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**ABSTRACTS
&
PROCEEDINGS**

THEME: Africa's Development Crisis:
Contending Issues & Prospects for the 21st Century

THURSDAY 22ND - FRIDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2022
RIVERS STATE UNIVERSITY - NIGERIA

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES



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THEME: Africa's Development Crisis: Contending Issues & Prospects for the 21st Century

DATE: 22nd - 23rd September, 2022

VENUE: Conference Hall, Faculty of Social Science, Rivers State University

TIME: 9:00 am

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DAY ONE – Wednesday 21st September, 2022

Arrival of Guest/Conferees/Delegates

DAY TWO – Thursday 22nd September, 2022

OPENING SESSION/AWARD/PLENARY

Conference Registration	- 8:00am – 9:00am
Opening Prayer/Welcome Remark	- 9:00am – 9:15am
Institutional Brief/Chairman's Opening Remark	- 9:15am – 9:30am
Plenary Session	- 9:30am – 12noon
Launch Break/Group Photograph	- 12noon – 1:00pm
Plenary Session 2/Research Training	- 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Policy Review Session	- 4:00pm – 5:00pm

DAY THREE – Friday 23rd September, 2022

Departure of Guest/Conferee/Delegates



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Africa's Development Crisis: Assessment of Nigeria's Public Schools and their Travails, 1999-2022

Nwamuo Bright Enyinnaya, PhD

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Abstract

Education in every society plays an important role in the developmental effort of that society. When this is neglected, such a society is faced with different challenges and does not develop like others. In Nigeria, government's interest in promoting the welfare public schools has obviously reduced as the government at various levels seems not to see any need to give adequate support to the public school system. This has adversely affected these public schools and institutions. This paper interrogates issues on Nigeria's public schools beginning from the primary school to the university, their challenges and prospects; it assesses the contribution of education to the development of the country and its implication when neglected. This study has used mainly secondary sources and few primary sources. Education as identified in this paper is a beacon of development and key in the developmental stride of every nation and where education is neglected it has resulted to serious development crisis.

Keywords: *Africa, Development, Crisis, Public, Schools*

An Analysis of Commercial Agriculture Credit Scheme as a Strategy for Poverty Reduction Among Rice Farmers in Kano State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study empirically investigated the relationship between commercial agriculture credit scheme and rice farming and to find out if the credit scheme has reduced the poverty level of rice farmers in Kano State, Nigeria. Primary data was sourced from beneficiary farmers of commercial agriculture credit scheme (CACS) through survey method. A sample size of 394 households was selected purposively from the three agricultural zones in Kano State. The study was evaluated in the period 2009 to 2020. The study employed the Foster Greer and Thorbecke (FGT) model of poverty measure. The model was estimated using econometrics view and excel. The technique of analysis used was the counterfactual analysis. The findings revealed that the mean annual expenditure in Kano State study area before the farmers had access to commercial agriculture credit was N77, 237.36 and incidence of poverty was 95.9% (those who fall in the category of below the poverty line), while the poverty gap in the area is 0.026% (that is the degree of poverty between households) and 0.007%, which indicates the severity of poverty (those who live in core poor). The implication is that majority of households in Kano State study area crowded along the poverty line. The result also reveals that those who live above the poverty line are 5% (this means that they are the non-poor). However, the findings revealed 95.9% farmers who were farming before commencement of the CACS were below the poverty line, this implies that the standard of living in the area is low. Secondly, after access the CACS scheme, the findings revealed that the mean annual expenditure in Kano State study area after the farmers had access to commercial agriculture credit is N131, 257.15 and incidence of poverty is 98.5% (those who fall in the category of below the poverty line), while the poverty gap in the area is 0.026% (that is the degree of poverty between households) and 0.007% which indicates the severity of poverty (those who live in core poor). The implication is that even after accessing the CACS scheme, majority of households in Kano State are crowded along the poverty line. This means that the scheme did not improve their welfare. There was no improvement. The findings also reveals that those who live above the poverty line are 2% (this means that they are the non-poor). However, the findings clearly shows that the rice farmers who were farming after accessing the CACS scheme indicate that 98.5% of them in Kano state are below the poverty line, which implies that the standard of living in the area is low.

Keywords: *Commercial Agriculture, Credit Scheme, Poverty Reduction, Rice Farmers*

The Relationship Between Savings and Investment in Nigeria: Fresh Evidence from Combined Cointegration Test of Feldstein-Horioka Hypothesis

Zakaria Yakubu

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Abstract

This study will examine the linkages between saving and investment in Nigeria for the period 1970-2020. Unlike previous studies, this study utilizes Bayer and Hanck combined cointegration method for long run relationship. This is to test the Feldstein-Horioka (1980) hypothesis that postulates low capital mobility internationally if there is long run relationship between savings and investment, but if there is no long run relationship, it implies high capital mobility. This is not to be taken lightly by policy makers in Nigeria as scarce savings is channeled abroad for investment, which undermined Nigerian economic growth.

