

Call for Papers

Contextualizing Justice and Human Dignity in Africa: New Scopes, New Horizons

Festschrift In honour of **Professor Austin Chukwu**,

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND THE HUMANE LETTERS, ACTIVIST AND SCHOLAR PAR EXCELLENCE



“Contextualizing Justice and Human Dignity in Africa: New Scopes, New Horizons” is an interdisciplinary project that seeks to examine the various meanings and roles of the terms “Justice” and “Human Dignity” in shaping Africa’s contemporary world. This project investigates current and future implications of various events involving women, men, children, urban and natural environments that predicate, contest and/or redefine ideas associated with “Justice” and “Human Dignity” in Africa.

For instance: How do the terms “Justice” and “Human Dignity” navigate pathways to a better/worse human society while negotiating with various human, environmental and socio-cultural conditions during the period of inter-ethnic wars and migrations in Africa’s pre-colonial past; the slave trade era; the period of colonialism and numerous struggles for independence by many African nations; the post/neo-colonial period of incessant violent ethnic and racial crises, and more recent cases of peace keeping missions, Nelson Mandelaim, sports and national unity, terrorism, religious pentecostalism/fanaticism, child/female abuses, failed marriages/divorces, kidnapping, rape, dictatorship, lynching, human trafficking, corruption, unemployment, land disputes, ritual killings and various forms of manipulations by Western and Arab nations? What roles do the terms “Justice” and “Human Dignity” play in exacerbating or curtailing these events in different African societies?

Our project investigates the mediation between these corollary terms at various levels of human relationship which include self, family, communal, corporate, national, international and global settings.

We welcome comparative studies showing variations in cultures and cultural conditions (within and outside Africa) that naturally impact on conceptualizations of these two terms, their various meanings, associated practices and implications in the Humanities, Social sciences, Sciences, Environmental studies, Law and other fields of scholarly interest.

Possible Themes and Topics might include, but are not limited to:

- **Film and Theatre:** - How do representations in Africa’s film industries and drama situate ideas of “Justice and Human Dignity”? What are the implications?
- **Popular Culture** - Music, Onitsha market literature, pamphleteering, etc. How do operations in these fields redefine and offer new interpretations of “Justice and Human Dignity” in Africa?
- **Counter Culture:** Cult membership, Boko Haram, MOSOP, AREWA, MASSOB, OPC, MEND, Fraternities, “Freedom” and “Rebel” movements etc:- How do operations in these sub cultures redefine and offer new interpretations of “Justice and Human Dignity” in Africa?
- **Peace and Conflict Studies-** What roles do ideas of “Justice” and “Human Dignity” play in promoting peace or conflict in African societies?
- **Political Science:** How have “Justice” and “Human Dignity” impinged on traditional and contemporary political ideas and practices in Africa?
- **Literature, Visual, Fine and Applied arts:** How do current practices in these fields highlight ideas of “Justice” and “Human Dignity” in Africa? Are there possible theories that foreground these ideas?
- **Historical and cultural Studies:** What are the traditional and contemporary methods of achieving and sustaining “Justice” and “Human Dignity” in Africa?

- **Philosophy and Religion:** What are traditional vis-à-vis contemporary philosophical notions of “Justice” and “Human Dignity” in Africa? To what extent do imported religions counter or negotiate traditional religious concepts and practices that reflect “Justice” and “Human Dignity”?
- **Psychology:** How do the terms “Justice” and “Human Dignity” foreground contemporary human psychological conditions?
- **Linguistics:** How do African languages and borrowed colonial languages like English, Portuguese and French represent “Justice” and “Human Dignity”? What are possible implications for both language users and affected communities?
- **Sociology:** How do traditional/borrowed cultural interpretation(s) of “Justice” and “Human Dignity” affect people and society in Africa?
- **Media:** How have current media practices reflected ideas and practices of “Justice” and “Human Dignity” in Africa? What are the implications?
- **Economics:** How have ideas of “Justice” and “Human Dignity” affected traditional/borrowed economic theories/practices in Africa?
- **Gender Studies:** How have conjectures on “Justice” and “Human Dignity” determined gender relations in both traditional and modern cultural settings in Africa?
- **Children:** What role do toys (or other issues associated with children) serve in promoting ideas on “Justice” and “Human Dignity” among children?
- **Technology:** With focus on internet, social networking, mobile cell phones and other technological developments, how has technology changed, expanded or limited our notions of “Justice” and “Human Dignity” in Africa’s respective cultures?

The Steering Group welcomes only online submission of original Abstract (250-300 words), short author biography (100-200 words) and full draft paper (max. length 8,000 words including notes and bibliography) by **15th May 2013**. Recommended Documentation styles are APA 6th Edition (for papers in Behavioural sciences) and MLA 7th edition (for papers in Humanities). Submitted abstracts should include the following in this order: a) author(s), b) affiliation, c) email address, d) title of abstract, e) body of abstract, f) up to 6 key words.

Please note that while receipt of all entries will be acknowledged, only scholars whose papers are successful in the blind peer-review process will be further contacted for publication details.

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