



African

Studies

Review

PUBLISHED BY THE AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Conflict and Divergence: Government and Society in Nigeria
Bolanle Awe

REVIEW ESSAYS

Reply to Jean Davison and Kinuthia Macharia
Claire Robertson

BOOK REVIEWS

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VOLUME 42, NUMBER 3

DECEMBER 1999

African Studies Review

The Journal of the African Studies Association

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Editorial Office:

African Studies Review

Department of Anthropology

University of Massachusetts

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voice: 413/545-2065

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e-mail: asr@anthro.umass.edu

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The editing of the *African Studies Review* is supported by Five Colleges, Inc., a consortium representing Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, and the University of Massachusetts.

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African

Studies Review

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 3

DECEMBER 1999

African Studies Association

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Douglass Campus

132 George Street

New Brunswick NJ 08901-1400 USA

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ISSN 0002-0206

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From the Editors

Thank you, manuscript reviewers! Your journal depends not only on the authors who write the essays and book reviews that appear in its pages, but also on the hundreds of individuals who have volunteered to read and to evaluate manuscripts for the *African Studies Review*.

When we receive a manuscript, we code it by discipline(s), topic(s), and African country(ies), then use those codes to search our database of over one thousand reviewers to identify individuals who would be in a good position to help us evaluate the quality of the manuscript. This is especially important given the scope of an interdisciplinary journal like the *African Studies Review* where the editors could not possibly have expertise in all the areas represented in the journal's pages.

Once we have chosen three or more reviewers, we send each one a request to evaluate the manuscript. Those who respond promptly are sent a copy of the manuscript, with any identifiers of the author removed. Most reviewers return their evaluation sheets and comments within two months, and we make our editorial decision, and forward along to the author all the external reviewers' comments, deleting any personal identifiers.

Often the reviews are either consistently positive or consistently negative, which makes it easy for us to accept or to reject a manuscript. Occasionally there are instances where external reviewers have contradictory assessments of a manuscript, in which case we often seek the involvement of more reviewers and get involved in assessing the manuscript ourselves.

What is unseen to *ASR* readers is the great amount of scholarship and help, especially to young authors, that each evaluation entails. Reviewers express to us their gratitude for being able to help us, and many authors put the external reviewer comments to good use in revising and improving their manuscripts, and express their own gratitude for the way the editorial process has improved their work.

The December 1999 issue of the *ASR* represents the sixth one we have edited since we began in late 1997. We have been inspired by the care, competence, and skill with which external reviewers have undertaken their unpaid and voluntary work in helping us put together these issues. Many

reviewers have evaluated two or more manuscripts. While we have sent each one a letter of thanks, we want our readers to know the identities of those who have helped us so much. Here are their names:

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Ralph Faulkingham and Mitzi Goheen

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