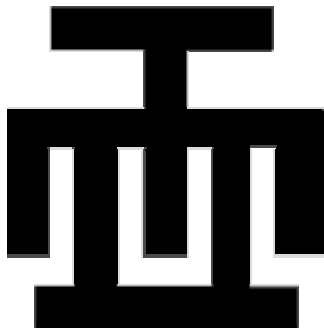


# Soul Session 101: Africological Engagement



*Hwe Mu Dua*, our ‘measuring stick’ Adinkra symbol from the Akan of Ghana and the Gyaman of Cote d'Ivoire which represents examination and quality control, stressing the need to strive for the best quality, whether in production of goods or in human endeavors provides the glue for our Africological journey of scholarly engagement in this edition of *The Journal of Pan African Studies*.

Thus, welcome to another edition of *The Journal of Pan African Studies*. I am pleased to also welcome Weckea D. Lilly, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of African American Studies at Temple University, and Asafa Jalata, a professor of Sociology and Global Studies and interim director of the Africana Studies Program at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville to our editorial board. I am sure they will add splendid value to our work.

Our vol. 3, no. 2 issue with ‘Demographics and Profile: The Most Cited Black Scholars in the Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities’ by Amadu Jacky Kaba of Seton Hall University which engaged a quantitative examination of the demographics and profile of a 2009 *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* annual study of the most cited Black scholars in the Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities in the United States interestingly created a flurry of responses. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (<http://chronicle.com/blogPost/Study-Shows-How-a-Few-Elite/8337/>) and *The New York Times* (<http://freakonomics.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/09/30/a-scholar-to-keep-your-eye-on/>) mentioned the article, sending our monthly visitor statistics over the normal levels (approaching 10,000 visits). Consequently, we are pleased by the exposure, we thank all who visited, and sincerely hope they will return to read this issue, along with all of our future editions.

In this issue we have a fine interview of author (*Rastafari: Roots and Ideology; Rastafari and Other African-Caribbean Worldviews*) and University of the West Indies professor (Social Anthropology) Barry Chevannes by University Michel de Montaigne Bordeaux 3 Ph.D. candidate (Department of Anglophone Studies) Jérémie Kroubo Dagnini, and seven articles that judiciously address social philosophy, politics, literature, history, and the arts.

Our first article by professor Vivian Yenika-Agbaw of the department of Curriculum and Instruction (Language and Literacy Education program) and affiliate faculty member in African, African American Studies at The Pennsylvania State University discusses the challenges many African immigrants face as they raise their children in the United States, and thus argue that their life is further complicated by issues related to racial and ethnic identities.

Second, we have an introduction presented by Paul Von Blum (Senior Lecturer at the Ralph J. Bunch Center for African American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles) to the work of Charles White (1918-1979), one of the finest American artists of the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century and a giant figure in African American art history who throughout his career combined outstanding technical skill as a painter and printmaker with a lifelong commitment to chronicling the hopes and struggles of the African American community. And third, we have an investigation of the stylistic elements employed by multi-instrumentalist musician, composer, and Afrobeat pioneer Felá Anikulapo Kuti (1938-1997) during the highlife jazz era organized by Albert O. Oikelome of the Creative Arts Department at the University of Lagos.

Next we engage four new topics in philosophy, literature, politics and recent history as Ali Khangela Hlongwane, the chief curator of MuseuMAfricA in Johannesburg, South Africa provide reflections on the Pan Africanist Congress underground during the era of the 1976 youth uprisings; Nesbeth Grand of the Department of African Languages and Literature at the Great Zimbabwe University analyses Solomon Mutsvairo's *Mapondera: Soldier of Zimbabwe* (1978), *Mweya wa Nehanda* (1988) and *Chaminuka: Prophet of Zimbabwe* (1983) as recreations of the history of Zimbabwe in fictional terms, and thus looks at these novels in relation to the events that preceded the second Chimurenga (the guerrilla war against the British settlers' minority regime of Rhodesia 1966-1980) in Zimbabwe; a discussion on the African Union by Stephen Okhonmina of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Igbinedion University that examines three basis of the African Union, namely the conviction that it will be able to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world; the desire to make Africa contemporarily relevant and its need to create a united Africa that can resist Western influence, and last, a paper on the Shona conception of euthanasia by Munyaradzi Mawere of the Department of Humanities at the Universidade Pedagogica in Mozambique that critically reflects on the position of euthanasia maintained by the Shona through *tsumo* (proverbs), *zviraḥwe* (riddles), *madimikira* (idioms) and *ngano* (folklore) traditionally used to inculcate traditional values, customary laws and the general rules of Shona society.

In unity,

Itibari M. Zulu  
Senior Editor