politics, displacement, inclusion, exclusion, and democracy.

Keywords: Internal displacement, inclusion, exclusion, democracy, human rights.

Contentious politics and the militarization of protest: Unpacking the dynamics of insecurity in south-east Nigeria, 1999-2023

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Abstract

Since Nigeria's transition to democracy in 1999, the South-East region has been plagued by profound insecurity, severely impeding its socioeconomic development. This instability stems from persistent separatist agitations by groups aligned with the Biafran cause, such as the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). The state's response—characterized by military deployments and coercive tactics like Operation Python Dance—has militarized dissent, exacerbating regional tensions and fostering a cycle of violence and alienation. Through a qualitative methodology incorporating primary data from resident interviews and secondary sources including books, journals, and newspapers, this study examines the contentious politics and militarization of protest in the region. It reveals that state repression has intensified grievances rather than ensuring security. The research underscores the urgency of inclusive governance, security sector reform, and dialogue-based conflict resolution to address the root causes of unrest and achieve sustainable peace in South-East Nigeria.

Keywords: Insecurity, militarization, protest, politics, dialogue

Public sector reforms, accountability, and e-governance: Pathways to inclusive development in Africa's uncharted democratic transitions

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Abstract

This study examines how public sector reforms, accountability mechanisms, and e-governance can advance inclusive development across sub-Saharan Africa amid "uncharted democracy". The hybrid regimes are marked by digital disruption, and citizen demands for responsive governance. It argues that sustainable development requires transforming bureaucratic structures, embedding digital technologies for transparency, and institutionalizing accountability frameworks to bridge persistent state-citizen trust deficits. Without reconfiguring public sector legitimacy, democratic dividends will remain elusive despite electoral regularities. Adopting a mixed-methods design, the study analyses panel data from 2015–2025 across three African countries using World Bank Governance Indicators and UN E-Government Survey indices. Comparative case studies of Rwanda's Irembo platform, Kenya's Huduma Centres, and Nigeria's Treasury Single Account are deliberately selected to represent contrasting reform trajectories, spanning post-conflict reconstruction, devolved service delivery, and fiscal transparency. Thereby capturing the diversity of institutional contexts shaping e-governance outcomes across the continent. A structured interview with public officials, civil society actors, and citizens will complement the systematic policy document analysis. The findings will contribute to some empirically grounded policy pathways to scholarship at the intersection of governance, peacebuilding, and development studies, with direct implications for state fragility discourse, post-conflict institutional design, and conflict-sensitive governance reform in Africa.

Keywords: Public Sector Reform, E-Governance, Accountability, Uncharted Democracy, State-Citizen Trust, Institutional Reform, Africa, Peacebuilding

Poetry as democratic vigilance: watchdog imaginaries in Idris Amali's Efeega: War of Ants and Back Again at the Foothills of Greed.

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Abstract

This paper examines how contemporary Nigerian poetry functions as a moral and civic watchdog within fragile democratic landscapes. Drawing on Idris Amali's poetry collections *Efeega: War of Ants and Back Again at the Foothills of Greed*, the study interrogates the ways poetic expression constructs what may be described as watchdog imaginaries—symbolic and rhetorical frameworks through which poets critique state failure, expose kleptocratic leadership, and mobilise civic consciousness. Situated within broader debates on African development and democratic accountability, the paper argues that Amali's poetry moves beyond aesthetic contemplation to perform a compelling socio-political function. Through satire, allegorical imagery, and protest poetics, the poems dramatise the contradictions of postcolonial governance while foregrounding the lived realities of poverty, inequality, and systemic corruption that continue to undermine democratic aspirations across the continent. In this regard, the poet emerges simultaneously as witness, critic, and moral conscience of the nation, challenging political impunity and advocating accountable governance grounded in justice, dignity, and respect for the rule of law. Ultimately, the paper contends that Amali's poetic imagination constitutes an important cultural site for reimagining democratic responsibility and envisioning a more accountable and people-centered future for African societies.

Keywords: African democracy; democratic vigilance; watchdog poetics; civic resistance; Nigerian poetry.

Masquerade system and conflict resolution in Northern Igbo society of South-Eastern Nigeria

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Abstract

In Northern Igbo society of Southeastern Nigeria, the masquerade system is a rich and organized socio cultural institution. Rooted in ancestral veneration and cosmology, masquerades embody the spirits of the living-dead, serving multifaceted roles in entertainment, social control, moral enforcement, and community cohesion. The influence and significance of traditional institutions such as the masquerade cult have been undermined by fastpaced development, Christianity, urbanization, and formalized legal systems. Given the ongoing insecurity and the lack of effective delivery of formal justice in the region, this erosion calls into question their effectiveness as tools for conflict settlement, especially in the context of land conflicts, inter and intra-community conflicts and social deviation. This study aims to explore the structure, functions and mechanisms of the masquerade system in conflict resolution processes in Northern Igbo society and evaluate their potential for incorporation into hybrid peacebuilding processes. Although traditional and general Igbo conflict resolution are well documented, there has been little targeted empirical study of the ways in which masquerades function and adapt in Northern Igbo communities such as Nsukka and Udi-Nsukka, particularly with respect to traditional and modern conflict resolution processes. The study will be anchored on Structural Functionalism, which implies that the masquerade system is a social system that maintains a balance, enforces norms, prevents conflicts that occur in society, while adapting to dysfunction induced by social change. The study will utilize the ethnographic qualitative design using in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, participant observation, and key informant interviews with the members of the masquerade cult, elders, and disputants. Purposive and snowball sampling will target up to 60 participants from Nsukka and Udi-Nsukka escarpment areas. Data will be analyzed thematically and

complemented by content analysis of relevant cultural texts. The findings are anticipated to refresh indigenous knowledge systems, guide policy on culturally oriented approaches to conflict management, and aid in sustainable peace in South-Eastern Nigeria.

Keywords: Masquerade system, conflict resolution, Northern Igbo society, structural functionalism, peacebuilding.

Christianity and democratic consolidation in Africa

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Abstract

African development discourses are now more likely to overlap with issues of democratic consolidation, while Christianity in recent times is seemingly seen as undermining democratic consolidation and political consciousness in Africa, this paper maintains that these claims exist only in the world of common sense. Many scholars have agreed that Christianity could also be a useful tool in promoting democracy in Africa through its ethical foundation that enables democracy, education, and social justice. This work explores how Christianity contributed to political awakening in Africa in the past, especially during nationalist movements in Africa, and how it could also be a useful tool in promoting democratic consolidation in Africa today, especially in contexts such as electoral participation, human rights activism, and political discourses in Nigeria and Africa where religion is also being used in discourses on elections, governance, and social justice. Using a historical-critical method and a phenomenological approach, this paper argues that the African development in the uncharted democracy should also consider religion, especially Christianity, as a potential tool in promoting democratic consolidation in Africa.

Keywords: Democratic consolidation, Christianity, Africa, nationalism, development.

Reimagining ECOWAS at 50: Strengthening regional institutions for democratic resilience

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Abstract

As ECOWAS marks its 50th anniversary, questions about the effectiveness of its institutions in safeguarding democracy have grown urgent. Despite achievements in regional integration, peacekeeping, and mediation, West Africa continues to face democratic backsliding, unconstitutional term extensions, military coups, and shrinking civic spaces. These challenges highlight structural weaknesses within ECOWAS bodies: The Parliament, Court of Justice, and Commission raising doubts about their capacity to uphold democratic norms and political accountability. This paper critically examines the role of ECOWAS institutions in advancing democratic resilience, focusing on their mandate, operational independence, and crisis responsiveness. While ECOWAS has established robust legal frameworks, including the 2001 Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, gaps in implementation, political interference, and weak enforcement limit effectiveness. Using a mixed-methods approach document analysis and case studies of Mali and Nigeria, the study explores institutional fragility and elite capture.

It further considers reform pathways to strengthen ECOWAS as a guardian of democracy. Key proposals include enhancing the Court of Justice's autonomy and enforcement powers, expanding the Parliament's legislative oversight, and institutionalizing early warning mechanisms linked to preventive action. By reimagining ECOWAS's institutional architecture, this study offers evidence-based recommendations for building resilient mechanisms capable of defending democracy. Ultimately, reform and inclusivity are essential for ECOWAS to remain relevant in shaping West Africa's democratic future.

