

UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH

AFFILIATIONS RS-ACC WORKSHOP, MOI UNIVERSITY

THEME

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY: DRIVERS OF
COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

Wednesday 13th Oct - Thursday 14th Oct 2021
Sirikwa Hotel, Eldoret - Kenya

**Programme &
Book of Abstracts**



Prof Isaac Kosgey
Vice-Chancellor, Moi University



Prof. Dr. Peter Simatei
Director,
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Prof. T. Michael Mboya
Academic Coordinator,
African Cluster Centre Moi University.



Prof. Mary Wahome
Dean,
SASS, Moi University

Moi University African Cluster Centre - Profile

This workshop is just one of the many planned research activities of the Moi African Cluster Centre of Excellence in African studies for the year 2021. The Moi University African Cluster Centre (Moi-ACC) is housed in the School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS) of Moi University. The overriding objectives of the Moi University School of Arts and Social Sciences are to offer interdisciplinary teaching and research in the broad field of African studies and to act as the center where all other Africa-focused scholarship in Moi University coalesce. Within the context of these objectives, and building on the very strong tradition of exploring and interrogating diverse ways of knowing Africa that has developed in the School in the three and a half decades of its existence, the Moi-ACC is envisioned as a hub of outstanding inter-, multi- and transdisciplinary research and conversations that contribute to the greater understanding of Africa in ways that enable the addressing of significant issues affecting the continent. At Moi-ACC research is carried out under the following sections: Affiliations, Arts and Aesthetics, Mobilities, Moralities, Knowledges and Learning. The research projects that are currently on-going in these sections are: Regional integration in Eastern and Southern Africa: An appraisal of the frameworks for interactive markets, effective governance and human rights protection; East African Asian Writing and the Emergence of a Diasporic Subjectivity; Framing Identities from Human Agency Mobility on the Kenya-Uganda Highway; Changing Life Projects: African Identities, Moralities and Wellbeing; Pots, Fire and Gourds: A (Re)presentation of African Knowledge Systems; and Mediated and Mediatization of Islamic Knowledge in Kenya: Educational Institutions, Media Technologies and Performative Aesthetics.

Prof. Dr. Peter Simatei
Director,
Moi African Cluster Centre.

Remarks from Affiliations RS Spokesperson

Distinguished Guests, Fellow Scholars, All protocols observed, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. It is my honor as the Affiliations RS spokesperson to welcome you to this workshop whose theme is “East African Community: Drivers of Cooperation and Integration”. The workshop theme is informed by Affiliations RS ongoing research project titled, “The Economic Challenges Affecting Regional Integration of the East African Community”. In this regard, I wish to thank the financiers of the research projects and the MU-ACC for making it possible to have this workshop.

This is the second workshop that Affiliations RS is hosting this year; the first one having been in February 2021. Members of this RS have been involved in data collection that has taken us to East African cities of Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, Arusha, and Kigali, and we still have significant field work to do particularly at the border towns before the end of the year.

Since the treaty that led to the formation of the East African Community came into force in the year 2000, it has been twenty one years. It is therefore appropriate to say that the Community has become of age. Article 5 makes provision of the objectives of the Community of the EAC. Article 5(1) state, “The objectives of the Community shall be to develop policies and programs aimed at widening and deepening cooperation among the Partner States in political, economic, social and cultural fields. Article (2) states that the Partner States undertake to establish among themselves and in provision of the Treaty a Customs Union, a Common Market, subsequently a Monetary Union and Ultimately a Political Federation”. Each of these stages involves cooperation among the Partner States, and eventually leads to integration.

Although significant achievements have been realized in integrations involving the four stages, several obstacles are also faced in attempts to

achieve the goals. In these regards, the workshop interrogates the drivers of cooperation and integration. Which are the drivers that enhance cooperation and integration of the East African Community? How have they worked towards such achievements? As we analyze the drivers of cooperation and integration, we also attempt to explain the forces that have slowed down or worked against the achievements of the objectives of the Treaty of the East African Community. Several papers are lined up for presentation for the next couple of days. These include the ones by the Principal Secretary of the State Department of the East African Community of the Government of Kenya, Dr Kevit Desai, and those by scholars of Moi University African Cluster Center, those by scholars from sister universities of Kisii, Maseno, Kabianga, and visiting scholars from University of Lagos.

