INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS

IN COLLABORATION WITH

GLOTAN RESEARCH SERVICES

CALL FOR PAPER
THEME:
DIGITALIZATION, DEMOCRACY AND POLITICS IN POST-COVID AFRICA

VENUE: UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA
DATE:
28-30 November 2023

Although, prior to the outbreak of the pandemic, digitalization has received much recognition for its impact on humanity in Africa, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the process of digitalization in Africa. The utility of digitalization was fully displayed during the pandemic control efforts and post-pandemic period. The internet and other social media platforms provided avenues that assisted in the early detection of the virus, contact tracing, distribution of medications, and tracking of people with the virus, and adequate access to data to monitor the spread of the virus, as well as artificial intelligence that

helps in the diagnosis of COVID-19. One of the unique features of digitalization is its ability to achieve or aid sustainable development. Digital revolutions amid COVID-19, which includes improvement of government capacity in forms of e-governance, and working remotely have now become highly essential for the achievement of sustainable development in the post-pandemic era. Digitalization that allows people to work remotely during COVID-19, did not only reduced production cost, improved resources efficiencies, but reduced emissions.

Indeed, scholars in humanities and social sciences have extensively discussed the connection between digitalization and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the sustainability of digitalization among African countries. Digitalization shows great impact on development. Some argue that it has contributed to socio-economic development: economic growth and wealth accumulation has risen, as digitalization has reshaped model of business, bilateral or multilateral trade, market demand, and work styles; enhance wealth distribution and income progressively shifted to capital intensive from labor. Others argue that digitalization has helped to reduce inequality, as small and middle scale producers, through an online platform are directly linked to large market. Digital technologies such as mobile phones, social media, and the internet have been able to meet the financial and developmental needs of businesses across African countries.

Similarly, digitalization has been of immense value to politics amid COVID-19 and post-pandemic era. It magnifies old concerns for the effective control of the spread of the virus, through e-governance that largely depends on sound digitalization. It has sharpened the foundations of democratic governance as African governments and countries have been more proactive in their response to COVID-19, through the deployment of the right digitalization to control the spread of the virus. Politically, the post-pandemic era has been able to deploy e-governance in the management of COVID-19. However, the specific networks of influence of digitalization on politics, inequality, how people carry on with their lives, work, and behavior during and post-pandemic period are still largely unclear and empirical research to unlock this evidence are urgently needed.

This Call for paper aims to showcase multi-disciplinary research that analyses the efficacy of digitalization from humanity, cultural, social, technological, medical, political, economic, and environmental perspectives against the backdrop of COVID-19, during and post-pandemic era.

Papers are envisaged based on, but by no means restricted to only the following themes.

- **Digitalization and prospect of democracy in Africa**
- **Digitalization and government response to COVID-19 in post-pandemic era**
- **Digitalization and sustainable development in Africa**
- **Digitalization and economic growth in post-pandemic Africa**
- **Digitalization and new normal conditions in post-pandemic Africa**
- **Impact of digitalization on inequality in post-pandemic Africa**
- **Digitalization and change in everyday life in working environment**
- **Covid-19, digitalization, and change in healthcare services in post-pandemic Africa**
- **Digitalization and prospect of education in post-pandemic Africa**
- **The politics of digitalization in post-pandemic Africa**

Contributions may take the form of an abstract of not more than 250 words with a short bio of 100 words to: glotanresearchservices@gmail.com, stating the appropriate sub-theme that best suit their submission. Upon acceptance of abstracts, presenters are expected to send 10 page slides and a well-researched manuscript of between 6,000 and 8,000 words.

Post Conference Opportunity

Authors whose papers were presented at the conference or who were unable to attend for various reasons, have the option of submitting their corrected papers for peer review and publishing in any of the four journals listed below or in an edited book coordinated by Prof. Victor Ojakorotu and Dr. Chukwudi Samuel AGUNYAI.

African Renaissance
Journal of African Affairs
AYIKA: Journal of Environment and Politics in Africa
Africa and Global Issues Quarterly

Crucial Dates

Conference Venue: Institute of African & Diaspora Studies, University of Lagos, Nigeria
28th August 2023: Submission of Abstracts due.
10th September 2023: Decision on abstracts announced.
28th October 2023: Full Papers are submitted.
1-15 November 2023: Registration for the Conference.
28 – 30 November 2023: Conference.

Conference Fees:
Participants: $ 450 (Covering the international tourist tour)
West African participants: N15000

Conference Conveners
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