

## COVID-19 and African Borders in Transition

### Call for Book Chapters

#### **The context:**

What began as a simple localised health emergency in Wuhan, China in December 2019; escalated into global pandemic threatening the mobility of humans, cross-border mobility, value chain supplies and global integration. As at March 09, 2021, there have been 116,874,912<sup>1</sup> (Africa – 2, 909,543) confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 2,597,381 deaths globally - (WHO 2021). The evolving nature of the threat of the infectious disease with the potentials for transmission, led to border closures (land, sea and air); calling our attention to the current state of emergency preparedness; in the context cross-border related health threats, risk characterization, crisis management, emergency risk communication, capacities and capabilities for prevention and control. However, borders and frontiers are located in the periphery, limiting early warning and response of the states. We seek to explore what kind of transition that has occurred, altering the way borders and bordering traditionally have been viewed and upheld.

Scholars have averred that due to the space and location of borderlands, they are often marginalised (Meinhof 2003; Wastl-Walter, et'al. 2003). The same is the case with borderlands in Africa as they are alienated from the state. Majority of border communities lack the presence basic amenities such as portable water, schools, health centres etc. Restrictions on the African regional movement of people and tighter border controls have disrupted economic activities through reduced trade and disruption in global and regional supply chains. This situation exposes the border communities to challenges of health security, among others. Studies show that no matter how constrained man is, there is an innate desire to survive, hence while living in the margins, they evolve varying degrees of survival strategies (Okunade 2017; Okunade 2019). However, this does not mean they live a good life as they continue to contend with poverty, health challenge, and other form of insecurities (Eselebor and Okunade 2021). It is in this light that this edited book intends to explore the realities in various borderlands across Africa and as such, we welcome scientific papers on the changing dynamics of borders and bordering in Africa; focusing on the meaning attributed to borders and how they were managed before, during and after COVID-19.

#### **Thematic focus**

1. The changing dynamics borders and bordering resultant from Covid-19 in Africa
2. Analysis of measures to identify and mitigate cross border spread of COVID-19
3. Description and analysis of cross border spread of COVID-19
4. COVID-19 pandemic as a biosecurity threat in border management in Africa
5. The political economy of Africa under regional integration
6. Case studies of infrastructural improvement in the borderlands in Africa
7. The challenge of information and intelligence sharing during a health emergency
8. Coping strategies of cross-border communities during health emergencies
9. Synergy and coordination among regional economic commission in Africa
10. Restrictions and border closures and impact on regional mobility in Africa
11. Socio-economic effects of Covid-19 on cross-border informal sector trade
12. Multilateral / bilateral support regarding COVID-19 response
13. Advocacy and awareness creation in cross-border communities
14. What is left undone or innovation resulting from Covid-19 outbreak in Africa

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<sup>1</sup> WHO Health Emergency Dashboard, WHO (COVID-19) Homepage

## Submissions

Interested contributors are encouraged to submit e-copy of their manuscript to the editors at the email addresses below; which would undergo normal peer review process. Manuscripts should be formatted according to the following guidelines - typed on A4 paper size, double line spacing not more than 20 pages. Please make sure that the correct title is indicated clearly, with the names of the author(s), telephone number(s), email address and the address/institutional affiliation(s). Each article should be accompanied by an abstract of 250-300 words. Referencing style should conform to APA, 6th edition style. Receipt of manuscripts will be acknowledged. All manuscripts must reach the editors **on or before 31<sup>th</sup> of July 2023**. Chapters (including references) should have a minimum of 6000 words and a maximum of 8000 words.

All manuscripts and correspondences should be forwarded to the Editors:

Dr. Samuel Okunade  
University of Pretoria  
South Africa

Dr. Willie Eselebor  
University of Ibadan  
Nigeria

Dr. Leon Mwanba  
University of Pretoria  
South Africa

[Samuel\\_okunade@yahoo.com](mailto:Samuel_okunade@yahoo.com)

[willivizz@gmail.com](mailto:willivizz@gmail.com)

[leon.tshimpaka@up.ac.za](mailto:leon.tshimpaka@up.ac.za)

## Timeline

No.	Phase	Deadline
1	Abstract submission	March 31, 2023
2	Acceptance of abstracts	April 15, 2023
3	Submission of first draft	July 31, 2023
3	Peer Review Outcome	October, 2023
4	Response to authors	October 31, 2023
5	Final Submission	December 20, 2023

## About the Authors

**Samuel OKUNADE** is a borderlands scholar who researches on borders and migration most especially as it concerns human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Africa. He received his PhD in Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. He is also interested in thinking through ways in which social and ethnic cleavages in border communities could be used for economic integration and social cohesion in Africa. He equally advances the course of border communities that have an age long history of marginalization and neglect by the government. He has participated in the European Union sponsored project on irregular migration in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

**Willie ESELEBOR** holds Ph.D. in Peace & Conflict Studies; specializing on Borders & Migration. Lectures at The University of Ibadan, Nigeria; previously was the – President, Society for Peace Studies and Practice (2011-2016), and had an early career with the Nigeria Immigration Service (1980-2012); serving in diverse schedules on border control (air, sea & land) and migration governance. He also consulted for the EU, AU, ECOWAS, IOM, ICMPD, GIZ and DCAF on various projects in Africa. He was the Focal Person for the Border Regions in Transition (BRIT 2018) Conference and participated in the drafting AU Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment (2018). He is an Executive Committee member of African Borderlands Research Network (ABORNE); Trustee on the Board, Association of Borderlands Studies (ABS), Border Areas Development Initiatives (BADI), Building Blocks for Peace Foundation and the Society for Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP). He has published widely in books, journals and periodicals in his area of interest and belongs to several learned societies.

**Leon Mwamba TSHIMPAKA**, is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation (GovInn) and the SARChI Research Chair in the Political Economy of Migration in the SADC Region in the Department of Political Sciences of the University of Pretoria, South Africa. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the School of Liberal Arts and Humanities at Woxsen University, India and a Visiting Scholar at KU Leuven, Belgium and Luxembourg University, Luxembourg. Dr Tshimpaka's research includes Regional Integration in SADC and BRICS, EU-Africa Relations, Migration and borders, Political Transnationalism of African migrants, Civil Society and Consolidation of Democracy in Africa, Anti-corruption Initiatives, and Sustainable Development in Africa. He obtained a PhD in Political Science from the University of Pretoria, South Africa and an MA in Development Studies from the University of South Africa, South Africa. Dr. Tshimpaka is a co-author of *Regional Economic Communities and Integration in Southern Africa: Networks of Civil Society Organizations and Alternative Regionalism*, published by Springer Nature in 2021, as well as the author of book chapters and journal articles. He is also an expert on European Studies and a member of the Platform for African European Studies (PAES). \*\*\* ORCID: 0000-0001-7097-3244.