

Canadian Association
of African Studies



Association Canadienne
des Etudes Africaines

2022 Annual General Meeting
Remote via Zoom
Tuesday, 17 May 2022 @ 2:00 – 4:00 PM ET

Agenda

1. Call to order and welcome
2. Adoption of meeting agenda
3. Adoption of minutes from the last meeting AGM held on 9 June 2021(Online)
4. President's Report — Isaac Bazié
5. Secretary-Treasurer's report — Nicole Haggerty
 Motion to Adopt 2020/2021 Financial Report
6. CJAS/RCEA report — Belinda Dodson
7. CAAS/ACEA Conference 2022 report — Isaac Bazié
8. 2020/2021 Awards and Prizes Announcements
 - Joel Gregory Prize
 - Pius Adesanmi Early Career Research Excellence Award
 - Fraser Taylor Prize to best Graduate Student paper
9. Election of the CAAS/ACEA Board of Directors, 2022-2023

Elected members

President — Nduka Otiono (Carleton University)
Past-President — Isaac Bazié (UQAM)
Vice-President — To be elected
Secretary-Treasurer — Nicole Haggerty
Member-at-large #1 Faculty — Bonny Ibhawoh
Member-at-large #2 Faculty —
Member-at-large #3 Faculty —
Member-at-large #4 Graduate Student —

Ex-Officio:

Akin Iwilade, CJAS Editor
Belinda Dodson, CJAS Editor
Chris Gore, CJAS Editor
Gillian Mathys, CJAS Editor

Jean Ntakirutimana, CJAS Editor
Jess Auerbach, CJAS Editor
Jonathan Roberts, CJAS Book Review Editor
Lesley Braun, CJAS Editor
Martin Evans, CJAS Managing Editor
Melchisedek Chétima, CJAS Editor
Samba Diop, CJAS Editor
Vanessa dos Santos Oliveira, CJAS Editor

Finance Director — To be Nominated by the Board
Digital Innovator — To be Nominated by the Board
CAAS 2023 Conference Organizer — follow discussions on agenda item #11 below

10. Discussions on CAAS 2023 Conference – Philippe M. Frowd – Nduka Otiono
11. Any other business
12. Adjournment

CAAS Minutes from the AGM June 9th 2021

1. Adoption of Motion to accept agenda of CAAS – approved (moved Belinda and seconded Miriam)
2. Adoption of Minutes of last AGM – approved
3. Report of President
 - a. Success of SSHRC Connection Grant of \$20,100.
 - b. 2 statements issued (Floyd George; BCSA Withdrawl)
 - c. Announcement of 2 new awards
 - d. Reintroduced CAAS newsletter (English and French), call for members to submit to Carla Joubert to be profiled or share news at cjoubert@uwo.ca
 - e. Thanks provided to Conference Committee for their work to organize the 2021 Conference
 - f. Announcement of Nduka Otiono as newly elected Vice President of CAAS; and Nicole Haggerty acclaimed as Secretary-Treasurer of CAAS
4. Report of Secretary-Treasurer
 - a. Highlights of Financial Statements. Thanks for renewing memberships and thanks to members who donated to CAAS to sponsor African Scholars in order to improve accessibility.
 - b. Thanks to CJAS for providing 1/3 of revenue to CAAS which assists with base funding.
 - c. No questions posed therefore motion to adopt the financial statements (Akua Agyewia and Isaac Bazie) – Motion is passed.
5. Report from CJAS
 - a. Welcomed 4 new Editors in 2019 were introduced
 - b. Notification of seeking French book editor

- c. CJAS website provides details of editors and contact information; discussion of special issues and regular issues.
- d. CJAS report on Editors travel activities to promote CJAS, network with other associations and journals.
- e. CJAS website has early availability of articles online.
- f. Information on Taylor & Francis accessibility efforts for global scholars including African scholars; and STAR program which enables access to T&F material at no cost.
- g. Disruption of Indian publishing industry that influences typesetting work in journal publication.
- h. Refer to circulated documents to assess submissions, acceptance rates etc. African readership and downloads is improving.
- i. Healthy financial situation – CAAS benefits from 1/3 of royalties and improving royalty revenue due to increasing downloads.
- j. Social media – twitter has 1500 followers and lots of interest when new article, book review and special issues are published. This has proved successful.
- k. CJAS is in very good health, excellent editors, increasing submissions and success, strong social media, increasing downloads and expanded royalty opportunities.
- l. Special thanks to Roger and his commitment to CJAS
- m. Question regarding what is CJAS doing to push French