Keywords: *Savings, Investment, Feldstein-Horioka Puzzle, Combined Cointegration, Nigeria.*

Impact of Climate Change on Temperature Trends, Implications for Agricultural Production and Mitigation Strategies

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Abstract

The State of the environment as a natural home for the habitation of humans, plants, animals and biotic elements cannot be over emphasized. The environment plays an essential role in life support and dictates the socio-economic growth and survival and the livelihood opportunities that are available in an area. Nevertheless, this life support has been subjected to series of devastations caused by natural catastrophes that are mainly anthropogenically induced resulting in flood, drought, desertification, changes in temperature patterns, among others. The purpose of this study was to access the information/data on temperature trends for the period (1988-2002) and for the period (2018-2019). The data/information accessed were analyzed using descriptive statistics. The result shows that temperature values were high between months of February and March and in the month of November for the period (2018-2019). The result also shows that the month of February often recorded highest temperature values in the same period (2018-2019) showing rising temperature trends than in the period (1988-2002). Recommendations, among others, include that; there should be shift in planting dates of some crops, edible cover crops to be cultivated as “must crops” during the planting seasons and construction of water channels for irrigation purposes.

Keywords: *Environment, Climate change, Temperature Trends, Mitigation Strategies*

Determinants of Liquidity Preference Theory: The Views of Baumol and Tobins' on Portfolio of Investments

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Abstract

The study examines the determinants of liquidity preference theory; the views of Baumol and Tobins' on portfolios investments. Hence, both studies are based on Keynesian economic model that emphasize on investing in liquid assets. Hence, Baumol (1952) considers transaction balances as to meet the working capital needs; whereas, Tobin (1956) emphasizes on investment balances that premised on liquidity preference theory that seeks to explain the level of interest rate with regards to the interaction of money supply and desire of savers to hold their investments in cash. The study concluded that since both school of thoughts are predicated on the Keynesian economic model; therefore, investments would be based on the available best options. The study recommends that since both of propositions are concern about money; thus, what need to explain is not only the existence of demand for cash hence its yield is less than the yield on alternative assets but an inverse relationship between aggregate demand for cash and the level of different yields. The policy makers and monetary authorities should encourage Baumol's model; since money balances are like inventory of purchasing power which could be drawn upon when needed to finance investments in the economy. Transactions, speculative and precautionary motives of demand for money should properly be managed by the stake-holders and investors in the economy.

Keywords: *Determinants, Liquidity, Preference Theory, Baumol and Tobin Views*

Governance, COVID-19 and Human Wellbeing in Nigeria

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Abstract

Governance at any level is expected to create enabling environment for improved wellbeing of the citizens, especially during emergencies like COVID-19 pandemic. The response to contain, COVID-19 pandemic and the inability to improve the wellbeing of the people through the provision of palliative packages exposed the fragility of Nigerian governance and the vulnerability of citizens. With the purpose of unraveling the response of Nigerian government towards the containment of the dreaded COVID-19 virus and improving the wellbeing of the citizens, the study used descriptive methodology and analysis. It utilized secondary data and employed fragile state theory. The results of the findings established that the poor management of COVID-19 pandemic and inability of the state to improve the wellbeing of the citizens during the crisis is attributed to the weak and fragile nature of Nigerian governance. The paper, therefore, called for strong and stable governance that can develop sustainable institutional capacities which will prioritize the wellbeing of citizens

Keywords: *Governance, COVID-19, Human Wellbeing, Fragile State, Palliative*

E-Learning in the Era of COVID-19 in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions: Opportunities and Challenges

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Imo State Polytechnic, Omuma (Formerly Umuagwo)*

Abstract

Anchored on exploring the opportunities and challenges of e-learning during COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria, the study posited that COVID-19, has considerably made e-learning imperative in the tertiary institutions in Nigeria regardless of the fact that digital learning has not been fully implemented in most tertiary institutions. The study depended on secondary sources of data. It utilized technological determinism theory and employed content analytical technique. Its findings established that e-learning provided the opportunities of education without barrier, cost reduction, efficiency and effectiveness as well as convenience in learning. It equally uncovered that inadequate funding, epileptic power supply, high cost of information communication technology facilities, low expertise of lecturers and inadequate knowledge of e-learning by the students in tertiary institutions are key factors undermining e-learning. In the light of the foregoing, the paper recommended adequate funding of e-learning, public private partnership investment on electricity, a regulatory policy on the charges of ICT providers and data services, and prioritization of to the training and retraining of lecturers.

Keywords: *E-learning, COVID-19, tertiary institutions, Fragile State.*

The 2014 National Conference Recommendation for Scrapping of Local Government System in Nigeria Federalism: Implications for National Development

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Abstract

The 2014 National Conference recommendation for the scrapping of local government system in Nigeria federalism is a great mis-step. This is because it failed to appreciate that the setback suffered by the local government system in the discharge of its constitutionally assigned responsibility is hindered by lack of autonomy owing to unrestricted control from the state government derivable from section 7 (1) of the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria which empowers the state with oversight functions. This paper is aimed to examine the implications of the scrapping of the local government system for National development, with the purpose of advancing possible panacea for strong, functional and sustainable local government system. The paper relied heavily on secondary data and content analysis. It utilized local autonomy as a model of theoretical analysis as the results of the findings uncovered that disruption in community development, democratic exclusion, emergence of a two-tier system, exclusion of the grassroots communities from participating in economic planning and development, poor communication link between the local government and central government, non-recognition of cultural diversity and absence of checkmating the abuses of higher governments by the local government are the implications of scrapping local government for national development in Nigeria federalism. The paper finally recommended for the continuous existence of local government system as a third tier government and amendment of section 7 of the constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria for substantial local government autonomy in order to stem the tide of unrestricted control and undue interference of the state government over the local government.

