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# Digital Communications at Crossroads in Africa

## A Decolonial Approach

*Edited by*  
**Kehbuma Langmia**  
**Agnes Lucy Lando**

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Editors

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Kehbuma Langmia  
Howard University  
Washington, DC, USA

Agnes Lucy Lando  
Daystar University  
Nairobi, Kenya

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*We dedicate this first volume to all men and women in Africa and abroad—irrespective of creed, gender, age or race—who are actively engaged in theorizing, researching and genuinely debating, in a constructive manner, decolonization of (Digital) Communications in Africa.*

## FOREWORD

I like to read some special significance into my having been offered the privilege of introducing the reader to this engaging and informative text on the broad subject of decolonizing digital communication in Africa. I suspect that the significance of this choice lies precisely here: in my documented and globally acclaimed efforts at research practice and the utilization of the outcomes of research for the benefit of humanity. For one of the remarkable things about this book is that along with a rich imagination, pragmatic judgment, and immense energy required to develop and produce a useful book such as this from different authors, there is a deep intuitive sense of the social, cultural, and cognitive structures latent in the practice of communication in general. I accept the inferred assignment with pleasure.

The goal of this book is to articulate the traditional work environment of the creative writer in Africa and the Global South attributed mainly to issues of digital communication divide or migration which have altered technologies for the creation, production, distribution, and consumption of transmitted material. The global visibility of the African writer, like many academics in African universities, is challenged by digital migration, digital illiteracy, or a literacy. This book problematizes this digital exclusion from the contemporary digital world on account of the multiple dimensions of digital divide; and social and intellectual denial of access to the global literary forum for the African communication academics.

The book, in my view, is long overdue. Its most immediate value resides in helping the reader to understand the dilemma the digital divide subjects the African practitioner in communication to and the difficulty of overcoming the encumbrances therein. It fulfills an obvious need for a systematic account decolonizing the digital communication divide in Africa, and it does so with the clarity and informed assurance that one would expect of the persons who wrote the chapters in this book. They have skilfully produced a book that provides a clear, distinct discussion of the inhibitions that surround the digital communication divide in Africa. The chapter contributors have addressed the subject from varied perspectives with most analyzing the challenges that have arisen from Western-centric digital communication in Africa and the discord they represent to “African values.” Other contributors engage with the opportunities digital communications offer for Africa’s development. I highly recommend this book to scholars in communication.

Nairobi, Kenya

Prof. Laban P. Ayiro, Ph.D.  
Vice Chancellor of Daystar University  
Professor of Research Methods

**Laban P. Ayiro, Ph.D.** is the incumbent Vice-Chancellor of Daystar University and a Full Professor of Research Methods. He also teaches at Indiana University (USA) and the Nelson Mandela University (South Africa). Prof. Ayiro consults for UNICEF and World Bank Group on Curriculum Reforms and Economics of Higher Education in Kenya, respectively. He is also a peer-reviewer for the Commission of University Education in Kenya and an external examiner for several universities both nationally and internationally. In his career path, Prof. Ayiro has engaged in educational leadership at school and provincial level, policy development and implementation at the ministry headquarters, curriculum development at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development and is currently the National External Evaluator of the Competency-Based Curriculum that has just been rolled out (UNICEF/GoK Consultant).

Prof. Ayiro is a Senior Fulbright Scholar of University of Texas A&M and has a wide research and publication track record of over thirty publications. He holds a doctorate in Business Management, M.Sc. in Entrepreneurship Studies from Kenyatta University, MA in International Relations (United States

International University—Kenya), M.Ed. in Finance, Economics, and Planning from the University of Witwatersrand, and B.Ed. in Chemistry and Mathematics from McGill University (Canada).

Prof. Ayiro previously served as Ag Vice-Chancellor of Moi University for approximately 2 years.

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## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

**Kajsa Hallberg Adu** is a postdoctoral researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute. She holds a Ph.D. degree in African Studies (University of Ghana) and a Master's degree in Political Science (Uppsala University, Sweden). Her research interests turn toward the future as she studies youth in Ghana and beyond, migration, knowledge societies including decolonizing higher education, the intersection of freedoms, Internet, and democratization. Outside her scholarly work, Kajsa is a mother, blogger, and activist.

