

Introduction

The passion behind floating a learned journal like this in the 21st century is driven by the need to ensure that research across disciplines, space and time can engage in conversation without borders. This then explains why in producing the surface version of *African Nebula*, the editorial board also decided that the challenge of restricted circulation must be tackled by producing simultaneously an online version on a credible template. The A-rated journal *Nebula: A Journal of Multidisciplinary Scholarship*, a journal residing at the college of Arts at the University of Western Sydney, whose editorial team is led by the journal's founder, Dr Samar Habib, provided the perfect template for *African Nebula*. We are therefore pleased to introduce to you the inaugural issue of *African Nebula*. We would also like to thank our international editorial advisers: Samar Habib, Chris Fleming, Isaac Kamola, Joseph Benjamin Afful and Michael Angelo Tata for agreeing to act as consultants with us about the journal's operations. We thank in the same spirit, the Osun State University and all members of the local editorial board for their encouragement and support in making our dream a reality.

In this maiden edition, there is a range of interesting articles from disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. They explore issues which verge on colonial history, demography, literature and the burgeoning field of the Nigerian film industry otherwise known as Nollywood. E.O. Ibiloye's paper, "Diplomacy and Emirate Formation" interrogates a tetchy and controversial historical issue about the evolutionary process in the integration of the Igbomina ethnic group into the formation of the Ilorin Emirate in pre-colonial Nigeria. Ibiloye concludes that in spite of the avalanche of accounts on the integration process, there is enough reason to argue that more than anything else, diplomacy accounted in the main for the success of the integration. On his part, Oluwatoyin Oduntan's paper challenges the widely held view about hierarchy, exclusionism and absolute performance of power in pre-colonial Egba society. In driving home his point, the author demonstrates how the flexibility of power structure encouraged the emergence of various elite power structures which challenged and complemented one another. So much so, that the rendition of the transition from a pre-colonial power structure to a modern one can only be understood as a model in gradualism and not a sudden and total displacement of the traditional by the modern.

In a manner that links the past directly with the present, knowing that the present often obtains from the past, Tunde Decker's "Social Welfare Strategy in Colonial Lagos" provides vistas into how the advent of colonialism in Lagos brought with it a recrudescence of poverty. Conversely, much as the colonial government adopted measures to stem the poverty rate emanating from this colonial administration, the strategies adopted proved to be ineffective, thus resulting in an aggravation of poverty. In similar vein, Simeon Maravanyika's and Frans Huijzenveld's paper examines the failure of imperial Britain in colonial Zimbabwe or Southern Rhodesia to establish an adequate and productive white settler population through her exclusionary measure of endorsing the migration of only "good quality" settlers. On account of this, the exclusionary measure resulted in the creation of a flawed labour demography and ultimately made the exclusionary measure adopted between 1890 and 1948 counter-productive. In looking at the economic history of the Nile Valley region, Michael

Ogbeidi centrally locates countries like Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea Sudan and Somalia, tracing the developments from the distant past to present times, concluding that much as the transformation in the economies of these states is evident, there is still “room for accelerated advancement”.

Mariusz Krasniewski’s paper which underlines the role of literature as historical record is an exploration of the concept of border crossings via the vehicle of literature. His study of Hausa prose fiction is remarkable in its tracing and reconstruction of cultural borders as melting pots of diverse social and life practices. Agatha Ukata joins issue with Nollywood, Nigeria’s fast growing cinematic industry, interrogating its representation and portrayal of women in its manifold forms. Meanwhile, Rotimi Fasan’s paper follows in both diachronic and synchronic terms the contours of Nigerian Literature as a disciplinary practice, highlighting both the thematic and aesthetic features of the literature from the period predating literacy to contemporary times with its mainstreaming of female writings and concerns.

We therefore, invite prospective readers into the world of *African Nebula* with this inaugural edition.

Olukoya Ogen

Executive Editor, *African Nebula*, Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria.