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## Editorial

We are pleased to usher in Volume 2, Number 1 of the multidisciplinary *Journal of Sociology and Development*. We have lived up to our goal of sustaining the journal, thanks to a growing interest amongst authors to publish with us. The constructive feedback from the first Issue has propelled us to forge ahead. Our goal remains the same: publishing original, scientific, and professional articles. This sounds like an ideal. But it is the one we must pursue and promote. We would like to encourage young authors to write and not to give up on this. Their ideas matter and the future belongs to them. Senior researchers and academics are equally invited to send us their manuscripts as some of them have done in this Issue. We have a team of excellent reviewers: They are instrumental in maintaining the quality of the JSD. We count on them and the international Editorial Board to take the JSD to the next level as we apply to go online this year. In this Issue we inaugurate a Book Review section. Thank you all for keeping the JSD spirit alive.

As with the first Issue, this Volume spotlights some of the social and development-related questions that are most compelling and urgent in Africa with local and international relevance. The three themes that characterize this Volume are children and youths, socio-economic development, and the African academia. With one of the fastest population growth rates, which results in one of the youngest populations, the African continent and its policy makers cannot but focus their attention and direct their efforts to the position and well-being of their children and youths as the key for the development of the whole continent. The first two articles in this Issue tackle very different, though equally urgent, aspects of being young in Africa. In the first article, Massawe attempts to address the controversial and complex question of Child-on-Child sexual abuse in Tanzanian schools. Despite many episodes of such abuses as also reported in the press, the topic has been worryingly understudied. The author has studied the problem in primary schools in rural Tanzania and identified different areas related to the problem, from awareness and risk factors to the surrounding contextual situation that creates the conditions for the abuses to occur. These areas also constitute potential areas of interventions of which the author proposes a few to aid the government tackle the problem effectively. Moving on from children to youths, this time in the Rivers State in Nigeria, the second article by Asadu and Ayuwo is another context-specific account this time of the widespread experiences of social media use (Facebook) that characterizes the lives of many youths. Being a tremendous tool that enables boundless and virtual experiences and friendship, particularly enticing to youths all over the world, Facebook, the authors argue, can also be a powerful tool for rural

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grassroots development in the African context. Unlike popular thinking that considers rural areas untouched by or marginally benefitting from the digital revolution, the authors identify in Facebook a powerful tool for the revitalization of development in rural areas and for subverting a long-lasting development model centred around investments in the urban areas. The third article by Rutagwelera wraps up the section and theme on children and youths in Africa with a sophisticated philosophical essay on John Locke's doctrine of paternal power. Rutagwelera's investigation revolves around the rejection of forms of *innatism* as to social and political relationships between individuals in society. Such perspective involves as well the relationships between fathers and children and the 'power' of the first to 'rule' over the second by a 'divine' right. The philosophical concept as unpacked by the author has social and political implications for the development of individuals in society especially as to the necessity to determine the age of maturity at which conscious decisions and acts can be taken. While disentangled from any specific geographical context, the analysis of the paternal power concept and related implications are of great relevance and urgency for the African continent and its fast changing age and generational relationships, given the controversial effects that throughout history a fundamentally 'patriarchal' society has meant for Africans.

The second theme in the Volume features four articles that in different and innovative ways address questions of socio-economic development in Africa. The traditionally symbiotic relation between development, society and well-being in Africa is addressed in the first pair of articles from a gender perspective. Mbilinyi and Jeckoniah as well as Mkamwa and Jotta call for a heightened attention to the role and contribution of women to national development by attempting to statistically analyze women empowerment. While Mbilinyi and Jeckoniah take participation in government-led initiatives such as TASAF for vulnerable groups as proxy for women empowerment, Mkamwa and Jotta turn their attention to religion which especially in the context of Africa cannot be detached from the social, economic and political spheres of life. Both articles paint an encouraging picture with women in the first case experiencing empowerment in the family and economic spheres, and in the second case enjoying an increase in the quality of performance at work which translates in a more fulfilling overall work experience. In the third article within the socio-economic development theme, Gilarowski utilizes an innovative research approach to conduct a broad-scale survey analysis of perception of climate change in Tanzania. Based on wealth of data from a wide number of respondents in all regions of the country, the author endeavours to assess the perceived climatic change and urges the adoption of measures for adjusting policies and practices in agriculture on which the country is highly dependent. Finally, Rugaimukamu grasps the importance of the strategic role of small and medium-

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sized enterprises in Tanzania in fast changing markets where ‘local products’ gain terrain in competing with imported goods. The article analyzes consuming behavior among Tanzanians and constitutes an important addition to knowledge for the sector of local products to tailor their business strategies based on target groups of consumers.

The third and last theme of this Volume is closely intertwined with the first two. Many African countries have tied the knot between education of their youths through the advancement of the higher education sector and socio-economic development. Tanzania has witnessed a tremendous expansion of the higher education sector with a mushrooming of private institutions. To grasp the directions of this expansion is to predict the future of the country as a whole and anticipate challenges to tackle. In the first article within the theme, Nkyabonaki addresses the question of leadership and gender at the Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy in Tanzania by looking at the electoral process for selecting students’ representatives. The investigation reveals an endurance of patriarchal values among students which limit female students’ participation and relegate their role to cheerers and voters. The importance of this and further research in the field of student leadership lies in its potential to pave the way for stronger and wider female participation and equality within universities but with much broader implications in the outside society where the students of today become the leaders of tomorrow. Finally, Mutalemwa broadens the breadth of analysis of African academia to internationalization and diaspora, two inevitably connected phenomena linked to the expansion of the sector. By drawing from the experience of African academics in Germany and their role in revitalizing universities in their mother countries, the author investigates the relationship between the two phenomena of the overall positive tendency to internationalization of African universities on the one hand, and the controversial increase of brain drain from Africa with African students opting to remain in the countries of study in the western world to work, in this case in Germany. The author constructs a university revitalization theory to engage the African academic diaspora in the revitalization of universities. The devising and establishing of an African academic diaspora association is called upon, among other recommendations, as a possible effective platform to enable African academic diaspora to channel efforts toward the development of academia in their mother countries.

*George Mutalemwa and Antonio Allegretti, JSD Editors*