

It is with the utmost excitement that we introduce this volume of UFAHAMU. With some delay, this issue heralds the culmination of a project over a year in the making. UFAHAMU is pleased to announce the digitization of its entire archive of issues, dating back to 1970. In a collaboration between the UCLA Library, the Graduate Student Association Publications Department, and the Editorial team of UFAHAMU, our eScholarship website will soon host a searchable database to access all of the rich and engaging scholarship that the journal has published over the last forty-two years. The digitization project represents not only an instance of intra-campus intellectual cooperation—something increasingly rare in our age of ever-more-stalwart specialization—but also, by making UFAHAMU’s collections available online, we continue the journal’s foundational commitment to readership accessibility. On behalf of the Editors of UFAHAMU, I would like to say how proud we are of this monumental feat, which represents yet another new phase in the life of this important journal. I would also like to extend the Editorial team’s most sincere appreciation, both to all those involved in the various stages of digitization work, as well as to our readers for their patience while we undertook this task of taking UFAHAMU into the future.

Indeed, it has been by looking back to UFAHAMU’s past that we have been inspired for where to take the journal in future. In the coming months, UFAHAMU will be issuing a series of calls for papers to solicit scholarly perspectives on new and emergent relationships between Africa, its diasporas,, and shifting global connections. Of particular interest are the human and cultural impacts of financial and political affiliations such as Asian investment in Africa, or collectives like BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), whose emergence signals hemispheric shifts in the flow of finance, culture, and ideas. How can we think about Africa and its global connections, and the nascent paradigms of investigation fostered by such interactions? What new voices are heard across these evolving trajectories? What are the occupations, identities, and forms of cultural production that inhabit these spaces, and where do we see developing trends in relation to Africa?

UFAHAMU continues to watch with great interest the continued unfolding of the “Arab Spring,” the revolutionary spirit that just two years ago gripped northern Africa and quickly spread to the Middle East. We invite contributions that deal not only with the contemporary legacy of these events, but with their histories as well, and that ask in what ways an “Arab Spring” is part of various other African histories. Equally of interest are the politics of representing revolution, especially African revolutions, and more especially as represented in the Western media. How do such movements become identified—as “democratic,” as “Arab,” or as “Islamic,” etc.? And how do such revolutionary identifications interact with their African contexts? What is the language of an “African revolution?” What, in this sense, are the politics of “Africa?” How do we read the political multiplicity of the continent? Without falling into the all-too-common trap of seeing “Africa” as a space of fetishized juxtaposition, questions should be asked about the vibrant tensions caused by the intimate reality of divergent political entities in and among various African countries.

Additionally, the cultivation of an online archive for UFAHAMU will, we hope, prompt retrospective investigations of the journal, its critical role in the activism of decades past, and its continued scholarly presence on the African continent and elsewhere. We will invite pieces that seek to place the journal vis-à-vis historical

moments and movements of the last four decades. From the anti-apartheid and BDS (“Boycott, Divesment, Sactions”) movements in South Africa to the genocide in Sudan, UFAHAMU has been a leading voice of investigation and representation of nearly half a century of African and diaspora history. We wish to honor this commitment with a commemorative edition of UFAHAMU centered on the journal’s impact during this period.

Finally, to the intriguing and multifocal group of articles that make up this issue of UFAHAMU. First, UFAHAMU is very pleased to include in this edition a provocative piece by artist Meleko Mokgosi from Bostwana on the psychology of nationalism and its relationship to the phenomenology of difference. Mokgosi’s article, entitled “Pax Afrikaner,” is timely, as the artist has recently been awarded the prestigious Mohn Award for his similarly themed visual work, *Pax Kaffraria: Sikhuselo Sembumbulu*. Our second piece is an interview by Cameron Wimpy and Irvin D. Reid with Mozambican opposition leader Afonso Dhlakama, president of RENAMO and long-time political and military combatant against the ruling FRELIMO party. Wimpy and Reid interviewed Dhlakama the day after the RENAMO leader’s most recent crushing defeat in the country’s 2009 presidential elections. Wimpy speaks with Dhlakama on the current state of political corruption in Mozambique, as well as the changing role of violence in the country’s politics. Saba T. Kidane’s review of *War and the Politics of Identity in Ethiopia: the Making of Enemies & Allies in the Horn of Africa* by Kjetil Tronvoll is an insightful analysis of a major work that deals with the politics of identity and the national struggles between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Kidane offers a comprehensive review of Tronvoll’s work, which is a broad and interdisciplinary survey of the shifting alliances between Tigray-speakers in Eritrea and Ethiopia. Finally, from South Africa, Madeleine Fombad offers a public policy article examining the infrastructural role of “Public-Private Partnerships” for the delivery of state services in post-apartheid South Africa. By focusing on the development of these partnerships, Fombad asks us to consider the efficiency and accountability of collaborations between the state and private interests.

We take this opportunity to thank all the contributing authors, reviewers, and editors for their exceptional and valuable work on behalf of UFAHAMU to compile this issue. Your endless efforts and persistent support have enabled us to move this intellectual endeavor steadily into our forty-second year as a journal, and the announcement of our newly digitized archive would have been impossible without all of you.

With our very best wishes,
Kirk B. Sides and Rayed Khedher