

Recent Books from Cameroon – Feb 2021

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Anthropology

From Handmaiden of Colonialism to Esteemed Discipline : Professor Paul Nchoji Nkwi on the Reinvention of Anthropology in Africa (In Conversation with Ivoline Kefen Budji) / Paul Nchoji Nkwi
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2021
iv, 128p. ; 203x127mm.
9789956551927
\$ 24.00 / PB
150gm.

This book documents key features in the life of the father of anthropology in Cameroon, Professor Paul Nchoji Nkwi. The conversations within these pages chronicle, in his own words, how he came to anthropology and how the discipline shaped and still shapes his trajectory. One work does not suffice to elucidate all that Nkwi has contributed to the discipline of Anthropology in Cameroon and beyond; nevertheless, this book is a starting point. As the founding president of the Pan-African Association of Anthropologists (PAAA), Nkwi has been a trail blazer, sowing the seeds, nurturing the shoots, and grooming budding African anthropologists in their investigation of that great anthropological question: what it means to be human. In discussing the transformation of anthropology from the handmaiden of colonialism to the advocate of identity, voice, and a means for Africa to engage with and interact within contemporary society, Nkwi reveals insights regarding, among others, the birth and growth of the discipline in Cameroon, the founding of the PAAA, and the applicability of the subject to the changing and challenging landscape that characterizes today's globalized world. Likewise, blending theory and practice, he weaves a formidable tale of anthropological thought from an Africanist perspective through his notion of an African Pragmatic Socialism as a way

of delving into, making sense of, and addressing the reality of the 21st century on the African continent and possibly beyond.

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<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=755118>

Economics/Development Studies

Global Capital's 21st Century Repositioning : Between COVID-19 and the Fourth Industrial Revolution on Africa / (Eds) Rewai Makamani, Artwell Nhemachena & Oliver Mtapuri

Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2021

xvi, 350p. ; 229x152mm.

9789956551804

\$ 40.00 / PB

556gm.

What happens at the interface between Afrocentricity and COVID-19 is cause for wonder in a world that is anxious to short circuit global solidarity by trampling Pan-Africanism. Revolutions, including the Fourth Industrial Revolution, are rarely contextualised within the framework of Pan-Africanism and Afrocentricity even when they are celebrated as beneficial to the world. Interfacing Afrocentricity, COVID-19, Pan-Africanism and the

Fourth Industrial Revolution, this book teases out the profound challenges of the 21st century. Calling for African solutions premised on African solidarity, the book critically engages the contemporary technological solutionism and technological evangelism that undergirds the Fourth Industrial Revolution and efforts to find vaccines for COVID-19.

Unflinchingly interrogating these issues, the book is useful for scholars and activists in education, African languages, sociology, social anthropology, political science, history, religious studies, development studies, communication, medical sciences and legal studies.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=755119>

After Radical Land Reforms : Restructuring Agricultural Cooperatives in Zimbabwe and Japan / Rangarirai Gavin Muchetu

Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2021

xi, 374p. ; 229x152mm.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789956551910

\$ 50.00 / PB

572gm.

Comparing the Zimbabwean and Japanese agrarian experience may sound impossible. Still, the similarities in the socio-economic and political realities of their respective radical land reforms and grain policies provide scope for such an endeavour. This book examines the aftermath of Japan's radical land reform and the development of her cooperatives. It then compares it to the nature and character of the Zimbabwe post-land reform agrarian structure. The author collected and analysed data from three villages in Japan, and three in Zimbabwe to understand different types of cooperatives, their growths, and constraints. Three distinct types of cooperatives emerged from Japan's 70-year experience in cooperative development. One of these three was identified as providing more relevant lessons necessary for restructuring the British-Indian type of cooperatives currently obtaining in Zimbabwe. The central argument is that the radical Fast-Track Land Reform Programme provided a rare platform (as it did in Japan) to develop robust, genuine grassroots cooperatives from below. Based on a global political economy reading of agricultural production, the book sieves the pros and cons of the Japanese agricultural cooperative system with knowledge systems from the Zimbabwe movement to advance a new agricultural cooperative development framework for Zimbabwe and other post-colonial states.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=755120>

Linguistics

Transgressing Frontiers : Shifting Rhetorics in Linguistic and Literary Discourses / (Ed) Kelvin Ngong Toh

Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2021

xii, 276p. ; 229x152mm.

Includes Bibliography

9789956551453

\$ 35.00 / PB

412gm.

The focus of this book is to assess, through language and literary studies in interpretation, the epistemic representation of frontiers in its shifting and fixing categories. The contributing researchers stress on the fact that crisscrossing has taken its toll on communities and disciplines and that hegemonic positions are becoming increasingly redundant and provocative. Frontier discourse is therefore, a socio-political and culturally oriented discourse. Importing it to language and literary studies also shows that literary circles like language are equally shifting and erasing borderlines. The chapters discuss crisscrossing of frontiers both as geography and epistemology. This is in line with the new cultural ontology that opens up new interpretations and shifts from previous ones in the disciplines of Language, Linguistics, Arts and Literature.

