

African

Studies

Review

PUBLISHED BY THE AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Beverly Grier
Child Labor and Africanist
Scholarship: A Critical Overview

Susan Diduk
The Civility of Incivility:
Grassroots Political Activism,
Female Farmers, and the
Cameroon State

**ASR FOCUS:
ISLAMISM IN
WEST AFRICA**

William F. S. Miles
Introduction and Conclusions

Leonardo A. Villalón
Senegal

Momodou Darboe
Gambia

Sakah Saidu Mahmud
Nigeria

Robert B. Charlick
Niger

Review Essays

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African Studies Review

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From the Editors

At the annual meeting of the African Studies Association in Boston in October 2003, we and our scouts attended scores of panels, seeking out particularly good and engaging papers whose authors we hoped to persuade to submit their work to the *African Studies Review*. Among several excellent panels, we have chosen one to inaugurate a new feature for the *African Studies Review*: the *ASR Focus*. The panel included four riveting papers on the rise of Islam as a political force in four West African states. The papers were brilliantly introduced and then discussed by Bill Miles, Professor of Political Science at Northeastern University. The meeting room was crowded and overheated, yet the discussion and debate sparkled.

We decided to bring these four papers and Professor Miles's introductory and concluding remarks to the readership of the *ASR* in the venue of a small special issue, in which a single theme might be pursued in several papers, even if they together do not constitute the entire issue. Please look for the *ASR Focus* in subsequent issues of the *African Studies Review*. We want to make this a regular feature of the journal and we welcome proposals and suggestions for topics we might highlight in the future.

As has been an *ASR* tradition in recent years, our pages include the address by the outgoing president of the African Studies Association, given at this past year's annual ASA meeting. We normally include the presidential address with the April issue, but did not have sufficient available space to do it, given the feature on African higher education, and we are grateful that Beverly Grier graciously assented to delay the publication of her address until this issue.

Ralph Faulkingham
Mitzi Goheen
Amherst, Massachusetts

African Studies Review

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