**Shamilla Amulega** is a doctoral student in the Department of Communication, Culture and Media Studies at Howard University in Washington, DC. Amulega earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Electronic Media at Daystar University, Nairobi, Kenya, and a Masters of Arts degree and a Post-Graduate Teaching Certificate from Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota. Her communication research interest lies within the critical studies in media and global communications as it relates to Africa and world affairs. Amulega is a co-author of two book chapter publications: *Wakanda's Prodigal Son: A CRT Analysis of the Relationship between Africans and African Americans as represented in Black Panther and "Arab Spring or Arab Winter: Social Media and 21 century Slave Trade in Libya."* *Routledge Handbook of African Media and Communication.*

**M'Bawine Atintande** is a Communication Studies doctoral candidate at the School of Information and Communication Studies, University of

Ghana. He is a retired Colonel of the Ghana Army and a former Director of Public Relations and Spokesperson of the Ghana Armed Forces, with 28 years of military service. He is a journalist, author, editorial consultant, and communications professional.

Having served in several international peacekeeping missions for twenty years, most of them on the African Continent, his scholarly focus is on media and security, conflict and crisis communication. His special area of academic and research interest is conflict communication. He currently facilitates the Media in Conflict, Media in Peace Operations, and Public Information in Peace Operations modules at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre as well as at the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College, both in Accra. He holds an M.A. in International Affairs and Diplomacy from the University of Ghana and another M.A. in Mass Communications from the University of Leicester, UK. He is the author of *The Roadmap: Media in Society* (2008) and *Serving Humanity: A Noble Peacekeeper's Diary* (2019).

**Abdul Karim Bangura** is a researcher-in-residence of Abrahamic Connections and Islamic Peace Studies at the Center for Global Peace in the School of International Service at American University and the Director of the African Institution, all in Washington, DC; a Visiting Graduate Professor of Regional Integration at the University of Cabo Verde in Praia, Cabo Verde; an external reader of Research Methodology and Municipal Government at the Plekhanov Russian University in Moscow; an Inaugural Peace Professor for the International Summer School in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Peshawar in Pakistan; Dean and senior doctoral dissertation mentor of the CODESRIA College of Mentors in Dakar, Senegal; and the international director and adviser of the Centro Cultural Guanin in Santo Domingo Este, Dominican Republic.

Bangura holds five PhDs in Political Science, Development Economics, Linguistics, Computer Science, and Mathematics. He is the innovator of Ubuntu-gogy Educational Theory, Consciencist Communication Theory, Ujamaa Communication Theory, Theorem of Accelerated Language Deaths, African Peace Paradigms, Rekh Methodology, Utchā and Uhem Methodology, Beḥsāu-Pehsa Methodology, Er/Set/Sthenā/S-tut/Tut Methodology, Ujamaa Methodology, Consciencist Methodology, and Hrārā/S-tut/Qeṭ Methodology.

Bangura is the author of more than 100 books and more than 700 scholarly articles. The winner of more than 50 prestigious scholarly and community service awards, among his most recent awards are the Cecil B. Curry Book Award for his *African Mathematics: From Bones to Computers*, which has also been selected by the African American Success Foundation's Book Committee as one of the 21 most significant books ever written by African Americans in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and listed by the California News Reel and [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) as one of the 47 books that comprise the great African contributions to global civilizations; the Diopian Institute for Scholarly Advancement's Miriam Ma'at Ka Re Award for his article titled "Domesticating Mathematics in the African Mother Tongue" published in the *Journal of Pan-African Studies*; the Special United States Congressional Award for "outstanding and invaluable service to the international community"; the International Center for Ethno-Religious Mediation's Award for his scholarly work on ethnic and religious conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and promotion of peace and conflict resolution in conflict areas; the Moscow Government Department of Multicultural Policy and Integrational Cooperation Award for the scientific and practical nature of his work on peaceful interethnic and interreligious relations; and the Ronald E. McNair Shirt for the stellar research methodologist who has mentored the largest number of research scholars across the academic disciplines published in professionally refereed journals and books and won the most best paper awards two years in a row—2015 and 2016.