Keywords: *Local Government, Federalism, 2014 National Conference, Autonomy*

Explaining Election as a Curse to Democracy in Africa: Reflections from Selected African Countries

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Abstract

There is no gainsaying that lawful, peaceful and credible elections are the invaluable ingredients of democratic deepening and consolidation. It is also seen as an indispensable feature of democratic governance, a source of legitimacy enjoyed by the government and to a large extent it also determines the level of political development of a given polity. And more importantly, election is also conceived as a mechanism of peacebuilding; it serves as a medium of peaceful resolution of societal political differences and preferences while at the same time building citizen's trust in the capacity of collective decisions and institutions to govern. However, in most African transitory and ailing democracies such as Kenya, Gabon, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, and Cote d'Ivoire, elections are now becoming a source of credible threat to democratic sustenance, stability and governance. Elections in these polities are devoid of democratic ingredients; they rather are fraudulent, lawless, destructive and violent in nature. This obviously cannot enthrone stable and sustainable democratic systems. Thus, this paper interrogates the dangers and damage these illegal, unsecured and undemocratic elections pose to the democratization processes and political systems in Africa. To achieve the purpose of the study, the paper mainly drew its data from secondary sources and based in inferences from selected African countries argued that if these affected countries fail to reconfigure and democratize their electoral processes and systems, elections will continue to be a formidable threat to the democratization process and political stability of these societies.

Keywords: *Democratization process, Election, Electoral Process, Political Stability, Democratic Sustenance, Democratic governance and Consolidation*

Effect of Ownership Structure on Stock Returns of Listed Consumer Goods Companies in Nigeria

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Abstract

Ownership structure is a corporate governance attribute that reinforces the assurance that stockholders receive favourable returns on their investment. This study examined the effect of ownership-structure on stock returns of listed consumer-goods firms on the Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX). The individual- as well as the combined-effect of ownership-concentration, managerial-ownership and institutional-ownership on stock returns were investigated, using the ex-post facto research method. A purposive sampling technique was used to obtain the sample size of sixteen (16) firms selected from the total population of the twenty-three (23) listed consumer-goods firms on the Nigerian Exchange Group as at 2020, ensuring that every selected company had complete information in the study period (2011-2020). Ten-year cross-sectional data were then extracted from the annual reports of the sampled firms for analysis. Pooled OLS regression technique (as dictated by the Lagrangian multiplier test) was employed to analyse the panel data. Diagnostic tests confirmed model's goodness-of-fit, that assured reliable results. Ownership-concentration and institutional-ownership had significant effect on stock returns of quoted consumer-goods companies in Nigeria. The study thus concluded that ownership-structure was one of the monitoring mechanisms that could curb managerial opportunistic behaviour against increasing stock returns volatility, thereby ensuring favourable returns on investment. Recommendation was that consumer-goods companies should encourage higher institutional shareholding and ownership-concentration, as this would exert stronger external control to oblige managers for justifiable dividend payout.

Keywords: *Ownership Structure, Stock returns, ownership concentration, managerial ownership, institutional ownership, Pooled OLS regression*

Debt Issues and the Nigerian Economy (1981 - 2020)

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Abstract

Nigeria's public debt has been on the rise lately, unfortunately despite the huge borrowings the Nigeria case of underdevelopment and the likes remain largely the same. Hence, this paper is aimed at investigating the effect of public debt on the growth of the Nigerian economy. Time series secondary data was employed spanning from 1981 to 2020. The vector autoregressive model (VAR) was adopted for the analysis; also, the forecast error variance decomposition test (FEVD) and the impulse response function were conducted for prediction into the future. The stated hypotheses were tested using the t-test, F-test and coefficient of multiple determination (R^2). Other tests conducted were stationarity test, co-integration test and granger causality test. The findings among other things were that current total output is positively influenced by the past total output both in the short run and the long run periods, also as the periods gradually increase the total income and government total debt impacts negatively on the current output while a continuous government debt servicing impacts negatively on the total output. Furthermore, current total income is negatively influenced by total output however this influence gets weaker and weaker in the long run, also past income has a very strong positive influence on current income in the short run but becomes very weak in the long run while the government total debt will positively increase total income in the short run and long run periods; but government debt servicing will negatively influence the total income. Therefore, we recommend that government should not borrow for recurrent expenditure purposes rather for capital expenditures like for the development of the agricultural and industrial sectors. Government must be sincere in their policy formulation and formulate the right policies with the sole aim of improving the contribution of the different sectors to the nation's economic growth. For instance, the ban on importation of foreign rice and the subsequent encouragements given to local rice producers in the form of soft loans resulted to the local production of quality stone free rice. This move must be sustained and more needs to be done for the nation to come out of borrowing and debt servicing so as to toll the part of sustainable economic growth and development.

