

## Editorial

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Welcome to the *Journal of Critical Southern Studies*, a journal dedicated to the promotion of critical southern studies in the northern academy and beyond. As we publish our first issue, we invite you to join and support us in giving voice to scholars and views that have for so long been almost drowned by the roaring of hegemonic northern voices. We feel that privileging what are generally considered the views of the underdog is vital to promoting counter-hegemonic discourses on globalization, political theory, gender, and cultures among many other areas of scholarly enquiry and human endeavor.

New beginnings are not always as easy as they sound. There are any number of logistical and other challenges that face and threaten to overwhelm the founders and initiators of projects like the *JCSS*. We, however, were quite aware of this difficulty from the very beginning. And so we have been prepared to meet the challenges head on and determined to overcome them and bring our project to fruition. We are happy that the publication of this first issue is testament to the fact that we can and we will grow and achieve our aims and objectives. We are determined to raise the profile and quality of the *JCSS* to the highest possible standards in the world of academic publishing. We recognize that this is no easy task; but we know we have what it takes in our contributors and our editorial boards to succeed.

In the face of time and resource constraints, we have been fortunate to find peer reviewers for all the articles published in this first issue. We thank our reviewers for their kind support and the insights they shared with the contributors to this issue. That said, time constraints and initial oversights do not permit us and our contributors to strictly adhere to the submission guidelines now posted on the *JCSS* site. These guidelines were created after our first call for papers and so contributors cannot be blamed for not following them to the letter in this first issue. We are happy that all the contributions have gone through the peer review process and been okayed for publication by our reviewers. From the second issue on, the submission guidelines especially regarding citation style will be followed to the letter.

In ‘Questioning the logic of International Relations Theory,’ Abdoulaye Saine likens academic disciplines to planets ‘bounded by worldviews, theories and epistemic structures’ that, overtime, ‘become fossilized or insulated to maintain a distinct interest and purpose. That is, they become fiercely defensive sub-systems that seek to blunt criticism or sometimes absorb challenges into its logic.’ Proceeding from this premise, Dr. Saine delivers an insightful critic of International Relations Theory and its sub-discipline, International Political Economy. His study seeks to demonstrate how

IRT, especially its ‘realist/ neo-realist perspectives are deeply implicated in the violence and injustice that permeate relations between countries, communities, peoples, cultures, and religions of the world.’

In ‘The Philosopher’s Elusive Subject’ Jayan Nayar argues for the negation of the political. He suggests that the present ‘is defined not by absence/inexistence, not by Non-Being/Nothingness outside of the political, but by Other/Different-Being whose Exteriority is that which continues to be negated in theory-practice. Such a perspectival shift points to the decolonial necessity of the negation of the ‘political’ itself, of the struggle for *desubjectification*.’

In ‘Globalization and African Studies,’ Baba Jallow examines various perspectives of area studies scholars on the question of globalization and its relation to the production of knowledge on the global south. He argues for a plurality of globalizations rather than a single hegemonic globalization taken to be synonymous with the westernization of the non-west or the unidirectional flow of things from North to South. Eurocentric and hegemonic conceptualizations of globalization are no longer adequate to the task of capturing the very complex intersections and interactions of peoples, ideas and artefacts that flow to and from all parts of the world today.

In ‘Morals and Maladies,’ Jill Brown brings an important dimension to the north-south debates and perspectives on child care in the two hemispheres. Studies of fosterage traditionally do not include the views of the foster children themselves. Jill fills this gap by examining the live histories of eleven Aaumbo women in Namibia who were themselves foster children. She argues that the ‘cultural complex of socially distributed childcare’ in Africa represents ‘a unique example of a culturally specific practice with its own emic logic.’

Together, the four studies in this maiden issue of the *JCSS* represent a coherent statement on the ongoing transformation of epistemic spaces to further accommodate views from and on critical southern issues. We hope to build on this foundation in our future issues. Again, welcome to the *JCSS*.