Bangura is fluent in about a dozen African and six European languages, and studying to increase his proficiency in Arabic, Hebrew, and Hieroglyphics. He was among the group of first four scholars to address the United Nations General Assembly. He is also a member of many scholarly organizations, has served as President and then United Nations Ambassador of the Association of Third World Studies, and is a Special Envoy of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Living Together* dealing with peace and conflict resolution.

**Mohamed Saliou Camara** is a Professor of History, Philosophy, and Journalism and the current Chair of the Department of African Studies at Howard University. He received an M.A. and a Ph.D. from Northwestern University in History on a Fulbright Scholarship. He also holds a DES in Philosophy from the Gamal Abdel Nasser University of Conakry

(Guinea) and an Advanced Professional Degree in Journalism from the University of Dakar (Senegal). Camara taught at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida (2003–2016), where he also served as Director of the McNair Scholars Program, Speaker of the Faculty Senate, and Associate Vice President for Academics. In 2008, he was voted Outstanding Researcher of the Year in the Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, and in 2009, he received the University's Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award. Previously, Camara served as Associate Chair of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Conakry, a journalist for the National Radio Television of Guinea and a correspondent for Radio France International, a speechwriter for the Press Bureau of the Presidency of the Republic of Guinea, and the president of the University Press of Conakry. Camara is the author of six books, numerous peer-reviewed articles, and book chapters on African studies with a focus on political history, media and society, religion and philosophy, the military and politics, and intra-African foreign relations. His books include *His Master's Voice: Mass Communication and Single-Party Politics in Guinea under Sékou Touré* (2005), *Le pouvoir politique en Guinée sous Sékou Touré* (2007), *The Development of a Trans-National Region in West Africa* (2010), *Political History of Guinea Since World War Two* (2014), *Is There a Distinctively African Way of Knowing: Knowing and Theory of Knowledge in the African Experience* (2014), and *Historical Dictionary of Guinea* (5th Edition) (2014). His upcoming book is titled *Health and Human Security in the Mano River Union: Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire*.

**Agnes Lucy Lando** is an Associate Professor of Communication and Media Studies at Daystar University, Kenya. She obtained her Ph.D. in Social Communication from *La Pontificia Università Gregoriana, Roma*, in 2008. Lando holds an M.A. in Human and Intercultural Communication and B.A. in Audiovisual Productions, from Daystar University. Prof. Lando is the recipient of the 2013 George Gerbner Excellence Award. In addition to being an external examiner for a number of universities in Kenya and internationally, Lando is an adjunct faculty to several universities in Eastern Africa, and has supervised several M.A. theses and Ph.D. dissertations. In 2016, Prof. Lando became the first African to be elected Board Member-at-Large of the International Communication Association (ICA), a more than 70-year-old global body that brings together communication scholars, practitioners, and researchers. Lando also steered a

team that successfully hosted the first ICA regional conference in Africa, Nairobi, in October 2016, and the first ICA Africa continental research and publication training workshop in Entebbe, Uganda, in 2017.

Lando is also the Chair of Daystar University Ethics Review Board (DU-ERB) as well as the Chair of Daystar University Chancellor's Forum. Further, she is University Council Member for Uzima University College. In an attempt to provide a lasting solution to the perennial school fees plight of a number of M.A. Communication students of Daystar University, Prof. Lando founded the Master Communicators Welfare Association (MCWA) that aims at raising funds to partially sponsor financially challenged but academically able M.A. Communication students of Daystar University.

Prof. Lando is a member of various national, regional, and international communication academic bodies and has presented peer-reviewed papers both locally and internationally. Among her recent publications are: "The Impact of an Educational Media Intervention to Support Children's Early Learning in Rwanda" (2019), "A Multi-National Validity Analysis of the Self-perceived Communication Competence Scale" (2019), "A Multi-National Validity Analysis of the Personal Report of Communication Apprehension" (2019), "Africana Symbolic Contextualism Theory" (2018), and "Toward Africa Continental Academic Body and Africa-Centered Scholarship: The Case for Internal and External Collaboration in Research and Practice" (2018). In addition to sitting on the Daystar University Senate Curriculum Review and Development Committee, Lando was part of the team that developed the Daystar University Ph.D. Communication Curriculum (2009/2010) and also developed the Social-Pastoral Communication Program for Uganda Martyrs University (2016/2017). Her research interests are in communication and media ethics, communication and media theory, crisis communication, audiovisual communication, media practice and management, new media, as well as interdisciplinary research on topical social issues.

