

## ABSTRACTS

### What shall we do with old people? The question of ageing in China

FLORA BOTTON BEJA

This article discusses the ageing of Chinese population and the problems raised by the fact that, in this country, ageing and development are not being reached with the same speed. It examines attitudes toward old age in a country where respect and care for the elderly are considered essential according to a Confucian moral code which is the backbone of the values of traditional Chinese society. Thus, in the past, the care for the elderly was considered a family responsibility. At present, as a result of very strict family planning measures which resulted in smaller families, as well as the new economic environment, are creating situations which force the government to take measures in order to insure the welfare of old people, a task that is being addressed but is still difficult to achieve.

### Negotiation of Urban Identities in the *Mũgithi* and *One-Man Guitar* Performances in Kenya

MAINA WA MŪTONYA

The 1990s marked the emergence of a relatively new genre in the contours of Kenyan popular culture. The *Mũgithi* performance signalled a beginning of new directions largely in Kenyan music, and specifically in the contemporary *Gikũyũ* music in terms of themes and style. The performance, mostly an urban phenomenon dominated by *Gikũyũ* one-man guitarists, is discussed in this paper as a major site for negotiation of identities and incorporates the interface and interplay between tradition and modernity especially in the urban setting. The paper begins by highlighting the inherent contradictions in creation and re-creation of urban identities as expressed in the music. The

main argument here is that identities are always contested and that different socio-economic situations call for a negotiation, if not a re-negotiation of identities.

### **Policies in the Body, Politics of Subjectivity. Fanonian Imprints**

ALEJANDRO DE OTO Y MARÍA MARTA QUINTANA

This article explores in Frantz Fanon's writing the relations between ontology and representation in the colonial subject and its links with the body. Our hypothesis is ontology implies to Fanon an ambush produced by colonialism (in a discursive way) through the tools of representation. Thus, the colonial body is a body racialized, expelled from history. In the second section we analyze this set of problems from the perspective of ambivalence and mimesis to end on a tour about the links between language and history in fanonian writing.

### **Islamic State and Democracy in the North African Political Islam: Fundamental Concepts of an Uncertain Debate**

JUAN A. MACÍAS AMORETTI

This article analyzes the political theory of the "islamic state" (*al-dawla al-islāmiyya*) from both chronological and conceptual point of view, as it is stated within political theories of the most representative islamist thinkers in North Africa. This analysis tries to get the islamist stances on democracy (rejection/acceptation) straight, as 'a concept and political system' within the Islamic state, as it is set out by islamist theories in different historical and socio-political contexts, from post-independent Egypt to contemporary Maghreb.

## **Argentina and China: Causes of the Dispute Concerning the Soybean Oil**

EDUARDO DANIEL OVIEDO

This article explores the causes of the Chinese government's decision to ban imports of crude soybean oil from Argentina and its impact on the external sector of this South American country. This is considered a paratariff measure, as a retaliatory action to the antidumping policy and import controls imposed by the Argentine government on Chinese products, with the Chinese purpose to promote its crushing industry, employment and value-added to product. Measure taken under the misperception of Argentina as "winner", produced by the Chinese official statistics on trade, and strained bilateral environment, due to the international arrest warrant issued by an Argentine judge on Jiang Ze Min and Luo Gang for human rights violation in China. This trade dispute has changed China's image in the Argentine government and public opinion, but has not generated the expected impact on its agro-export model. In this regard, although the asymmetries are favorable to China, when the analysis goes from the global level to the micro-study of a specific international regime, such as the global market of soybeans and its byproducts, Argentina reversed the situation of power through trade counter-measures, being sensitive to the disruption of interdependence. Instead, China appears to be vulnerable to modify the external dependence of food, because of lack of natural conditions (land and water) that prevent from expanding the agricultural frontier.