



**8th International  
Interdisciplinary Research  
& Development Conference**

Theme:

**DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES  
& SUSTAINABILITY IN AFRICA:**  
*Multi-disciplinary Discourse*

**ABSTRACT &  
PROCEEDINGS**

**1ST - 3RD NOVEMBER, 2023**

**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST - GHANA**





# 8TH INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST - GHANA

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## THEME

Development Challenges and Sustainable Development in Africa: Multi-disciplinary Discourse

**DATE:** Wednesday 1st - Friday 3rd November, 2023 | **TIME:** 10:00 am (GMT+1)

## CONFERENCE LOC:

**PT. Hussein Botchway**

Center for Clinical Innovation, Strategy & Policy (CCISP)

Conference LOC: University of Cape Coast, Ghana

## CONFERENCE PEER REVIEW PANEL

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MAUTECH, Nigeria

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Wright State University, USA

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University of Calabar, Nigeria

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Lagos State University, Nigeria

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# **8TH INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST - GHANA

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## **CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

### **DAY ONE – Wednesday 1st November, 2023**

Arrival of Guest/Delegates/Conferees

### **DAY TWO – Thursday 2nd November, 2023**

#### **OPENING SESSION/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
Research Training	- 9:30am – 12noon
Launch Break/Group Photograph	- 12noon – 1:00pm
Plenary Session	- 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Policy Review Session	- 4:00pm – 5:00pm

### **DAY THREE – Friday 3rd November, 2023**

Departure of Guest/Delegates/Conferees



## **WELCOME TO UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST, GHANA**

**T**he University of Cape Coast was established in October, 1962 as a University College and placed in a special relationship with the University of Ghana, Legon. On October 1, 1971, the College attained the status of a full and independent University, with the authority to confer its own degrees, diplomas and certificates by an Act of Parliament - The University of Cape Coast Act, 1971 [Act 390] and subsequently the University of Cape Coast Law, 1992 [PNDC Law 278].

The University was established out of a dire need for highly qualified and skilled manpower in education. Its original mandate was therefore to train graduate professional teachers for Ghana's second cycle institutions and the Ministry of Education in order to meet the manpower needs of the country's accelerated education programme at the time. Today, with the expansion of some of its Faculties/Schools and the diversification of programmes, the University has the capacity to meet the manpower needs of other ministries and industries in the country, besides that of the Ministry of Education.

From an initial student enrolment of 155 in 1963, the University of Cape Coast now has a total student population of 74, 720. The breakdown is as follows: 18949 regular undergraduate students, 1445 sandwich undergraduate students, 1014 regular postgraduate students, 2773 sandwich postgraduate students, 48989 distance undergraduate students and 1540 postgraduate distance students. The University admitted a total of 24723 students into its various programmes for the 2016/2017 academic year.

The University started with two departments, namely: Arts and Science. These departments developed into Faculties in 1963. In order to achieve the set objectives, in 1964, the University created two more Faculties, namely: Education and Economics & Social Studies [now Faculty of Social Sciences].

The fifth faculty [School of Agriculture] was established in 1975. The Faculty of Science was split into the Schools of Physical and Biological Sciences during the 2002/2003 academic year while the Department of Business Studies was also elevated to the School of Business with effect from the 2003/2004 academic year.

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4. Letter of Papers Acceptance and Journal Publication will be issued to author(s) on the 6th week after the conference. Acceptance will be in three forms:
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# Conference Abstracts

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# Navigating the Groupthink Syndrome in the Aftermath of the 2023 Presidential Election: Perspectives from Atiku and Obi Supporters"

<sup>1</sup>Kayode Oladele & <sup>2</sup>Sarumi Remilekun (PhD)

*Department of Politics and International Relations Lead City University,  
Ibadan Oyo State, Nigeria*

## Abstract

An acrimonious dispute over who will win the 2023 presidential election in Nigeria developed, with Peter Obi and Atiku Abubakar's followers strongly asserting their superiority. This study investigates the effects of post-election groupthink syndrome on these politically contentious groups' perceptions and views. By carefully examining the content of media sources from February 25, 2023, to September 25, 2023, this study examines the factors that lead to the establishment and persistence of Groupthink inside these groups. The findings show how echo chambers, charismatic leaders, and confirmation bias all play a role in shaping group dynamics and ultimately reinforcing entrenched beliefs. In order to help citizens successfully navigate the information ecosystem, the implications of these findings necessitate initiatives in media literacy and critical thinking. Political leaders must place a strong emphasis on inclusive and fact-based decision-making in order to combat Groupthink's negative effects and advance a more informed and peaceful political dialogue in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** *Decision-Making, Democratic Processes, Election Dynamics, Groupthink, Information Processing, Political Beliefs, Political Polarization*

