

THE DIASPOREAN II: PERSPECTIVES FROM BEYOND SOUTHERN AFRICA

EDITOR:
Stephen Mutula



Alternation African Scholarship Book Series, Volume #16



The *Diasporean I* and *Diasporean II* research project, and two published book volumes, are dedicated to the memory of Katie Mutula (1991 - 2021).

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*The Diasporean II:
Perspectives from
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Preface

World-historical events such as the fall of the Berlin wall, and the fall of ideologies such as apartheid, opened borders for world travel and the global movements of people, like seldom before. Often driven to move away from drought and disaster-prone geographical areas, some people also move to new countries in search for better education, working, or health opportunities. For whichever decisions people move, and especially when they move with their immediate family, such movements themselves are often perilous, in addition to which one then has to set up a home, and become a member of the population of the new country of adoption.

Conceptualised by the late Katie Mutula, these two volumes of *The Diasporean*, are together, simultaneously, a prime sample of research excellence and, the power of inter-, and multidisciplinary research, focused on such a fluid social and historical phenomenon as human movement, migration, as well as challenges that accompany our diaspora communities of the world. *The Diasporean I: The Southern African Perspectives*, covers five main sections, all together presenting 11 exceptional chapters. The main topics covered are,

- financial integration, that covers issues related to financial development dynamics in both home and host countries, and access to credit;
- xenophobia and Afriphobia in the contexts of increasing forms of local nativisms and populist xenophobia on social media; and family language policies of home country languages;
- feminisation and gendered roles in migration, within transnational relations; how it impacts family life, and how diasporean experiences are also in themselves gendered, in the transnational space; and
- the significance of technology and skills transfer for developing sustainable livelihoods, and also the significance of education, in this context, especially postgraduate education.
- The final chapter in *The Diasporean I*, covers food security challenges that migrants experience in South Africa.

The Diasporean II: Perspectives from Beyond Southern Africa, likewise cover five main thematic focuses. These are,

- The study of existing diaspora policy in Africa, including how these determine challenges concerning ‘capital structure’ and the growth of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Africa, as well as philanthropy in rural areas;
- Foreign remittances bring data and related arguments to the fore, on the impact of COVID-19 on remittances, the nature, size and scale of foreign remittances from elite migrants, and how remittances also impact rural development in home countries.
- Section three develops topics on immigration policy, analyzing how diasporians’ human dignity is harmed in how they are portrayed and framed in the press, how it impacts family structures and careers, and how repatriation or deportation are portrayed by the online press in South Africa and in Britain.
- This is followed by a section on the notion of the ‘brain drain’ and skills transfer related to possibilities for multi-sectoral collaboration in the medical field, and challenges of skills transfer in diaspora contexts.
- The final section on the digital economy, addresses the acceleration of the digital economies world-wide during the COVID-19 pandemic, and investment opportunities that accompany the diaspora movements of peoples.

Each in its own way, but also as a two-volume collaborative research project, *The Diasporian I* and *The Diasporian II*, are comprehensive and are the result of incisive scholarship in a critical field of study both in South Africa and Africa more further afield.

We are thankful, that Prof. Stephen Mutula and the team who was working with the late Katie Mutula, saw the project through to its conclusion. The project itself as well as the quality of the research for the two volumes, stand as a testimony to Katie’s character and a monument in her name on behalf of all those mentioned or not mentioned, who formed part of the project, and too, those who have passed on due to migratory experiences, and the nameless ones, who got lost at sea or in sandy deserts or forests or strange countries.

Prof Johannes A. Smit
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Ms. Katie Mutula (1990 – 2021, posthumous). ‘The Diasporean’, was the brainchild of Katie Mutula. It provides an exposé of her experiences studying, working, and living for 21 years, in the Diaspora. She passed on in March 2021 at the age of 31. At the time of her passing, she was completing her

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CHAPTER 1

Editorial:

The Diasporean II: Perspectives from Beyond Southern Africa

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Introduction

This volume of *The Diasporean II: Perspectives from Beyond Southern Africa*, broadly covers the themes of Diaspora Policy Design, Capital Structure and Infrastructure Development, Foreign Remittances into or within the Southern African Region, Immigration Policies and Press Framing in the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe, Brain Drain and Skills Transfer; and the Impact of the Digital Economy on Diaspora Communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The ‘United Nations International Organization for Migration’ regularly reports global statistics of migration trends and finance outflows from the global north to the global south, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. These financial inflows significantly contribute to the recipient countries’ GDP, surpassing the official development assistance provided to them. Migrants who have moved to the host countries due to factors such as persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, disasters, education, job opportunities, and natural disasters, amongst others, contribute this money. International migration is a complex global phenomenon that brings great challenges and generates opportunities for the migrants’ home and host countries. The complexity and multidimensional nature of international migration call for robust policy and practical interventions to manage the Diaspora phenomenon responsibly in both home and host countries for the greater public good. There is also a need to develop pragmatic strategies to attract and retain productive human capital in different professional and technical fields.