Things Fall Apart? An analysis of intra-group conflict among Biafra separatist agitators

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Abstract

This article highlights the palpable split and conflict among Biafra separatist agitators. The quest for self-determination by Igbo people of Southeast Nigeria has been championed by various groups under the auspices of Biafra agitation. While efforts were made to actualize the Republic of Biafra, repeated conflicts and disagreements among individuals and groups agitating for Biafra often result in formation of new groups which greatly weakens the separatist movement and gives the Nigerian government the ample opportunity to crush each of the separatist groups. This article seeks to unravel why intra-group conflict has persisted among Biafra separatist agitators and how these conflicts affect the actualization of the Republic of Biafra. Building on Social Movement and Elite Competition theoretical debates, data were collected from relevant journals in Biafra agitation with interest in conflicts and disagreements among Biafra agitators, newspaper publications and oral interview. This article revealed that intra-group conflict among Biafra separatist agitators weakens the separatist movements and hinders the timely actualization of the Republic of Biafra. The article recommends a peace conference among the leaders of the various group agitating for Biafra where the differences, ideologies and expectations of each of the groups will be discussed and one approach adopted for the Biafra separatist agitation. The findings are helpful to both the various Biafra separatist agitators, policy makers and the academics.

Evaluating the parliamentary effectiveness of two state legislatures in Nigeria, 2015–2023

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Abstract

Purpose: State legislatures in Nigeria are constitutionally mandated to perform oversight, lawmaking, and representation. However, their effectiveness remains under-researched, especially during the period, 2015–2023. This exploratory study aims to assess parliamentary effectiveness by examining key indicators of; number of motions passed and followed up; number of rules (bills) initiated and passed into law, motions initiated and their policy impact, and oversight functions and their societal impact. The study focuses specifically on how these manifest at the state level.

Designs/Methods: An exploratory qualitative design was adopted. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 40 respondents who had direct experience with two selected states legislatures (twenty respondents per state). Data was analyzed thematically.

Findings: Respondents reported that between 2015 and 2023, the average state legislature passed approximately 35–50 motions per year. However, follow-up rates were low. On average, each state legislature initiated 25–40 bills per year, but only 12–18% was passed into law.

Practical implications: For State Legislators and Legislative Leadership there are need for internal tracking mechanisms while State Executives need to respond to legislative outputs. These and other practical implications for Academic Researchers and Policy Analysts, etc would create public pressure for improvement.

Originality/Value: This study sheds new insight and advances Parliamentary effectiveness literature by investigating two state legislatures in Nigeria.

Keywords: State legislatures, parliamentary effectiveness, motions, bills, oversight, Nigeria, exploratory study.

Intra-ethnic marriage and the dialect sustainability: A study of dialect shift in Igbo communities

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Abstract

This study makes a case for Igbo dialect sustainability within the context of intra-ethnic marriages in Nsukka, Enugu State. Although the Igbo language remains widely spoken, recent sociolinguistic scholarship points to a gradual decline in the transmission of its dialectal varieties. While previous sociolinguistic studies have focused mainly on inter-ethnic marriages and language shift, limited scholarly attention has been given to marriages between speakers of different dialects within the same ethnic group. Anchored in Joshua Fishman's theory of language maintenance and shift, this qualitative study shows how linguistic interaction in such marriages influences the preservation, transmission, or decline of Igbo dialect varieties across generations. The study also considers language choice in the home, dialect dominance between spouses, and the extent to which children acquire and maintain their parents' dialects. Drawing on interviews and narrative data, I argue that the prioritization of mutually intelligible varieties often reduces children's proficiency in parental dialect, contributing to gradual dialect attrition. The findings from this study make significant contributions to scholarship on Igbo sociolinguistics, dialectology, and indigenous language preservation in Nigeria.

Keywords: Intra-ethnic marriage, dialect, dialect shift, dialect sustainability.

Role of women groups in conflict management in Nembe Local Government of Bayelsa State

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Abstract

The paper examines the role of women's participation in peace and conflict management in the Nambe Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Women represents a motherhood in our society especially in Nambe speaking Area of Bayelsa state, it focused on the impact women played on peace and conflict management. The study revealed, women demonstration, mediate and protested to promote peaceful co-existence among members during conflict in the community of Nembe. Despite their roles they were unable to recognized in most crucial meetings involves peace and development in most communities in Nembe. The study applied analytical research approach, revealed that women played significant roles on peacebuilding and conflict managements, Women involvement on conflict management cannot be overemphasized in Nigeria, their involvement will bring sustainable peace, adequate dialogue of peace progress in our communities. Conclusion women are unavoidable

actors on peacebuilding and conflict management, integrating them more fully into formal peace deal will enhance more positive and sustainable conflict management process in Nigeria.

Keywords: Women groups, participation, conflict management, Nembe.

Quest for political restructuring in Nigeria: A root cause analysis of the diverse ethnic and sectarian agitations

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Abstract

This study seeks to examine the causal factors behind the diverse and widespread agitations for political restructuring in Nigeria. The power configuration between the centre in Abuja and the federating units was fundamentally altered by the military while drafting the 1999 constitution, culminating in the concentration of powers and spheres of influence at the centre. Rather than centripetal configuration as in other federating states, it is centrifugal in Nigeria. Almost all ethnic divides in the country continue to feel shortchanged in one aspect of the nation's life or the other. Measures have been advanced as ways through which enduring unity could be achieved, but that goal has remained a mirage at the moment. The study will be anchored on the social contract theory in order to explain interrelations. The qualitative research design will be adopted. Documentary method of data collection will be employed in which case secondary data will be sourced from books, book chapters, journals, official documents, and online sources. Also, content analysis will be applied in the study.

Keywords: Ethnicity, federalism, political restructuring, restructuring, Nigeria.

Generational variation in Nigerian English: A comparative study of older speakers and Gen Z political discourse on social media

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Abstract

The study looks at the linguistic differences between the older Nigerian Twitter users (aged 45 and above) and that of the younger users (Generation Z: 18-26 years). The study is based on the three-dimensional Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and the Outer Circle model developed by Fairclough and Kachru respectively, as its theoretical foundations. This study examines the differences in the choice of words, code switching, register, syntactic structure and discourse strategies between the two cohorts. The findings indicate a high generational difference in the use of words, code switching, the level of formality in the sentence and the use of Nigerian Pidgin English elements. Gen Z users often use mixed registers, such as the blending of Nigerian Pidgin, Yoruba/Igbo/Hausa expressions, internet slang, irony, and syntactic compression to create political identity and engage in civic action. Older speakers, on the other hand, tend to be mainly in the acrolectal variety of Nigerian English, which features formal sentence structure, abstract political terms, and institutional rhetorical styles. Through these findings, the study submits that these linguistic differences are indicative of the socio-political differences, changing digital communicative norms, the dynamic of Nigerian English as an Outer Circle variety that is becoming a norm.

Contested narratives on democratic backsliding in Africa

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Abstract

The implementation of democracy in Africa has always been contested. On the one hand, some countries such as Botswana, South Africa, and more recently, Ghana and Senegal, have been hailed for the consolidation of a vibrant political culture through free elections, political participation and civil liberties. On the other hand, the resurgence of military dictatorships, the stifling of civil society organizations and the rise of populist and extremist movements in several countries across the continent are indicative of democratic backsliding. Though liberal democracy has been projected by several scholars as the best form of government, its implementation across Africa has not ameliorated the socio-economic conditions of the majority of citizens. This has prompted either the quest for more viable alternatives, or the need to reimagine democracy in Africa. While the former is informed by the perception that democracy is an institutional transfer fallacy model which has not worked in Africa, the latter argues that the problem is not with democracy itself, but with its flawed implementation on the continent. This paper probes these contested narratives that have culminated in democratic backsliding across the continent.

Rescripting the language of democratic participation among young Nigerians on social media

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Abstract

Young Africans are demanding recognition, voice, and power in the media through hashtags, mimicry and humor. These media protest have been successful in physically steering democratic results in different countries in Africa. This paper aims to address how the GenZ's new language framework, influences democratic participation challenging elite-controlled political narratives and disrupts patriarchal and gerontocratic power structures in Nigeria. Anchored on van Dijk's critical discourse analysis (CDA) of Nigeria's ongoing #Cityboymovement versus #Villageboymovement. This paper examines how language catalyze and affect participation in political activities and GenZ activism. It also employs digital analysis to examine approximately 500 social media posts on Instagram and X/Twitter. This research results shows how communication in media plays an important role in shaping the political preferences of Generation Z. it also shows that X/Twitter in particular, plays a huge role in influencing political beliefs and values, compared to conventional mass media. Therefore, the study concludes that it is important to identify effective strategies to increase comprehensive political education and its accessibility to Generation Z. If not urgently done, the new realities of two extremes of democracy could be detrimental.

Keywords: GenZ activism, hashtag, humor, digital democracy.