Keywords: *Public debt, Growth, Nigeria economy, Government debt servicing*

Disaster Preparedness and Sustainable Risk Management in Metropolitan Cities in Nigeria

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Abstract

Globally, it is believed that people's preparedness to immediately recover from disaster is a panacea to a sustainable risk management, considering the increase level of disaster hazards as well as breakthrough in scientific and technological advancements. Disaster impacts and risks can be reduced along with increasing peoples' preparedness towards hazards however the extent of this cannot be ascertained in metropolitan cities in Nigeria. In this regard therefore, this study evaluates the level of disaster preparedness as measures to sustainable risk management in metropolitan cities in selected North-Central states in Nigeria, that are highly flood-prone as a result of Rivers Benue and Niger. In achieving this, a qualitative approach with use of field observations and data obtained through responses to questionnaires were utilized. The results of the study reveals that there is a low level of disaster preparedness to flood risks management and the factors responsible are the low level of communities' social capital; risks knowledge capacities and; the reduced involvement of local and state governments' institutions. This study therefore concludes that communities' preparedness played key roles in reducing flood disasters and improving sustainable risks management. It is therefore recommended that governments' institutions charged with environmental issues should orient the flood prone communities on how to prepare for flood disasters in areas of responses, resilience and recovery.

Keywords: *Disaster preparedness, Community, Flood disaster, Risk management*

Sustainable Development Goal (1) and National Development in Nigeria: An Evaluation of Trader Money Scheme of Muhammadu Buhari in Nigeria

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Abstract

Over the years, the issue of poverty and what should be done to eradicate it has been the major concern of governments all over the world. Here in Nigeria different programmes and schemes have been implemented by different regimes to address the menace of poverty. In spite of all these anti-poverty programmes however, poverty has continued to take extreme dimension. On coming to power in 2015 as an elected president, Muhammadu Buhari immediately cued into the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal(1) which seeks to end extreme poverty by the year 2030. It is the belief of his government that pulling people out of extreme poverty will enhance their capacity to contribute to National Development by becoming active players in the economy. This paper examines the implementation of the TraderMoni scheme which is one of the Social Investment Programmes of the Buhari Presidency. The paper observed that the programme actually touched the lives of the target groups positively in the few areas where it was implemented, especially the petty traders. It opines that the failure of the programme to kick start in 2015 when it was initiated until 2018, the eve of the 2019 election was the reason why it was dismissed in some quarters as a vote buying strategy of the ruling party. The paper recommended that the Federal Government should re-start and ensure the spread of the scheme to more markets in the Federation so as to touch lives and by so doing, disabuse the minds of those who insist that it was a vote-buying scheme.

Keywords: *Poverty alleviation, SDGs, extreme poverty*

Workplace Values and its Impact on Employees' Performance of Commercial Banks in Kafanchan, Kaduna State-Nigeria

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Abstract

Workplace values or organizational culture represents the collective values, principles, and philosophies of an organization and is a product of factors such as management styles, communication styles, collaboration, employee commitment and organizational values. This study attempts to determine the impact of workplace values or organizational culture on employees' performance in commercial banks in Kafanchan, Kaduna State, Nigeria. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design with a target population of 156 employees. A stratified random sampling technique was employed in selecting 112 employees as respondents in the study. The study used quantitative data which were primarily collected from respondents using an adopted and modified structured questionnaire which was validated using the content validity index (CVI) method. The data were analyzed using frequency/percentage analysis, descriptive statistics, correlation analysis and multiple regression analysis. The data analysis was done with the aid of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS software) version 23.0). Findings from the study revealed that the organizational culture components – honesty, excellence & quality, and professionalism had statistically significant positive impacts on employees' performance in commercial banks in Kafanchan, Kaduna State at 5% level of significance. Based on these findings, the study recommended that; management of the commercial banks in Kafanchan should provide flexible workplace values and organizational cultures that will motivate employees and hence, improve their job performance. The study also recommended that management of the commercial banks should also provide human capacity development opportunities for employees through trainings, seminars, conferences, and workshops as these will help acquaint them with the organizational cultures of their banks; hence, enhancing their performance and productivity.

Keywords: *Workplace Values, Organizational Culture, Honesty, Excellence & Quality, Professionalism, Employee Performance*

NHIS Enrollees' Satisfaction with Health Care Services Provided by HMO-Accredited Health Facilities, and Non-Enrollees' Willingness to Participate in the NHIS and Pay for Health Insurance in Kaduna Metropolis