## The Long Path Forward for Student Loan Forgiveness

**Katharine Meyer**

*Governance Study, Brown Center on Education Policy*

*Brookings Institution, Washington D.C.*

### Abstract

Less than a year after the Biden administration proposed forgiving up to \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for most borrowers, the Supreme Court ruled the policy unconstitutional. At the core of the case was whether the HEROES Act of 2003 granted the Secretary of Education the authority to “waive or modify” federal student loan terms, up to and including forgiving those loans. The Court ruled in a 6-3 decision that broad forgiveness was beyond the scope of what Congress intended when passing the HEROES Act, further arguing in the majority decision that policies with such a large economic and political impact should be decided through Congress, and not executive action. In the wake of that decision, the Biden administration has shifted policy toward improving the borrowing process as well as the repayment process. Political attention has focused on repayment (from the Biden administration's attempts at loan forgiveness to Republican-sponsored legislation proposing new repayment structures) but must also turn to reforming how students decide whether and how much to borrow to ensure future students do not face unmanageable student loan debt.

**Keywords:** *Student, Loan, Forgiveness*

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## Climate Change as a Driver of Conflict in Africa: Challenges and the Way Forward

**Abdulrahman Adamu**  
*Department of Political Science,  
Federal University Gusau-Nigeria*

### Abstract

There is no gainsaying the fact that the challenges of climate change have over the years affected the socio-economic prosperity of the continent when compared to its counterparts across the globe. Thus, the primary objective of this paper is to interrogate the linkage between climate change and conflict trends in Africa. The paper, deploying the qualitative method of research, through the use of textbooks, journals, magazines, monographs and official documents revealed that climate change has no doubt contributed greatly to conflicts facing the continent of Africa. It revealed further that the continent is faced with tropical weather patterns leading to the current high degree of climate conditions. The paper concludes that this climate conditions coupled with Africa's partial dependence on agriculture and the direct consumption of natural resources, creates the potentials for dramatic negative consequences of global or continental change in climate. It concludes further that climate change in Africa is beyond just conflict as it has over the years, caused breeding of vector-borne disease such as malaria, and hygiene related illness like cholera, etc. it destroys the economy by disrupting the transportation system such as roads and bridges, railway lines, waterways, air transport as a result of bad weather. The adverse effects of climate change in Africa have triggered spontaneous migration in some parts of the continent. The paper therefore, recommends among others that, there is the need to strengthen state capacity to create specific agencies charged with the responsibility of providing equal level of support to herders and pastoralists affected by climate change. Put in place mechanisms capable of mitigating antagonisms between ethnic groups and communities who found themselves competing over scarce resources.

**Keywords:** *Climate Change, Conflict, Africa, Economy, Resources*

## Effect on Strength of Concrete Made with Partial Replacement of Sand with Marble Dust

<sup>1</sup>Akinwunmi, Ayoola & <sup>2</sup>Isah, Jimoh Karikati  
*Civil Engineering Technology Department*  
*Federal Polytechnic, Ile-Oluji, Ondo State, Nigeria*

### Abstract

Concrete is a major component of most infrastructural facilities today because of its versatility. Concrete is a critical material in the construction industry. Sand is a major component in the production of concrete while marble dust is a by-product of marble that can be used completely or partially to replace sand in the production of concrete. Using marble dust as an alternative to sand in making concrete enhances its quality. Deteriorating environment caused by excessive exploitation of sand is a reason for exploring another material of similar quality that can replace sand in manufacture of concrete. This study was conducted in order to decide the effect on concrete strength made with part replacement of sand with marble dust. In this project, experiments were carried out to determine the compressive strength of concrete produced with marble dust instead of sand at varying percentages; the optimum replacement level was also determined. Additionally, sieve analysis tests were carried out on the sand and marble dust in order to determine their fineness modulus. All the concrete cubes were allowed to cure over 7-days, 14-days and 28-days separately. From the results obtained, concrete of maximum compressive strength was produced by replacing 50 percent of the sand with marble dust when compared with the other replacement levels. Compressive strength improved for the curing ages from using 100% sand up to 50% replacement of sand with marble dust. The maximum compressive strength obtained was 37 N/mm<sup>2</sup> after 28 days of curing and this occurred at 50% replacement level. The fineness modulus obtained for marble dust was 3.50 while that of the sand was 3.51. Marble dust can therefore be mixed with sand of similar fineness modulus as fine aggregate in concrete production.