African youths and democracy: An evaluation of Nigerian Gen Z's engagement and participation on social media

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Abstract

Throughout history, African youths have played a vital role in shaping their countries' politics. During the pre-colonial era, they actively participated in community affairs, helping to safeguard against internal and external threats. Numerous African youths, including scholars, non-scholars, and prominent figures, fought for independence across the continent; that is, all hands were on deck. Some fought with words; others with weapons. Ultimately, Africa was freed from colonial rule. They engaged with what they had and, with determination, resilience, and communal motivation, recovered what was theirs. Democracy in Africa was a unique experience in each country, shaped by the specific challenges each country faced in achieving it. For example, Nigeria experienced an extended period of military rule before transitioning to democracy on May 29, 1999, ending nearly 30 years of military governance. Many Nigerian scholars and critics have argued that, while democracy has protected human rights and freedoms of expression and assembly, the right to vote in public elections that enables citizens to elect leaders of their choice, and has allowed for a more open society, it has also ushered in corruption, insecurity, poverty, and more. Today's Nigerian Youths have almost everything at their disposal, especially social media platforms, to secure, maintain, and promote a true democracy in the country. The study evaluates Nigerian Gen Zs' engagement and participation on social media, especially on thematic issues such as democracy and its impacts, through the lens of the Social Media Engagement Theory.

Keywords: African youths, democracy, Nigerian gen z, social media, Nigeria.

Impact of gender underrepresentation and political violence in Kogi State

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Abstract

Since the attainment of statehood of Nigeria in 1960, claims of marginalization and underrepresentation of minority groups have fueled political contestation and social conflict. The study aimed at examining the impact of gender underrepresentation and political violence in Kogi state, Nigeria. This was done by establishing how the strength

of under-represented gendered group contribute to the struggle for resources, suppression, and polarization in Kogi State. Rooted in conflict theory in social structure, the study adopts survey research design method with data gotten from published materials and in-depth individual interview. Thematic and textual analyses were applied to the data gotten. The study found out that gender exerts some influence in Kogi State politics, their impact on electoral outcomes remains limited due to the overwhelming reliance on consensus, automatic selection, and anointed candidates in determining party nominations. Second, the persistent underrepresentation of women in both appointed and elected positions in Kogi State has heightened their vulnerability to electoral violence and armed clashes between rival party supporters including sexual exploitation, harassment and abuse. Lastly, the unequal distribution of access opportunities into appointive and elected positions across gendered lines and not adopting any representative policy has fostered feelings of marginalization and exclusion of the female gender, particularly from the inception of democratic rule but only got better from 2015 till date but not still enough. It argues among other things that the State actors in Kogi state should institutionalize inclusive participatory mechanism, strengthen protection against electoral and gender-based violence, and adopted equitable development and power-sharing arrangements that explicitly include gender, to achieve sustainable positive peace attainment and development.

Keywords: Gender, underrepresentation, conflict, political violence, development.

After backsliding: Democratic resilience amidst decline

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Abstract

What explains pockets of democratic resilience despite widespread political and institutional vulnerabilities that indicate democratic backsliding? We explore resilience amidst systemic decline. According to the V-Dem Institute, the early 1990s marked the expansion phase, with 46% of countries worldwide having some form of democracy. By the 2000s, democratic norms had a cascading impact, peaking at 63% of countries (120 out of 192) adopting democracy. However, by 2024, the trend was receding, with fewer than 50% of countries remaining democratic. Crucially, V-Dem scores have been validly questioned, especially from global south perspectives, where forms of democracy might not align with the ideal Western model. Nonetheless, the reverse wave has led to the emergence of vibrant and spirited scholarly debates around democratic backsliding, erosion, constitutional authoritarianism, and populism. Moving beyond these linear views of democratic recessions, I suggest a nuanced perspective that explores the emergence and existence of pockets of resilience amid erosion. These pockets strengthen embedded democratic norms that bolster democratic resilience rather than decline. In this light, this conjecture will be tested by examining pockets of democratic resilience within civil society, opposition, the ruling party, sub-national governments, and pockets of institutional pliability. Therefore, linear views of backsliding are insufficient to explain how democratic subsystems support core norms.

Language as democratic watchdog: Stylistic strategies of resistance in Toni Duruaku's Sihouettes

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Abstract

This paper investigates how language functions as a democratic watchdog through stylistic strategies of resistance in Toni Duruaku's play, Sihouettes. Anchored in stylistic and linguistic analysis, the study examines how discourse patterns, figurative expressions, and rhetorical structures are deployed in the dramatic dialogue to interrogate power relations and expose the contradictions of democracy in contemporary African societies. Within the context of ongoing debates about reimagining African development in uncharted democratic terrains, the paper argues that language in the play serves not merely as a medium of communication but as an instrument of ideological critique

and civic vigilance. Through the analysis of metaphor, irony, satire and pragmatic strategies such as insinuation, accusation and dialogic confrontation, the study demonstrates how characters' speech acts symbolically challenge corruption, abuse of authority and social injustice. The linguistic construction of conflict and resistance in the play foregrounds the tensions between authority and dissent, thereby reflecting broader struggles for accountability, justice, and participatory governance in African democracies. Ultimately, the paper contends that the stylistic deployment of language in *Silhouettes* transforms dramatic dialogue into a discursive space where democratic ideals are contested, defended, and reimagined, positioning language itself as a critical watchdog of the democratic future

Keywords: Stylistics; democratic discourse; language and power; resistance language; African drama.

Warfare and diplomacy: Nigerian foreign relations 1967-70

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Abstract

An understudied aspect of the Nigerian Civil War was the diplomatic relations of the Nigerian State and the defacto short lived Biafran state with foreign actors during the Nigerian-Biafran war from 1967-1970. Utilizing an analytically qualitative methodology, the aim of this research is to examine the foreign actors' intervention and support (Military & Diplomatic) to the belligerents and war policies that contributed to the grave humanitarian disaster during the Nigerian civil war. This almost neglected aspect of the Nigerian Civil War in historical scholarship is highly significant as the intervention of foreign actors still shapes Nigeria's diplomatic relations for more than half a century since the war ended. This research establishes that foreign intervention during the war was in pursuit of the foreign actors strategic interest alongside their belligerent partners in the battlefield. The research also investigates foreign actors engagements in Nigeria's post-war "no victor and no vanquished" policy which was significant for the Nigerian state to travail through the horrors of the civil war in pursuing the 3Rs doctrine amid the humanitarian catastrophe and the fragile integration of a post-civil war Republic.

Keywords: Nigerian civil war, Biafra, military history, warfare, diplomacy.

Can development occur in the absence of democracy? Political Economy of Coup d'etec and Democracy in Burkina Faso

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Abstract

Failure to institutionalize democracy in African countries has become evident with the emergence of military junta's in the central Sahel recently. Can the emergence and dominance of the military junta guarantee the development of democracy in Burkina Faso? The objective of this paper is to examine how the grievance surrounding Captain Ibrahim Traore's coup, which deposed Henri-Paul Damiba, was intertwined with Traore's ambitions and greed to run for President, which began by first consolidating his military power, while extending the electoral timeline until 2029. Unchartered democracy has been promoted in Burkina Faso due to the emergence of military coups over the past four years. Being a qualitative study with key informant interviews (KII), the data were generated essentially from secondary sources, and the study appropriated the theoretical framing of Greed and Grievance.

Keywords: Political economy of coup, election, democracy, Burkina Faso, and development.

From hashtags to ballot boxes: Gen Z, digital activism, and the reimagining of democratic participation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Odey John

Abstract

This paper examines how Generation Z (born 1997–2012) is reshaping democratic participation across Sub-Saharan Africa through digital platforms and social media activism. With over 60% of Africa's population under 25, young Africans have historically been excluded from formal political processes. However, the widespread availability of mobile internet and platforms like Twitter/X, TikTok, and WhatsApp has empowered youth to challenge this exclusion. Using a qualitative multi-case study approach, the paper analyses three landmark movements: Nigeria's #EndSARS (2020), Kenya's #RejectFinanceBill (2024), and Senegal's Gen Z electoral mobilisation (2024). These cases demonstrate that digital activism produces measurable democratic outcomes, including policy reversals and historic electoral transitions. Theoretically grounded in Castells' Networks of Outrage and Hope and Bennett and Segerberg's connective action framework, the study shows how decentralised digital networks enable powerful collective mobilisation. Despite these gains, significant challenges persist, including internet shutdowns, digital surveillance, rural-urban divides, and difficulty translating online momentum into lasting institutional change. The paper concludes by calling on governments, electoral bodies, and regional organisations to recognise Gen Z as architects of Africa's democratic future.

Keywords: Generation Z, Digital Activism, Democracy, Sub-Saharan Africa, Social Media, Political Participation, Youth Civic Engagement.

Democratic and electoral reform in Africa: Challenges and prospects ahead of the 2027 general elections in Nigeria

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Abstract

Democratic and electoral reforms across Africa face persistent challenges, including political interference, electoral violence, logistical failures, and institutional weaknesses, which undermine credible elections and democratic consolidation. In Nigeria, ahead of the 2027 General Elections, these issues are amplified by unresolved gaps in the Electoral Act 2026, voter suppression, and threats to political competition from party defections and opposition erosion. This paper argues that proposed reforms such as electronic result transmission through BVAS and IReV remain inadequately implemented amid systemic barriers like security lapses, judicial delays, and incomplete legislative execution, risking a slide toward authoritarianism if unaddressed. It seeks to provide a roadmap for sustainable reform by analyzing reform gaps against on-ground realities, fostering public trust, and ensuring competitive pluralism for legitimate outcomes. The study employs an adapted Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) framework integrated with comparative African case studies to evaluate progress through metrics of electoral integrity, voter confidence, and democratic resilience.

