

Editorial

*For Profs. Bakari Kamian and Keorapetse William Kgosisile
a.k.a. Bra Willie, in memoriam.*

We warmly welcome all readers of *Ufahamu: a Journal of African Studies* to our Volume 40, Issue 1. This issue has been over a year in the making. We are truly thrilled to publish it.

Acknowledgments

We start off by recognizing two trailblazing women: Bintou Sanankoua and Tamaro Touré. In Senegal, Ms. Touré, an author and community organizer, relentlessly honors the rights of children for safe homes, families, dignity and education through her work at SOS Villages d'Enfants Senegal. In Mali, Dr. Sanankoua, historian and former parliament representative, embodies the twofold ideal of safeguarding the past while working towards a better future. More significantly, for the past decades, Ms. Touré and Dr. Sanankoua have continuously honored the often unacknowledged legacies of other women who had contributed to the betterment of their communities. Their work towards equity, justice and education has yet to be recognized to the true extent of its worth. We salute them.

In 2016-2017, we were fortunate to receive the visits of several South African scholars on the UCLA campus. In November 2016, Dr. Neo Legotla laga Ramoupi discussed with us the "Transformations in Universities in Post-1994 South Africa." Along with Ms. Khabo Ramoupi, he joined a roundtable hosted by the African Activist Association entitled "Global Perspectives on Police Violence," for a comparative discussion of current situations in South Africa, the United States, Brazil, and the Philippines. In February 2017, Prof. Xolela Mangcu gave us a timely reminder that the United States, in the current struggle against white supremacy, can and should look to South Africa. Lastly, Dr. Chitja Twala reflected on the connected histories and legacies of *Ufahamu* and *Sechaba*. We are indeed indebted to these three scholars, who reminded us of the urgency of keeping up with *Ufahamu's* role as an international platform for Black and African scholarship. We thank our

faculty advisor William H. Worger for organizing these visits, and continuously pushing for the engagement of the UCLA community with Africa.

***Ufahamu's* Production**

We regretfully acknowledge having allowed a hiatus since the publication of our last issue in June 2016. Unbeknown to many, *Ufahamu* relies solely on graduate students, volunteering time and labor after balancing coursework, examinations, teaching duties, and research: at times, this proves to be challenging. Regardless, we take full responsibility for lapses in our work, and admit fault is solely our own. Our sincerest gratitude to those who are published in this issue, as well as those whose articles are up for publication in our upcoming issues, who have endured through this lengthy timeline. Likewise, we apologize to those who have submitted articles and patiently await our administrative hiccups to resolve.

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With this in mind, we extend our sincere thanks to those who have made the publication of this issue possible. Stacey Meeker's dedication to *Ufahamu* these past few years has been invaluable: we wish her the very best in her future endeavors. We also thank David Pederson for all his help since he stepped into his new role as Director of Publications for the UCLA Graduate Students Association. We thank our editorial team members as well as our copy editor Adrienne Lynett, and layout editor Bill Morosi for meticulously ensuring the articles in this volume were fit for publication. Thanks are due to Sheila Breeding from the UCLA African Studies Center, as well as Aaliyah Murphy and Temesgen Gebreyesus, for helping us promote the journal.

This issue was borne out of a dual desire. On the one hand we wished to celebrate some of the great minds who have trained and taught at UCLA. On the other hand, we strove to keep up with *Ufahamu's* tradition of showcasing the wealth of voices producing knowledge on Africa. Consequently, Part I comprises articles authored by UCLA scholars, while Part II includes the contributions of academics from Nigerian and U.S. universities. Edward N. Alpers examines the porous border between free and

coerced labor in late 19th century Île de la Réunion and Mozambique. Seun Bamidele discusses the processes and consequences of ethnic and religious “othering” in Nigeria. How could environmental protection discourse come to appear as a support for authoritarianism? Looking at Senegal and the Gambia, Ashley M. Fent tackles this question. Ghislaine Lydon explores the meanings and practices of Islamic law in the histories of Mali, Nigeria and Somalia. Seeking to understand why public policies fail in Nigeria, Remi Okeke investigates them through the lens of the Oduche complex. Will an anthropologist ever learn? With this question, Allen F. Roberts invites us to dive into the intimacy and messiness of anthropological work, by detailing his stay among the Tabwa people in southeastern DRC. Lastly, Philip W. Rudd makes the case for a better understanding, and legitimization, of African Urban Youth language. We conclude the issue with reviews by Brad Crofford, Timothy Nicholson, and David B. Spielman, of notable monographs published in the past two years.

As always, we thank you, our audience, for your ceaseless support and loyalty. It is our sincerest hope that we are always able to reciprocate with our time and efforts.

Janice R. Levi and Madina Thiam
Co-Editors-in-Chief

