

- Giuseppe Prestia

Blockchain, NFT, e-commerce: Digital Innovation in sub-Saharan Africa. An Opportunity for Development

The development of digital technologies in agriculture is proving very promising in sub-Saharan Africa to increase productivity, expand the marketing of products, facilitate the use of services related to agrifood, adapt to climate change, combat soil degradation and ensure the transmission to future generations of the heritage of traditional knowledge. Digital innovation therefore appears to be crucial for the future of Africa, although the obstacles and problems related to its realization are still numerous.

Keywords: Blockchain, digital agriculture, Internet of Things (IoT), NFT, sub-Saharan Africa

- Valentina Peri

No Romance Without Finance, They Say

This paper underscores the pivotal role played by online romance scams in shaping the agency and socio-economic mobility of urban youths in Ghana and Ivory Coast and how it contributed to fostering entrepreneurship among young people in West Africa. It is based on the results of several research trips to Ghana and Ivory Coast that I undertook in 2022-23 in search of the original texts of online love scammers, and some interviews conducted with those involved.

Keywords: Romance scam, West Africa, witchcraft, technology, chatbots

- Abimbola O. Adesoji and Opeoluwa A. Balogun

Telemedicine and Virtual Healthcare in Nigeria: The Present State of Practice and Potential for the Future

Advancements in digital technology and communication infrastructure brought about telemedicine and virtual healthcare, which have emerged as transformative solutions in healthcare delivery and are fast bridging the gap in healthcare accessibility. In recent times, telemedicine has been gaining traction in Nigeria and has become more popularised with the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. This paper assesses the present state of telemedicine practice in Nigeria and its potential to revolutionise healthcare delivery in the future. The paper concludes that the future of telemedicine and virtual healthcare is promising and may be a sustainable option in a country where the provision of healthcare is epileptic and its medical practitioners are seeking greener pastures in developed countries of the world.

Keywords: Telemedicine, virtual healthcare, practice, potential, Nigeria

- Ikeoluwa Adebisi and Abimbola O. Adesoji

Fashion, Marketing and the Digital Revolution: The Nigerian Experience

Fashion related to clothing and dressing like marketing has remained dynamic since the advent of human civilisation. This has made fashion related to dressing one of the most current issues in human society. Marketing too like fashion has metamorphosed through the ages. Whereas the concept of products, places, and payment methods have changed over time, the basic principles involved like the availability of products, exchange, and interactions undergirded by the need to meet needs or have needs met, have not changed. Both concepts have however been catalysed by the digital revolution which has broken down barriers and created a virtual market. This paper examines the impact of the

digital revolution on dressing fashion and marketing in Nigeria including their use of digital technologies, innovative approaches to marketing and advertising, and changes in the ways in which products are designed and manufactured.

Keywords: Fashion, marketing, technology, digital revolution, Nigeria

- Floriana Bernardi and Enrica Picarelli

Fashion Icons of Afro-diasporic literature

This article presents three case studies of women celebrity writers from the African diaspora – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Zadie Smith, and Amanda Gorman – to discuss how their sense of style and multiple connections with the fashion system work as effective political tools which amplify the power of their black literary voices and bodies within the compelling contemporary flows of African and black digital imagescapes.

Keywords: Black celebrity writers, black feminism, digital activism, African fashion, Afrosapes

- Africa e Mediterraneo editorial team

Information Under the Assault of Social Media in Kenya

The rampant disinformation fueled by Facebook or X, along with hate speech, poses a threat to democracy and civil peace. In recent years, there has been a progressive mobilization of national and supranational institutions, governments, international organizations, civil society, academics, and the media to advocate for the regulation of social media. This regulation aims to safeguard both freedom of expression and access to information without the risk of censorship. The article references the case of Kenya, where the British consulting firm Cambridge Analytica played a manipulative role in elections since 2013. The UNESCO project “Social Media 4 Peace,” currently being implemented in Kenya and three other countries with the support of the EU, has examined the regulatory framework and provided guidelines.

Keywords: Social media, Kenya, content moderation, democracy, UNESCO

- Latifa Talbi

“Ramadance”: The Sacred and the Profane Online

Mohcine Harris is a Moroccan videomaker and photographer based in Casablanca. These past two years during the month of Ramadan, he posted on Instagram and Facebook, for each day of the month, a video displaying Moroccan content creators or folklorist bands dancing and performing. The focus was on the Moroccan cultural heritage and different sites in the country. In that way he shared his perspective on his homeland with the whole world.

Keywords: Folklore, Morocco, dance, social media, heritage

- Africa e Mediterraneo editorial team

African Photography and Digital Platforms: An Interview with Emmanuel Iduma

Emmanuel Iduma is a Nigerian art critic and the author of a number of literary works, including the travel diary “A Stranger’s Pose,” published in 2018 and shortlisted for the prestigious Ondaatje Prize. His most recent work is “I Am Still With You: A Reckoning with Silence” (2023), where Iduma traces his family history, intertwining it with the dramatic events of the Biafran War, during which he lost the uncle from whom he inherited his name. In addition to his literary pursuits, Iduma is an avid enthusiast and expert in contemporary photography. He channels this passion through the newsletter Tender Photo, hosted on the digital platform Substack. Tender Photo publishes bi-weekly updates on

contemporary African photographers, featuring illustrative images, an introduction by Iduma himself, and an in-depth exploration of the highlighted artist. The platform encompasses a diverse range of styles, including documentary, travel, fashion, and artistic works, aiming to amplify the visibility of the rich and varied African artistic scene. In this interview, Iduma engages with the editorial team of *Africa e Mediterraneo*, discussing his commitment to giving voice and space to a local and pluralistic perspective on the continent. He emphasizes the importance of an authentic representation of the cultural and artistic complexity of Africa.

