

CALL FOR PAPERS



Emerging Discourses on Health Development and Innovation in Contemporary Africa: A Critical Examination

Editors: Joseph J. Bangura and Chinekwu A. Obidoa

As the cradle of human civilizations and the birthplace of science and innovation, Africa is the most diverse continent in terms of genetics, languages, and ethnicities, physical and human geography. The colonial domination of Africa left African societies broken and traumatized in multiple dimensions. Clearly, colonization led to the reorganization of the health, social and cultural systems of African societies; it ushered in a new era in which the healthcare and well-being of Africans were impacted and shaped by external hegemonic forces. Put differently, many of the health systems established in various African countries during the colonial period were grossly inadequate and inefficient to meet the population's healthcare needs. These challenges have persisted in the postindependence period. Consequently, African countries have had to rely heavily on foreign donors and lenders to support health and development initiatives to address the many health challenges such as HIV/AIDS, unnatural hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity. In particular, the imposition of Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) in the 1980s by the IMF and World Bank on many African countries seeking loans from these institutions undermined the health and social systems of these countries and further rendered health care delivery across the continent ineffectual, decrepit and surfeit with poor management and endemic corruption. The inadequacies in healthcare delivery and the heavy burden of infectious diseases called for unprecedented measures and approaches in responding to Africa's many health needs and challenges. In brief, it is imperative for Africa to take the lead in finding African-based solutions to its ecological disruptions and health challenges.

The recent outbreak of the coronavirus disease has sparked discourses and narratives on health development, public health and technological capabilities in Africa. While some of the discourses are objectively critical, others are reductionist and are anchored on superficial renditions. A close examination of the literature shows that African-based innovation, indigenous approaches, traditional medicine systems and traditional technologies have adequately responded to Covid-19, malnutrition, Ebola Virus Disease and Malaria, among others. As a matter of fact, several African countries such as Senegal, Ghana, Madagascar, and Rwanda have undertaken innovative methods in addressing the threat posed by COVID-19 to its citizens resulting in a relatively low mortality rate from the disease. In addition, home-grown initiatives have also been effective in responding adequately to a plethora of social determinants that shape health outcomes. These positive developments are overlooked by some scholars and health experts based in the global North.

Thus, the editors of this volume invite chapters based on original research from scholars of all backgrounds that explore emerging discourses, narratives and counter-narratives on health development and innovation in contemporary Africa.

Specifically, we invite

chapters that focus on any of the undermentioned themes:

Infectious and non-Infectious Disease Epidemiology
African Epistemic (Indigenous) Practices and Technologies
Cultural Innovation in Health Interventions
Home-Grown Solutions in Health Promotion and Intervention
History, Colonialism, Politics and Civil Society
Social Determinants and Health Outcomes
Infectious Diseases and Africa-bred Solutions
Emerging Narratives and Counter-Narratives on Health and Health Development
Immunology Therapeutics and Pharmaceutical Production
Health Innovation and the Structural Adjustment Program
Waste Resourcing and Management
People-Centered Health Systems: Prevention, Primary Care and Public Health
Informatics and Health Development
Medical Anthropology
Governance and Global Health
Climate Change and Health Development
Internal Migration, Population and Urbanization

Submission and Formatting Details:

Please send a 350-word abstract to the editors not later than September 30, 2020, in MS word with a 12-point font to: **emergingdiscourses@gmail.com**. Please submit your contact information along with your abstract. You will be notified of acceptance or rejection of your abstract on October 30, 2020.

Note: because we anticipate a large volume of submissions, abstracts received after the due date will be rejected.
Formatting: Please use the American Psychological Association (APA) Style Manual for referencing and citations.

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Editors Profile:

Dr. Joseph J. Bangura is Professor of History and Director of African Studies at Kalamazoo College. He has published widely on the social history of colonial Sierra Leone and is the author of *The Temne of Sierra Leone: African Agency in the Making of a British Colony*.

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