6. Report from Conference

- a. Thanks to Conference Team – most especially Uche Ikenyi and Aislinn Adams
- b. New structure works:
 - i. A review chair (creates call, manages call process, organizes review process, notifies authors/panelists)
 - ii. A program chair (creates panels and organizes programs according to location constraints)
 - iii. Conference chair (coordinates team, organizes keynotes, manages budget, works with location chair to write connection grant)
 - iv. Location chair (this individual agrees to host the conference and organizes local arrangements)
- c. Success of SSHRC Connection Grant will be shared for future – must work hard to get in by Sept. or Nov. deadline. Award from SSHRC was \$20,100; from Western Research was \$5000. Funding was spent on Administrative support from Africa Institute, Honorarium for M. Gbowee; Knowledge Translation work in Scholarship@Western website; social media
- d. Glitches in the submission system, roll over of 2020 submissions but 220 submissions reviewed, 170 accepted, 130 presenters, 44 panels over 4 days, amazing keynotes, 4 graduate student events and about 40% presenters outside of North America

- e. Call made to retain the features of virtual aspects of conference for colleagues in Africa to improve their ability to participate.
 - f. Can we avoid webinar for Keynotes? Nicole reviewed balancing act of making keynotes as accessible as possible while reducing background interferences, maintaining security access control and
 - g. Can we give people an opportunity to be seen in the webinar? Can we find a way to have some amount of interaction and networking?
 - h. Can we create a lounge after the keynote?
7. CAAS/ACEA Prizes Board has reintroduced awards and also announced standing awards including:
- a. Lifetime Achievement Award
 - b. Meritorious Service Award
 - c. Professor Pius Adesumi Early Career Award (call will be up and running soon)
 - d. Joel Gregory Book Prize
 - e. Fraser Taylor Prize to best Graduate Student paper from year before (via call)
8. 2020/2021 Awards
- a. Joel Gregory Book Prize – runner up to Phillippe Frowd and first place to Mark Hunter (including \$1000 cash prize). Both recipients shared brief remarks and gratitude for the recognition.
 - b. Lifetime Achievement award – to Miriam Grant and Christopher Youe (posthumously). Miriam’s extensive contributions to academia and CAAS was recognized and she expressed her gratitude for the recognition. Prof. Youe was recognized for his extensive contributions to CAAS. Roger Riendeau provided gratitude from Prof. Youe’s family.
 - c. Meritorious Service Award - to Roger Riendeau. Roger’s extensive contributions to CJAS as 35 years long editor and to CAAS were reviewed. Roger provided brief remarks and gratitude for the recognition.
 - d. Roger announced a \$35,000 donation and endowment. Further discussions with CAAS Executive are planned to determine appropriate goals and funds usage.
9. Election of Board and Membership Effective July 1, 2021 Announced and Accepted
- President – Isaac Bazie (UQAM)
 - Past-President — Temitope Oriola (University of Alberta)
 - Vice-President — Nduka Otiono
 - Secretary-Treasurer — Nicole Haggerty (Western University)
 - CJAS Editor- Belinda Dodson, Coordinating Editor (Western University)
 - Members at Large — Nadege Compaore (University of Toronto [continues her term]; One member to be elected)
 - Finance Director — To be Nominated by the Board
 - Digital Innovator — Katrina Keefer (Trent University)
 - CAAS conference 2022 organizer — to be announced at a later date, as mentioned in agenda item #11 below
 - Graduate Student Representatives: Gladys Aqua Agyeiwaa Denkyi-Manieson, Central University & University of Ghana and Esther Ekong, University of Ottawa and Open Air

10. CAAS Conference 2022 – decision for the location of the next conference will be announced in the coming weeks. Efforts have been made to identify the new Review chair. The Location organizer will announced when location is finalized.

11. President Isaac Bazie is welcomed and makes brief remarks and thanks executives.

12. Other Business

- a. An ASAA Conference announced for next April in Cape Town – promoted by Belinda Dodson, who encouraged CAAS members to seek opportunities to attend.

Adjournment moved and approved (Nathan Andrews, seconded by Nicole Haggerty).

Annual Report 2021-2022
Canadian Journal of African Studies
Presented to the Annual General Meeting of CAAS
May 17th, 2022 (virtual meeting)

1. Editorial Team

2021-2022 has been an exciting period for the Journal as we expanded and further diversified the editorial team. The decision to expand was made in response to the rapidly growing number of submissions and resulting unsustainable workloads for the team of six Editors and one Book Review Editor. We also sought to widen the team's disciplinary and regional expertise and to strengthen bilingualism.

