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SPECIAL ISSUE

HUMAN-ENVIRONMENTAL RELATIONS AND AFRICAN NATURES

Guest editors: Michael Hauhs and Georg Klute

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**This issue is dedicated to the memory of
Jacques Lombard**



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EDITOR'S NOTE

The present issue is important in several ways. It is our tenth issue thus closing the fifth year of publication of *Modern Africa*. It is the issue that introduces a number of changes. And it is our first Special Issue.

The first five years have been challenging because the journal had to establish itself among other journals in the profession. Did it succeed? I think that the answer can be affirmative. We are receiving a steadily increasing number of submissions and authors are now approaching us without any particular recruitment from our side. In addition, we are penetrating into databases.

One of the major changes is the new website. Please note the new address: <https://edu.uhk.cz/africa/>. The website not only contains a statement on ethics and malpractices but also enables all submissions and reviewers' reports to be processed through the web interface. If someone has difficulties with it, the executive editor (Martin Schmiedl) can upload the texts. In addition, a transition to DOI is now possible thanks to the new website. *Modern Africa* now uses the Open Journal System that links it to Crossref, Google Scholar. The fact that we became part of Open Access means that all issues are now accessible online, including the latest issue. This implies a change from our previous policy of delayed access. The journal effectively applied for e-ISSN that is 2570-7558 (Online). The executive editor successfully negotiated the entry of *Modern Africa* into Ebsco Sociology Source. Finally, starting from 2018 the amount of printed copies will be decreased from 200 to 100. However, if there will be a commercial demand for printed copies these can be easily reprinted.

The idea of a Special Issue on "Human-Environmental Relations and African Natures" was proposed by Georg Klute, who is also the co-author of two articles. Current debates on climate change and the Anthropocene, and attempts to protect the environment, cannot and do not bypass Africa. It is very timely that our journal addresses these issues. The fact that we had difficulties to find reviewers of the submissions to this issue confirms the novelty of the topic. There is a special introduction by the guest editors, Michael Hauhs and Georg Klute. Therefore as editor I can refrain from further comments on this

Special Issue except that the editorial board and I welcome it as an important addition to the pages of *Modern Africa*.

It remains for me to thank all those who made this issue possible. Not only the authors of the past five years but also the recent input of the executive editor have made the journal more competitive. Let us look forward to the next five years with optimism. These will be tough years, as we will work hard to improve the quality of the submissions. Still, we also expect new qualities of research on Africa that *Modern Africa* would not want to miss.

Petr Skalník

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