

Introduction

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I am happy to introduce the seventh volume of the Department of African, African American and Diaspora Studies' *Global Africana Review*. As in the past, this issue features the work of AAAD majors and minors and students from AAAD's courses. The student authors included in this year's issue have worked diligently over the past six months under the guidance of faculty mentors to revise and expand papers that began as class assignments. The breadth of this year's contributions demonstrates the diversity of student scholarship in the department, and the commitment of our students to engaging in research both in and beyond the classroom.

This issue's articles take up topics that focus on both US and international contexts. Stephanie Bruton's and Jorren Biggs's papers address the history of residential segregation in the United States and the rise and fall of Black-dominated commercial centers in Colorado and North Carolina, respectively. Bruton draws attention to the specific policies of urban development that drive decreases in property value in Black-dominated neighborhoods, even commercially successful ones such as the Five Points neighborhood in Denver. She examines the ways efforts at urban renewal in Five Points, beginning in the second half of the twentieth century, have tended to increase racial segregation and weaken the ability of Black property owners to benefit from gentrification projects. Biggs analyzes a similarly successful and historically significant Black neighborhood—Durham's Hayti neighborhood, one of the most successful "Black Wall Streets" of the early twentieth century—in terms of Booker T. Washington's theories of racial uplift, which were at the center of political debates over racial inequality in the first half of the last century. Susie Webb also turns a historical lens on early twentieth-century US politics by examining one of the most influential Black newspapers of that era, the *Chicago Defender*. Webb reviewed the paper's headlines at the beginning and end of the 1920s to explore the way the paper transformed the representation of Black communities by featuring positive portrayals of Black Americans, but also at times reproduced the racialized stereotypes of that era. Cho Nikoi's article shifts attention to the post-colonial period in West Africa, exploring the formation of Ghanaian leader Kwame Nkrumah's political philosophy, and arguing that Nkrumah's ideological orientation was shaped by his varied engagement with ideas throughout the Black diaspora, including in the United States.

Finally, we have a trio of book reviews that address the topic of race and health inequality. Jerry Charleston's review of Alondra Nelson's *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination* (2013) examines the role of the Black Panthers in health activism in the 1970s, including their work establishing low-cost health clinics in predominately Black communities and their efforts to promote awareness of the risks of sickle cell disease, a genetic disorder that disproportionately impacts Black Americans. Abigail Ladd reviews Linda Villarosa's *Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation* (2022), a comprehensive examination of the health consequences of racism in the United States, and the drivers of persistent gaps in health outcomes between Black Americans and Americans of other races. Expanding this discussion beyond the borders of the United States,

Neha Saggi reviews Claire L. Wendland's *Partial Stories: Maternal Death from Six Angles* (2022), which explores the reasons why maternal health outcomes in Malawi remain persistently poor despite increased attention to the issue and funding for health interventions. As with the studies by Nelson and Villarosa, Saggi's discussion of Wendland's work highlights the complex ways in which discrimination and inequality are institutionalized and historically produced, leading to entrenched gaps in health and wellness that disproportionately impact Africans and people of African descent.

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