



Editorial: An African Issue

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Abstract

The Developments in Administration is presented as the natural publication venue for Global South papers presented in the IIAS and IASIA Conferences. The reform the journal underwent in 2021, are presented. Three volumes have been published since: on various continents, on Asia and this time on Africa. The five research papers published here deal with: the strategies of trade unions in the educational sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo; financial management reforms in local governments in Cameroon, education to fight corruption in Kenya, relative development performance of Ethiopia and Tanzania, and financial management reforms in Cameroon. The IIAS-KSG Mombasa Conference 2024 is introduced, together with further projects for the journal.

Keywords

Program Budget; Budgetary Appropriations; Fungibility of Appropriations; Financial Controls; Cameroon

The primary objective of the *Developments in Administration* (DinA) journal is to offer publishing opportunities for materials, authors, and institutions that are underrepresented in mainstream public administration journals. This particular focus is often highlighted at conferences organized by the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) and the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA).

DinA has naturally evolved into the journal associated with the IIAS and IASIA conferences, positioning itself as a Global South journal at the crossroads of public administration, development studies, and area studies. It is inherently open to critical theoretical perspectives and Southern epistemologies, aiming to analyze fresh empirical material.

The journal underwent significant changes in 2021, transitioning to its current format hosted on the PKP platform. It now systematically implements plagiarism checks and double-blind peer reviews, adopts CC-BY-NC-ND Creative Common open access licenses for all published material, includes authors' processing charges in membership contributions or conference registration fees, offers copyediting services to authors, and has the IIAS Scientific Committee serving as the Editorial Board.

This fifth volume marks the third since DinA's reform, and the journal is progressively defining its identity. While the third volume covered content from all continents, the fourth focused exclusively on the Asian continent. Similarly, this fifth volume takes an exclusive look at Africa.

The volume commences with an analysis by Bastin Muvumu from KU Leuven in Belgium, examining the strategies employed by trade unions and governments in the educational sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The article contextualizes these interactions within the national context, highlighting the perpetual tension between change and continuity. Utilizing ethnographic and photographic material, the study provides a unique insight into the educational sector in the DRC.

In the second article, Susana Awasom from the National School of Public Administration in Cameroon investigates the impact of New Public Management (NPM) financial management reforms on the performance of local governments in Cameroon. Using regression analysis based on questionnaire data from local governments, the study reveals that decentralization and outsourcing enhance performance, contrary to the effects of NPM financial management practices and ICT.

The third article, authored by Purity Gitonga from Strathmore University in Kenya, explores strategies employed to combat corruption in Kenya during the COVID-19 pandemic. The article reviews explanations for corruption, situates the context, and relies on survey data to underscore the crucial role of education and public awareness in addressing corruption, offering valuable lessons for policymakers.

The fourth article, by Bacha Kebede Debela (Oromia State University, Ethiopia) and Ramadhani Marijani (The University of Dodoma, Tanzania), compares the performance of their respective countries on nine Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, using international databases. Despite sharing a socialist past and socio-cultural institutions, the study reveals overall improvement and significant shortcomings in both countries, with Tanzania outperforming particularly in public administration aspects. The article advocates for emulation and additional efforts to address contemporary challenges.

The last article of this volume, authored by Simon Pierre Onana and Mathieu Alain Doko Edjiane, both from the University of Yaoundé 2, delves into financial management reforms in Cameroon. Analyzing the introduction of program budget through document analysis and survey material, the study finds that these reforms enhance the level of credit consumption, suggesting that further positive effects could be realized through the relaxation of ex-ante control systems.

This fifth volume serves as a prelude to the IAS-KSG Mombasa Conference 2024, themed "International Collaborative Governance," scheduled for February 26-29.

The journal's priorities include securing indexing in the Directory of Open Access Journals, increasing submissions from sources external to the IAS and IASIA Conferences, and achieving a biannual publication schedule.