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Editorial

The *Journal of Sociology and Development* (JSD) has completed the third year of its existence. It has retained its spirit and character as an inclusive, multidisciplinary, transcontinental piece of academic literature with a bent on empirical research. We thank our readers, contributors, the advisory board, and the pull of anonymous international reviewers for making JSD sustainable. This third Volume features seven articles grouped under two themes, that is, inequalities in the global world, and population change in Africa. Under the first theme, the first five articles tackle different arenas in which inequalities emerge and come to be experienced in the contemporary interconnected world, from ethnicity and politics to industry and markets. The first article by Tibaijuka is an urgent and timely Africa-based account of the ramifications that the dramatic boom of the extractive industry is having on local population, in this case, in Tanzania. Through a public relations lens, and with an eye pointed to practices of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the mining sector in Tanzania, the author attempts a linguistic analysis of local peoples' experiences, and grievances, to unearth the enduring distances that, despite CSR practices, continue to hamper a mining sector sustainably managed in Tanzania. Along similar lines, Parker and Crabtree in the second article point to how persistent categorizations and classifications attached to indigenous groups, in this case, the Orang Tasli of Tasik Chini in Malaysia, lead to marginalization and vulnerability in the context of industrial development supported by state policies. With an ethnography and linguistic-based analysis of peoples' experiences, the authors dissect the inequalities embedded into political dynamics that historically in Malaysia have emerged from ethnic differentiations. In the third article, Memusi turns to a gender-based analysis of the politics-inequalities nexus. Departing from recent and current efforts to establish devolution processes that call for and champion the urgent need for women's involvement in the political national arena in Kenya, the author exposes the gap between intention and reality ingrained in the historical patriarchal character of African society in general, and Maasai community, the case proposed in the article, in particular. Notwithstanding the importance of legislative initiatives aimed at levelling out gender-based gaps, the author concludes that the effect of these initiatives and how they interact with other social forces, attitudes, and behaviours in daily lives ought to be given more attention for the gender equality national political agenda to become reality. The following article by Mkamwa revisits some of the main preoccupations that are peculiar of agricultural economics in Africa and the developing world, that is, how agricultural market structure and market information can be improved to

become more ‘farmer-friendly’ in rural settings. With a quantitative analysis of the relationship between farmers’ access to agricultural markets and the productivity within the local food economy in Kishapu District in central-western Tanzania, the author unearths the constraints faced by farmers in profitably selling their crop in local agricultural markets and advances some recommendations for local government and researchers to aid local farmers’ marketing strategies. In the last article within the first theme, Mutalemwa approaches the question of inequalities by looking at the potential of civic organizations or ‘People’s Organizations’ (POs) in Tanzania to level out poverty gaps and arguing that POs can make a ‘modest but essential contribution’ to raise the socio-economic status of poorer people in the country. The author’s universal theory outlined in the paper, informed by grounded theory method (GTM), is a bold attempt to enhance research methods to further assess the real contribution of civic organization to national development.

The second theme in the volume tackles the important question of population change whose trends in the African continent are currently being subject to debate. Known as the youngest continent, a higher rate of younger people as compared to older continents such as Europe and Asia risks neglecting the parallel trend in population aging that has implications for a number of sectors, from education, welfare, to employment. The impacts of population change, in its different directions, are increasingly becoming to be felt by different people in the continent, dealt with by policymakers and governments, and studied by researchers. The first article by Wagana and Mkamwa engages in an analysis of perceptions of older people in Tanzania with regards to their socio-economic conditions in the country. The article fills an important research gap, that is, the understanding of older people’s conditions in a young continent, necessary to timely devise strategies and policies to cater for a growing sector of population thus far attracting less attention as compared to youths and children. Finally, based on a second-hand literature review, White surveys the question of unemployment among African youths surfacing the different causes of unemployment and pointing at good quality education, i.e. the lack thereof, as the root cause, to eventually offer some potential mitigating measures.

George Mutalemwa and Antonio Allegretti, JSD Editors