

Tributes // Hommages

Tribute to Professor Lansana Keita

On June 5th 2024, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) received the news of the passing on of Prof. Lansana Keita.

Prof. Keita's intellectual contributions were profound and far-reaching, leaving an indelible mark in the fields of philosophy and economic history. His work has been a cherished part of CODESRIA's programming and history, enriching our scholarly community in countless ways. His last publication with CODESRIA titled "Eurocentrism and the Contemporary Social Sciences" was published in *Africa Development*, Volume 45, No. 2, 2020 (<https://doi.org/10.57054/ad.v45i2.641>). The article is set to be republished in a forthcoming book edited by Wanjala S. Nasong'o and Eka Ikpe titled *Beyond Disciplines: African Perspectives on Theory and Method*. In total, Prof. Keita contributed at least 11 articles to CODESRIA's premier social science journal, *Africa Development*. He was also very creative in his engagement, including conducting interviews with well-known luminaries in his area of work. For instance, the ar-

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ticle "The Economic Situation in Contemporary Africa" by Patrick Bond and Demba Moussa Dembele published in *Africa Development* Vol. 37, No. 4, 2012 is a comment on questions he posed.

Prof. Keita's extensive record of writing extended to CODESRIA's Bulletin and book series. He was the editor of the book *Philosophy and African Development: Theory and Practice* (CODESRIA, 2011) a book that documents an unwavering dedication to advancing knowledge and scholarship in the social sciences. Is it any wonder then that his last article in *Africa Development* was Eurocentrism and the Contemporary Social Sciences.

Prof. Keita's earned his PhD in Economics and Philosophy from Columbia University. He subsequently taught at universities in Africa and the USA including Kwara State University where he was Professor of Economics and Phi-

losophy, University of the Gambia, University of Arizona, University of Ibadan, and Howard University, among many others.

Beyond his scholarly pursuits, Prof. Keita was celebrated for his mentorship and commitment to fostering intellectual exchange and scholarly collaboration. His contributions to CODESRIA and the broader academic community were characterized by a deep commitment to nurturing the next generation of scholars and promoting rigorous, interdisciplinary research. Indeed, he served as an editor to CODESRIA publications, and a resource person in the 2008 and 2009 Gender Institutes. During these Institutes, Professor Keita remained as instrumental as always in advancing critical research and dialogue. CODESRIA has memorialized his contribution by dedicating the book *Beyond Disciplines* to his memory.

To his family, friends, loved ones, and colleagues, we extend our deepest condolences during this time of grief. May you find solace in the memories of Prof. Keita's life and in the mark he leaves behind.