



# ASRF NEWS

Spring/Summer 2021 Vol.11 no. 2

## The President's Corner

By: Dr. George K. Kieh, Jr.

One of the major distinctive characteristics of the African Studies and Research Forum (ASRF) is the linking of knowledge production and socio-economic development in Africa. That is, while the ASRF has, and continues to be in the forefront of the production of knowledge on the myriad issues facing the African Continent and its constituent states, it has been equally involved in making practical contributions to socio-economic development, both at the organizational and individual levels.

At the organizational level for example, in 2001, the ASRF established a water project for Liberian refugees residing in the Buduburam Refugee Camp in Ghana. The project served as the major source for providing safe and clean drinking water to hundreds of refugees. Similarly, individual members of the ASRF as scholar-activists have, and continue to be, involved in sundry development projects in Africa. For example, during the heyday of the Ebola virus crisis in the Mano River Basin of West Africa, Sister Peyi Soyinka-Airewele was involved in the preparation and distribution of Ebola awareness and prevention kits.

In continuation of its legacy, the ASRF is poised to launch an "Educational Materials Campaign" for an elementary school in Nigeria. The project was developed by the ASRF's Standing Committee on Projects, and is intended to provide notebooks, pens, pencils, and other educational materials for the students in the selected school. As our Standing Committee on Projects launches this noteworthy project on behalf of the ASRF, I would like to request that we contribute generously!

Let us remember that every well implemented development project, irrespective of its scope, makes an impact on the lives of individuals. In this case, the ASRF is calling on all of us to contribute to this worthwhile project that will impact the lives of our children, thereby contributing to the development of our dear continent's future human resource pool!

## Inside this issue

**Members' Scholarly & Professional Activities.....2**

**Congratulations.....3**

**Announcements.....4**

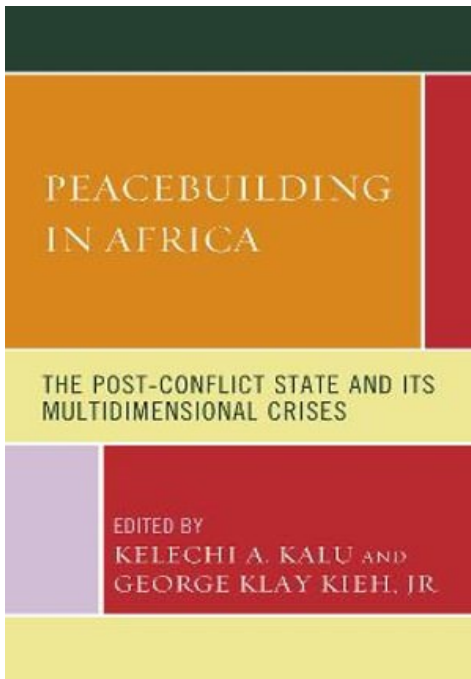
### **CALL for SUBMISSIONS**

Send news of your professional and scholarly activities/achievements, news, upcoming events, calls for papers/conferences, musings, and more for the Fall issue of ASRF NEWS to [asrfforum@gmail.com](mailto:asrfforum@gmail.com) by **Dec.1, 2021**. Have a great semester/term!

**"...ASRF is calling on all of us to contribute to this worthwhile project that will impact the lives of our children, thereby contributing to the development of our dear continent's future human resource pool!"**



## MEMBERS' SCHOLARLY & PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

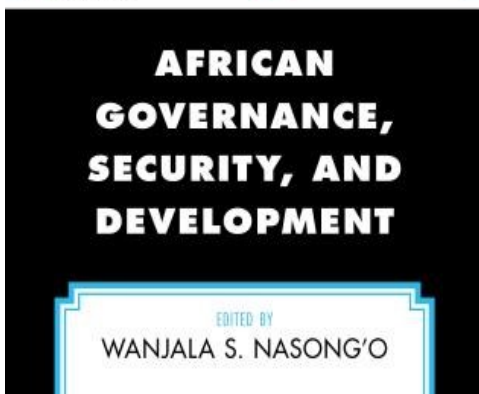


### BOOKS PUBLISHED

- Bruey, V. F. (Ed.). (2021). *Patriarchy and gender in Africa*. Landham, MD: Lexington Books.
- Bruey, V. F., & Bender, S. W. (2020). *Deadly voyages: Migrant journeys across the globe*. Landham, MD: Lexington Books.
- Kalu, K. A., & Kieh, G. K. (Jr.). (2021). *Peacebuilding in Africa: The multidimensional crises of the post-conflict state*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.
- Nasong'o, S. W. (Ed.). (2021). *African governance, security, and development*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Udogu, E. I. (2021). *Politics and society: An anecdote on culture and environmental determinism*. Charleston, SC: Palmetto (available on Amazon).