CJAS welcomed five new Editors on April 1, 2022, after an open competition. The new Editors are Jess Auerbach (Cape Town), Lesley Braun (Basel), Melchisedek Chétima (UQAM), Chris Gore (Toronto Metropolitan) and Akin Iwilade (Edinburgh). We also created the new post of French Book Review Editor, with Samba Diop (Oslo) taking on that position after an open call for candidates.

Current Editor Philippe Frowd (Ottawa) reaches the end of his term on June 30, 2022. Regular Editors who will remain in place are Gillian Mathys (Ghent), Jean Ntakirutimana (Brock) and Vanessa Oliveira (Royal Military College). Jean Ntakirutimana serves as senior Francophone Editor. Belinda Dodson (Western) continues in the role of Coordinating Editor, and Jonathan Roberts (Mount St Vincent) stays on as English Book Review Editor. Roger Riendeau (Toronto) stepped down as Managing Editor at the end of June 2021, with Martin Evans (Coventry) assuming the position of Managing Editor. Miriam Grant, former Secretary-Treasurer of CAAS, has agreed to provide financial administrative support, as Martin cannot easily do that from the UK.

Three of the new Editors (Auerbach, Iwilade, Melchisedek) had been serving as members of the Editorial Advisory Board. Moving from the EAB to Editor positions opened up spaces on the EAB, which were filled with some of the stronger 2021 applicants for Editor roles who were not appointed on this occasion. This further enhances the EAB in terms of diversity of discipline, regional specialization, demographics and geography. The new members of the EAB take up their positions on July 1.

The expanded Editorial team, with support from the EAB, places the Journal in a strong position for the coming few years. As reported below, the Journal is in good health across a range of metrics, despite a number of challenges relating to the ongoing COVID pandemic along with a fluid and changing landscape in academic publishing.

2. Conference Participation

The ongoing COVID pandemic has continued to disrupt conferences around the world in 2021-22, so Editors have not been able to participate in as many such events as usual. Members of the

editorial team did take part in a number of virtual events, including a *CJAS* panel at the virtual CAAS conference in June 2021. A similar panel will be held at this year's conference. Members of the team, including Coordinating Editor Belinda Dodson, participated virtually at the African Studies Association (ASA-US) conference in November 2021, as well as at the African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) conference in April 2022. At ASAA, Jess Auerbach presented on a panel concerning academic publishing, diversity, and representation and represented *CJAS* there, actively soliciting manuscripts. At a Point Sud workshop in March 2022 at Université Ki Zerbo, Gillian Mathys represented *CJAS* with a workshop on how to get published internationally. We hope that face-to-face conference opportunities will resume soon, as conference attendance and participation are an important vehicle for promoting the Journal to potential authors, reviewers and readers. We are planning to have a number of Editors attend the in-person ASA 2022 meeting in Philadelphia.

Conferences also typically provide opportunity to meet with representatives of *CJAS*'s publisher T&F to discuss *CJAS* business. With conferences being virtual, Belinda Dodson and Martin Evans arranged an in-person meeting with *CJAS*'s T&F Portfolio Manager Madeleine Markey in Oxford on April 22, 2022 (see sections 4-5 below).

3. Current and Planned Issues

One regular issue and two Special Issues were published in Volume 55 (2021). The regular issue covered a variety of topics across 11 articles and one review article, with broad disciplinary and geographic coverage as well as diversity of authorship including two articles in French. Issue 55(2) was a Special Issue "Africa and the Crisis of Socialism / L'Afrique et la crise du socialisme", with two articles in French and five in English, along with an editorial Introduction by Constantin Katsakioris & Alexander Stroh. Issue 55(3) was another bilingual Special Issue "African Refuge / Refuge africain", put together by former CAAS President Meredith Terretta and co-editor Philip Janzen. All three 2021 issues are attracting a healthy number of downloads.

The first issue of volume 56 was published in February 2022, ahead of its April schedule. This is another regular issue with a mix of topics, disciplines and authorship, including two papers in French. All of these recent issues include a good number of book reviews, after a brief disruption in 2020 owing to COVID. We look forward to publishing more French book reviews now that we have a designated French Book Review Editor in place.

There is enough material already published online or in the pipeline for issues 2 and 3 of volume 56 (2022), which will also be ordinary issues. There are papers under review for a themed section on "Youth in West and Central Africa", likely to comprise part of issue 57(1). A proposal for a further Special Issue has been accepted, on "People and Municipalities", with papers due for submission soon and likely publication as part of volume 57 (2023).