**Kehbuma Langmia** is a Fulbright Scholar/Professor and Chair in the Department of Strategic, Legal and Management Communication, School of Communications, Howard University. A graduate from the Communication and Media Studies Program at Howard University in 2006, Dr. Langmia has extensive knowledge and expertise in Information Communication Technology (ICT), Intercultural, Cross Cultural and International Communication, Black Diaspora Communication Theory,

Decolonial Media Studies, Social Media, and Afrocentricity. Since earning his Ph.D. in Communications and Media Studies from Howard University in 2006, he has published 12 books, 17 book chapters, and 9 peer-reviewed journal articles nationally and internationally. In November 2017, Dr. Langmia was awarded the prestigious Toyin Falola Africa Book Award in Marrakesh, Morocco, by the Association of Global South Studies for his book titled *Globalization and Cyberculture: An Afrocentric Perspective*. For the last four years, he has been selected by Howard University to act as scholar coach for the Howard University Summer Writing Academy. This year, he was selected among the 35 US professors chosen from a competitive pool of over 100 applicants to serve in the Visiting Professor Program at Fordham University in New York organized by ANA. In addition, he regularly gives keynote speeches on Information Communication Technology, Black Diaspora-Mediated Communication, and Social Media in prominent national and international universities, including the Library of Congress, the National Intelligence University (Department of Defense, USA), and National Defense University (Department of Defense, USA); Morgan State University (Maryland, USA); Bowie State University (Maryland, USA); Melbourne University (Australia); Buea University (Cameroon); Madras Institute of Technology (India); ICT University (Cameroon); Covenant University (Nigeria); Makerere University Business School, MUBS (Uganda); and Temple University, Pennsylvania. He was the 2017 Maryland Communication Association Keynote Speaker holding at College of Southern Maryland, Waldorf, MD and Communication Educators' Association Conference at Winneba, Ghana, in 2019. His most recent books are: *Black/Africana Communication Theory*, published in 2018 by Palgrave Macmillan; *Globalization and Cyberculture: An Afrocentric Perspective* and *Social Media: Culture and Identity*, published in 2017 by Palgrave Macmillan Press & the latter co-edited with Tia Tyree published by Lexington Books.

**Bala A. Musa** (Ph.D., Regent University) is Professor of Communication Studies at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, USA., and Visiting Professor, Olusegun Obasanjo Center for African Studies (OOCAS), National Open University of Nigeria, Abuja, Nigeria. He is the recipient of the Clifford G. Christians Ethics Research Award; Senior Fellow, Africa Policy and Strategic Development Institute (APSDI); Fellow, Multi-Ethnic Leadership Development Institute (MELDI); and Fellow, National Mass Media Ethics Colloquium. Musa serves on the editorial boards of

many academic journals. His authored and edited books include *Nollywood in Glocal Perspective*; *From Twitter to Tahrir Square: Ethics in Social and New Media Communication*; *Framing Genocide: Media, Diplomacy and Conflict*; *Communication, Culture and Human Rights in Africa*; *Communication in an Era of Global Conflicts*; and *Emerging Issues in Contemporary Journalism*.

**Chuka Onwumechili** is Professor of Strategic, Legal, and Management Communication at Howard University in Washington, DC (USA). He is author of more than 10 books focusing largely on several communication issues that pertain to Africa. These books touch on varied subjects including sports, telecommunications, culture, and development. His most recent book is a college-level text titled *Sport Communication: An International Approach*. His other works on similar subjects have been published in peer-reviewed academic journals. Presently, he serves as Editor-in-Chief of the *Howard Journal of Communications* and serves on the Editorial Board of the *Communication & Sport* journal. It is important to note that before joining Howard University, Dr. Onwumechili served as Vice President for the Digital Bridge Institute (DBI) in Nigeria where his brief included executive visioning, managing, and overseeing training programs at different levels for employees in both the Nigerian telecommunications industry and other interested markets.

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