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Abstract

The Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO) which has the statutory responsibility of organizing and managing the activities of the Health care Providers (Health facilities) in ensuring that enrollees of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) are provided with good and quality health care services as it is alleged that some of the health care providers (health facilities) have failed in their primary responsibility of providing good and quality health care services to their clients which include NHIS enrollees. This study was carried out with the aim of evaluating NHIS enrollees' satisfaction with health care services accessed in HMO-accredited health facilities, and non-enrollees' readiness to participate in the NHIS and make payment for health insurance in Kaduna metropolis. A cross-sectional survey research design was adopted for the study, in which 384 NHIS enrollees and non-enrollees were selected using stratified random sampling technique. The study used quantitative data which were gathered through the use of a self-administered structured questionnaire and were analyzed using frequency/percentage distribution analysis, Chi-square test and independent samples t-test with the aid of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23.0. The results of the study revealed that enrollees of NHIS and non-enrollees of NHIS were satisfied with the health care services provided by the HMO-accredited health facilities in Kaduna metropolis. The results also revealed that there was significant difference in the level of satisfaction between enrollees of NHIS and non-enrollees of NHIS, with non-enrollees having higher satisfaction with the health care services. The results also revealed that non-enrollees of the NHIS in Kaduna metropolis were willing to participate in the NHIS and make payments for health insurance. More knowledge among enrollees about the modus operandi of HMOs will help them demand for better services as a right. The study recommended that HMOs should set up monitoring agencies to monitor the activities and services of HMO-accredited health facilities in order to enhance the satisfaction level of NHIS enrollees.

Keywords: *Health Maintenance Organizations, Enrollee, Non-enrollee, Satisfaction, Health insurance*

Massacres in Africa: Rationale, Lessons Learned and Evidence from the Niger Delta Region

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Abstract

There is enough evidence to suggest that massacres are perpetrated by various governments in the global community to subdue harmless and defenseless civilians. This research examines the rationale behind massacres in Africa. The work deploys the library research technique of data collection to provide answers to some salient questions about massacres in the continent with focus on selected communities in the Niger Delta region. The study argues that while the justifications for massacres have always been the preservation of national interest, protection of the economic base of the country and to instill fears in criminal minded persons or groups, the impacts are often very devastating and the culprits in most instances are not the victims. The study holds that in every massacre there are lessons to be learned by the perpetrators, the culprits and the victims and that there are more justifiable ways such as intelligent gathering and collaborative stakeholders' approach to address civil disturbance or criminality hence massacre should not be an option.

Keywords: *Massacre, National Interest, Niger Delta, Economic base, Military Invasion*

The Nigerian State and Electoral Violence: An Interrogation of the 2019 General Elections in Rivers State

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Abstract

Periodic elections are generally regarded as one of the most important elements of modern democracies. For liberal democracies, the electoral processes remain the best option for the selection of government and political leaders. The relevance of periodic elections is provided in Article 21(3) of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, since the attainment of political independence by Nigeria in 1960, the conduct of peaceful, free, fair and credible elections in Nigeria has remained a herculean task. Elections in the country have been generally fraught with irregularities, rigging and extreme violence, perpetrated by political players and their agents, using the coercive apparatus of the State. Regrettably, the Nigerian State has often employed or deployed security agencies and agents to perpetrate and perpetuate election violence and intimidate opposition and even the public. Against this background, this paper interrogated the State-related and induced violence in the 2019 General Elections as experienced in Rivers State. The paper draws attention to the reports of domestic and foreign Elections Observer Missions during the elections. Qualitative research method was used to obtain data. The Marxist Theory of State was applied in explaining electoral violence in Rivers State. This paper reveals that some political actors used State security apparatus: especially the military and police, to perpetrate electoral violence during the 2019 General Elections in Rivers State. In order to mitigate election violence and ensure good governance, a radical review of the electoral laws, and punishment of electoral violence offenders and professionalization of the armed forces become inevitable.

Keywords: *The State, Security Agencies, Electoral Violence, Rivers State, Democracy.*

The Ethnic Federalism Paradox of the Civil War in Ethiopia (2020-2022)

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Abstract

Paradoxical ethnic cleavages is manifesting with multiple complexities in the Civil War in Ethiopia (CWE). Ethiopia operates an ethnic-federal system principally predicated on language and culture. The specific objective of the study is to evaluate the CWE in the light of ethnic-identity cleavages and to identify the non-conformity to the norm. In accordance, the study is guided by three research questions. Primordialism is the theoretical framework while the qualitative method is the research methodology of the study. The paradox in the raging CWE is that Oromo – the ethnic state of Prime Minister Abiy is at war against the government of Ethiopia under the leadership of their son. A greater paradox is that the Amhara ethnic-State is at war with the Oromo. Atrocities are being committed by the Amhara against the Oromo and Abiy is in a dilemma because of the paradox. The alliance of Eritrea is the greatest asset of Abiy. Paradoxically, Eritrea and Tigray speak the same language indicative of same ethnicity. In conclusion, the CWE reveals that the quest for political and economic empowerment trumps over ethnic-cleavages as causal factors of conflict. The study recommends that economic and political benefits should not be treated with levity.

Keywords: *Ethnic Federalism, Paradox, Civil War, Ethiopia*

RESEARCH MANUAL

WRITING RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR GRANTS

A grant proposal or application is a document or set of documents that is submitted to an organization with the explicit intent of securing funding for a research project. Grant writing varies widely across disciplines. However, this training handout attempts to provide a general introduction to grant writing across disciplines. Before you begin writing your proposal, you need to know what kind of research you will be doing and why. You may have a topic or experiment in mind, but taking the time to define what your ultimate purpose is can be essential to convincing others to fund that project. Writing successful grant applications is a long process that begins with an idea. Although many people think of grant writing as a linear process (from idea to proposal to award), it is a circular process. Many people start by defining their research question or questions. What knowledge or information will be gained as a direct result of your project? Why is undertaking your research important in a broader sense? You will need to explicitly communicate this purpose to the committee reviewing your application. This is easier when you know what you plan to achieve before you begin the writing process.

