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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to volume three of *Benin Journal of Literary Studies (BJLS)*, our first online edition. We're pleased to be online, a position which enables us to share information and ideas without spatial boundaries.

This edition focuses largely on an interplay between literature, science, and culture. Okache Odey opens the discussion with a paper on body shaming and aesthetic surgery. Odey investigates the growing demand for Brazilian Butt Lift (BBL) among young African women. Florence Okpalaku and Kunle Mamudu, in a study of four Nollywood films, analyse indoctrination and inducement as psychological and material strategies to recruit young insurgents – an intentional expansion of a culture of violence. Stephen Idowu, still contemplating violence, warfare, and vulnerable young minds, examines shattered and resilient voices; the voices of traumatized women and children who employ narrative as a mode of resistance. Disability, in Maria Iyere's submission, is more than a physical health problem: it is a trope for Nigeria's social, cultural, and political impairment. In the research of Andrew Egba and Ali Evbayiro, Nigeria's social disability translates to societal dysfunction. The researchers apply pragma-stylistics and register variation to the most recent novels of two literary icons, Soyinka and Adichie, to evaluate the authors' linguistic choices in portraying the nation's systemic decay.

Several articles highlight the influence of religion. Promise Adiele's controversial essay on resuscitating Africa's divination essence advocates a return to traditional African divination mediums to provide solutions to Africa's myriad problems. Tolulope Olajubu and Lilian Onyeiwu review marriage in two very different scenarios. Olajubu's study is on Moslem marriage in the 21st century African diaspora and the concept of "halal." Onyeiwu's study is on Igbo marriage custom in precolonial Nigeria and perceptions of women's deviance; "female aberration." Taken together, their papers are an interesting comment on a widespread and perennial conflict between traditional obligation and personal desire. Volume three closes with a return to issues of science and technology – Edefe Mukoro in an interview with Tony Afejuku conversing on the topic, "Artificial Intelligence is an incurable thief."

We hope you'll find the contributions insightful.

Sophia Akhremokhan