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## **Editorial: A Letter to Our Readers**

We, Nana Osei-Opare and Jeremy Jacob Peretz, are excited to welcome you all back to *Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies*. As we begin our last year as your co-editor-and-chiefs, we wanted to reiterate our commitment to upholding and pushing *Ufahamu's* historical mandate. We will continue to be a space and medium for Africans and those of African descent to publish their work in Western academic circles and a space to “push the envelope.” In doing this, we are ever supported and inspired by a conscientious, hard-working, and dedicated editorial team.

We are delighted to welcome back last year's editors: Amanda Domingues, Janice Levi, Domale Dube Keys, and Amber Withers. Furthermore, two of our former editors, Emily Milstein and Sanyu R. K. Mulira, have encouragingly decided to remain on-board, despite graduating, as contributing editors. In this light, we would like to introduce our newest board members: Chelsi Dimm, Claire Pfitzinger, Lauren Taylor, and Madina Thiam. They have already been wonderful additions to the team. With their collective insights, enthusiasm, and energy, we shall continue to grow from strength to strength as a Journal.

### ***Current Issue***

After two years of planning, *Ufahamu* would like to present Volume 39 Issue 1. This is the Journal's first issue of this academic year. Without a specific thematic focus, this is another general-interests issue covering a wide range of topics. Furthermore, Volume 39 Issue 1 continues our mission and tradition of being relevant to temporary debates. Please make sure to read through the entire issue as it is sure to raise some tough questions and hopefully provoke deep insights.

### ***Book Reviews***

Under Janice Levi's stewardship, we are working to (re)-establish a robust book review process and section reserved for book reviews in our future issues. Many new and exciting books pertaining to Africa and its diasporas will arrive shortly at our doorstep. All of these books will be available for our public readership to review in

2016. In addition, we encourage and urge all publishers and writers to continue to send their books to *Ufahamu* for review. Individual authors may email or write to *Ufahamu* soliciting us to review their individual work(s). We would be honored to do so. In addition, we also encourage our readers to submit requests to review books they find appealing, stimulating, or would like to see reviewed. Please visit <http://www.international.ucla.edu/africa/ufahamu/books> for further information on our book review process if you are interested.

### ***Ufahamu on Twitter***

Thanks to Madina Thiam's initiative and vision, *Ufahamu* is now on twitter, @UfahamuJournal. Please follow the Journal there as well. Tweets are in English and French. We are also planning to expand our feed to include Portuguese and other languages as well in the near future. Tweets will include, but are not limited to, the republishing of *Ufahamu* articles, some of which date back to 1970, and commentary upon contemporary events. We genuinely hope this new forum leads to more public engagement with the Journal's materials and will inspire new collaborative projects among our readers and contributors. In other words, we are excited and looking forward to interacting with you, and building our *Ufahamu* community through this new online venue.

### ***Acknowledgements***

As ever, we would like to give special thanks to Stacey Meeker. Meeker remains an integral force supporting the Journal's existence, including ensuring the continued quality of our publications. On an on-going basis, Meeker provides essential professional, intellectual, and emotional support to the Journal in innumerable ways. Furthermore, we would collectively like to thank our faculty advisor, Jemima Pierre, for her continued backing of our endeavors. Thanks are also due to our copy-editor, Michelle Gaston, whose dutiful work helps get our essays ready for publication. Furthermore, we would also like to acknowledge Bill Morosi, our layout-editor, for his sustained professionalism, long-hours of work, and the sense of calm he brings to the Journal. Everything Morosi does is of the highest quality and we are very appreciative of that! We would also like to thank the dedicated staff of UCLA's African Studies Center for their continued support and guidance.

Finally, Neo Lekgotla *laga* Ramoupi and William H. Worger have pushed this Journal to stay true to its mission through their sustained encouragement, commitment, and support. These two scholars have inspired the *Ufahamu* team and readers with immeasurable courage and strength to continuously churn-out pieces that challenge conventional wisdoms and societal structures. We are sincerely grateful to them for this inspiration and initiative they have provided the Journal.

### ***Upcoming Issues & Editions***

Following this issue, look out for *Ufahamu's* Volume 39 Issue 2. This will also be a general issue. Afterwards, Volume 39 Issue 3 will follow suite. This issue's theme will focus on methods in African studies and will be a collaborative effort between *Ufahamu* and *Stichproben: Vienna Journal for African Studies* (<http://stichproben.univie.ac.at/>). One of our newest additions to our team, editor Chelsi Dimm, has taken charge of developing this issue's contents, and we are all very excited about the waves this new collaborative effort is going to generate. This joint-issue will probably be the last one of the academic year. We are also in talks with other UCLA-based journals to create a multi-journal special issue to address concerns that pertain to UCLA and our local communities. We will inform you with more details about this particular issue in due course as the concept is further developed.

We encourage all our readers to consider submitting papers and other works to *Ufahamu*. Besides our general Call For Papers (CFP), which is always open, we have three targeted CFPs for our upcoming issues: "The African University"; "Women and Africa"; and "Islam and Africa." Submissions for any or all of these themes should be sent to us by June 1st, 2016. For further details on our submissions process, please visit our website at: <http://www.international.ucla.edu/africa/ufahamu/call>. We look forward to receiving and sharing your contributions with our *Ufahamu* community!

May 2016 be a fruitful year, granting us all hope, peace, health, and vitality.

Yours Truly,

Nana Osei-Opare & Jeremy Jacob Peretz

