

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE

It is a delightful task for me to announce the second English-language issue of the Hungarian Journal of African Studies (HJAS). Our determined plan is to annually publish such issues and make HJAS more known internationally. The so-to-say 'mother journal', the Hungarian-language Afrika Tanulmányok, has been running for fourteen years without interruption, and has become a core source of scientifically sound information about Africa in Hungary and beyond, so we firmly believe that we have established the base for more international collaboration.

Our second English-language issue presents six articles, most of them stemming from discussions at the joint Ethio-Hungarian conference held on October 25th, 2019, in Addis Ababa. As Ambassador Attila Koppány underlines it in his Opening Remarks to our issue, the event contributed to the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of official diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Hungary, and allowed existing partnerships between Hungarian and Ethiopian universities to further develop. As a result, after thorough peer review several academic pieces were selected for our special issue. First, Balázs Szélinger offers an essay about similar historical experiences and what the Hungarian way might shed light on in terms of transition. Then, Ali Ahmed Abdi puts forward an account that explains the image of Ethiopia's democratic transition in 2018. Third, Meressa Tsehay Gebrewahd discusses the policy reforms based on 'neo-pan-Ethiopianism', which according to him, opened the box of Pandora of secessionist, irredentist, and federalist forces. His article focusses on investigating the nation-building aspirations, transition fatigue, the predicaments of secessionist, federalist, and assimilationist narratives, and the subsequent fear of 'state collapse' in the post-2018 crisis in Ethiopia. Miftah Mohamed Kemal's sharp article analyses the challenges and opportunities for a political transition in Ethiopia using comparative data analysis and various presentation methods, drawing attention to what is missing in the Ethiopian experience of transition so far is the changing of governments through elections. Chuol Kompuok presents a case study showing the consequences of land tenure policy on the environment enhancing reforestation as a means of ascertaining tenure security in the Gambella region. And the final piece by Szilárd Biernaczky is again an essay, this time, about Afrocentrism.

The third issue is already in the making, but let me underline that HJAS expects submissions from a wide range of disciplines within the realm of interdisciplinary African Studies. Please, consult our Guidelines for Authors.

Finally, I wish to thank the University of Pécs and the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta for their continuous support.

Dr. István Tarrósy
Editor of HJAS