Keywords: Electoral reform, Nigeria 2027, democratic challenges, INEC independence, political competition.

Beyond awareness: Youth participatory evidence on work experiences, rights violations, and barriers to decent work in Nigeria

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Abstract

Youth unemployment, underemployment, and informality continue to obstruct access to decent work in Nigeria, despite commitments under the Nigerian Youth Employment Action Plan (NIYEAP), Sustainable Development Goal 8, and International Labour Organization (ILO) decent work standards. Yet rigorous, youth-led empirical evidence on how these gaps are experienced remains limited, constraining effective policy responses. This study presents findings from national youth participatory research led by the Network of Youth for Sustainable Initiative (NGYouthSDGs) with funding from UNIFOR Canada. Using a youth-led design, young people were engaged not only as respondents but as enumerators, data collectors, and co-interpreters of findings. A cross-sectional survey conducted between November and December 2025 captured 2,149 responses from youth aged 15–35 years, consistent with the African Youth Charter definition. Findings reveal moderate awareness of workplace rights (57.5%), yet only 40.3% know where to access reliable information, and few have received formal training. Violations, including unpaid wages and unsafe conditions, are widespread but underreported due to fear and weak enforcement. Over 70% are in informal or mixed employment, and 70% distrust existing protections. The study calls for stronger enforcement, youth-friendly rights education, accessible reporting systems, and targeted protections for informal workers.

Digital activism and democratic participation: Examining the role of social media mobilization by generation z in shaping electoral accountability in Nigeria (2019-2023)

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Abstract

Nigeria's democratic consolidation has been persistently challenged by electoral fraud, voter apathy, institutional weakness, and the marginalization of youth voices in political decision-making. Despite constituting more than 60% of the country's population, young Nigerians have historically been excluded from meaningful participation in governance structures, rendering electoral accountability a largely performative exercise. This study examines how Generation Z in Nigeria has deployed digital activism and social media mobilization as tools for reshaping electoral accountability between 2019 and 2023 — a period marked by the landmark #EndSARS protest of 2020, the emergence of youth-led civic technology platforms, and the unprecedented voter registration and mobilization drives that characterized the 2023 general elections. The objective of this study is to critically analyze the patterns, mechanisms, and outcomes of Generation Z's digital civic engagement in Nigeria, with specific attention to how online mobilization translated into offline electoral consequences. The study adopts a qualitative research design, relying on secondary data sources including academic journal articles, policy documents, digital archives, news reports, and civil society reports published between 2018 and 2024. Findings reveal that Nigerian Gen Z leveraged Twitter (now X), Instagram, TikTok, and WhatsApp to coordinate protest action, amplify demands for electoral reform, hold political actors accountable, and drive unprecedented youth voter registration figures ahead of the 2023 elections. The study further finds that while digital activism significantly elevated youth civic consciousness,

structural barriers — including electoral manipulation, digital exclusion, and institutional resistance — constrained the full translation of online energy into systemic political change. The study recommends strengthening digital literacy programs, reforming the electoral legal framework to accommodate digital evidence of malpractice, and mainstreaming youth political participation through institutional support mechanisms.

Water governance and democracy in Nigeria

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Abstract

The Chinua Achebe's maxim that "The Trouble with Nigeria" is squarely that of leadership remains true and resonating. The failure of governance to drive development in Africa's present democratic setting transcends political confusion and apathy to the seemingly less discussed poor governance (control/management) of natural – mainly water – resources. Water is among the four things (others being air, soil and sunlight) one which without earthly life crumbles. Agriculture is where Africa's bread is buttered economically; so, connecting these interwoven four things in contemporary agriculture could re-define her socio-economic status. However, poor governance of the diverse water resources constraints this golden opportunity; frustrating all-year-round production, reducing water productivity amidst climate change-induced water shortage, and breeding government/farmer and farmer/farmer conflicts. Africa thus remains the only region that is yet to attain self-sufficiency in food/feed/fibre production and experience the popular agriculture-transforming, development-ushering Green Revolution. It proposes a government-driven, farmer-led transition to fully irrigated agriculture.

Keywords: Africa's socio-economic development, water utilisation-associated conflicts, irrigated agriculture, water resources control/management, water productivity enhancement

Party switching and participatory democracy in Nigeria: Exploring the democratic-autocratic party system perspective

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Abstract

This study seeks to establish the nexus between rising elite mobility across party systems in Nigeria and Nigeria's consistently low ranking among leading African performers in the V-Dem participatory democracy index. Drawing on a mixed-method design, a combination of cross-sectional survey and qualitative approach will be utilized to sample 600 respondents who will be purposely distributed across six geopolitical zones of Nigeria to ensure balanced regional representation to explore the relationship between party switching and participatory democracy within Nigeria's democratic-authoritarian party system. Insightful conversations on Nigeria's recurring underperformance in the participatory democracy index vis-à-vis other African countries are constructed around the absence of internal democracy, voter apathy, electoral violence, and monetised politics. This study will focus on how the negotiation of party switching within the party system sidelines the people who entrusted their sovereign mandates to the elected officials. Specifically, the study will investigate these two research questions: In what ways do party defections among Nigerian politicians affect Nigeria's performance on the Participatory Democracy Index, particularly regarding engagement with civil society organizations and citizen involvement through referenda? How does the interplay between democratic and authoritarian tendencies within Nigerian party systems shape the frequency and consequences of party defections in Nigeria? Preliminary findings reveal

that the more party defections among Nigerian politicians are sustained, the more Nigeria's performance in the participatory democracy index will decline, especially through weakened interaction with civil society organizations and reduced citizens' engagement via referenda. Secondly, the more authoritarian predispositions dominate within the party system in Nigeria, the more the regularity of party defections will increase. Conversely, if democratic leanings prevail, then cross-carpeting will occur less frequently, impacting party stability and strengthening participatory democracy. In line with the findings, conclusions, and implications are drawn. The study uncovers the profound factor behind the persistent underperformance of Nigeria in the participatory democracy index.

Keywords: Party switching, participatory, democracy, party system, authoritarianism

Reimagining Africa's future: The question of realistic democracy and good governance in Nigeria

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Abstract

This article interrogates democracy and good governance delivery in Nigeria in the past few years. These two basic factors are vital to determining the nation's future development in contemporary Africa. The paper intends to evaluate the progress and deficiencies associated with practicing democracy in the past years which will influence and determine its future development. Over the past two decades, Nigeria has experienced setbacks in the economic and political spheres. This work aims to ask basic pertinent questions why the nation's democracy and governance have failed to handle these basic issues amidst the numerous opportunities before it. This is a qualitative study and data is collected through secondary sources. The results showed that the continuous selection and voting in of bad leaders are the basic reasons why democracy and good governance in Nigeria have achieved so little so far. The paper recommends astute commitment of citizens towards voting in selfless leaders who can govern and reposition the nation's affairs to achieve the dividends of democracy. As it is presently, only good leaders can reposition the economic and political state of the nation and launch it to the height expected of it as the 'giant of Africa.'

Keywords: Africa, Reimagining, Democracy, Good Governance, Nigeria

Hairstyle as a cultural statement: looking the meaning, context, and evolution of hair practices in Nsukka, Nigeria

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Abstract

Hairstyles have featured prominently in traditional societies as a reflection of economic, political and social identities as well as become part of contemporary fashion statements, making strong social presence and evolving so vastly. Besides being a significant component of modern socio-political expression, hairstyles are mostly rooted in traditional cultures. This article examines how hairstyles function as a significant cultural and socio-political statement in Nsukka, Nigeria. Thus, highlighting themes of identity, resistance, modernity, and development within Africa. The article draws upon anthropological, sociological, and development literature to frame hairstyles as both a product and driver of development discourses in Africa. It analyses ways these expressions have evolved in response to colonial influences, globalization, generational shifts, and socio-economic flux. Using mixed methods of interview and questionnaire, data will be gathered and analysed employing social science statistical tools to

evaluate the dominant styles and motivations for the hairstyles adopted within the contemporary Nsukka society within the context of the universe of influences.