GENERAL TIPS IN WRITING RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR GRANTS

1. Begin early.
2. Apply early and often.
3. Don't forget to include a cover letter with your application.
4. Answer all questions. (Pre-empt all unstated questions).
5. If rejected, revise your proposal and apply again.
6. Give them what they want. Follow the application guidelines exactly.
7. Be explicit and specific.
8. Be realistic in designing the project.
9. Make explicit the connections between your research questions and objectives, your objectives and methods, your methods and results, and your results and dissemination plan.
10. Follow the application guidelines exactly. (This is very important.)

BEFORE YOU BEGIN TO WRITE

Identify your needs and focus

First, identify your needs. **Answering the following questions may help you:**

1. Are you undertaking preliminary or pilot research in order to develop a full-blown research agenda?
2. Are you seeking funding for dissertation research? Pre-dissertation research? Postdoctoral research? Archival research? Experimental research? Fieldwork?
3. Are you seeking a stipend so that you can write a dissertation or book? Polish a manuscript?
4. Do you want a fellowship in residence at an institution that will offer some programmatic support or other resources to enhance your project?

5. Do you want funding for a large research project that will last for several years and involve multiple staff members?

Next, think about the focus of your research/project. **Answering the following questions may help you narrow it down:**

1. What is the topic? Why is this topic important?
2. What are the research questions that you're trying to answer? What relevance do your research questions have?
3. What are your hypotheses?
4. What are your research methods?
5. Why is your research/project important? What is its significance?
6. Do you plan on using quantitative methods? Qualitative methods? Both?
7. Will you be undertaking experimental research? Clinical research?
8. Once you have identified your needs and focus, you can begin looking for prospective grants and funding agencies.

FUNDING PROSPECTIVE GRANTS AND FUNDING AGENCIES

Whether your proposal receives funding will rely in large part on whether your purpose and goals closely match the priorities of granting agencies. Locating possible grantors is a time consuming task, but in the long run it will yield the greatest benefits. Even if you have the most appealing research proposal in the world, if you don't send it to the right institutions, then you're unlikely to receive funding. There are many sources of information about granting agencies and grant programs. Most universities and many schools within universities have Offices of Research, whose primary purpose is to support faculty and students in grant-seeking endeavors. These offices usually have libraries or resource centers to help people find prospective grants.

WRITING THE PROPOSAL

1. Audience: Majority of grant programs recruit academic reviewers with knowledge of the disciplines and/or program areas of the grant. Thus, when writing your grant proposals, assume that you are addressing a colleague who is knowledgeable in the general area, but who does not necessarily know the details about your research questions. Remember that most readers are lazy and will not respond well to a poorly organized, poorly written, or confusing proposal. Be sure to give readers what they want. Follow all the guidelines for the particular grant you are applying for. This may require you to reframe your project in a different light or language. Reframing your project to fit a specific grant's requirements is a legitimate and necessary part of the process unless it will fundamentally change your project's goals or outcomes.

Final decisions about which proposals are funded often come down to whether the proposal convinces the reviewer that the research project is well planned and feasible and whether the investigators are well qualified to execute it. Throughout the proposal, be as explicit as possible. Predict the questions that the reviewer may have and answer them.

Przeworski and Salomon (1995) note that reviewers read with three questions in mind:

1. What are we going to learn as a result of the proposed project that we do not know now? (goals, aims, and outcomes)
2. Why is it worth knowing? (significance)
3. How will we know that the conclusions are valid? (criteria for success)

Be sure to answer these questions in your proposal. Keep in mind that reviewers may not read every word of your proposal. Your reviewer may only read the abstract, the sections on research design and methodology, the vitae, and the budget. Make these sections as clear and straightforward as possible.

2. Style: The way you write your grant will tell the reviewers a lot about you. From reading your proposal, the reviewers will form an idea of who you are as a scholar, a researcher, and a person. They will decide whether you are creative, logical, analytical, up-to-date in the relevant literature of the field, and, most importantly, capable of executing the proposed project. Allow your discipline and its conventions to determine the general style of your writing, but allow your own voice and personality to come through. Be sure to clarify your project's theoretical orientation.

3. Develop a general proposal and budget: Because most proposal writers seek funding from several different agencies or granting programs, it is a good idea to begin by developing a general grant proposal and budget. This general proposal is sometimes called a “white paper.” Your general proposal should explain your project to a general academic audience. Before you submit proposals to different grant programs, you will tailor a specific proposal to their guidelines and priorities.

