Editorial

'Emergence' on Screen and on Stage

This issue of *Africa Development* brings together two sets of articles. The first, which forms the theme of this special issue are articles selected from the 2017 25th Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) during which CODESRIA organized a workshop on the theme 'Emergence on Screen and on Stage' in partnership with the African Guild of Filmmakers and Producers. The workshop, held from 27–28 February 2017, was the 5th edition of the CODESRIA workshop series at FESPACO and continued reflections of previous workshops on the 'screen' and 'stage' in Africa. It brought together fifty-two researchers and practitioners from diverse backgrounds – including fifteen countries – to reflect on the issue of emergence in Africa.

The 2017 workshop focused on promoting dialogue between film actors and African researchers. It was motivated by CODESRIA's commitment to foster fruitful exchanges between the social sciences and humanities, while advancing CODESRIA's commitment to promote scholarship in these two areas. In addition to promoting such dialogue, the 2017 workshop sought to contribute to debates on the issue of emergence and knowledge production in the field of cinema and furnish policy makers with practical insights into the concept of 'emergence,' which is key to development discussions and practice today.

The concept of emergence evokes mistrust given its location within a long history of "slogans" imposed by the West. For some, the concept of emergence can be considered as a "denial of intelligence in Africa today." This underlies the perceived incapacity of Africans to conceive an endogenous model of development. Beyond political economy, the performance of emergence on screen and stage has particular significance in the African context, which is currently marked by different forms of violence, including xenophobia and unending conflicts. The papers presented during the 2017 CODESRIA FESPACO Workshop series addressed topics such as: conceptual

and contextual analysis, theories of change, issues of development, citizenship, the past and prospects for the future of African countries. Four of these papers are published in this special issue, while a few others have been published in other CODESRIA publications.

The second set of articles in this volume is a selection drawn from open submissions to *Africa Development*, but with contextual relevance to the theme of this special edition of the Journal.