

Editorial

Dear reader,

Three years ago we presented to you the first issue of the restyled Afrika Focus. Volume 21 was the first one published jointly by Afrika Brug and the Ghent Africa Platform (GAP). The new partnership between Afrika Brug and GAP resulted not only in the formal restyling of Afrika Focus but also in redesigning the entire referee and editorial process and in a new rubrication.

Since then Afrika Focus has focused simultaneously on accessibility and quality. Not only has it kept up its status as an open access journal, it has also been widely recognised as a double-blind refereed journal, for instance, by the Working Group on the Evaluation of Academic Output of AEGIS (Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies) in its latest report. The road to still wider recognition of its academic excellence and procedural strictness, are among Afrika Focus' main challenges for the coming years.

The dossier of the present issue contains two papers which were first presented at the third annual GAP symposium (GAPSYM3) held in December 2009. The theme of GAPSYM3 was Gendering research in/on Africa and sought to scrutinize and reflect upon gendering research in its theoretical, methodological, institutional, discursive and practical aspects. The two contributions in this dossier illustrate well the ambition and relevance of this theme.

As Koen Goethals, Chief Academic Administrator of Ghent University, points out in his closing statement at GAPSYM3, the third year of GAP's existence has been a momentous one. Ghent University confirmed its recognition of GAP as one of its three regional or area platforms, together with the China and the India Platforms. In the case of GAP this recognition meant that it was awarded a fixed annual allowance and had a part-time secretary at its disposal. One year later, it has become clear to all of us at GAP and Afrika Focus that this really makes a difference. I sincerely hope that you, our reader, also will notice this in the quality and appeal of this and the coming issues of Afrika Focus.

Karel Arnaut
Editor-in-Chief