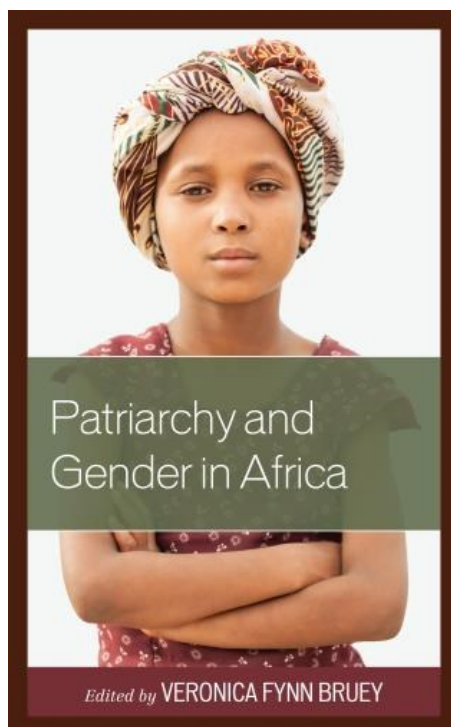
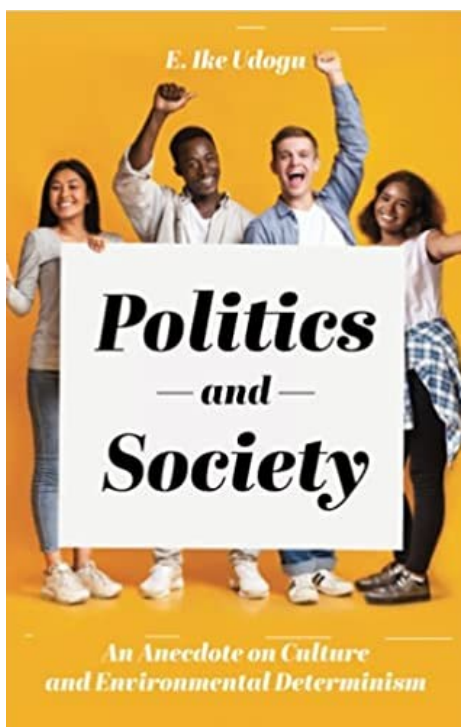
### BOOK CHAPTERS

- Kieh, G. K. (Jr.). (2021). "Capital accumulation in Liberia's rubber and iron ore sectors." In E. Oritsejafor & A. Cooper (Eds.), *Africa and the global system of accumulation* (pp. 54-69). New York: Routledge.
- Kalu, K. A & Kieh, G. K. (Jr.). (2021). "Building peace after civil conflicts in Africa." In G. K. Kieh, Jr.(Eds), *Peacebuilding in Africa: The multidimensional crises of the post-conflict state* (pp. 1-24). Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.
- Kieh, G. K. (Jr.). (2021). "Post-conflict peacebuilding in Liberia." In G. K. Kieh (Jr.), (Ed.), *Peacebuilding in Africa: The multidimensional crises of the post-conflict state* (pp.81-114). Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.
- Kalu, K. A., & Kieh, G. K. (Jr.). (2021). "Building durable peace in Africa's post-conflict states: Lessons and insights" in G. K. Kieh, Jr. (Ed.), *Peacebuilding in Africa: The multidimensional crises of the post-conflict state* (pp. 237-256). Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.



### PRESENTATIONS & PANELS

- Kieh, G. K. (Jr.). (2021). "State fragility in post-civil war Liberia." Paper presented at the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual conference of the Liberian Studies Association, April 22-24, virtually hosted by Cornell University.
- Kieh, G. K. (Jr.). (2021). Panel on "Law and Society in Liberia," 52<sup>nd</sup> annual conference of the Liberian Studies Association, April 22-24, virtually hosted by Cornell University.
- Kieh, G. K. (Jr.). (2021). Panel on monograph on "Development, (dual) citizenship, and its discontents: The political economy of belonging in Liberia." 52<sup>nd</sup> annual conference of the Liberian Studies Association, April 22-24, virtually hosted by Cornell University.



## Disjointed Soliloquy

By Dr. Sabella Abidde

When you are a teenager, you tend to believe that you have time – time to do this and that and that and this. You believe you have time to climb mountains, navigate the raging seas, explore the forests, and roam the valley. In your thirties and forties – if you are lucky and focused – you focus on your dreams and ambitions and the really important things in life.

