

## Recent Books from Cameroon – Sept 2018

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### **Anthropology**

Eating and Being Eaten : Cannibalism as Food for Thought / (Ed) Francis B. Nyamnjoh  
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2018  
x, 350p. ; 229x152mm.  
Includes Index  
9956550965 ; 9789956550968  
\$ 35.00 / PB  
550gm.

This innovative book is an open invitation to a rich and copious meal of imagination, senses and desires. It argues that cannibalism is practised by all and sundry. In love or in hate, fear or fascination, purposefulness or indifference, individuals, cultures and societies are actively cannibalising and being cannibalised. The underlying message of: 'Own up to your own cannibalism!' is convincingly argued and richly substantiated.

The book brilliantly and controversially puts cannibalism at the heart of the self-assured biomedicine, globalising consumerism and voyeuristic social media. It unveils a vast number of prejudices, blind spots and shameful othering. It calls on the reader to consider a morality and an ethics that are carefully negotiated with required sensibility and sensitivity to the fact that no one and no people have the monopoly of cannibalisation and of creative improvisation in the game of cannibalism. The productive, transformative and (re)inventive understanding of cannibalism argued in the book should bring to the fore one of the most vital aspects of what it means to be human in a dynamic world of myriad interconnections and enchantments. To nourish and cherish such a productive form of cannibalism requires not only a compassionate generosity to let in and accommodate the stranger knocking at the door, but also, and more importantly, a deliberate effort to reach in, identify,

contemplate, understand, embrace and become intimate with the stranger within us, individuals and societies alike.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=416252>

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Like A Bridge Over Troubled Water : An Ethnography on Strategies of Bodily Navigation of Male Refugees in Cape Town / Leah Davina Junck

Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2018

x, 86p. ; 203x127mm.

Includes Bibliography

9956550019 ; 9789956550012

\$ 20.00 / PB

118gm.

In spite of South Africa's progressive constitution, citizen's intolerance of non-citizens, refugees and economic migrants has escalated in recent years. What is more, xenophobic attacks are covered in the public discourse as mere episodes of crisis and often rather fuel rhetoric of national machismo than leading to an acknowledgement of the stories and experiences of people seeking refuge and being exposed to hostility on an everyday basis. This ethnography engages with the strategies employed by a group of refugee men from different African countries in surviving and stabilising their existence in the 'mother city' Cape Town in the face of precarity. It grapples with questions of how the men manage to bring about certainty in the face of unpredictability and extends its focus to the men's dreams and the modes by which these are sought to be achieved. It thereby highlights the ways in which objectifications as refugees and less-than-human are somewhat transcended by navigating spaces with care, purpose and imagination.

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### **Economics/Development Studies**

Rethinking Securities in an Emergent Technoscientific New World Order : Retracing the Contours for Africa's Hi-jacked Futures / (Ed)

Munyaradzi Mawere & Artwell Nhemachena

Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa Research & Publishing Common Initiative Group, 2018

xiv, 418p. ; 229 x 152mm.

9956764116 ; 9789956764112

\$ 40.00 / PB

656gm.

The emergent technoscientific New World Order is being legitimised through discourses on openness and inclusivity. The paradox is that openness implies vulnerability and insecurities, particularly where closure would offer shelter. While some actors, including NGOs, preach openness of African societies, Africans clamour for protection, restitution and restoration. Africans struggle for ownership and access to housing, for national, cultural, religious, economic, and social belonging that would offer them the necessary security and protection, including protection from the global vicissitudes and matrices of power. In the presence of these struggles, to presuppose openness would be to celebrate vulnerability and insecurities.

This book examines ways in which emergent technologies expose Africans and, more generally, peoples of the global south to political, economic, social, cultural and religious shocks occasioned by the coloniality of the global matrices of power. It notes that there is the use – by global elites – of technologies to incite postmodern revolutions designed to compound the vicissitudes and imponderables in the already unsettled lives of people north and south. Particularly targeted by these technologies are African and other governments that do not cooperate in the fulfilment of the interests of the hegemonic global elites. The book is handy to students and practitioners in security studies, African studies, development studies, global studies, policy studies, and political science.

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People-Centred Public Works Programmes : A Strategy of Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development in sub-Saharan Africa / Costain Tandi & Munyaradzi Mawere

Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2018

viii, 154p.

9789956550487

\$ 25.00 / PB

Poverty has long been a developmental challenge in the Global South in general and in sub-Saharan Africa in particular. With a fifth, mainly from the rural areas of the world, living below the poverty datum line, the world has a huge challenge to reduce poverty, worse still to eradicate it from the face of the earth. A target was set through the 2000-2015 United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and subsequently through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to reduce poverty by at least half by the years 2015 and 2030 respectively. In pursuing this goal, livelihoods of poor people though meeting with serious challenges, especially in rural areas, play a major role.