Keywords: African photography, Emmanuel Iduma, Tender Photo, African gaze, African visual culture

Tom Saater
Potraying Boko Haram

The photo series was captured in Maiduguri, Borno State, northeastern Nigeria, in September 2021. Tom Saater, commissioned by the *New York Times*, photographed portraits of Boko Haram fighters who had recently surrendered and were being hosted by the government in a camp on the outskirts of the city. Saater proposed using locally worn fabrics as an outdoor backdrop and taking portraits from behind. He discussed this idea with the former Boko Haram members, and while some didn't mind showing their faces, it became increasingly important and justifiable to protect their identities. The young individual portrayed in the photo, in particular, sadly shared with Saater how he had been deceived, losing his adolescence to become a mid-level commander and one of Boko Haram's main assassins. The artist describes experiencing conflicting emotions towards the subject, from anger to compassion, and leaving him with a positive message: "Not everyone is without hope, not everyone is beyond redemption." Saater sees photography not only as a tool for dialogue with others but also as a means to understand himself and, through empathy, to hope for the possibility of change.

- Rebecca Cazzato Lombardi

Mozambican Comics: Historical Overview and New Perspective

The history of Mozambican comics can be divided into four periods: the origins, under the Portuguese rule, with comics magazines for children; the rise, during the violent civil war, dominated by nationalistic stories filled with propaganda and the occasional works of a couple of talented artists; a more diversified production in the 1990s, with a number of satirical comics published under the new political course; and, in the XXI century, the development of alternative strategies of publication through the use of new medias and technologies by the young Mozambican artists.

Keywords: Mozambican comics, Kurika, J. P. Borges Coelho, Sacana, Os Informais

- Fabrizio Floris

Human Trafficking: A Sociology in Progress

Human trafficking for sexual exploitation is a multifaceted issue intricately connected with international refugee protection systems. This article undertakes an in-depth analysis of the phenomenon, drawing on insights gained from a year-long study involving focus groups and interviews with Nigerian women asylum seekers accommodated in an anti-trafficking center in Turin. The analysis delves into the women's perspectives on the reception system, their interactions with madams, the influence of families back in Nigeria, relationships with partners, and the transformative journey in their awareness of being victims of exploitation throughout the course of the project.

Keywords: Human trafficking, sexual exploitation, welcoming of asylum seekers, women, prostitution

- Emanuele Fantini

Three Perspectives on Water, Dams, and Development in Ethiopia

This article explores three distinct photographic projects centered around water, dams, and development in Ethiopia. The first project, titled “The Water Tower of Africa”, is published by We Build, a construction company formerly known as Salini Impregilo, which has been active in the country since the 1950s, constructing Ethiopia’s most important dams. Following this, Fausto Podavini’s “Omo Change” offers another perspective. The third project, #EverydayNile, features the efforts of two Ethiopian photojournalists. The article compares the diverse perspectives of these projects, discussing the use of photography and storytelling in contributing to build, legitimise, and challenge narratives concerning development, water, and technology in Ethiopia. In doing so, it offers a critical and post-colonial reflection on the ways in which we look at water, development, and infrastructures in Africa.

Keywords: Ethiopia, photography, dams, development, water

- Africa e Mediterraneo editorial team

Manufacturing High-quality Clothing while Upholding Sustainable Practices

SOKO Kenya is a company that has been producing sustainable and ethical clothing in Kenya for 14 years, placing people and communities at the center of its actions. SOKO Kenya creates high-quality clothing for international brands through ethical and sustainable practices, supporting the local workforce and fostering collaborations to promote positive changes in the industry. The company adheres to several key principles and actions. Sustainable and Ethical Production: Commitment to producing high-quality clothing within an ethical and sustainable lifecycle, respecting both people and the environment. Support for Local Workforce: Prioritizing the support of a skilled and dynamic local workforce, improving working conditions and efficiency. Fair Compensation and Benefits: Providing employees with a dignified salary and additional benefits, such as a private pension, free medical assistance, and childcare support, enabling the team to provide for their families and lift themselves out of poverty. Investment in Skills and Community: Supporting the team’s skills and community through a Community Foundation and charitable initiatives. SOKO Kenya strongly believes in the power of fashion as a positive force for change, making ethical and sustainable practices the norm rather than the exception.

Keywords: SOKO Kenya, African fashion, sustainable fashion, social sustainability, ethical fashion

- Flore Thoreau La Salle

When Ngũgĩ Wa Thiong’o Reinvents the Myth of Gikũyũ Origins

The Perfect Nine: The Story of Gikũyũ and Mũmbi, the epic poem by the Kenyan author Ngũgĩ Wa Thiong’o, has been translated for the first time into French by Laurent Vannini. In a recent interview, Vannini delves into key themes within the text, emphasizing the significance of its oral roots. He illuminates how Ngũgĩ Wa Thiong’o strategically modifies the traditional myth to introduce a fresh perspective that intertwines feminism and decolonization. Additionally, Vannini underscores the profound political implications inherent in Ngũgĩ’s decision to write in Gikũyũ.

Keywords: Ngũgĩ Wa Thiong’o, decolonialism, literary translation, Les Neuf Parfaites, Gikũyũ