

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the twelfth issue of *Modern Africa* and the first under a new editorship. As the current editor-in-chief I am humbled to have been invited to take over this position after the pioneering work done by the previous editor-in-chief, Dr. Petr Skalník. Two of the articles in this issue were still processed by my predecessor, who is also the founding editor of this journal and well known to most of our readers. During his five years as editor-in-chief of *Modern Africa*, Petr Skalník has been highly committed to this journal and, together with the executive editor, Martin Schmiedl, succeeded in its inclusion in indexed databases such as Scopus. Capitalising on his enormous network of international contacts in the field of African Studies worldwide, Petr Skalník did an admirable job in bringing together a broad range of excellent scholars, both as authors and as reviewers. He also managed to secure the valuable editing services of Dr. Han Vermeulen, which we greatly appreciate. Together with Martin Schmiedl, he has assured that the journal maintains a high level of quality. I would like to acknowledge their contributions to *Modern Africa* and thank them all, also on behalf of the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové, for a job well done. To my relief, Martin Schmiedl will continue his work as executive editor and stands by in further advancing the quality of this journal. It was largely due to his diligence that the journal now also appears in Open Access as an online journal and is also included in the EBSCO database.

The change in the editorial team of *Modern Africa: Politics, History and Society* and its inclusion in further scientific databases may provide opportunities for opening up our publishing platform to scholars from new disciplines. While our aim continues to maintain a broad scope that focuses on socio-political and socio-cultural issues in Africa today, I would like to call on scholars who broadly work on language and politics in Africa. It would be good to see increasing theorising from the global South to inspire scholarship from the global North. The Editorial Board and I are committed to continuously publish a large variety of theoretical and empirical African Studies themes and would like to increase international support for the journal, especially through established scholars. Part of our aim is to broaden the

Editorial Board and reviewer platform and to work more systematically with young or less experienced authors, particularly from Africa. Senior academics interested in mentoring some of the authors on a more regular basis are kindly invited to contact us.

The present issue of *Modern Africa* comprises four articles from diverse disciplines in African Studies. It includes a nuanced account on intra-party politics in Zambia, a legal discussion of land tenure and grassroots' concerns in Mali, an excellent depiction of the complex belongings of Namibian Czechs, and lastly, a critical portrayal of the challenges to political cosmopolitanism in post-apartheid South Africa. As usual, this issue also includes two conference reports and several reviews of recent publications.

In preparation is a special issue on the theme of "Language, Ethnicity, and Nation" together with Natascha Bing from Leipzig University, who will act as guest editor. This is *Modern Africa's* second special issue, following the one on "Human-Environmental Relations and African Natures" (vol. 5, issue 2, December 2017). We welcome thematic issues and kindly invite scholars who are interested in bringing together such an issue to contact us.

On behalf of the Editorial Board I would like to thank all readers, reviewers, authors, International Advisory Board members and the Dean of the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Hradec Králové for their continuous support of *Modern Africa: Politics, History and Society*. We appreciate this very much and are open to further suggestions and recommendations for improving the quality of this journal in the years to come.

Stephanie Rudwick
Editor-in-Chief