The Diasporean II: Perspectives from Beyond Southern Africa, like *The Diapsorean I*, is conceived and written from an inter-, multi-, trans and cross-disciplinary perspective. This approach recognises the complex problems of international mobility and migration that are not amenable to a single disciplinary perspective. This volume presents theoretical and empirical chapters, each peer-reviewed by at least two experts in the relevant fields. The list of reviewers and their affiliations are provided separately in this volume.

The intellectual scope of the content for *The Diasporean II*, was conceived by the late Katie Musungu Mutula, who was a doctoral student and part-time lecturer in the School of Accounting, Economics, and Finance at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. *The Diapsorean II*, has therefore been completed in her honour in recognition of her intellectual thought and input before passing on in March 2021. May her soul rest in eternal peace and her legacy endure.

Diasporean II will appeal to students, scholars, the academe, international organisations, business, civil society, government, industry, and non-professionals who wish to understand or reference their personal experiences in the Diaspora.



This volume of the book *The Diasporean II: Perspectives from Beyond Southern Africa* is divided into five sections containing 13 chapters. Section I contains three chapters covering Diaspora Policy Design, and Capital Structure and Infrastructure Development. The first chapter is titled ‘Towards Effective Diaspora Engagement Policies in Africa: Lessons in Policy Design’, authored by Dr. Hardlife Zvoushe. The second chapter in this section is titled ‘Testing the Pecking Order Theory of Capital Structure on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Africa’. It is co-authored by Ms Katie Mutula (posthumous) and Dr. Vanessa Tang. The third chapter is titled ‘Diaspora Philanthropy for Rural Infrastructural Developmental Projects in Zimbabwe: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities’. Its co-authored by Dr. Lewis Edwin Chigova and Prof Costa Hofisi.

Section II contains three chapters focusing on Foreign Remittances, with the first chapter authored by Mr. Awa Zihindula titled ‘The Impact of Covid-19 on International Migration and Remittances’. This section’s second chapter is ‘Perspectives on Foreign Remittances from Elite Ugandans in the

Diaspora’, co-authored by Dr. Gyaviira Kisitu and Dr. Robert Stalone Buwule. The third chapter is ‘Diaspora Remittance Challenges and Opportunities for Rural Development: A Case of Zimbabwe’. It is co-authored by Mr. Joburg Mahuyu and Dr. Albert Makoche Kanwa.

Section III covers Immigration Policies and Press Framing in three chapters, of which the first is titled ‘The Immigration Policies as an Exclusion Practice: A Serious Threat to Human Dignity among the Diasporas’. Dr. Samuel Fikiri Cinini and Dr. Sazelo Michael Mkhize are the co-authors. The second chapter, ‘Intra-African Migration Impact on Family Structure and Career: A Self-study Inquiry from a Female Migrant in Southern Africa’, is authored by Dr. Faith Kimathi. The title of the third chapter in this section is titled ‘Framing the Deportation of Zimbabwean Immigrants: A Comparative Analysis of South African and British Online Press’ and is co-authored by Ms. Moipone Mamahlomola Nkhatho, Dr. Tigere Paidamoyo Muringa, and Mr. Gilbert Zvaita.

Section IV presents two chapters on the broad subject of Brain Drain and Skills Transfer. The first chapter is titled ‘Multi-sectoral Collaboration: A Proposed Means of Mitigating Medical Brain Drain in South Africa’. It is co-authored by Ms Haseena Majid, and Dr. Ganzamungu Zihindula. The second chapter is ‘Challenges of Skills Transfer for Zimbabwean Migrant Workers in the Diaspora: A Systematic Review’, co-authored by Mr. Jerald Hondonga and Dr. Tawanda Chinengundu.

Section V on Digital Economy presents two chapters. The first is titled ‘The Surge of Africa’s Digital Economy during COVID-19: Impact on the Diaspora Communities’, which Dr. Evelyn Anduvare authored. The second, authored by Dr. Adelekan Saidi Adedeji, is titled ‘Diaspora Investment: Enhancing Opportunities, Growth, and Sustainability in Sub-Saharan African Economies’.

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