This book explores the role played by people-centred Public Works Programmes in the fight against poverty and the development of rural communities in Africa.

Whereas a number of countries in Africa have been approaching the issue of poverty through several interventions including Public Works Schemes, it is sad to note that poverty still tops the rankings among numerous economic and social challenges facing the continent. One wonders whether the public works strategy is misguided, misconstrued or mismanaged considering that its main objective is to make the unemployed more employable through the provision of temporary employment and training opportunities. The book concludes that Public Works Programmes, if well managed and people-centred, are one of the best ways to alleviate and even eradicate poverty in rural Africa, as it allows governments to make partnership with people, and facilitates implementation while giving space for economic self-sustenance, growth and development.

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Jokey Horse-Jockey North-South Rapport : Diagnostic-cum-Prognostic-Academic Perspectives on Who Truly Depends on Whom / Nkwazi N. Mhango  
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2018

x, 224p. ; 229x152mm.

9956550361 ; 9789956550364

\$ 30.00 / PB

364gm.

No doubt. North-South relationship involving poor and rich countries is very convoluted; based and built on exploitative, unequal and unfair equilibria. It is purely jockey-horse-like connubium that serves one party as it disserves the other. This is why deconstructing and detoxifying this relationship is sine qua non. The author argues that the parties in this relationship must revisit it to make sure it equally benefits both for the benefit of the whole world. Importantly, the major question posed is: Why did the two global halves maintain and tolerate such toxic rapport while knowingly it is but colonial and unjust? The question is answered in this academic treatise which asks the parties to hark back; and thereby do justice to each other by viewing themselves as humans with shared needs and future whose lesson from the past may buttress them to be major thespians in realising world peace. This is because their parasitic relationship has fueled many conflicts revolving around the struggle for controlling resources in the South in order to sell to the North

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Reconfigured Agrarian Relations in Zimbabwe / Toendepi Shonhe  
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2018  
xxiv, 336p. ; 229 x 152mm.  
9956764213 ; 9789956764211  
\$ 35.00 / PB  
535gm.

Radical land reform programmes generate changes in agrarian structures and capital accumulation trajectories in the countryside. This book examines how capital accumulation is being reshaped by changing financing and marketing of agricultural commodities and presents an emerging Quadi-PMMR-model agrarian structure composed of the poor, middle, middle-to-rich peasants and some rich capitalists with a growing middle scale farmer base constituting two thirds of the rural population in Zimbabwe. This evidence based assessment, 15 years after the FTLRP, sheds light on policy outcomes and impacts on communities, revealing the changing production, marketing, capital accumulation and class formation tendencies across Zimbabwe's settlement models and agro-ecological settings. The book fuses the reliance on agrarian political economy lenses and factor component analysis to reveal the dynamics of agrarian change and to explore the dialectic between production and circulation and between the centre and periphery in exceptional fashion that expands our understanding of Zimbabwe's agrarian transition.

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The Open Veins of Africa : The Dynamic of Extractive Accumulation of Dispossession in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Africa / Tatab Mentan  
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2018  
xvi, 432p. ; 229x152mm.  
9956550132 ; 9789956550135  
\$ 45.00 / PB  
682gm.

#### Book Details:

There is no discussion on Africa today that does not make reference to the contradiction that exists between its wealth of natural resources and the poverty of most of its people. Africa is not a poor continent, and not all Africans are poor. Yet Africa is depicted as the world's poorest continent, where the majority of people live with no access to clean water, decent health care, education and electricity, and struggle to survive in the face of high levels of unemployment, poverty and inequality. This is the reality we see all around the continent. The reason, according to Professor Tatab Mentan, is that extractive foreign industries and the competition to access natural resources envelop parasitic African

governments in a web of unaccountability, corruption, repression, and rent-seeking. The love affair between many African governments and international corporations—and the optimistic power of the “Africa rising” narrative—are obscuring harsh realities, namely that many Africans are deprived of benefiting from the exploitation of their own natural resources. In many of these high growth countries, citizens now believe that they are paying too high a price for economic growth, which does not trickle down to them. There is a new wind blowing across the continent and it is bringing with it increasing demands for Africa’s resources to benefit Africans. And past relations between extractive imperialists and puppet African governments are under scrutiny. This book dissects the dynamics of the politics of natural resource extraction in Africa that resolves into a matter of class struggle. This class struggle is visible at the level of combatting the workings of capitalism and imperialism in the interest of the dominant international class of corporatocrats and its African parasitic class, and simultaneously mobilizing forces against those exploitative and oppressive interests. Tatab Mentan’s book is therefore a MUST READ for students, researchers, social scientists examining the political economy of contemporary imperialism, policy makers, and corporate managers.

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## History

Africa in the Colonial Ages of Empire : Slavery, Capitalism, Racism, Colonialism, Decolonization, Independence as Recolonization, and Beyond / Tatab Mentan  
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2018  
x, 498p.  
9956764094 ; 9789956764099  
\$ 58.00 / PB  
894gm.