ORGANIZING YOUR PROPOSAL

Although each funding agency will have its own (usually very specific) requirements, there are several elements of a proposal that are fairly standard, and they often come in the following order:

1. Title page
2. Abstract
3. Introduction (statement of the problem, purpose of research or goals, and significance of research)
4. Literature review
5. Project narrative (methods, procedures, objectives, outcomes or deliverables, evaluation, and dissemination)
6. Personnel
7. Budget and budget justification

Format the proposal so that it is easy to read. Use headings to break the proposal up into sections. If it is long, include a table of contents with page numbers.

Title page

The title page usually includes a brief yet explicit title for the research project, the names of the principal investigator(s), the institutional affiliation of the applicants (the department and

university), name and address of the granting agency, project dates, amount of funding requested, and signatures of university personnel authorizing the proposal (when necessary). Most funding agencies have specific requirements for the title page; make sure to follow them.

Abstract

The abstract provides readers with their first impression of your project. To remind themselves of your proposal, readers may glance at your abstract when making their final recommendations, so it may also serve as their last impression of your project. The abstract should explain the key elements of your research project in the future tense. Most abstracts state: (1) the general purpose, (2) specific goals, (3) research design, (4) methods, and (5) significance (contribution and rationale). Be as explicit as possible in your abstract. Use statements such as, “The objective of this study is to ...”

Introduction

The introduction should cover the key elements of your proposal, including a statement of the problem, the purpose of research, research goals or objectives, and significance of the research. The statement of problem should provide a background and rationale for the project and establish the need and relevance of the research. How is your project different from previous research on the same topic? Will you be using new methodologies or covering new theoretical territory? The research goals or objectives should identify the anticipated outcomes of the research and should match up to the needs identified in the statement of problem. List only the principle goal(s) or objective(s) of your research and save sub-objectives for the project narrative.

Literature review

Many proposals require a literature review. Reviewers want to know whether you've done the necessary preliminary research to undertake your project. Literature reviews should be selective and critical, not exhaustive. Reviewers want to see your evaluation of pertinent works.

Project narrative

The project narrative provides the meat of your proposal and may require several subsections. The project narrative should supply all the details of the project, including a detailed statement of problem, research objectives or goals, hypotheses, methods, procedures, outcomes or deliverables, and evaluation and dissemination of the research. For the project narrative, pre-empt and/or answer all of the reviewers' questions. Don't leave them wondering about anything. For example, if you propose to conduct unstructured interviews with open-ended questions, be sure you've explained why this methodology is best suited to the specific research questions in your proposal. Or, if you're using item response theory rather than classical test theory to verify the validity of your survey instrument, explain the advantages of this innovative methodology. Or, if you need to travel to Valdez, Alaska to access historical archives at the Valdez Museum, make it clear what documents you hope to find and why they are relevant to your historical novel on the '98ers in the Alaskan Gold Rush. Clearly and explicitly state the connections between your research objectives, research questions, hypotheses, methodologies, and outcomes. As the requirements for a strong project narrative

vary widely by discipline, consult a discipline-specific guide to grant writing for some additional advice.

Personnel

Explain staffing requirements in detail and make sure that staffing makes sense. Be very explicit about the skill sets of the personnel already in place (you will probably include their Curriculum Vitae as part of the proposal). Explain the necessary skill sets and functions of personnel you will recruit. To minimize expenses, phase out personnel who are not relevant to later phases of a project.

Budget

The budget spells out project costs and usually consists of a spreadsheet or table with the budget detailed as line items and a budget narrative (also known as a budget justification) that explains the various expenses. Even when proposal guidelines do not specifically mention a narrative, be sure to include a one or two page explanation of the budget. Consider including an exhaustive budget for your project, even if it exceeds the normal grant size of a particular funding organization. Simply make it clear that you are seeking additional funding from other sources. This technique will make it easier for you to combine awards down the road should you have the good fortune of receiving multiple grants.

Make sure that all budget items meet the funding agency's requirements. For example, all U.S. government agencies have strict requirements for airline travel. Be sure the cost of the airline travel in your budget meets their requirements. If a line item falls outside an agency's requirements (e.g. some organizations will not cover equipment purchases or other capital expenses), explain in the budget justification that other grant sources will pay for the item. Many universities require that indirect costs (overhead) be added to grants that they administer. Check with the appropriate offices to find out what the standard (or required) rates are for overhead. Pass a draft budget by the university officer in charge of grant administration for assistance with indirect costs and costs not directly associated with research (e.g. facilities use charges).

Furthermore, make sure you factor in the estimated taxes applicable for your case. Depending on the categories of expenses and your particular circumstances (whether you are a foreign national, for example), estimated tax rates may differ. You can consult respective departmental staff or university services, as well as professional tax assistants.

Timeframe

Explain the timeframe for the research project in some detail. When will you begin and complete each step? It may be helpful to reviewers if you present a visual version of your timeline. For less complicated research, a table summarizing the timeline for the project will help reviewers understand and evaluate the planning and feasibility.

For multi-year research proposals with numerous procedures and a large staff, a time line diagram can help clarify the feasibility and planning of the study.

REVISING YOUR PROPOSAL

Strong grant proposals take a long time to develop. Start the process early and leave time to get feedback from several readers on different drafts. Seek out a variety of readers, both specialists in your research area and non-specialist colleagues. You may also want to request assistance from knowledgeable readers on specific areas of your proposal. For example, you may want to schedule a meeting with a statistician to help revise your methodology section. Don't hesitate to seek out specialized assistance from the relevant research offices.