The Journal has revised its protocol for Special Issues. Instead of reviewing and accepting proposals on an *ad hoc* basis, we are, from 2023 onwards, implementing an annual deadline for proposals, from which one proposal will be selected for development into a Special Issue. This is to avoid the recent uneven distribution of regular and Special Issues and to ensure timely compilation of regular issues from articles already published online. Another recent feature

added to the Journal's T&F website is a full listing of Special Issues from the Journal's founding in 1967 to the present, put together by Martin Evans and Belinda Dodson. This is an impressive list and a reminder of *CJAS*'s record as a long-standing, innovative and well-regarded publishing venue for interdisciplinary African Studies.

Along with strong Special Issues in 2019, 2020 and 2021, we have maintained a healthy throughput of "regular" articles. *CJAS* is now reliably publishing issues on or ahead of schedule, with individual articles published online ahead-of-print as soon as they are ready before being compiled into an issue. It was not many years ago that the Journal sometimes struggled to put out three full issues on schedule each year, so this is testament to the hard work of the editorial team and to the reputation of *CJAS* as a desirable place to publish.

4. Relationship with Taylor & Francis

CJAS (and CAAS) are now in the fourth year of a second 7-year publishing contract with Taylor & Francis, based in Abingdon UK. Services provided by T&F include online publication of *CJAS* articles and issues, access to the Scholar One submission and review platform, copy editing and typesetting, print publication and distribution of the Journal, marketing and promotion, and handling institutional and other subscriptions (including for CAAS members).

Our relationship with T&F provides technical support, marketing reach and promotional strategies that would be beyond our capacity as a stand-alone, in-house journal. They track downloads and calculate metrics, providing us with regular annual publishing reports. They communicate directly with authors (for example to provide e-offprints, or alert them when their work has been cited) and with prospective readers to draw attention to *CJAS* articles in their areas of interest. T&F representatives routinely attend major African Studies conferences in the US, UK, Europe and Africa to promote *CJAS* along with their other African Studies journals.

In addition to articles for which authors have paid a fee for Open Access, T&F offers temporary free access to articles that might attract wider readership (see e.g. the updated collated collection <https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/african-studies/>, which features two recent *CJAS* articles). T&F also operates their STAR program which provides free access to T&F journal content for researchers based in emerging regions (including Africa). The Journal benefits considerably from these initiatives. There is ongoing discussion across the academic publishing industry to address the cost of journal subscriptions and provide more Open Access to academic publications. We are conscious that most of our Africa-based authors cannot afford the Open Access fee, meaning that their work remains behind paywalls that perpetuate North-South or Rich-Poor divides in academia. *CJAS* is actively engaged in these conversations through T&F. One recent development is the move to Transformative "Read and Publish" Agreements, where universities pay a subscription that provides both readership access and Open Access publishing for researchers based at the institution. Open Access and wider publishing practices are in a state of ongoing transformation and flux. In all of this, we remain committed to expanding diversity of authorship and lowering cost and other accessibility barriers to authors and readers.

We are satisfied overall with the services that T&F provide. Certainly the editorial team's day-to-day working interaction with T&F remains smooth and collaborative. T&F are taking active

steps to address problems that we have encountered with their copy editing and typesetting, and these have recently shown some improvement. The annual report produced by T&F, which provides most of the data and metrics outlined in section 5 below, allows us to track performance and implement improvements. T&F are certainly happy with their partnership with *CJAS* and with CAAS. The relationship is clearly of mutual benefit despite the inherent contradictions of corporate academic publishing.

5. Data and Metrics: submissions, acceptances, readership, citations

Being with T&F allows ready access to data on submissions, acceptance rates, online readership (downloads) and citations. T&F collate these data into an annual publishing report. The most recent report was presented to us in person by Madeleine Markey in Oxford in April. We can also access and process submission data through the Scholar One platform.

In addition, on *CJAS*'s T&F web page, anyone can see the "Most Read" and "Most Cited" papers, as well as the number of times an individual article has been downloaded. An additional feature is a "Journal Metrics" tab, which shows *CJAS*'s annual downloads, citation scores, and data on acceptance rates, review times, and speed of post-acceptance publication. Updated annually, these metrics are useful to prospective authors in deciding where to submit their work.

