

Introduction

David Pier

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Global Africana Review is a scholarly journal for undergraduates, which adheres to the rigorous editorial procedures of any professional academic journal. We openly invite students to submit original research articles on any and all topics having to do with Africa, African Americans, and the broader African diaspora. Submissions that meet our editorial board's standards for academic rigor and originality are sent out for review to faculty members with specialized knowledge of the topics in question. Articles that pass this review are then revised by their authors, resubmitted, professionally edited and proofread, and published. This vetting and revision process ensures that students take their research and writing projects to the highest possible level, producing polished, sophisticated, and useful contributions to ongoing disciplinary conversations in global Africana Studies.

We take great pride in our first issue, which features five articles that reflect the multi-disciplinary diversity and global range of the AAAD department. The first two articles deal with the complexities of African politics at the intersection of the state/intergovernmental organizations and civil society. Rebekah Cockram writes about the late Kenyan activist Wangari Maathai's Green Belt Movement and its achievements in the areas of women's rights and environmental sustainability. Danielle Allyn discusses the shortcomings of the UN's peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, MONUSCO, arguing that the mission has remained in some ways fatally detached from the people it was designed to protect.

Next, drawing on interviews with Haitian poultry processing workers in Maryland, Emily Sheffield uncovers an array of obstacles these immigrants face in seeking basic health care in the United States. Language barriers compounded with racism make it especially difficult for these Haitians to negotiate the bureaucratic systems that control their access to essential health care and services. Tackling similar issues, but on the other side of the Atlantic, Amukelani Muyanga explores the rising ethnic xenophobia in South Africa, home to a multitude of immigrants from diverse other African countries who came originally as migrant laborers or war refugees. India Benson also writes about South Africa, but from a humanities perspective, executing a close, multifaceted reading of a spider-themed sculpture by the important contemporary artist Mary Sibande.

In addition to the five research articles, our issue presents Mary Quattlebaum's review of Laurent Dubois's book, *Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution*. For future issues, we welcome student submissions of book reviews and other short pieces pertaining to the journal's themes, in addition to full-length research manuscripts.