Workplace inclusiveness on women's participation in the banking sector in Enugu State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study explores the impact of workplace inclusiveness on women's participation in the banking sector in Enugu State, Nigeria. Women in banking often face structural and cultural barriers that limit engagement, career growth, and decision-making. The study examines how inclusive practices such as equitable policies, leadership representation, and participatory decision-making affect women's empowerment and organizational contribution. A mixed-methods design was used, with quantitative data collected from 200 female employees via questionnaires and qualitative insights from 12 in-depth interviews with key staff and managers. Quantitative data were analysed through descriptive and regression techniques, and qualitative data via thematic analysis. Findings reveal that gender-sensitive policies, mentorship programs, and flexible work arrangements significantly enhance women's participation and leadership opportunities, while male-dominated practices and biased promotions hinder career growth. The study concludes that workplace inclusiveness is key to women's engagement and organizational performance, recommending policies, leadership programs, mentorship schemes, and regular inclusivity audits to promote an equitable and empowered workforce.

Keywords: Workplace inclusiveness, women's participation, banking sector, gender equality, organizational performance.

Digital democracy and youth civic engagement in Nigeria

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Abstract

This study seeks to examine how the shift in political participation from traditional structures to digital spaces has shaped participatory democracy among Nigerian youth. The study is anchored in network society theory, which posits that the organization of human activity is shifting from physically based locations to organized digital networks. This study argues that the youth are not passive consumers of digital infrastructure but are active participants in public dialogue, activism and mobilisation to influence government policy or challenge state-controlled political narratives. Methodologically, the paper draws on existing scholarly literature, policy documents,

civil society reports, and archival records of digital activism. The study exposes the paradox at the heart of Nigerian digital democracy. While networked communication has expanded the frontiers of civic action available to the youth, it has simultaneously exposed them to government-imposed internet restrictions and disinformation ecosystems.

Keywords: Digital democracy, youth civic engagement, network society theory, mobilisation.

Igbo Jurisprudence

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Abstract

Igbo Jurisprudence presents a multidisciplinary examination of legal thought by placing Anglo-American legal philosophy in sustained dialogue with the normative order of traditional Igbo society. Drawing on philosophical analysis, historical reconstruction, interpretive exposition, and comparative investigation, the work demonstrates that law cannot be reduced to codified rules or institutional authority alone; rather, it emerges from communal moral consciousness and lived social relationships. The study traces how Anglo-American jurisprudence privileges formal procedure, precedent, and individual rights, while Igbo jurisprudence emphasizes restorative harmony, collective responsibility, and moral accountability grounded in cosmology and kinship.

Thesis: The book argues that Igbo jurisprudence is not a primitive or informal precursor to Western law but a coherent legal philosophy that challenges the assumed universality of Anglo-American legal categories and reveals law to be culturally constituted yet rationally defensible across traditions.

Through comparative case reasoning and interpretive analysis, the author shows that justice in the Igbo framework is achieved not primarily through punishment but through reconciliation and social equilibrium. Ultimately, the work calls for a broader philosophy of law capable of integrating communal and relational dimensions of justice, thereby expanding the conceptual limits of modern jurisprudence.

Abstract II - Colonial Mentality in Africa (book)

Colonial Mentality in Africa examines the enduring psychological, cultural, and institutional effects of colonial rule across contemporary African societies. Written for a broad audience, the book argues that political independence did not automatically produce intellectual or cultural autonomy; instead, patterns of thought shaped by colonial domination continue to influence identity, governance, religion, and social organization. Through historical reflection and social analysis, the author investigates how inherited hierarchies of value affect perceptions of tradition, the status of matriarchal structures, religious commitments, legal systems, and the interaction between indigenous practices and external influences, including Islam and Western institutions.

Thesis: The book contends that the most persistent legacy of colonialism in Africa is not territorial control but an internalized framework of self-understanding that privileges foreign norms over indigenous knowledge, thereby shaping modern African political, social, and moral life. By interpreting everyday practices alongside institutional structures, the study reveals how colonial mentality operates both subtly and overtly in education, governance, and cultural attitudes. Ultimately, the work calls for intellectual decolonization grounded in critical self-awareness and the re-centering of indigenous values as a necessary step toward authentic social development and cultural confidence.

Migration, political inclusion, and democratic accountability in Africa: A policy-oriented analysis of mobility governance and democratic outcomes

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Abstract

Rising levels of internal and transnational migration are reshaping population distribution, labour markets, and social relations across Africa, yet democratic institutions and governance frameworks remain largely structured around sedentary and territorially fixed conceptions of citizenship and political participation. This mismatch has generated persistent challenges for political inclusion, democratic accountability, and citizen-oriented development in Africa. Focusing on selected African countries, this study aims to argue that migration and diaspora population are hardly factored in electoral participation, representation, and democratic accountability when it comes to voting in elections in Africa. In other words, why has African migrants denied electoral rights of participation? To unravel this, we interrogate the extent to which existing democratic frameworks accommodate mobile populations and the implications of migrant exclusion for public trust, service delivery, and democratic legitimacy. The study argues that the marginalization of migrants particularly in electoral participation, representation, and access to public services constitutes a structural constraint for inclusive development in Africa's "uncharted democracy." By reframing migration governance as a core democratic and development policy concern, the paper advances context-sensitive policy frameworks aimed at strengthening political inclusion, democratic accountability, and sustainable development in highly mobile African societies.

Keywords: Internal migration, citizenship, governance, democratic institution, political inclusion

The role of traditional institutions in maintaining peace and order in Ezza communities of Ebonyi State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Traditional institutions continue to serve as vital structures for ensuring peace, social stability, and grassroots governance across many African societies, even with the growing influence of modernization and formal state institutions. This study investigates the contribution of traditional institutions to the maintenance of peace and order in Ezza communities of Ebonyi State, Nigeria. A qualitative and descriptive research design was adopted, drawing mainly on secondary sources such as textbooks, journal articles, archival records, and relevant policy documents. The study is guided by the Theory of Community, which highlights collective responsibility, indigenous governance systems, and communal living. The findings indicate that traditional institutions—including traditional rulers, councils of elders, age-grade associations, and other customary authorities—play essential roles in conflict resolution, community policing, cultural preservation, and social regulation within Ezza communities. Indigenous approaches such as mediation, reconciliation processes, and participatory dialogue were found to be effective tools for resolving disputes and sustaining harmony at the grassroots level. However, the study also identifies several challenges confronting these institutions, including political interference, weakening cultural values, limited constitutional backing, globalization pressures, modernization, and increasing youth restiveness. The study concludes that traditional institutions remain crucial actors in grassroots peacebuilding and the sustenance of social order in Ezza communities. It recommends enhanced cooperation between customary institutions and formal government structures, stronger constitutional recognition of traditional authorities, revitalization of indigenous cultural values, and empowerment of age-grade systems to strengthen local peacebuilding mechanisms in contemporary Nigeria.

Keywords: Traditional institutions, peacebuilding, conflict resolution, Ezza communities, social order, communal security, customary governance.

The Coker Commission of enquiry and the fight against corruption in Nigeria's First Republic

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Abstract

The issue of corruption in Nigerian public life appears endemic. The fight to eradicate the scourge has taken various shapes. This paper looks at the crude intrusion of raw power politics into the fight against corruption as was demonstrated in the Coker Commission of Enquiry and how this phenomenon was used against political opponents by Nigeria's federal government between 1960 and 1966. It examines this against the background of Nigeria's federal system and the poisoned state of inter-party relations in Nigeria's First Republic. As the work reveals, the federal government employed the fight against corruption in the Western Region as a weapon against political opponents in the struggle for political power. The gimmick succeeded but laid a bad precedence for federalism and the fight against official sleaze. Nigeria is poorer for it as the trend of using the pretence of fighting corruption to target and single out political opponents for persecution has assumed the position of a tradition in Nigeria while abandoning the real fight against a raging and dreadful phenomenon. The fight against corruption has become largely political as the depressing trend digs deeper and gets stronger. The work concludes by arguing that if the bullying nature of corruption and its many powerful negative manifestations for the Nigerian state and society must be caged, then the fight must be wholesale while forgetting the political affiliation of perpetrators.

Keywords: Nigeria, Corruption, Politics, Federalism, Coker Commission

Achebe's Poetry as Acts of Witness and Testimony of Loss in Democratic Catastrophe

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Abstract

Democracy in conventional understanding implicates a political and social system in which power and sovereignty are domiciled with the people. This positioning of power with the people promises an assurance of representation, protection and recognition, principles that are found essential to the system. However, these democratic principles became devastating ironies in the Biafran war. The war perpetuates a catastrophic derecognition and violent preclusion of a people's claim to political existence, and in this catastrophe, these democratic principles were weaponised against the population it should serve. In this regard, Achebe's poetry collections, *Christmas in Biafra* and *Beware, Soul Brother*, perform testamentary functions, bearing witness to the violent denial of the sovereignty of Biafrans. The collections inherit the ethical demands of democracy and become spaces for the envisioning and articulation of the Biafran suffering. This paper draws on Achilles Mbembe's necropolitics and Judith Butler's theory of precarity and grievability to examine the intersection between democratic catastrophe and poetic witness in Achebe's war poetry. It argues that both collections do more than bear witness but recount the losses and suffering of the war victims, insisting on the recognition of these losses as democratic failure. This paper perceives these poetry collections as an outcry for justice for the wounded and deprived in the context of the Biafran war.

