

Alternation African Scholarship Book Series, Volume #15



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

# Alternation African Scholarship Book Series (AASBS)

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# The Diasporean I: The Southern African Perspectives

Editor

Stephen M. Mutula

2024

CSSALL Durban

### Published in 2024 in South Africa

CSSALL Publishers (Pty) Ltd c/o POSTNET SUITE 158 Private Bag X9118 Pietermaritzburg KwaZulu-Natal 3200

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Alternation African Scholarship Book Series Volume #15 © CSSALL Publishers (Pty) Ltd

Title: The Diasporean I: The Southern African Perspectives.

Editor: Stephen M. Mutula

ISBN: 978-0-9869937-5-6

DOI number: <a href="https://doi.org/10.29086/978-0-9869937-5-6/2024/AASBS15">https://doi.org/10.29086/978-0-9869937-5-6/2024/AASBS15</a> BOOK URL: <a href="https://alternation.ukzn.ac.za/books/series/The-Diasporean-I-">https://alternation.ukzn.ac.za/books/series/The-Diasporean-I-</a>

 $\underline{The\text{-}Southern\text{-}Africa\text{-}Perspectives.aspx}}$ 

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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 interdisciplinary 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,

Book DOI: https://doi.org/10.29086/978-0-9869937-5-6/2024/AASBS15 Preface DOI: https://doi.org/10.29086/978-0-9869937-5-6/2024/AASBS15/0 pp. v - vi

- 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; and how
- 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 diasporeans' 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 Diasporean I* and *The Diasporean 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 M. 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.

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#### **Contributors**

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## CHAPTER 1 - Editorial The Diasporean I: The Southern African Perspectives

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The UN International Organisation on Migration regularly provides snapshots of global statistics on migration trends and finance outflows, especially to low-and middle-income countries, which often exceeds the official development assistance provided. These monies are contributed by migrants who have moved to the host countries on account of, among other factors, forcible displacement from their homes due to persecution, conflict, generalised violence, human rights violations, disasters, or other reasons such as education, job opportunities, natural and social disasters. Some migrants end up in the host countries as refugees, and others lose their lives during migration.

International migration, therefore, continues to pose great challenges but also generates opportunities for the migrants' home and host countries that may be attributed to many factors, including globalisation. The complexity and multidimensional nature of international migration call for robust policy and practical interventions to manage the Diaspora phenomenon humanely and profitably for the common global public good. There is also a need to develop pragmatic strategies to ensure that the global community of nations are strategically positioned to attract and retain productive human capital in different professional and technical fields. This publication of This publication of 'The Diasporean¹: The Southern Africa Perspectives', Volume 1, was conceived and written from inter-, multi-, trans and cross-disciplinary perspectives. This approach was followed because not all the complex problems on international

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The term 'Diasporean' is not a commonly used word, but it can be used to describe individuals who have been impacted by diaspora and maintain a connection to their original culture and community.

### Stephen M. Mutula

mobility and migration are amenable to a single disciplinary perspective. This volume presents both theoretical and empirical chapters. The chapters published in this volume were each peer-reviewed by at least two experts in the relevant fields. The list of reviewers and their affiliations has been provided.

The idea to write a book centred on the Diaspora was conceived by the late Katie Musungu Mutula, who was pursuing a doctoral degree in international economics at the School of Accounting, Economics and Finance at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. This book has been written to recognise her intellectual thought and input in this project — may her soul rest in eternal peace!

This volume contributes to co-creating knowledge on Diaspora while bridging the gap between research and practice. The book is aimed at scholars, the academe, students, international partners, business, civil society, government, industry and non-professionals who wish to understand or reference their personal experiences in the Diaspora.

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Volume 1 of this publication, *The Diasporean I: The Southern African Perspectives*, is divided into five sections containing 11 chapters. Section I covers Financial Integration and has two chapters.

The first chapter, is 'Regional Financial Integration and Financial Development in the Southern African Development Community: Implications on Diaspora Remittance Inflows'. It was authored by Nomusa Ndlovu and Forget Mingiri Kapingura, and Asrat Tsegaye. The second chapter is titled 'Access to Credit from Formal Financial Institutions: A Case Study of Ethiopian Migrant Entrepreneurs in Durban, South Africa', written by Perminus Moinogu.

Section II broadly covers the subject of Xenophobia and Afriphobia in Southern Africa. It presents three inextricably linked chapters. The first is 'Migrants in the Face of Growing Nativism and Xenophobia: South African Experiences, authored by Sybert Mutereko'. The second chapter is titled 'A Critical Analysis of Populism and Xenophobic Discourse on Social Media in South Africa: A Case of @Operation Dudula and PutSouthAfricansFirst Twitter Accounts', written by Tigere Paidamoyo Muringa. The third chapter is titled 'Family Language Policy in a Xenophobic Context: The Case of Kalanga Transnational Families in South Africa'. Busani Maseko and Dion Nkomo are the co-authors.

Section III considers Feminisation and Gendered Roles in Migration featured in three chapters. The first is 'Reconstruction of Gender Roles and Relations among Somali Women within the Transnational Context of South Africa', co-authored by Anthony Gathambiri Waiganjo and Janet Muthuki. The second is titled 'Feminisation of Migration Impacting Family Life: Zimbabwean Female Migrant Cases in South Africa', written by Mfazo Cliford Madondo. The third chapter, 'Gendered Challenges Facing Somali Migrant Women within Transnational Contexts in South Africa', was authored by Anthony Gathambiri Waiganjo.

Section IV presents two chapters about Technology and Skills Transfer. The first is titled 'Relevance of Migrants' Technical Skills for Sustainable Livelihood: A Case of Low-Skilled Zimbabwean Migrants in Botswana's Southeast District'. Jerald Hondonga, Manto Sylvia Ramaligela, and Moses Makgato coauthored it. The second chapter, 'Prospects and Challenges of Postgraduate Education in the Diaspora: A Case of Ugandan Returnee Students from South Africa', was co-authored by Clement Nabutto Lutaaya and Gorrety Maria Juma.

Section V of this volume is on food security and presents one chapter titled 'The Food Security Challenges of African Immigrants in South Africa: A Literature Review', co-authored by Adetayo Olorunlana and Aloysius Odii.

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