Words like “colonialism” and “empire” were once frowned upon in the U.S. and other Western mainstream media as worn-out left-wing rhetoric that didn’t fit reality. Not anymore! Tatab Mentan observes that a growing chorus of right-wing ideologues, with close ties to the Western administrations’ war-making hawks in NATO, are encouraging Washington and the rest of Europe to take pride in the expansion of their power over people and nations around the globe. Africa in the Colonial Ages of Empire is written from the perspective that the scholarly lives of academics researching on Africa are changing, constantly in flux and increasingly bound to the demands of Western

colonial imperialism. This existential situation has forced the continent to morph into a tool in the hands of Colonial Empire. According to Tatabh Mentan, the effects of this existential situation of Africa compel serious academic scrutiny. At the same time, inquiry into the African predicament has been changing and evolving within and against the rhythms of this “new normal” of Colonial Empire-Old or New. The author insists that the long and bloody history of imperial conquest that began with the dawn of capitalism needs critical scholarly examination. As Marx wrote in *Capital*: “The discovery of gold and silver in America, the extirpation, enslavement and entombment in mines of the aboriginal population, the beginning of the conquest and looting of the East Indies, the turning of Africa into a warren for the commercial hunting of black-skins, signaled the rosy dawn of the era of capitalist production. These idyllic proceedings are the chief moment of primitive accumulation.” Africa in the Colonial Ages of Empire is therefore a MUST-READ for faculty, students as well as policy makers alike in the changing dynamics of their profession, be it theoretically, methodologically, or structurally and materially.

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Migration from Malawi to South Africa : A Historical & Cultural Novel :  
Real-life Experiences / Harvey C. Chidoba Banda  
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2018  
xiv, 142p.  
9956763950 ; 9789956763955  
\$ 25.00 / PB  
190gm.

Since the discovery and exploitation of minerals like gold, diamond and copper in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Malawi has played the role of a labour supplier. Malawians were attracted by the relatively higher wages obtaining in the South African mines up to the period of the decline in mine migrancy at the end of the 1980s. Following this decline, a cross-section of Malawians continued to emigrate to South Africa to seek various jobs in the burgeoning informal sector and also for trade purposes.

Migration from Malawi to South Africa sheds light on the problems that labour migrants and traders encounter as they are ‘toing’ and ‘froing’ between Malawi and South Africa in pursuit of their respective goals. It shows that migration, which initially was exclusively done for wage employment, is becoming more complex by the day. This is a result of the infusion of elements of commercial migration, smuggling and human

trafficking. The book advances the argument that the numbers of migrants to South Africa increased in the post-1994 period partly as a result of mal-administration by the successive democratically-elected governments in Malawi. This development weakened Malawi's otherwise promising economy and impoverished the rural masses. The book 'sees' forlorn hope in the future of labour migrants and traders, unless the Malawi Government starts to genuinely have the welfare of the populace at heart! The book is relevant and accessible to policy-makers, university and college students interested in migration studies, general readers and migrants, themselves.

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## Literature

Kneel. Ashes. Seppuku / Ashely Ropafadzo Tome  
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langa RPCIG, 2018  
264p. ; 203 x 127mm.  
9956763837 ; 9789956763832  
\$ 25.00 / PB  
305gm.

A delinquent son, a barren woman, troubled marriages, a reunion between old childhood friends, and all manner of family drama. This novel's sudden twists and turns have all the makings of a relatable African saga. Tinashe is an intelligent and vibrant young man who is sent to the city of Gweru to further his education at Midlands State University by his father. He is staying with his aunt Margaret who is always fighting with her son Cephas. Tinashe is looking forward to enjoying life and having a great time in the city but things do not seem to be in parallel with his expectations. He later realises this when he is wrongly accused of murdering his aunt, Margaret.

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Thorn and Roses : A Play / Frida M. Mbunda-Nekang  
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langa RPCIG, 2018

x, 74p.

9956763233 ; 9789956763238

\$ 17.00 / PB

105gm.

“When a pen which drips woman, academic, mother, wife, teacher and administrator proposes to visit the stage, we expect the product to be as complex as the person. And we will be entirely justified in our expectation given that the stage more often than not is that place which captures and dramatizes our core selves in all their complexity. Thorns and Roses is produced by just that kind of pen. But in spite of her multi-layered identity, Frida Mbunda has succeeded in writing a play whose greatest attractions lie in its unassuming, down-to-earth appeal. It is the story of a single-parent home where a mother dedicates her life to her loving but vulnerable single daughter. As its title suggests, the play employs the allegorical archetype to colour the stage with characters and issues of immediate relevance. Womanhood is at the centre of Mbunda’s dramatic quest. She knows that being a woman means being exposed to the attractions of shortcuts to happiness.”

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