It is my conviction that at the end of this workshop, we shall be able to intellectually identify and interrogate the drivers of cooperation and integration of the East African Community and make policy recommendations that should enable the Community achieve its stated objectives, or revise the same. Once more, welcome to Moi University and welcome to the workshop.



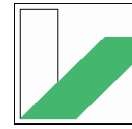
Prof Ken Oluoch, PhD
Spokesperson,
Affiliations RS.



PROGRAMME

DAY 1 WEDNESDAY, 13TH OCTOBER, 2021

Time	
08:00-08.30	Arrival and Registration
	SESSION 1
	Chair: Dr. Henry Lugulu
	OPENING REMARKS
08:30-09:15	Prof. Ken Oluoch, Research Spokesperson, Introduction & Framing of the Workshop Theme Prof. Tom Mboya, Academic Co-ordinator-ACC, Co-ordinator's Remarks Prof. Mary Wahome, Dean, School of Arts and Social Science, Dean's Remarks Prof. Peter Simatei, Director -ACC, Welcome Address/An Introduction to the ACC
	OFFICIAL OPENING
09:15-10:00	Prof Isaac Kosgey, Vice Chancellor, Moi university
10:00-10:15	HEALTH BREAK /TEA/COFFEE
	SESSION 2
	Chair: Prof. Tom Mboya Rapporteur: W. A. Kilong'i
	KEY NOTE ADDRESS
10:15-11:00	Dr. Kevit Desai, PS - State Department of EAC, Ministry of EAC and Regional Development. Topic - "East African Community: Drivers of Cooperation and Integration"
11:00-11:15	Q & A SESSION
11:15-11:35	Dr. Paul Abiero Opondo-Moi University, "Road to East African Economic Integration from Below: the Hidden Barriers and Future Prospects"
11:35-12:55	Dr. Tom Juma- University of Kabianga, "Amity and Enmity in Regional Integration: the East African Community (EAC) Experience."
12:55-13:10	Q & A SESSION
13:10-14:00	HEALTH BREAK /LUNCH
	SESSION 3
	Chair: Dr. Paul Opondo Rapporteur: Arnold Rono
14:00-14:20	Peter Oni, PhD, Visiting Fellow from University of Lagos (MU-ACC-Affiliations), "Interrogating the Notions of Integration and Supranationality in African Regional Community."
14:20-14:40	Dr. Bramwel Matui-Moi University, "Regionalism from Above: Knitting Neoliberal Global Governance Practices into the EAC"
14:40-14:55	Q & A SESSION
14:55-16:15	Gilbert K. Kimutai-Moi University, "Civil Society Organizations (ISOs) and the Integration of the East African Community: A Literature Review"
16:15-16:25	Q & A SESSION
16:25-17:00	HEALTH BREAK /TEA/COFFEE