The figures below present some highlights. Trends remain highly positive. The number of submissions doubled between 2017 (87) and 2020 (171) before falling back slightly in 2021 (162) (Figure 1). 2020 was the first pandemic year, which saw a notable uptick in submissions across many academic journals. It looks like this year will see a similar number of submissions to last year, which amounts to over three per week. The acceptance rate declined in 2020 and 2021 (Figure 2), partly because of the increasing number of overall submissions but also owing to the number of Special Issue articles submitted in 2018 and 2019. SI articles have typically been pre-vetted, so they tend to have higher acceptance rates.

Nigeria has become the main source of submissions, with South Africa in second place and Canada and the US joint third in 2021 (Figure 3). Three of our top 5 submitting countries in 2021, and seven of our top 10, were in Africa. Papers are submitted from a number of other countries around the world, showing our international reach. We still aim to increase the number and geographic diversity of submissions from authors based in African countries, but trends are encouraging.

Trends in readership are also positive, indicated by the rapidly rising number of downloads (Figure 4). From just over 10,000 in 2016, downloads were almost 60,000 in 2021. *CJAS* readership is widely international, as demonstrated in Figure 5. We can still do more to increase African readership, for example by promoting the STAR program, but it is encouraging to see that 30% of our online readership now comes from Africa, just behind Europe at 34% and ahead of North America at 24%. The top 10 countries of *CJAS* readership include four in Africa: Ghana, South Africa, Cameroon and Nigeria. The T&F report also notes that at least one article from *CJAS* had been downloaded in each of the 54 countries in Africa over the past 12 months, and that nearly 18,000 downloads in total came from readers based in Africa.

CJAS is included in various abstracting, indexing and citation databases. Figure 6 shows the

Journal's CiteScore and ranking for 2016 to 2020, along with a new citation index called the Journal Citation Indicator (JCI). CiteScore counts the citations received in the previous four-year period and divides this by the number of articles published in the same period. Our CiteScore has gone up from 0.6 in 2018 and 2019 to 0.8 in 2020. The JSI also suggests a rise in citations, although both scores are lower than we would like them to be. The positive trend is nevertheless encouraging. It is also encouraging to see the geographic spread of *CJAS* article citations (Figure 7). We continually aspire to boost citations through maintaining the quality of published articles and promoting awareness of the Journal.

Figure 1: Submissions 2017 – 2022 YTD (April)

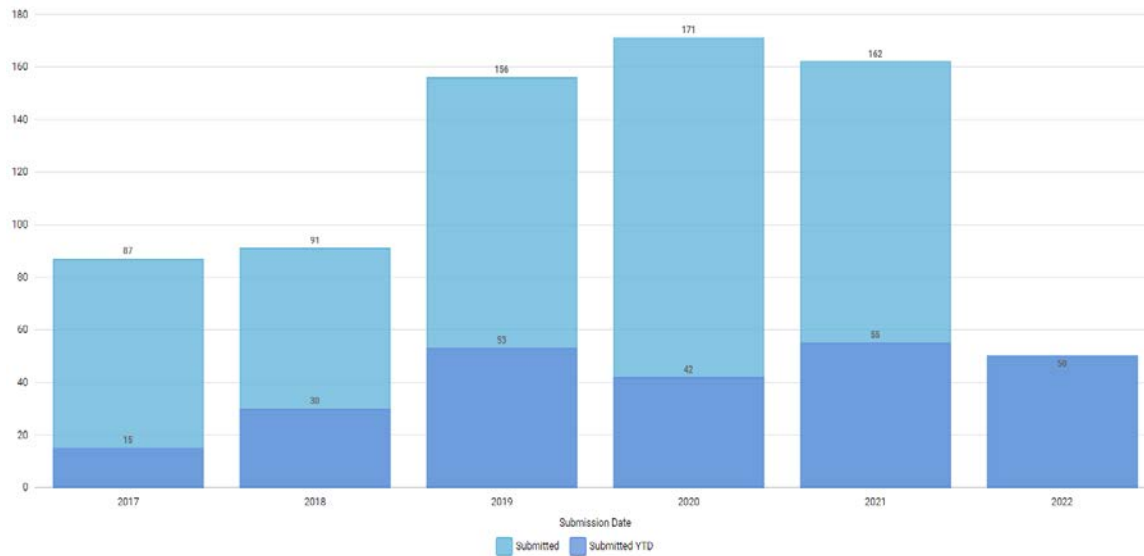


Figure 2: Acceptance rates 2017 – 2022 YTD (April)

