BORDERLINES
NEWSLETTER OF THE AFRICAN BORDER & MOBILITY SOCIETY
MAIDEN EDITION | 16 NOVEMBER 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



It is my privilege to present the maiden newsletter of the African Border and Mobility Society (ABMS), an initiative established to strengthen scholarship, policy engagement and professional collaboration on border and mobility issues across Africa.

Borders remain central to questions of governance, security, regional integration, migration, trade and human development. Thus, border management requires evidence-based research, effective institutions and cooperation among states and communities. Across the continent, changing global mobility patterns and emerging transnational challenges make sustained dialogue among researchers, practitioners, policymakers and other stakeholders increasingly important.

ABMS provides a platform for bringing these constituencies together, promoting interdisciplinary research, sharing knowledge and supporting evidence-informed policy discussions. The Society also seeks to encourage emerging scholars and practitioners and strengthen connections among institutions working on border and migration-related issues.

This maiden edition marks an important step in communicating research activities and knowledge contribution vis-à-vis border and migration studies on the continent. It will provide updates on research, events, publications, grants, institutional developments and perspectives from members and partners.

I invite scholars, practitioners, policymakers, students and relevant institutions across Africa to engage with the Society and contribute to its activities. Through collective effort, ABMS can advance knowledge, encourage constructive debate and support improved policy and practice on borders and mobility across the continent.

I acknowledge the founding members, partners and contributors whose commitment and efforts have supported the establishment of the Society.

Samuel Kehinde Okunade, PhD I Chairperson, ABMS I 16 November 2026

01 ONGOING BORDER & MIGRATION RESEARCH ACROSS AFRICA

Rebordering in a post-COVID-19 Era: Securitisation, Militarisation and Changing Politics of Africans' Mobility

Editors: Oladotun Awosusi, PhD; Samuel Kehinde Okunade, PhD; Olusola Ogunnubi, PhD

This edited volume examines African migration since COVID-19, securitised borders, restrictive visa regimes, shifting mobility corridors, Nigeria's Japa syndrome, economic pressures, racism, precarity, integration, identity and belonging.

The Complexities of Democracy, Governance and Youth Out-Migration in Nigeria

Editors: Ebenezer Oni, PhD; Samuel Kehinde Okunade, PhD; Muyiwa Faluyi, PhD

This volume examines democratic governance, youth disillusionment and migration in Nigeria, including governance deficits, economic precarity, political disengagement, restrictive migration regimes, civic participation and transnational experiences.

Cross-border Paradiplomacy and Regional Integration: A Comparative Global Perspective

Editors: Fritz Nganje and Samuel Kehinde Okunade

This book Examines subnational governments in regionalism and regionalization through comparative research on cross-border paradiplomacy, state-led integration, democratic potential and border studies.

02 BORDER & MIGRATION DISCOVERIES IN AFRICA

47 Days Undercover: Fisayo Soyombo's Investigation | Premiere: 1 December 2026

Investigative journalist Fisayo Soyombo spent 47 days undercover travelling alongside African migrants attempting the Sahara and Mediterranean route to Europe. The documentary presents firsthand accounts of risk, resilience and desperation.

View documentary details

03 RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Border Breathing and the Governance of Refugee Presence in Uganda's West Nile"

By Jussi P. Laine. Examines refugee governance, everyday bordering, mobility, hospitality and belonging in Yumbe and Nebbi.

Read the article

"Unbounded Inclusiveness and the Ethics of Bordering"

By Jussi P. Laine. Considers responsibility, epistemic justice and non-domination beyond the open/closed borders divide.

Read the article

EDITED VOLUMES

The Routledge Handbook of African Borderlands

Edited by Olivier Walther, Inocent Moyo and Isabella Soi. Examines African borderland histories and contemporary dynamics.

View the handbook

Beyond Dividing Lines: Comparative Insights into Cross-Border Cooperation Worldwide

Edited by Sergei Golunov. Presents 25 chapters and global case studies.

Access the free PDF

PUBLISHED MONOGRAPHS

Nigeria's border diplomacy: Power and hegemony in Africa

By Oladotun Awosusi and Olusola Ogunnubi. Publisher: Routledge

Through the African realist

analytic lens, the book examines how Nigeria employs its physical and virtual border domains (borderlands, maritime, airspace, cyberspace and outer space) as instruments of power in its relations with other African states.
View the monograph

UPCOMING MONOGRAPH

The diplomacy of borders and security in Africa: Policies and practices in Nigeria and South Africa

By Oladotun Awosusi. Publisher: Springer Nature.
This book offers a theoretical and empirical explanation of the intersection of border, diplomacy, and security, with particular emphasis on the border policies and practices of Nigeria and South Africa in the context of border enforcement, cross-border concessions and agreements, visa regimes, migration and refugee policies. View publication details

04 FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

HFG Fellowship 2027 | Application period: 1 December 2026–1 March 2027

Offers a $10,000 fieldwork grant, mentorship, workshops and conference sponsorship for eligible emerging African PhD scholars researching violence. Applicants must be 45 or younger, enrolled in an accredited PhD programme at an African higher-education institution and resident on the continent.
Application information

Eni Award 2027 | Deadline: 20 November 2026

Two prizes of €25,000 each for eligible African PhD students researching energy and environmental sustainability. Applicants must be African citizens born in or after 1986 and in the first or second year of a PhD at an African institution.
Application information

05 CONFERENCES & CALLS FOR PAPERS

29th IPSA World Congress of Political Science | Source deadline: 4 November 2026

Rome | 24–28 July 2027. RC46 Migration and Citizenship invites individual paper and closed panel proposals.
Panel descriptions | Individual papers | Closed panels

Lived Experiences in Contested Places: Governance and Humanitarianism | Abstract deadline: 11 December 2026 | Draft article deadline: 5 March 2027

Kraków | 11–12 March 2027. Submit an approximately 300-word abstract and 100-word biography to aleksandra.zdeb@uj.edu.pl and fabricio.carrijo@uj.edu.pl.

Governing Migration, Contesting Borders | Deadline: 12 November 2026

Florence | 17–18 May 2027. Migration Policy Centre, European University Institute. Abstracts up to 300 words; limited travel and accommodation grants for eligible scholars.
Conference details

BRIT XVIII: Rethinking Borderlands in an Era of Polycrisis | 7–11 May 2027 | Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The conference brings together scholars, policymakers, practitioners and civil society actors to examine how geopolitical, environmental, economic, demographic and social transformations reshape borders and borderlands. Topics include territoriality, cross-border relations, migration, identity and everyday life.
Conference homepage | Abstract submission

ABOUT ABMS

The African Border & Mobility Society (ABMS) strengthens scholarship, policy engagement and professional collaboration on border and mobility issues across Africa. BORDERLINES shares research, events, publications, grants, institutional developments and perspectives from members and partners.

We invite you to connect and engage with the African Border & Mobility Society (ABMS) through our website, www.abmsafrica.org, and follow our activities and updates on LinkedIn. We also welcome applications from individuals interested in becoming members of the Society. To express your interest, kindly complete the membership form available in the Membership section of our website.

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JOIN US IN ADVANCING SCHOLARSHIP, STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION AND SHAPING CONVERSATIONS ON BORDERS AND MOBILITY ACROSS AFRICA.