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DAY 2

THURSDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, 2021

Time	
08:00-08.30	Arrival and Registration
	SESSION 4:
	Chair: Prof.Ken Oluoch Rapporteur: W. A. Kilong'i
	KEY NOTE ADDRESS
09:00-09:45	Prof. Edmund Maloba Were-Kisii University Topic: "Elusive Quest for a Sense of Community in East African Community Integration."
09:45-10:00	Q & A SESSION
10:00-10:20	HEALTH BREAK /TEA/COFFEE
10:20-10:50	Dr . Michael Omondi Owiso-Maseno University, "Managing migration in the East Africa Community, Paradoxes, Contradictions, Complexes, Challenges and Constellations."
10:50-11:10	Jack Nyaliech- Moi University, "Theorization of Trade Informalities in East African Community"
11:10-11:25	Q & A SESSION
	SESSION 4
	Chair: Dr. Prisca Too Rapporteur: Arnold Rono
11:25-11:45	Serge Hounton AMAS Project Fellow, Moi University, " Trade Dynamic Shocks and Border Closures in Awake of Covid-19 between Kenya and the Rest of COMESA Member States"
11:45-12:15	Calvince Omondi Barack, PhD- Maseno University, "Trust in Multi-Level Governance: A Milestone or a Misstep for the East African Community Integration Process."
12:15-12:30	Q & A SESSION
12:30-12:50	Prof. Ken Oluoch- Moi University, "Prospects and Challenges of Achieving Political Federation for East Africa"
12:50-13:00	Q & A SESSION
13:00-14:00	HEALTH BREAK /LUNCH
	SESSION 5
	Chair: Dr. Paul Opondo Rapporteur: W. A. Kilong'i
14:00-14:20	Vincent Mutai- Moi University, "Towards a Holistic Interpretation of Treaties I International Law: Implications for Regional Economic Blocs."
14:20-14:40	Ademola K. Fayemi, PhD - University of Lagos, (Visiting Fellow; MU ACC. Moralities), "Rethinking Agenda 2063 on the Africa We Want: can Aging be a Driver of Cooperation and development in 21 st Century Africa."
14:40-14:55	Q & A SESSION
14:55-16:00	Plenary Session Rapporteurs Report The way Forward
16:00-16:15	Closing Remarks
16:15-16.30	HEALTH BREAK /TEA/COFFEE

Dr. Kevit Desai

*PS-State Department of EAC,
Ministry of EAC and Regional Development*

East African Community: Drivers of Cooperation and Integration

1.0 Introduction

The paper will provide a prognosis of the EAC and critically analyze the historical journey the integration process has travelled since pre-colonial days. Further, the role of the colonial administrators in laying the ground for EAC integration process in the three founder members territories will be examined. This is materially essential since there is an overwhelming nexus between the EAC integration and cooperation and the activities of the imperial British colonial regime.

2.0 Drivers of EAC Integration and Cooperation

This section will assess the pillars that are at the heart of the EAC integration process. An analysis will be made to assess the role of each pillar in driving the EAC integration. This section will further provide a comparative critique of the EAC in regard to its weaknesses and strengths. Specifically, the following drivers will be discussed in annotated manner:

- i. Regional demographic and ethnic homogeneity
- ii. Shared values and cultural complexions.
- iii. Shared Econo-political interests
- iv. Fluidity of the Customs Union
- v. The Common Market successes and encumbrances
- vi. The Monetary Union as the driving force towards aggregate economic integration and subtleties
- vii. Constellation of geopolitical factors.

3.0 EAC in the 21st Century and beyond and the role of academia

- i. What is the role of EAC in the 21st Century?
- ii. What is the role of the academia in facilitating Kenya's participation in EAC integration process?

Dr. Thomas Otieno Juma, PhD

University of Kabianga - Kenya

Amity and Enmity in Regional Integration; The East African Community (EAC) Experience

East African Community from a traditional three states to current six states has undergone through different experiences in her cooperation and integration process from the pre-independence, the independence era, and post-independence era which suits the definition of the contemporary era. The context of contemporary global political economy revolves around a post-tripartite trading blocks among neighbouring states, shaped by empirical political theory (what is question) as opposed to normative political theory of “what ought to be”. Such realities are relationship based in forms of amity and enmity in the process of competition between citizens/states over policy preferences and interests. The resultant effects lead to; first, shifts in patterns of cooperation and integration and secondly, existence of durability and undurability in cooperation and integration. After examination and assessment of the effects respectively in relation to the East African experience, this article/presentation proposes a need to transcend above enmity for amity in East African Community Cooperation and Integration process. Underscoring the existence of amity and enmity in state cooperation and integration in a region such as EAC defines a Regional Security Complex due to socio-eco-political beneficial security interdependences and existing vs potential conflicts. The need for a unified developmental centric approach through cooperation and integration by EAC from the foregoing prompts the need for application of Regional Security Complex Theory (RSCT) by Buzan and Waver.

Keywords: *Amity, Enmity, Regional Integration, Regional Cooperation, EAC, RSC, RSCT*

Ademola K. Fayemi, PhD

Moi University - Kenya

Rethinking Agenda 2063 on The Africa We Want: Can Ageing be a Driver of Cooperation and Development in 21st Century Africa?