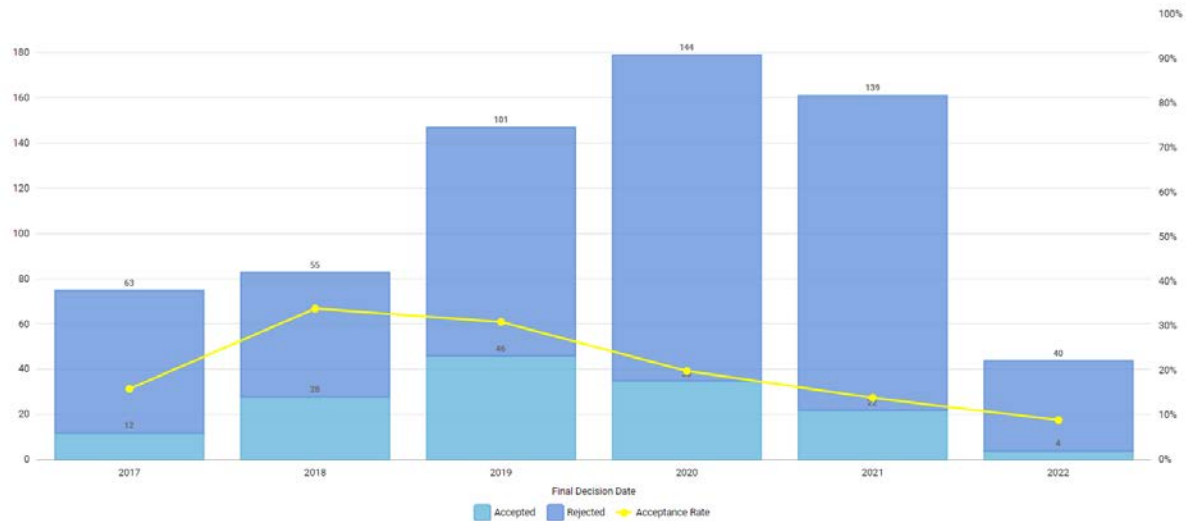


Figure 3: Geography of submissions 2017 – 2022 YTD (April)

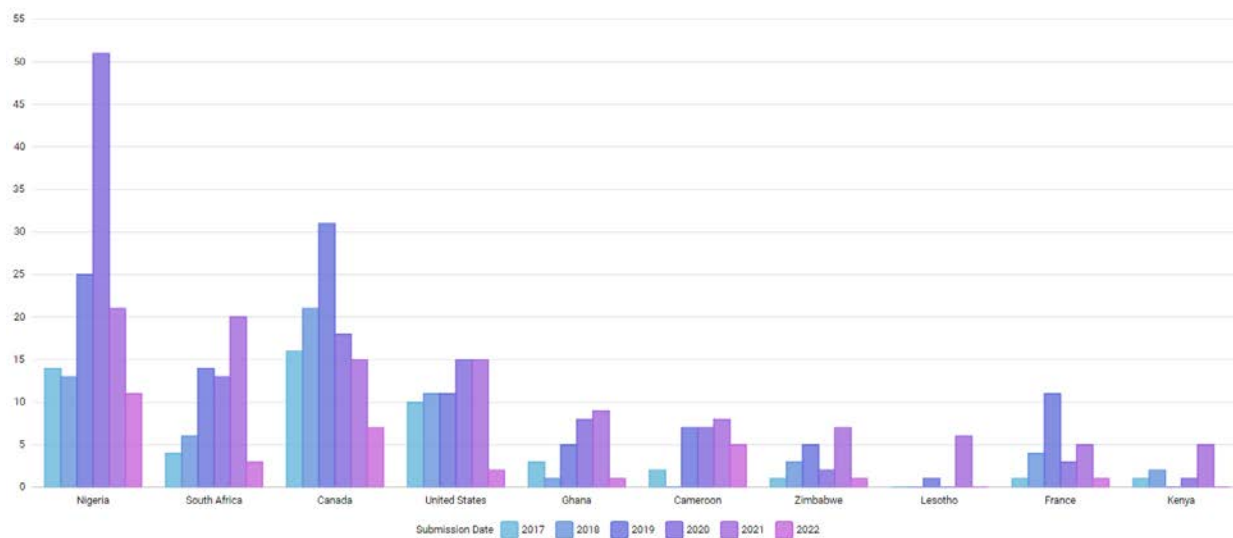


Figure 4: Full-text downloads 2012 – 2022 YTD (April)