**Keywords:** *Construction industry, Compressive strength, Sieve analysis, Curing ages, Fineness modulus*

## The Economic Impact of the Opioid Epidemic

<sup>1</sup>Julia Paris, <sup>2</sup>Caitlin Rowley and <sup>3</sup>Richard G. Frank

<sup>1,2&3</sup>*Economic studies, Brookings Schaeffer Initiative on Health Policy  
Brookings Institution, Washington D.C., United States of America*

### Abstract

There is strong evidence that the opioid epidemic has reduced labor force participation in the United States. While use of prescription opioids aimed at pain management for some individuals may enhance their ability to work, the widespread misuse of opioids has resulted in an epidemic of opioid use disorders (OUD), labor supply disruptions, and unprecedented deaths. Opioid misuse can compromise labor supply in a variety of ways, including absenteeism, increased workplace accidents, and withdrawal from the labor force due to disability, incarceration, or death.

**Keywords:** *Economic impact, Opioid, Epidemic*

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## Decolonization Debacle: The Bane of Sustainable Development Attainment in Nigeria

<sup>1</sup>Ojo Ann David PhD & <sup>2</sup>Olojede Ibukunoluwa Bose PhD

<sup>1&2</sup>Department of Public Administration,  
Lagos State University, Ojo, Nigeria.

### Abstract

Colonization, an imperial conquest of native lands by European countries, became an epoch-making, monumental highlight in the historical development of third world countries. There is no gainsaying that the colonial exercise did more evil than good for the colonized world. The decolonization of Africa and other colonized areas of the world was a slow process that was triggered by the First and Second World Wars. The devastating effects of the two wars on the economies of the West, coupled with the native resistance from the colonies, made colonialism to be impracticable. Hence, the European imperialist states were faced with no other choice than to relinquish their dominance on their colonies. Nigeria, which finally, attained independence in 1960, tailored its national development policy along the welfarist paradigm. In 1987, Nigeria joined the rest of the world in subscribing to the concept sustainable development by partaking in the World Commission on Environment and Development summit. The attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) became entrenched in national developmental planning after Nigeria attended the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. However, following the years of decolonization, Nigeria has grappled with developmental challenges and appeared to be on reverse gear in the developmental process. The post-colonial upheavals and mismanagement Nigeria became a glaring feature, thus having far-reaching consequences on her development strides. This begs the question as to what and how the decolonization exercise benefitted Nigeria. Therefore, this study examines the decolonization dilemma of Nigeria and how it had hampered Nigeria's chances of attaining sustainable development. The study employed a qualitative and expository analysis in examining the effect of the decolonization process on the attainment of the SDGs. The study builds on data from a range of published and unpublished sources. It was concluded in the study, that the climate that arose from the decolonization process had not enhanced the actualization of sustainable development in Nigeria. Among the suggestions in the study includes retracing the decolonization steps taken thus far and redefining how Nigeria can be rid of the legacies and traces of colonialism so as to set out on a steady drive towards attaining sustainable development.

**Keywords:** *Colonialism, Decolonization, Development, Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Goals*

## AI for Social Protection: Mind the People

<sup>1</sup>Michael Lokshin and <sup>2</sup>Nithin Umapathi

<sup>1&2</sup>World Bank, Washington D.C.

United State of America

### Abstract

The technology that allowed passengers to ride elevators without an operator was tested and ready for deployment in the 1890s. But it was only after the elevator operators' strike of 1946 which cost New York City \$100 million that automated elevators started to get installed. It took more than 50 years to persuade people that they were as safe and as convenient as those operated by humans. The promise of radical changes from new technologies has often overshadowed the human factor that, in the end, determines if and when these technologies will be used. Interest in artificial intelligence (AI) as an instrument for improving efficiency in the public sector is at an all-time high. This interest is motivated by the ambition to develop neutral, scientific, and objective techniques of government decisionmaking (Harcourt 2018). As of April 2021, governments of 19 European countries had launched national AI strategies. The role of AI in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals recently drew the attention of the international development community (Medaglia et al. 2021). Advocates argue that AI could radically improve the efficiency and quality of public service delivery in education, health care, social protection, and other sectors (Bullock 2019; Samoili and others 2020; de Sousa 2019; World Bank 2020). In social protection, AI could be used to assess eligibility and needs, make enrollment decisions, provide benefits, and monitor and manage benefit delivery (ADB 2020). Given these benefits and the fact that AI technology is readily available and relatively inexpensive, why has AI not been widely used in social protection?