Keywords: Democratic catastrophe, poetic witness, Achebe, war poetry

Diaspora Voting and Democratic Legitimacy in Nigeria: Inclusion, Rights, and the Question of Fair Representation

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Abstract

Over the years, Millions of Nigerians in the diaspora have contributed immensely to the country through remittances, investments, and international representation. However, despite these contributions, they are still excluded from participating in national elections. This study seeks to explore if granting voting rights to the millions of Nigerians in diaspora would strengthen democratic inclusion or create concerns about fair representation, especially among citizens that are directly affected by government policies within the country. This study adopts the use of qualitative approach based on existing literature, policy documents, and comparative examples from selected African countries. the paper seeks to analyze the political, social, and developmental arguments that surrounds the diaspora voting rights. This study argues that while diaspora voting might increase or promote broader democratic participation and strengthen ties with diaspora citizens, proper legal and institutional frameworks must be established to ensure electoral fairness, accountability, and cohesion in the ever evolving democratic landscape of Nigeria

Keywords; Diapora Voting, Democracy, Democratic Legitimacy, Political Participation, Nigeria, Representation

Rethinking repentance and reintegration: An African religious perspective on operation safe corridor in Northern Nigeria

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Abstract

This article re-examines the notions of repentance and reintegration in Northern Nigeria through an African religious lens, focusing on Operation Safe Corridor (OSC), Nigeria's official deradicalization programme for former Boko Haram insurgents. It argues that OSC embodies a state-centric and individualized model of repentance that is inadequate because it overlooks the communal and cosmological dimensions of moral repair central to African Traditional Religion (ATR). The study pursues three objectives: to interrogate how OSC conceptualizes and operationalizes repentance; to analyze ATR understandings of repentance as collective, ritualized, and embedded in community life; and to assess the implications of these differences for reintegration and sustainable peacebuilding. Restorative justice and African religious epistemology theoretical frameworks will guide the study. Methodologically, the study employs qualitative documentary and thematic analysis of policy documents, institutional reports, and scholarly literature to highlight the gap between state-led rehabilitation and community-based reconciliation. Findings reveal that OSC privileges psychological and religious reorientation but excludes communal validation and ritual reconciliation, thereby generating mistrust and fragile reintegration outcomes. The article proposes a hybrid peacebuilding model that integrates state deradicalisation with ATR-based reconciliation practices, concluding that durable reintegration requires context-sensitive governance of repentance grounded in African moral-cosmological systems.

Keywords: African Traditional Religion, ex-combatant Boko Haram, Operation Safe Corridor, reintegration, repentance.

Syntactic construal of democracy and development in Nigerian political discourse

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Abstract

Contemporary debates on African development increasingly foreground the role of democratic governance in addressing socioeconomic challenges across the continent. However, political discourse often constructs democracy and development through linguistic patterns that shape public perception and accountability. This study investigated the syntactic construal of democracy and development in Nigerian political discourse to reveal how grammatical structures encode responsibility, agency, and ideological positioning. Anchored on Systemic Functional Linguistics as proposed by M. A. K. Halliday and complemented by insights from Critical Discourse Analysis advanced by Norman Fairclough, the study adopted a qualitative textual analytical approach. Data were drawn from selected Nigerian presidential speeches, policy statements, and media commentaries on governance and development. The analysis focused on transitivity patterns, voice constructions, and thematic organization to examine how actors, actions, and responsibilities are represented within democratic narratives. Preliminary observations suggested that passive constructions and nominalizations frequently obscure political accountability, while strategic thematic choices foregrounded development ideals without clearly identifying responsible agents. This study contributes to ongoing discussions on democratic accountability and the reimagining of African development by interrogating the syntactic patterns that frame governance narratives. The findings highlighted the importance of linguistic transparency in fostering participatory democracy and responsible leadership in contemporary African societies.

Keywords: Syntax, political discourse, democracy, development, Nigeria.

The struggle for Igbo identity, genocide debates, and changing nature of separatist agitations in Nigeria, 1970-2023

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Abstract

The paper focuses on the struggle for Igbo identity, the genocide question and the changing nature of separatist agitation in Nigeria from 1970 to 2023. Obviously, it is intellectually inappropriate to situate the entire Igbo-speaking people into a single monolithic line of origin. At best, the majority of Igbo-speaking people today can be traced to three-dimensional origins or migrations: the northern Igbo, Nri-Awka-Orlu axis at the centre, and the Southern Igbo-speaking people, including the Cross River Igbo migration, dispersal, and expansion. An attempt to interrogate the origin of these three groups and their migration pattern, both primary and secondary dispersal, one is likely to identify the majority of people in southern Nigeria, but this may not be all. The research identified two modern events in Nigeria that have influenced and shaped the Igbo Identity. One is colonialism and the missionary movement on the one hand, and the Nigerian Civil War, commonly known as the Biafran-Nigerian War of 1967 to 1970, on the other hand. Drawing on critical literature, qualitative inquiry, narrative analysis, and ethnographic methods, including audio-visual documentation, the study explores how colonialism cum missionary and the fratricidal encounter of 1967 to 1970 shaped the Igbo identity and have continued to put it to the test. It argues that

the inappropriate management of the “3 Rs” and the lack of sincerity from the Nigerian government in acknowledging the injustice meted out on the Igbo people during the unfortunate civil war contribute to the quest for an elaborate Igbo identity, the genocide debates and the resurgence of Biafra agitation.

Keywords: Identity struggle, Igbo people, separatist agitation, genocide debates, civil war, Biafra

State, leadership and military re- emergence in African politics

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Abstract

The increasing rate of dethronement of the democratic governments in Africa by the military has been creating high sense of uncertainty and instability in the African's political development. Because of this, this study tends to interrogates why military re- emergence in the current African democratic scene. By examining the nature and character of the African states and the patterns of political leadership, the study maintains that states in Africa have become institutionalized framework for the leadership's control, dominance and utilization of the states and their resources for their personal ends. With this grievance, the Military on their part moved in to thwart the persistence of this act by the political leadership. Based on this, the study uses Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler's Greed and Grievance Theory as a theoretical framework. It also adopts qualitative and descriptive research method for data collection and analysis. Lastly, the study recommends that the existence of people-oriented leadership who will use the state and its resources for their common good and general welfare of the people remains the basis for the military to stay in the barracks and not intervene in the politics of African states.

Keywords: State, leadership, military, and good governance.

Enhancing democratic inclusion and social re-integration of inmates through rehabilitation practices and information literacy strategies in Nigerian correctional centres

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Abstract

This paper seeks to situate correctional education and information literacy within the broader context of African development and democratic inclusion, arguing that empowering inmates with information literacy skills during their rehabilitation practices enhances their capacity for civic participation and contributes to sustainable national development. We based our study on ascertaining the extent to which rehabilitation activities are practiced, and to which the rehabilitation practices facilitate democratic inclusion and social participation of inmates. A descriptive survey design was adopted with a population of 3574 prison welfare staff in the South-East states of Nigeria. A sample size of 360 staff of the correctional centers was drawn using a multi-stage sampling technique, including dividing the centers into clusters, purposively sampling of correctional centers within the state capitals, and proportionate random sampling to select staff from each of the centers. A semi-structured questionnaire was used for the data collection, lasting within two weeks; while a total of 288 copies of the questionnaire were retrieved, amounting to a 78% return rate. Data were subsequently analyzed using descriptive statistics, including the mean and standard deviation. Findings show the absence of programs such as creative writing, animal-assisted therapy, and debates. Although rehabilitation programs contribute to inmates' information literacy development, most recorded low participation, except for sports. Among the challenges encountered are a lack of library resources, poor program implementation, inmate reluctance, and insufficient funding, among others. The study therefore recommends that rehabilitation programs carried out in correctional centers should be better structured, carried out regularly, and effectively to develop in inmates' information literacy skills that will be invaluable as they navigate their democratic life outside the walls of the prison.

Keywords: Rehabilitation practices, information literacy strategies, prison inmates, correctional centers, democratic inclusion, social participation, Nigeria.

Institutional Challenges in Developing Africa Through Democratic Reforms

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Abstract

As a phenomenon, development is a demanding process, demanding because there are built-up indices intertwined in every one of its processes. To assess this process, a lot of institutional indices are considered for a successful drive. Over the years, democracy as a political instrument has been at the forefront of the world's development ladder, but this has raised a lot of questions about whether, as a continent, Africa, with a lot of institutional failures, has benefited much from democratic development. Barrington Moore's *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, as presented by Jonathan Tumin, is the frame for this study. A questionnaire was used to gather data from the staff members of the University of Calabar and Cross River State University, all with main campuses in the city of Calabar. The findings show that the democratic institutions that were supposed to foster development in Africa are highly deficient, and so are not capable of giving Africa the desired development. The study recommends that, for an economically driven democracy, there should be reforms that can strengthen the independence of the various democratic institutions.