The book pulls together a wide range of issues based on a plurality of theoretical assumptions. The issues presented are grouped into three broad sections. Section one looks at the creation of the self as a way to dismantle the other. In section two, the focus is on linguistic shifts and the fact that all languages need space in multilingual societies. And section three shows how people travel out of their homelands to seek comfort. Resourceful, insightful and incisive, the book offers depth and breadth in refined scholarship. The contributors are masterly in their handling of borderlines between ideology and iconoclasm, globalisation and nationalism, memory and nation, gender and identity, official and indigenous languages, self /other dialectics, migration and identity. The book is an invaluable asset to researchers and students with a penchant for interdisciplinarity, intertextuality, multiculturalism and globalisation.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=755121>

Literature

DJT – Directionless Jumping Train / Bill F. Ndi
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2021
vi, 48p.
9789956551088
USD 14.00 / PB
68gm.

Through a careful allusive poetic composition process, the poet takes on the aberrant oppression that a mad egocentric individual at the helm of a train forces upon his passengers and not without their complicity, and who while boarding the train are fully aware the train is one of doom. The poem comes across as the poet's reconstruction of the wrong turn in world politics from the wreckage and random distemper of a particular irate ruler with neither political modicum/wit nor understanding of the true functioning of democracy. The poem memorializes the chaos and contemporizes America in a bid to arm the oppressed with the powerful weapon that is memory.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=755122>

Aporia : Lament of an Ambazonian Revolutionary / Peter Wuteh Vakunta
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2021
x, 86p.
Includes Index
9789956551569
USD 16.00 / PB
118gm.

Aporia is a long prose poem that makes a case for the Ambazonian Revolution. It is my conviction that the task of the genuine intellectual is to speak up when no one dares to speak. When we draw a blank and cannot make sense of the events that have deeply perturbed our lives, we have recourse to the plume in a bid to externalize pent-up emotions. The impetus to write Aporia stemmed from the ongoing genocide in Cameroon; a civil war viewed by domestic and international observers as a by-product of the linguistic genocide, dysfunctional governance, lethal tribalism, brazen kleptomaniac and the deleterious governmental ineptitude that epitomize the body politic of the Republic of Cameroon. Each verse in the poem is an expression of the poet's frustration and anger in face of injustice that Anglophone Cameroonians have been the bullseye for decades.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=755123>

Performing Arts

Singing Our Unsung Heroes : (Re)Membering Manu Dibango, Celebrating Cameroon Music / (Ed) Walter Gam Nkwi
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2021
xii, 246p. ; 229x152mm.
9789956551095
\$ 35.00 / PB
398gm.

This book collates thematic reflections on Cameroon music exalting Manu Dibango, one of the first-generation Cameroonian musicians, who bowed to Covid-19 on 24 March 2020. Granted his enormous contribution to Cameroon, African and world music, one would have expected that scholarly books and encyclopaedia of recognition would be written in his honour prior to his demise. However, that was not the case. Like many other musicians in Cameroon, seemingly nothing substantial has been written about Manu Dibango and his music, with the exception, paradoxically, of his autobiography, Three Kilos of Coffee. What exists on this towering and humble giant of Cameroonian and African superstardom is scanty and mostly in the form of grey literature. We must learn to immortalise our artists and popular intellectuals beyond their entertainment value and the photo opportunities that we have with them in their lifetime. The inspiration for this book was drawn from the conviction that one of the best ways of honouring and valorising Manu Dibango would be by taking the cue from his music and then collecting essays generally on music, its role and impact in Cameroon, Africa and beyond.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=755124>

Politics

African Politics of Survival : Extraversion and Informality in the Contemporary World / (Eds) Mitsugi Endo, Ato Kwamena Onoma & Michael Neocosmos
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2021
xvi, 294p.
Includes Index

9789956551682

African Potentials: Convivial Perspectives for the Future of Humanity,

Volume 1

\$ 40.00 / PB

452gm.

This volume addresses two primary research concerns: first, considering extraversion (or extroversion) as a term for characterizing a region that is "mobilizing resources from their (possibly unequal) relationship with the external environment", a dynamic that constitutes a possible African potential; and, second, a survey of competing systems and strategies with a focus on relationships between formal and informal institutions in terms of their collaborations and conflicts. In addition, this volume contains three chapters examining very recent African responses to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic from a variety of perspectives. The final part of this volume contains an important contribution to the conceptualization of 'African Potentials'. This has proven to be a significant conceptual innovation, that allows intellectual access to alternative ways of thinking about latent ideas of universality.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=755125>