**Keywords:** *AI Social protection, People*

## The Impact of Federal Reserve Policy on the Fed's Financial Conditions Index

<sup>1</sup>Brain Sack and <sup>2</sup>Eric T. Swanson

<sup>1</sup>Director of Global Economics for the D. E. Shaw group, New York City

<sup>2</sup>University of California, Irvine

### Abstract

The Federal Reserve conducts monetary policy by setting a target range for the federal funds rate, the interest rate at which banks borrow and lend to each other overnight. However, the federal funds rate by itself does not directly affect most firms and households in the economy. Instead, monetary policy is transmitted to the broader economy by affecting financial conditions more generally, including the longer-term interest rates at which businesses and households borrow, the exchange value of the dollar, and the prices of key assets such as equities and real estate. It is thus important to assess how these broader financial conditions are affected by the Fed's monetary policy decisions. The purpose of this paper is to measure that effect and to summarize it with a simple benchmark that should prove useful both for assessing the stance of monetary policy and forecasting economic activity.

**Keywords:** *Federal reserve, Policy, Financial conditions, Index*

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## Flood Plain Encroachment and Lokoja Flood Incidences

**Dare, E. Alaba**

*Department Social Science Education,  
Kogi State University, Nigeria.*

### Abstract

Recorded flood occurrences in Lokoja dates back to 1902 when river Niger overflowed its banks and flooded Lokoja cantonment of the city, about 25 houses had their foundations submerged. In 2011, river Niger also overflowed and drowned the houses of residents along its banks, all roads leading to FCT Abuja were cut off. By 2022 river Niger and its tributaries in Lokoja sacked about 425 houses and subsequently the flooding problems recurred in 2011, 2012, 2022 respectively with more devastating and unprecedented losses and damages to residents. This paper examines flood incidences in Lokoja and flood plain encroachment. Survey research design was adopted for the study. Purposive sampling was carried out in the five-neighbourhood located along river Niger flood plain (Kpata, Kabawa, Adankolo, Gadumo and Ganaja). Questionnaires were used to gather data from respondents for the study. Findings reveal that there is significant difference in the perception of respondents on floodplain encroachment and flood incidences in Lokoja. Structures along flood plain increase. Flood mitigation measures and initiatives were advanced in this paper to make the city more resilient to flood disaster.

**Keywords:** *Floodplain encroachment, Lokoja flood incidences, Flood Risk mitigation.*

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## An Exploration of Bimodal Voters Accreditation System in Conducting Credible Elections in Nigeria: A Study of Jbia Local Government, Katsina State

<sup>1</sup>Adamu Mohammed PhD & <sup>2</sup>Ashiru Salihu

<sup>1</sup>Department of Political Science, Federal University Gusau, Zamfara State

<sup>2</sup>Department of Political Science, Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina State

### Abstract

This paper is aimed at exploring the role of Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) in conducting credible, free and fair election in Nigeria by using Jibia local government Katsina state house of Assembly 2023. Election which is one of the core pillars of democracy faces serious challenges in Nigeria such as riggings, fraud, violence and other electoral malpractice. In order to prevent or minimize such abnormalities the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) introduced BVAS which is electronic voting system. The study uses both qualitative and quantitative means of collecting data devoid from sentiment. The study also adopts Technology Acceptance Model to explain how the introduction of technology in Nigeria electoral system boost and restore confidence in the electorate. The study revealed that BVAS has impacted positively in conducting credible, free and fair election. The study recommends among others that the usage of BVAS in subsequent election should be maintained, also there is need to provide adequate training to the adhoc staffs to use BVAS effectively.

**Keywords:** *BVAS, Election, Government, Katsina, Jibia*

## Impact of Malaria Infection on Some Hematological Parameters Among Patients Attending Specialist Hospital Gombe

Ismail Muhammad  
Department of Zoology  
Gombe State University

### Abstract

Malaria is a life-threatening parasitic disease that is transmitted through the bite of an infected female *Anopheles* mosquito. The parasite spends most of its life intra-cellularly within Red blood cell and causes significant changes and alteration to hematological parameters of the infected erythrocyte. The aim of this study was to evaluate the impact of malaria parasite on the hematological parameters of the infected RBC among some selected subjects attending specialist hospital Gombe. Blood samples were collected using vein puncture technique and analysed using Giemsa staining technique. For parasitological examination thick and thin blood film were prepared for parasite count and parasite identification, for hematological parameters examination Coulter A-T pierce hematology Analyzer (Beckman coulter) was used. A significant difference ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) between infected and non-infected subjects were observed in WBC, RBC, MID, HGB, MCH, RDW, PLT, MPV, and MCHC, with regard to the parasite density ( $\geq 500$ , 501-1000, 1001-10,000) only RBC, MID, and MCV demonstrated significant changes ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). The hematological parameters of infected male and female only showed significant difference ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) in RBC, and RDW. Malaria infection and increasing parasite density significantly affected the hematological parameters of the subject. Further research should be carried out to ascertain the impact of such changes on overall wellbeing of the subjects.