Despite the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons (adopted January 2016), the African Union Social Policy Framework (2009) that enjoins the implementation of the African Union Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), I argue that there is a loud silence about the specific potential roles of the ageing population in contributing to the regional integration and transformative agenda of Africa in the AU's blueprint of Agenda 2030 and 2063. While there is a fundamental disconnect between existing policy frameworks on ageing in sub-Saharan Africa and concrete transformative actions in many African states, this paper argues that there is a serious sense in which ageing relates to and can facilitate development in sub-Saharan Africa. This paper unpacks the false assumption about ageing as a burden on national development process and the obscurities in extant policies and plan of action on ageing in Africa. The paper contends that the policy commitments and human rights approach of both the Agenda 2030 and 2063 (as well as other protocols) to the conditions of the ageing population are not enough without infrastructural and institutional frameworks that appropriate and mainstream both the counsel of sages and the vulnerabilities of the ageing population within Sustainable Development Goals. Rather than adopting a top-down approach to addressing the increasing needs of the ageing population, this paper defends a Popperian piecemeal bottom-up approach of social engineering that recognises partnerships, sharing and integration of ideas on best practices among stakeholders at sub-national, national, regional, and continental levels. The paper concludes that this

approach is promising in ensuring optimal contributions of the ageing population to development without attenuation of their rights, care, protection, and dignity in 21st century Africa.

Dr. Bramwel Matui

Moi University - Kenya

Regionalism from above: Knitting Neoliberal Global Governance Practices into the EAC

This paper discusses the embedding of the neoliberal global governance into the evolving EAC regionalism. Recent regionalism has been dubbed as 'new regionalism' because of the co-existence of regional multilateralism with universal multilateralism. New regionalism is espoused by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization and the European Union- the latter being itself dubbed the prototype regional multilateralist organization. In new multilateralism, universal multilateralism is incorporated in regional nodes to forestall abuse by regional hegemon or pivot economic states in these regions. My assumption here is that the EAC whose prototype is the European Union is a terrain of knitting together regionalism and universal multilateralism. Neoliberal global governance privileges economic rationality premised on an all knowing and a calculative individual; the principles of efficiency is valorized, while state welfare, state subsidy and gender equality are jettisoned as violating economic rationality. To interrogate the neoliberal practices of rationality being enacted, I use Michael Foucault's theory of governmentality. Governmentality, defined as governing of governance, examines the techniques and technologies that are used to address political and policy problems in certain contexts and times. This theory can unravel the operations of insidious power in society; the theory also allows analysis of counter power to hegemonic power structures. A key feature of governmentality is how knowledge and power constitute each other and produce certain types of subjects through subjectification in a multilevel governance process. I unveil how neoliberal subjects are being produced by processes and structures enacted by agents knitting neoliberal global governance practices into the EAC regionalism.

Keywords: *Governmentality, Regionalism from Above, EAC*

Dr. Michael Omondi Owiso

Maseno University - Kenya

Managing Migration in the East African Community: Paradoxes, Contradictions, Complexes, Challenges and Contestations

Migration issues in Africa are beginning to feature prominently in the political agenda of not only specific countries in the continent but also the regional blocs such as the East African Community. This occurrence can be attributed to the increasing levels of awareness about the underlying potential as well as challenges the phenomenon poses to societies involved in processes of cooperation and integration. The World Bank indicates that the East African countries of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Sudan are recording high flows of emigration. Stemming from such a realization the East African Community is pursuing regional integration through four pillars: the customs union, the common market, a monetary union and political federation. Further, the East African Community underscores the centrality of migration in her regional integration process which, it is believed, will lead to the realization of the core objectives of the East African Common Market Protocol. This implies that the governance of migration has to be effective. Although this is the dream, the region is recording a mismatch between the intention of such policies and the realities on the ground. This contribution seeks to analyze this mismatch from a regime perspective and borrows from French regulation school. The paper benefits from secondary data and highlights the issues, actors, political dynamics, histories, practices, regional and national policy challenges as well as the informality inherent in the existing bricolage of migration management practices in the region. This exploration adds a voice to the migration discourse in east Africa and hopes to contribute to thinking on the nexus between policy and practice.

