

Guest Editor's Introduction

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It is a pleasure to serve as guest editor for *The Journal of African Studies and Research Forum* (*The JASRF*), volume 33, numbers 3 and 4 in support of African and Diasporan scholars clearly mapping out and centering their own scholarly explorations. In my opinion, such research-centering has a long-standing challenge of recognition and validation in the global context. Given the opportunity of writing a guest editor's introduction, I acknowledge the emotional labor our ancestors upon whose shoulders we stand as academic giants in our own rights poised in making meaningful contributions to scholarship in a variety of subjects and topics. Among *The JASRF* authors, the theme of culturally responsive transformation for inclusion and accountability in pedagogy and research is a daunting responsibility. For instance, Bangura (2012) emphasized conceptualizing and contextualizing the Africentric paradigm, using a descriptive case study approach in highlighting works of African-centered scholars. In many ways, this journal and its publications exemplify the contributions of African and Diasporan scholars to cultural responsiveness in research, acknowledging multiple perspectives of knowing and meaning making (see Fort, Conteh & Gonzalez, in-press; Gupta & Flinner, 2021), a laudable effort in recent extant literature and studies (see Ladson-Billings, 2021). To this end, this volume contains articles dealing with Africa and the Diaspora humanities and sciences.

The research process is a science full of explorations of interests. According to Heppner et al., research as “a never-ending process of successive approximations in which the scientist has a tolerance for ambiguity, a willingness and ability to question, and an ability to entertain competing answers, and conduct empirical tests among them” (2016,.5). *The JASRF*, however, publishes both sciences and humanities articles, thereby making its focus interdisciplinary. The humanities have long been considered integral studies in various fields. Derivatives of the humanities include the liberal arts. Scientific inquiry, however, is a systematic process of gathering facts and truths about certain areas of interest to the researcher. It involves gathering and structuring knowledge. Seeking to uncover the “truth” in research involves a systematic process (Heppner et al., 2016).

Contextually, articles in this *The JSRF* volume are supported by extant literature and empirical studies as a demonstration of reputable scholarly standards. The strengths of these articles represent both the lived experiences of people and explorations of knowledge in context. Undoubtedly, the scholarly evidence of the articles in this volume supports the interconnections between the humanities and the sciences in upholding the establishment of critical thinking, reading and writing skills. Another notable strength of this volume is that African and Diasporan scholars continue to share their scientific prowess and expand multiple ways of generating and disseminating knowledge in their areas of expertise.

Therefore, African and Diasporan scholars are centering their research and reflective practices. This is evident in the broad perspectives of the current volume containing so many poignant articles on current issues worthy of scholarly recognition ranging from migrations and

slavery, historical and generational conflicts, phenomenological experiences, women and sexuality, and changing status of women to AI and Chatbots and their impact in policy making, and fractal analysis of W.E.B Du Bois' seminal work, thereby acknowledging the significant contribution of social theory in the study of the sciences. All of these are symbolic of African and Diasporan scholars aligning their works in diverse academic fields dominated by Eurocentric research methods.

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