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Support

Funded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Nairobi Research Station.

Url: <http://www.jspsnairobi.org>

- ***Mila* (ISSN 1015-6178)**

Mila is published by the:

Institute of African Studies
University of Nairobi
P.O. Box 30197 – 00100
Nairobi, Kenya.

- ***Annual Subscription:*** The annual subscription is USD 20.00 (International) and KSh. 350.00 (Local) per issue. For more information on how to subscribe send email to mila.journal@uonbi.ac.ke. For subscribers in Japan please send email to jsps1@africaonline.co.ke. Limited back issues of this journal are available at discounted rates.
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**Mila (N.S.), The Journal of the Institute of African Studies
Volume 7, 2006**

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Editorial

MILA is the flagship publication of the Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi. Through MILA we endeavor to bring into the wider academic domain research conducted by the Institute's Fellows and students as well as by scholars from the region and beyond.

The range of articles in this Volume focus primarily on research conducted in Nyang'oma and hosted by the Nyang'oma Research Training Site (NRTS). They demonstrate the wide scope and inclusive nature of the discipline of anthropology. We work to advance this cause and ensure that anthropology remains the holistic discipline that it is.

The first article explores Luo farmers' ethnoveterinary perceptions of animal illnesses. It raises important elements of herd health management among the Luo. The second article dwells on goat herd management of the Karimojong in Northeastern Uganda. The author (Hazama) concludes that experience of proximity within a kraal as well as within a herding group serves to establish membership cognition during herding and that a peculiar unity is formed as a result of collective membership cognition.

The next three articles focus on the anthropology of the child. Olungah examines socio-cultural factors that influence the care of the unborn child among the Luo people of Bondo district. Women navigate the 'cultural forest' from the time they conceive to delivery. They continue to navigate this 'cultural forest' post-natal. The concept of breastfeeding is often replete with mixed messages coming from the medical and non-medical experts. These, together with other factors such as mothers' perceptions of childhood illnesses (Ouma), ultimately influence child survival.

Ondicho deals with a delicate conservation issue in Amboseli National Park. Conflict between human and wildlife has created conditions in which conservationists and local communities are at cross-purposes. Ondicho, however, argues that a shift in thinking about wildlife conservation is taking place, which is shaping local attitudes towards wildlife.

The Nyang'oma Research Training Site is an experience for the Institute. Students from the Institute as well as from Denmark have over the years conducted research in this area. The research has shaped the theoretical orientation of researchers and upcoming researchers (see second paper by Tegllhus). We endeavor to make this site available for researchers from other disciplines to train students and conduct research. The achievements so far as a result of involvement in NRTS are summarized (see paper by Nyamongo & Aagaard-Hansen) in this Volume.

In order to give the journal a wider and international appeal, the editorial board as been expanded. A section on instructions to authors is now a permanent feature of the journal. Finally, I wish to register the Institute's appreciation of the support we have received from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). We are entering a new phase of cooperation between the Institute and JSPS. We wish to welcome them on board.

