

EDITORIAL

Southern Futures in Africa

This issue of *Social Transformations: Journal of the Global South* primarily focuses on Africa. Our two interviews feature two of the most trenchant commentators on African affairs and, more broadly, the Global South. John Comaroff uses Africa as a heuristic to interrogate the ways in which the politics of the Global South seep into the fabric of the Global North. Moreover, he contends that the debates and problems in the Global South presage those in the Global North. It is the increased provincialization of public discourse in places like North America that prevent a realization of how ideas from the margins can no longer be treated as marginal.

In our second interview, Keith Hart looks into the prospects of a liberal revolution in Africa. His account is not determinist, but it offers a glimpse into a likely future. Demands for more freedom of movement and freedom of property in Africa are likely to increase in the years and decades to come. He concludes by sketching the exciting potentiality of a pan-African economic developmentalism.

Both interviews were conducted in the University of Copenhagen during the Emerging Markets Workshop, hosted by Ravinder Kaur. We thank Ravinder and her network for their interest in our journal.

The two articles in this issue are both strong polemics, rooted, as always, in specific struggles from the Global South. Solomon Tai Okajare examines imperialism in the Global South—a trite trope, one might think. But what if this imperialism is no longer the Western imperialism of the nineteenth century? What if, instead, it manifests in a new imperialism, associated with a nation previously considered an Asian, anti-colonial, and socialist fatherland?

Moving to the Middle East, Adi Binhas and Yaffa Moskovich present an empirically-grounded account of three NGOs negotiating the fraught politics of immigration in Israel. They contend that, in the absence of strong state policies on immigration, NGOs introduce new political rationalities into a complex web of regulation. Theirs is an account of how grassroots actors transcend and challenge the ossification of a state and its attendant exclusions

The interviews and articles in this issue remind us that it is, as always, the thriving bottom-up movements of the Global South that make us celebrate its diverse politics.

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