In middle age, you know not to cry over spilled milk. You know that you can't love them all, hold grudges, or stress over many things in life. It is your life – the only life you have and must live it the best you can.

Once you turn 60 or thereabout, no one needs to tell you that you are closer to the end of time. Your time. Time will go on....in all its beauty and magnificence and unpredictability...It waits for no one. Time, like death, doesn't care. It will come. Both will come. That day will come peacefully, painfully, or surprisingly. Ironically, it can come at 10, 30, or 40, while the "old" man/woman is graced and gifted with more time.

This is what the democratization of death is about. An equalizer. The lesson here is simple: don't be cocky. Don't assume you have time. Don't look down on anyone. What do you suppose matters at the end? After all, within five years of your passing, most of your friends and family and critics and haters and praise singers would have "moved on." That's life. That's time. That's what death can do and does. So, be nice to people. Be considerate...

## Congratulations!



### DR. SABINA APPIAH BOATENG

earned her **doctorate** in October 2020. In May 2021, she received a **research fellow** appointment at the Department of Peace Studies at the University of Ghana Cape Coast



**DR. SABELLA ABIDDE** was appointed to start, manage and edit a new book series entitled *Africa-East Asia International Relations* for Springer Nature (Switzerland)

"...don't be cocky. Don't assume you have time. Don't look down on anyone. What do you suppose matters at the end?"



## ANNOUNCEMENTS: 25th ASRF CONFERENCE IN MONROVIA



The 25th conference of the African Studies and Research Forum will hold in Monrovia, Liberia, from March 17 to March 19, 2022. The conference will hold at the African Methodist Episcopal University.

The theme of the conference is Africa during times of challenges, change and transition. Participants will present on a wide range of evolving challenges and transition facing Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. These include food security and the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare delivery systems and infrastructure, gender, masculinity and identity, Africa and the debt crisis in the new millennium, and education, literacy and development.

The conference seeks to bring together researchers, academics, advocates, artists, and film-makers from across Africa, the Diaspora, and around the world. In keeping with the spirit of diversity, we welcome abstracts for individual papers and roundtables that engage with various theoretical and methodological perspectives, topical issues, and policy-oriented solutions related to the conference's theme.

If you are interested in participating in the conference, send your panel/roundtable proposals and panel/paper abstract(s) (200 words) to Emmanuel Oritejafor or Sabina Appiah-Boateng at [asrfconference2022@gmail.com](mailto:asrfconference2022@gmail.com) by Nov. 30, 2021. Include a note indicating your interest and ASRF Conference 2022 Paper Abstract/ Roundtable on the subject line.

### About The African Studies and Research Forum (ASRF)

The African Studies and Research Forum (ASRF) was founded on October 5, 1996, in Montgomery, Alabama, USA. The organization is an academic association, whose primary purpose is to contribute to the production of knowledge that will help empower Africans so they can build democratic and prosperous societies based on pluralism, respect for diversity, and peaceful co-existence.

The association is governed by its Charter, which stipulates its organizational structure as follow: The General Assembly (comprising all members), the Executive Committee (consisting of the elected officers and chairs of the various standing committees), and the Standing Committees. In addition, there are special committees on "The Best Book Award," and "The Best Graduate Student Paper Award" (presented at the annual conference of the association).

The organization holds an annual conference during which Africanist scholars and practitioners present papers and participate in roundtables on various issues of importance to Africa. In addition, the organization holds research conferences that focus on pressing issues facing (each research conferences focuses on a single issue) Africa. Further, the organization has "The African Policy Dialogue Series" that serve as a forum in which Africanists based in Africa and in the diaspora can dialogue with policy-makers in Africa about various public policy issues.

The association has various important publications: The ASRF Book Series (managed by the Research and Publications Committee), The ASRF Monograph Series (managed by the Research and Publications Committee), *Journal of African Studies and Research* (managed by the editor, associate editor and editorial board), and the ASRF News newsletter (managed by the Public Affairs Committee).

Cognizant of the critical linkage between theory and practice, the ASRF has, and continues to be actively involved as a contributor to development on the African Continent. For example, in 2002, the organization undertook "The Water Project" for Liberian refugees residing in the Buduburam Refugee Camp in Ghana. The organization is planning to undertake other development projects on the African Continent.

Membership in the ASRF is opened to anyone, who has interest in the study of the African Continent and its constituent states. The application can be submitted via the organization's website: [www.asrfonline.org](http://www.asrfonline.org). You may also contact us at [asrfforum@gmail.com](mailto:asrfforum@gmail.com).