**Keywords:** *Plasmodium falciparum*, Hematological Parameters, Erythrocytes, Gombe

## Internal Party Politics and Conflict in the All-Progressive Congress (APC), in Nasarawa State, Nigeria, 2015-2022

<sup>1</sup>Yargwa, Lucky Isaac & <sup>2</sup>Ifeyanichukwu M. Abada, PhD

<sup>1&2</sup>Department of Political Science,

University of Nigeria Nsukka, Enugu State, Nigeria

### Abstract

Internal party democracy entails inclusiveness, democratic values, accountability and fairness in distribution of power and decision-making. This makes internal democracy vital for the survival of any political party and democratic system. However, its lack leads to political party conflicts, threatening government stability and democratic governance. Conflict in the All Progressive Congress in Nasarawa state has become worrisome and caused the party to be locked in a continuous political standoff in the state. This is undoubtedly a microcosm of the conflicts that have characterized the APC at the national level, leading to division, anti-party activities, factionalism, defection, and a decline in the party's electoral performance. This is attributable to neglect of democratic tenets by party elite, flouting of the party constitution, imposition of candidates, and concentration of political power in the hands of a small individual or groups. Therefore, this paper tends to explain how the non-adherence to regulations governing recruitment by party elite account for the conflict leading to defection in the APC in Nasarawa State. The paper was anchored on institutional theory as its analytical framework. Methodologically, the study relied on the documentary method of data collection and depended on content analysis. The paper found that the non-adherence to regulations governing recruitment by party elite accounted for the conflict, leading to defection within the APC in Nasarawa State. The paper concludes that the conflict in Nasarawa state chapter of the APC is a reflection of the problems that characterized the party at the national level. Arising from the finding, the paper recommended enactment and enforcement by the APC, of transparent recruitment regulations that is based on fairness, equity and justice, consistently comply by all party members.

**Keywords:** *Politics, Conflict, Democracy, Factionalism, Defection.*

## Identifying Risk Factors in the Privatised Power and Energy in Nigeria

**Dare, E. Alaba**

*Department of Social Science Education,  
Kogi State University Nigeria.*

### Abstract

Power and Energy in Nigeria has been a major bane to economic diversification and growth. The country has an installed capacity of 13,522 MW, it only able to generate 4,000MW which is insufficient for the population of 200 million people. Comparatively, South Africa with a population of about 51 million people, generate about 35,000MW out of an installed electricity generation capacity of over 52,000MW. With the state of power supply in Nigeria, many micro and medium enterprises. (MSMEs) as well as the industrial sector became crippled. In response, government embarked on privatization and deregulation of state-owned enterprises to inject private funds and operational efficiency through market forces. This article seeks to examine the risk factors that have eroded the potential benefits of the privatized power and energy sector in Nigeria over the last two decades with a view to proffer lasting solutions. A research approach integrating a literature survey and a case study carried out in Nigerian power and energy privatisation. Findings reveals, dilapidated power infrastructure, huge debt of gas supplied, inadequate metering and estimated billing, unstable macro-economic environment as Nigerian currency continue to deprecate against the US dollars were identified as risk factors. The author recommends public private partnership of the power sector in Nigeria. More Investment in the Power Distribution to increase access in the rural areas.

**Keywords:** *Privatisation, Power and Energy, Risk factors*



## Sychophancy in Governance: The Destruction of Nigeria's Political Development

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### Abstract

Sychophancy in governance is a way of generating or endearing favors from political elites and influential people through empty flattery and deceptive eulogy for parochial and pecuniary motives. This servile political behaviour usually exhibited by political minions diverts the attention of the political leader from his constitutional responsibilities of public service to personal aggrandizement, corruption and narcissistic behaviours. In the light of this, the paper conceptualized sychophancy, governance and political development stating the theory adopted. Qualitative technique was employed and the findings from this paper revealed that one of the causes of sychophancy in governance is that the system of allocation of resources or positions in many political systems of developing nations is usually based on support and not merit derived from capacity to perform and so it plays an enticing role for political jobbers particularly where government rewards sychophants for not revealing the ineptitude of the system or using the main stream media in silencing those challenging the effectiveness of policy programmes. It therefore concludes and recommends that the National Assembly needs to review and cut down on the exorbitant lifestyle of public servants, outrageous allowances, royalties and other excesses in order to repel off sychophants and charlatans in corridors of power deceiving and misleading the political leaders.

**Keywords:** *Deception, Failed State, Governance, Political Development, Politricking, Sychophancy*