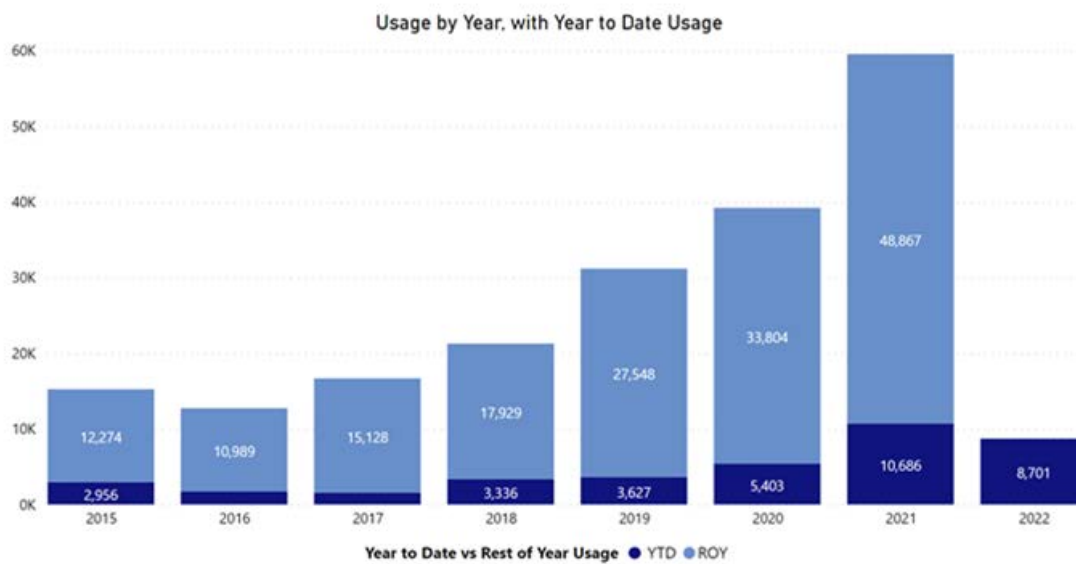


Figure 5: Downloads by region and top 10 countries (2021)

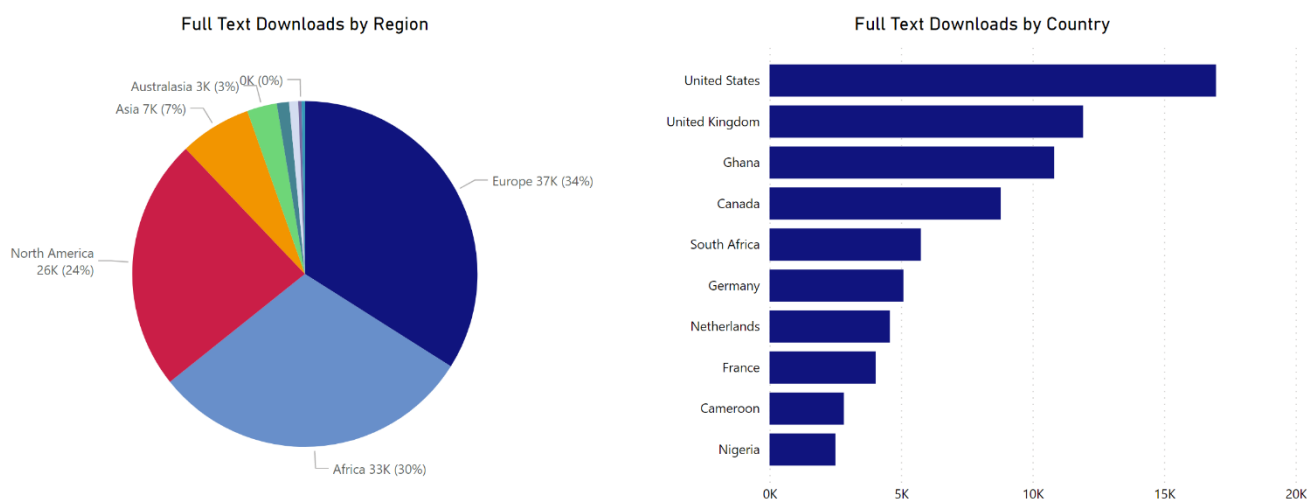
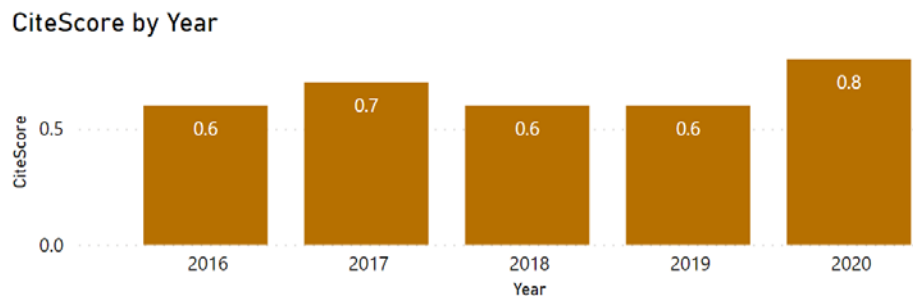


