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HUMAN-ENVIRONMENTAL RELATIONS AND AFRICAN NATURES Guest editors: Michael Hauhs and Georg Klute

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petr.skalnik @uhk.cz tel.: +420-604 373 308 https://edu.uhk.cz/africa/ Typography and printed by OFTIS Ústí nad Orlicí

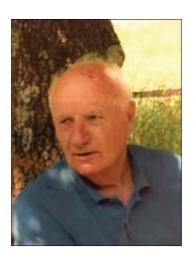




Czech Association for African Studies



This issue is dedicated to the memory of Jacques Lombard



CONTENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE5
OBITUARY
Gérald Gaillard7
Jacques Lombard (1926–2017): French Africanism of the Third Generation
SPECIAL ISSUE
HUMAN-ENVIRONMENTAL RELATIONS AND AFRICAN NATURES
Guest editors: Michael Hauhs and Georg Klute
ARTICLES
Michael Hauhs and Georg Klute
Editorial to this Special Issue
Michael Hauhs, Baltasar Trancón y Widemann and Georg Klute35
Bridging Disciplinary Gaps in Studies of Human-Environment Relations: A Modelling Framework
Kupakwashe Mtata
Descola's Model of Religion and Nature Examined: "Ontologies" in the Matobo Hills of Zimbabwe
Tilman Musch 105
Footprints in the Mud of Agadem: Eastern Niger's Way towards the Anthropocene
Georg Klute, Asebe Regassa and Mohammed Detona127
"They Have Stolen Our Land." Enclosure, Commodification and Patterns of Human-Environment Relations among Afar Pastoralists in Northeastern Ethiopia
REPORTS
Petr Skalník151
The 7th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS), University of Basel, Switzerland

REVIEWS

Petr Skalník157
Steven Robins. 2016. <i>Letters of Stone: From Nazi Germany to South Africa</i> . Cape Town: Penguin Books.
Michael Stasik160
Riedel, Felix. 2016. Hexenjagd und Aufklärung in Ghana. Von den medialen Inszenierungen des Okkulten zur Realität der Ghettos für Hexenjagdflüchtlinge. Köln: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag.
Artwell Nhemachena164
Devisch, Rene. 2017. <i>Body and Affect in the Intercultural Encounter</i> . Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa / Leiden: African Studies Centre.
Georg Klute167
Horáková, Hana and Werkman, Kateřina (eds.) 2017. Knowledge Production in and on Africa. Wien: LIT Verlag.
Vlastimil Fiala 169
Klíma, Jan. 2017. Dějiny Kapverdských ostrovů, Svatého Tomáše a Princova ostrova (History of the Cape Verde islands, and the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe). 2nd edition. Prague: Nakladatelství Lidové noviny.
NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS173

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 coauthor 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

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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

OBITUARY

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