

Foreword to ASC-TUFS Working Papers

The African Studies Center at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (ASC-TUFS) was established in 2017 to promote African studies, with a particular focus on contemporary issues in such fields as political economy, development, the environment, and human livelihood. Since its establishment, it has organised various academic seminars and published the outcomes of their research. The following three publications have been issued every year thus far.

Kirikoshi, Hitomi, Yasuo Matsunami, Shinichi Takeuchi, and Natsuko Midorikawa, eds. 2018. *Frontiers of African Studies*. (Proceedings of the ASC-TUFS ‘Kickoff’ Symposium), Tokyo: African Studies Center - Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, vi + 95pp.

Kirikoshi, Hitomi, Yasuo Matsunami, and Shinichi Takeuchi, eds. 2019. *ASC-TUFS Working Papers 2018: Development, Migration, and Resources in Africa*, Tokyo: African Studies Center - Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, iv + 202pp.

Matsunami, Yasuo and Shinichi Takeuchi, eds. 2020. *ASC-TUFS Working Papers 2019: Challenges of Development and Natural Resource Governance in Africa*, Tokyo: African Studies Center - Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, iv + 321pp.

The papers that constitute these publications were originally submitted to seminars organised by the ASC-TUFS: the Kickoff symposium in November 2017, the joint seminar at the University of Pretoria in September 2018, and the seminar at the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS) in February 2020. The ASC-TUFS is committed to facilitating the virtuous cycle between organising academic seminars and publishing research outcomes.

This year, the ASC published a new yearly journal, *ASC-TUFS Working Papers*. With the cooperation of the ASC members, the journal established an editorial board as well as a peer-review system. We believe that these changes are necessary to improve the quality of papers and enhance the publication of research outcomes of the ASC. Although the ASC-TUFS is still a small, young organisation, we are determined to make every effort so that this new journal can become an academic forum for all Africanists working with us.

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