Figure 6: Citation scores



Journal Citation Indicator (JCI) **0.82**

CATEGORY: AREA STUDIES
75/160

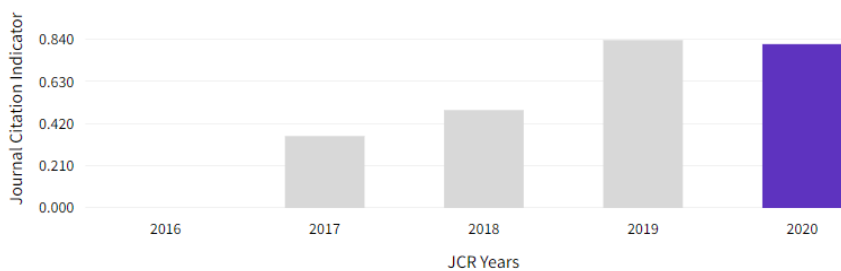


Figure 7: Top 10 citing countries (by author)

Country name	Citing Articles - Countries
United Kingdom	19
Canada	12
China	10
Australia	8
USA	7
Belgium	4
Germany	4
South Africa	4
Cameroon	3
Uganda	3

6. Finances (also see the Journal section of the CAAS Financial Statement)

CJAS and CAAS continue to benefit financially from the publishing partnership with Taylor & Francis. T&F pays the Journal an annual sum for editorial expenses, and in addition we receive royalties based on subscriptions and article downloads. As per a 2020 agreement between *CJAS* and CAAS, one third of the royalty revenue goes to CAAS to spend on Association business and activity. The unpredictability of royalty revenues from year to year still presents something of a challenge, but the new arrangement has put the financial relationship between *CJAS* and CAAS on a more secure and sustainable footing. The move to Read and Publish Agreements and other forms of Open Access is likely to result in decreased royalty revenues for *CJAS* and similar journals, so this is something to keep an eye on over the next few years.

7. Social Media

There has been considerable activity in our social media space. *CJAS* created a Twitter account in 2018 that now has over 2000 followers and generates considerable interest. Twitter has proved a useful vehicle for announcing new articles and alerting people to new issues, and is one of the ways in which we advertised the 2021 Editor recruitment. CAAS often retweets *CJAS* Twitter posts and *vice versa*. Journal content is also regularly shared via Routledge/T&F's various social media accounts, including T&F Africa, Routledge Politics and International Relations, and Routledge Area Studies. Also available via the Journal's T&F Online page is the Altmetric score for individual articles. This shows how often an article has been tweeted, cited in media including sites such as Wikipedia and *The Conversation*, or appeared in Mendeley and similar platforms. It is likely that the increases in submissions and readership are due in part to this raised social media presence and profile.

Conclusion

There is ample evidence of *CJAS*'s overall health: sustained high numbers of submissions, increased downloads, growing citations, and ever-widening geographic reach of authorship and readership – especially in Africa. The expanded editorial team will enable us to sustain the Journal as a widely read and highly regarded publication attractive to emerging and established authors. In particular, it will help strengthen our efforts to build our base of authors and reviewers on and from the African continent, while continuing to promote African Studies in Canada. We extend a warm welcome to each of the new Editors and look forward to their engagement with the Journal and the Association.

The *CJAS* team thanks CAAS President Isaac Bazié and other members of the CAAS Executive for their ongoing support. Thanks are also due to the staff of T&F, especially our Portfolio Manager Madeleine Markey and Production Editor Carl Rejalde, for their unflagging work on behalf of the Journal and its Editors.

As Coordinating Editor, I express my sincere appreciation to the whole editorial team for their hard work over the past year, with COVID continuing to complicate people's professional and personal lives and preventing us from meeting in person. I am grateful to Martin Evans, who in taking over the role of Managing Editor has ably managed the Editor recruitment process and enthusiastically taken on a range of administrative and managerial tasks. Finally, we extend particular gratitude to outgoing Editor Philippe Frowd and thank him for his exemplary service over the past three years – not only to *CJAS* but also to CAAS, including as Program Chair for this year's conference.

Belinda Dodson, Coordinating Editor
May 13, 2022