In your revision and editing, ask your readers to give careful consideration to whether you've made explicit connections between your research objectives and methodology. **Here are some example questions:**

1. Have you presented a compelling case?
2. Have you made your hypotheses explicit?
3. Does your project seem feasible? Is it overly ambitious? Does it have other weaknesses?
4. Have you stated the means that grantors can use to evaluate the success of your project after you've executed it?

If a granting agency lists particular criteria used for rating and evaluating proposals, be sure to share these with your own reviewers.

RESEARCH MANUAL

AVOIDING PLAGIARISM IN RESEARCH

Plagiarism is when an author uses another person's idea and disseminates it as if it's his or her own idea. It is a form of academic dishonesty and a grave intellectual offense. Plagiarism in research can be intentional or unintentional, but either way, it is still unacceptable. In research writing, avoiding plagiarism is important because once you submit a paper that is flagged as plagiarised, it will cost you significantly. For students, this could mean a failing grade, and for professional researchers, this could adversely affect their reputation and credibility.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING PLAGIARISM IN YOUR RESEARCH

Plagiarism is one of the worst offenses a scholar can commit. Even if you're a graduate student who's trying to finish a paper quickly before a deadline, you never want to resort to simply regurgitating information from your sources. In order to properly learn your field of study and develop your own views, it's crucial to do more than reproduce what other academics have said, without attribution.

Avoiding plagiarism can benefit both students and professional researchers. Here are some of the reasons why it is best to avoid plagiarism in research, no matter what level of academia you belong to:

1. It helps you improve the quality of your work by not solely relying on and copying the ideas of others.
2. It saves you from the embarrassment and shame if (or when) you get caught plagiarising.
3. It enhances your capability to paraphrase meaning of established ideas and values in the proper way.
4. It can prevent grave and negative consequences in your career.
5. You can master conveying your ideas without having to worry about unintentionally copying someone else's work (there are a lot of plagiarism fixers available online that can help you do this).

These are only some of the practical reasons why avoiding plagiarism in your research is essential and beneficial for you.

So, what are the ways that you can avoid plagiarism when writing your research paper or thesis?

HOW TO AVOID PLAGIARISM

Here are three ways to cite your sources correctly and avoiding plagiarism in professional or academic research:

1. Direct Quotation

If you want to avoid plagiarism, you can use direct quotations when you use the words of the author verbatim. When doing this, you should also put indicators, such as “according to” or

“in (Author)'s view” to inform your readers that you are integrating the ideas of others in your paper.

However, it's best to limit the number of times you use a direct quote and only use them when necessary. Otherwise, you run the risk of sounding like an encyclopedia of existing knowledge, not an academic with your own insights.

That being said, here are some of the times when it is best to use a direct quote:

- a. When the thought and meaning of the source will be different when you reword it.
- b. When the original statement uses powerful language.
- c. When you are quoting a coined term or phrase that originated from the author.

Example:

Original: From 1984, by George Orwell: “*Power is in tearing human minds to pieces and putting them together again in new shapes of your own choosing.*”

Direct quote: As George Orwell said, “Power is in tearing human minds to pieces and putting them together again in new shapes of your own choosing.”

To properly cite and quote authors, it is also important to note that distinct citation styles require different formatting.

For example, in APA style, when you direct a quote, you must include the author's last name, the year, and the page number (Orwell, 1949, p. 266). But, in MLA, you only need to write the author's last name and the page number (Orwell 266).

2. Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing is when you keep the original meaning of the source, but write it in your own words. You will avoid plagiarism when you only get inspiration from the ideas of others and cite them in your reference, rather than copying their words to the letter.

However, you can cite an author and paraphrase the original statement, but still be plagiarising. Therefore, in avoiding plagiarism, you should refrain from rewriting the original text. Instead, use your own words, and retain just the most significant phrases or terms.

Example:

Original: “There is no doubt that China today is a superpower in every respect. According to several scholars, China has already become a global hegemon in recent years, threatening the position of the United States and the entire Western world.” (Source: Tonon, A. (2021) *Is China the world's next global hegemon?* Roar News)

Plagiarism: According to Tonon (2021), **China today is a superpower in every** sense of the word. Their power and influence as a country are **threatening the position** of the **entire Western world**.

Paraphrasing: Andrea Tonon (2021) argues that with the influence and power that China holds today, they are destabilising the authority and control that the United States and the West hold over the global economy.

3. Citing your sources correctly

Every time you quote or paraphrase, you must include an in-text or footnote citation clearly identifying the original author. Each citation must correspond to a full reference in the reference list or bibliography at the end of your paper.

This acknowledges the source of your information, avoiding plagiarism, and it helps your readers locate the source for themselves if they would like to learn more.

There are many different citation styles, each with its own rules. A few common styles are APA, MLA, and Chicago. Your instructor may assign a particular style for you to use, or you may be able to choose. The most important thing is to apply one style consistently throughout the text.

The examples below follow APA Style.

Citing a single source