Keywords: Challenges, development indices, institutional, reforms.

Ideological deficit in democratic governance: A study of causalities of inter-party defections in Nigeria's politics

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Abstract

This study seeks to x-ray the phenomenon of ideological deficit in politics and political defections in Nigeria. Scholars have continued to study the trajectory of democratic consolidation in Nigeria since its return to participatory democracy in 1999. The gains of democracy seem to be lost on the altar of leaders who are focused on prebendals than collective good of the people. The study has the following as its objective: to ascertain the interrelations between ideological deficit in political parties in Nigeria and indiscriminate defections among politicians; to investigate whether ideological deficit in political parties has impacted democratic consolidation in Nigeria. Based on the objectives above, the research questions will be as follows; Has the lack of ideological leaning in Nigeria's politics affected its political trajectory? Has ideological deficit in Nigeria's politics affected its quest for democratic consolidation? This study will be anchored on the transformational leadership theory to unravel interrelations between variables. It will rely on the ex-post facto research design. Documentary method of data

collection will be applied in which case secondary data will be sourced from books, journals, official documents, and other publications. Content analysis will also be applied in the study.

Keywords: Defection, democracy, governance, ideology, politics.

Funding democracy in Africa: A case of Nigeria's INEC, 2019 -2023

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Abstract

Over the years, Africa in general and Nigeria in particular have struggled to fund the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to ensure free and credible elections in Nigeria by allocating huge sums of money to it. Their idea raises hope in people, as it will prevent the challenges of INEC, all to no avail. The paper argues that while it is good to budget for INEC, its expenditure should be carefully monitored to ensure transparent Public spending to regain the people's confidence in INEC during and after elections in Nigeria. To analyze the issues raised, the paper is anchored on the Elite theory. The research used a qualitative method of data collection and analysis. It relied on secondary and documentary sources of data. The study found that late or partial release of election funds, political parties, and campaign financing, and overnight institutions underfunding contribute to INEC's poor performance in Nigeria. The paper recommends that the government should monitor public funding for parties, protect INEC funding, and enforce spending gaps.

Keywords: INEC, funding, democracy, the watchdog, spending gaps

Institutional governance and planning deliverables in Peri-Urban areas

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Abstract

Peri-Urban areas in the developing world, such as Nigeria, are inevitable, hence they develop mostly unplanned. This paper examines selected peri-urban areas of Jos–Bukuru to assess the extent of unregulated development and identify the institutions and actors responsible for regulating emerging growth areas. A mixed-methods approach was employed, integrating quantitative and qualitative techniques through field surveys and key informant interviews, respectively. Questionnaires were administered to 250 residents, of whom 230 responded, providing first-hand information on land tenure and service availability. In addition, four key informants—drawn from the heads of relevant planning ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) responsible for development control in both urban and rural areas—were interviewed. Findings indicate that peri-urban areas experience frequent land-use conversion driven largely by unregulated land-tenure practices. Governance presence and effectiveness remain limited, posing significant planning challenges. Key planning institutions were found to be ineffective in managing the rapid pace of development. The paper recommends strengthening these institutions by enhancing their authority and institutional support in proportion to rising land demand, alongside improved planning controls to restore Jos–Bukuru's image as a 'Home of Peace and Tourism'.

Keywords: Institutional governance, peri-urban development, planning deliverables, land use, regulations

Mini-publics and democratic practice in Africa: Insights from Things Fall Apart for Nigeria's development

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Abstract

Africa's developmental discourse has long been central to scholarly debates, generating diverse perspectives on viable pathways to sustainable development. Many of these approaches have drawn on Eurocentric models, which have often proven inadequate in addressing the continent's socio-political realities. Consequently, many African states continue to grapple with persistent underdevelopment, with the continent ranking low on several global development indices. These enduring challenges have sustained calls for alternative frameworks. Existing studies suggest that the trajectory of development in Africa is closely linked to the quality of democratic practice. Notably, pre-colonial African societies exhibited forms of participatory governance resembling "mini-publics," which contributed to structured and inclusive political systems. In contrast, contemporary democratic systems in many African states are undermined by electoral malpractices, patronage politics, ethnic divisions, and weak governance. These challenges have eroded public trust in political leadership and contributed to stagnating development outcomes. Against this backdrop, this study examines *Things Fall Apart* to explore how mini-publics functioned in pre-colonial Igbo society and to identify lessons for strengthening democratic governance in Nigeria. Methodologically, the study adopts a grounded theory approach, employing inductive coding techniques inspired by Johnny Saldaña and content analysis to interpret the text.

Keywords: African Development, Democracy, Mini-Publics, Pre-colonial Governance, Igbo Society, Nigeria

Pathways to Dystopian Governance: A Case of Democratic Deficiency and Erosion of Social Contract in the Sahel

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Abstract

This article explores the deepening democratic deficiency in the African Sahel, where fragile political institutions, persistent insecurity, and deteriorating state-citizen relations signal an erosion of the post-independence social contract. Through a desktop review grounded in social contract theory and post-colonial state theory, the paper analyses the region's evolving governance structures, democratic aspirations, and institutional shortcomings. Drawing from African Union commitments, legislative instruments, and critical democratisation literature, the study situates the Sahel's democratic trajectory within the broader historical patterns of colonial legacies and contemporary socio-political challenges. The findings investigate the current state of Sahelian governance, highlighting attributes of democratic deficiency, including violent extremism, securitised politics, limited public discourse, and declining civic trust. The study also examines the gap between institutional promises and citizens' reality based on their perceptions of governance performance. Ultimately, the paper argues that democratic decline in the Sahel is not merely institutional failure but a reflection of unfulfilled social contracts amid systemic inequality, conflict, and contested legitimacy. It calls for a re-imagining of democratic governance that centres local agency, restores accountability, and acknowledges Africa's historically contingent democratic journey.

From Obedient movement to City Boys: Resistant groups against Gen-Z political inclusion in Africa

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Abstract

This paper discusses the state resistant against youth mobilization for good governance in Africa. African States are increasingly adopting populist counter-mobilisation to neutralize youth activism. Why we often talk about digital

censorship and surveillance, we often overlook how elites actively organize to disrupt youth-led movements. This paper investigates how these state-sponsored efforts fracture political energy and frustrate transformative potential of Gen-Z activists. By analyzing social media narratives and political discourse in Nigeria and across Africa, we explore what this “counter-mobilisation” means for the future of democracy on the continent. Through a qualitative analysis of digital narratives, political discourse, and secondary data across Nigeria and the broader continent, this study highlights the implications of these tactics to contemporary African democracy.

Political trust and democratic governance in Africa: Interrogating the Nigerian experience during Covid-19 pandemic

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Abstract

This paper examines political trust and democratic governance in Africa with focus on Nigeria’s experience during Covid-19 pandemic. Political trust is no doubt considered a necessary condition for democratic governance. A democratic political system cannot survive for long without the support of a majority of its citizens in the fundamental institutions and the roles of the state. This is the more reason democratic governance enjoys popular trust for its consolidation and sustainability. However, rapid decline of political trust in Nigerian democratic governance gained more attention with her experience during Covid-19 pandemic, which hit deep into the socio-economic and political fabric of the system. In fact, many citizens were laid off, thereby further increasing the state's already high unemployment rate. Also, the deplorable situation of the health sector could not guarantee the safety of life, and heavy reliance on importation, such as the importation of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) from China, has persisted. Relying on secondary qualitative data, the paper argues that political trust does not exist in a vacuum. It is often achieved through democratic governance that is essentially people-oriented, particularly during times of uncertainty and vulnerability.

Keywords: Political trust, Nigerian experience, Covid-19 pandemic, democratic governance.

E-governance and public sector transparency and accountability in Nigeria

By
Nwadike Tochukwu

Democracy without development? A comparative analysis of Nigeria and Ghana’s Fourth Republics (1999–2024)

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Abstract

The paper seeks to argue that e-governance has supported financial accountability through TSA, GIFMIS, and IPPIS, which explains the improvement in revenue management in the public sector. The research is anchored on

the Agency Theory which explains how e-governance reduces bottleneck in governance and enhances accountability. A qualitative research design was adopted, utilizing content analysis as the method for data examination. Data were systematically sourced and analyzed from peer-reviewed academic journals and official government policy documents. The findings of the study reveal that digital governance, an initiative that use technology to deliver transparent, efficient public services, particularly TSA, GIFMIS and IPPIS have significantly enhanced financial transparency by enabling real-time oversight and reducing revenue leakages. The study concludes that while digital governance is a potent mechanism for fostering transparency and accountability, its potential is not automatically realized. It must be implemented as part of a holistic reform package that concurrently addresses infrastructural deficits and human capacity gaps to achieve sustainable governance outcomes. The study recommended the need for strengthening TSA, GIFMIS and IPPIS initiatives for sustained transparency gains; and investing in infrastructure and capacity building simultaneously to ensure digital governance effectiveness and long-term accountability outcomes across Nigeria's public sector.

Keywords: Digital governance, transparency, accountability, public sector, Nigeria.

Between movement and belonging: Migration, displacement, and democratic inclusion in Nigeria

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Abstract

Migration and internal displacement are increasingly shaping Nigeria's political and social landscape, driven by insecurity, economic inequality, environmental pressures, and transnational mobility. Despite their growing significance, migrants, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and diaspora populations remain marginalized within Nigeria's democratic institutions. This study examines how and why mobile populations are systematically excluded from democratic participation and explores the implications for governance and social cohesion. Drawing on qualitative analysis of policy frameworks, electoral regulations, and selected Nigerian case studies, the paper demonstrates that prevailing constructions of citizenship, indigeneity, and territorial belonging restrict access to political participation and social rights. While IDPs face barriers to voting and representation in host communities, diaspora Nigerians encounter institutional constraints despite their economic and political contributions. The study also highlights how mobile populations negotiate exclusion through informal associations, advocacy networks, remittance politics, and digital mobilization. By framing mobility as a central democratic issue, this research contributes to understanding inclusive governance in Nigeria and argues that recognizing mobility as a permanent feature of society is essential for building democratic institutions capable of responding to contemporary governance challenges.

Keywords: Internal Displacement; Migration; Diaspora Politics; Democratic Inclusion; Citizenship; Nigeria; Governance

Historical behavioural pattern and moral upbringing in Ede-Oballa, Nsukka Local Government Area

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Abstract

Child upbringing involves both training on behaviour patterns and moral lessons. Morality in current modern society has declined compared to what it was, some decades ago. In this context, morality means bringing up children in a particular way which follows the behavioural pattern of societal norms, culture and ways of life. Historical moral upbringing in Ede-Oballa, Nsukka was deeply rooted in Igbo tradition, emphasizing

communalism, respect for elders and fear of deities. Children were taught through storytelling, folktales, and apprenticeship particularly in industries like blacksmithing, farming, craftsmanship, etc. Education was participatory, focusing on virtues, discipline, and communal responsibility. Youths in contemporary society in Ede-Oballa are no longer in-tune with the cultural teachings about morality, which explains the surge why we have a display of immoral behavior in modern times. The objective of this study is to compare the historical and contemporary morality and behaviours patterns among the youths in Ede-Oballa, Nsukka. Qualitative research was adopted for this study, and the data would be collected through systematic random sampling of 200 respondents from the community. The data will be collected through interviews and focus group discussion and analyzed using coding, thematic and content analysis. The outcome will proffer solutions to the decay in moral standards in society.

Keywords: immorality, behavioural pattern, craftsmanship, child upbringing, qualitative research

Political party financing and democracy in Nigeria: A study of 2015, 2019 and 2023 presidential elections in Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper discusses political party financing and democracy Nigeria and tries to ascertain if political party financing in Nigeria contravenes the electoral acts. Using documentary method of data collection, the paper explores political party financing and democracy in Nigeria. This paper is guided by this objective, to ascertain the extent political party financing in Nigeria adheres to the party finance ceiling as dictated by the electoral acts 2002, 2006, 2010 and 2022 in Nigeria. This analysis is anchored on the theory of political Clientelism' to explain the interplay of political party financing and democracy in Nigeria. This paper discovers that spending limits and party finance ceiling in the electoral acts are not obeyed by political parties and party candidates. The paper recommends that government has to put more effort in the enforcement of the electoral acts in Nigeria.

Keywords: Political party, Party financing, Electoral act, Democracy.

Funding democracy in Africa

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Abstract

There is a going debate that nation states develop faster under a democratic system of government; however, this debate has not enjoyed consensus, and its opponents cite instances where undemocratic nation states have witnessed development and economic growth faster than some democracies. Nevertheless, the global north and the United States of America in particular view the democratic system of government as the most legitimate, hence African

nation states are largely required by the West to adopt the democratic system of government. In the decades that followed the independence of many African nation states, presidential term limits were not common, coups were common and there were no living past heads of states. At present, there is noticeable democratic growth in the African continent. Presidential term limits, term limits of members of parliament at federal and state levels and state governors are observed in many nation states. In light of this, the objective of this study is to examine democracy and its funding in African. Consequently, this study shall examine how independent electoral bodies and political parties are funded in Africa. It will also examine if the funding of democracy in Africa is significantly different from the west. This study shall employ qualitative research methods to arrive at findings and to make useful recommendations.

Keywords: Africa, democracy, funding, general elections and corruption.

Electoral process under siege in Nigeria

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Abstract

The electoral process is a continuous, interrelated system centered on elections. Elections constitute the cornerstone of democracy, providing citizens with a framework to decide who represents them and to hold them accountable. The study seeks to establish how the electoral process in Nigeria has been circumscribed by constitutional governance structures and ruling-party elites, which weaken the electoral management bodies' (EMBs) institutional autonomy and credibility. Using new institutionalism theory, the study shows how institutions intended to protect the electoral process coerce compliance, thereby eroding the institutional independence of EMBs. It argues that alterations to the electoral framework and ambiguities in court rulings on political party leadership shape INEC's capacity to administer elections. The paper is grounded in qualitative research from documentary sources, court judgments, and the Electoral Act. The findings of the study will have implications for the legitimacy, transparency, and credibility of the electoral outcomes.

Keywords: Electoral process, Electoral Management Body, INEC, elections

Democracy and development in Africa and Central Asia: A comparative analysis of institutions and political power

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Abstract

This paper presents the relationship between democracy and development in African and Central Asian countries through a comparative analysis of political liberalization processes and persistent authoritarian practices that lead to structural vulnerability of the economies of the studied regions. The study aims to identify institutional factors, including the nature of power distribution, the role of parties and elites, and the degree of decentralization, with a subsequent determination of external pressures from global and regional actors influencing democratization trajectories in the two regions. The empirical base includes comparative indices of the quality of democracy and development, as well as case studies of individual countries selected based on the criteria of regime variability and economic growth models. It is shown that the combination of power distribution factors, low levels of institutional inclusiveness, and specific forms of external dependence translates differently into political stability or reform windows of opportunity in Africa and Central Asia. The obtained results contribute to the development of comparative studies of democracy and development in the Global South and can be used to refine approaches to supporting democratization and institution-building in the interregional perspective of Africa and Central Asia.

Keywords: African society, cultural heritage saving, modernity, oral traditions, craftsmanship, globalization, community engagement, digital innovation.

Youth Civic Engagement in Northwest Nigeria: Pathways to Strengthening Democratic Participation and Accountability

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Abstract

Youth civic engagement remains a critical yet underutilized driver of democratic development in Northwest Nigeria, a region shaped by governance deficits, insecurity, and weak citizen–state trust. With over 60% of Nigeria’s population under 25 (National Bureau of Statistics), the exclusion of young people from governance processes continues to undermine inclusive development. Despite high youth voter registration during the 2023 general elections, turnout and sustained civic participation remained uneven (Independent National Electoral Commission). This paper argues that structured youth-led interventions are effective mechanisms for strengthening democratic participation and accountability at the community level. Drawing on civic engagement programming implemented across 8 Local Government Areas in Zamfara State, the study analyzes data from over 500 trained youth participants, 20 community dialogues, and 15 civic action initiatives. Using a qualitative case study approach combining participant observation, program monitoring data, and stakeholder interviews, the research assesses shifts in civic awareness, engagement, and influence. Findings indicate that over 70% of participants demonstrated increased knowledge of civic rights and governance processes, while youth-led advocacy improved community–government interactions. The paper concludes that investing in youth-centered civic ecosystems is essential for strengthening democratic resilience and scaling participatory governance models across Northwest Nigeria.

African leaders and the myth of global influence: A discourse on local responsibilities in Nigeria

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Abstract

To appear sophisticated and acceptable to society, many Africans hate to be called a local woman or a local man. Such individuals prefer to be addressed as 'global' or 'international,' thereby reinforcing their ignorance of the practical non-existence of anything 'global.' In fact, every global meeting is held in someone's village. This study invites scholars and African leaders to rethink global gatherings as local meetings involving people from other villages around the world, and that to host such meetings, one must have consistently valued and developed their own locality. When that is done, global players from other villages would then consider African countries safe and wealthy enough to share in the achievements of their own localities. Examples of neglected local economic and political responsibilities will be drawn from twenty-first-century Nigeria, and the aim of this contemporary, argumentative approach is to provoke conversations that can challenge the roots of outward-oriented value systems in Africa and encourage autochthonous development as integral to attaining the so-called global influence.

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