Keywords: *Regional Integration, Migration, EAC, Regime Theory*

Dr. Paul Abiero Opondo

Moi University - Kenya

Road to East African Economic Integration from Below: The Hidden barriers and Future Prospects

The objective of the paper is to focus on the subaltern and the marginalized traders while also examining the role of agency in highlighting the situation of the small scale informal cross-border traders in the EAC. Using the African Agency, we seek to interrogate the silent or hidden obstacles towards our trajectory to economic and political federation. What is the influence of the spirit of nationalist sovereignty and national interest, the private sectors and long bureaucracy in frustrating the subaltern and marginal traders across the borders of the countries that make up the East African Community? Twenty-one years after the signing of the East African Community protocol, we have not yet achieved the four pillars set out by the Treaty. In its journey towards eventual political federation, the EAC has achieved a number of good things such as the common external tariff, and establishment of the free trade area (FTA). Yet, regional integration is increasingly occurring in all corners of the world. This phenomenon began to accelerate after the collapse of the Cold war era, when the world realized that the only alternative to economic survival was through the pursuit of regional economic integration. The EAC is among the most progressive RECs on the African continent. On its path towards unity, the EAC is the only entity that has a clear program based on incremental stages of Customs Union, Common Market, a Monetary Union and finally a political federation. Despite a few achievements in that effort, a lot still remains to be done. This paper seeks to discuss the hidden hurdles that bedevil the free movement of goods, services and people in the EAC.

Keywords: *East African Community (EAC), Tariff barriers, non-tariff barriers, national interest, Corruption.*

Gilbert K. Kimutai

Maseno University - Kenya

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Integration of the East African Community (EAC): A Literature Review

This review of existing literature makes a case for the study of the influence of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the integration of the East African Community (EAC). Beginning with philosophical postulations on the meaning and role of CSOs in governance to contemporary conceptions of their nature and anticipated influence, the article proceeds to delve into scholarly work on their participation in the European Union (EU), the Americas, Asia, and Africa. Except for a few divergent observations, there is a general academic consensus on the significance of CSOs in governance facets such as policy making, enhancing citizen participation, transparency, and accountability. However, except for the EU where arguments for the measurement of the empirical evidence of their influence have been advanced, there is a dearth of the same in other parts of the world. In the EAC, treaty provisions for the anticipated role of CSOs in the integration process are explicit. However, more than two decades after its re-establishment, a lacuna exists on their actual influence on community policy processes. Further studies are therefore recommended to fill this practical and academic gap. Additionally, it will be important to unearth the determinants of their influence and the strategies they adopt in their attempts to contribute to integration efforts in the region.

Prof. Dr. Edmond Maloba Were

Kisii University - Kenya

Elusive Quest for a Sense of Community in East African Community Integration

The conceptualization and operationalization of integration and cooperation in the East African Community (EAC) region have characterized the discourse on development dynamics among the partner states since colonial times. Their utilitarian value was recognized by the colonial and postcolonial regimes and manifested the social and economic initiatives that reified integration and cooperation among the original partner states. Notwithstanding the consequent demise of the EAC in the latter part of the 1970s, it demonstrated the potential benefits of crafting a development discourse informed by key regional social and economic transactional drivers. Its resuscitation and the emerging challenges of rivalry, competition and national interest have, however, exposed the undercurrents behind the elusiveness of constructing the Deutschian “sense of community or we-ness.” This address identifies the sense of community as a missing link in the quest for deeper integration and cooperation. In this, we isolate the dearth of a shared identity and values that enable the evolution of a collective identity (East Africanness) as the lubricant of real integration. The expansion of the EAC further exacerbates this scenario. These will be discussed in the context of the grand theories of regional integration: neofunctionalism, intergovernmentalism and post-functionalism.

Keywords: *sense of community, postfunctionalism, national interest, integration, cooperation.*

Prof Kenneth K. Oluoch, PhD

Moi University - Kenya

Prospects and Challenges of Achieving Political Federation for East Africa

Attempts at regional integration among the East African States of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania could be traced to the colonial rule. The British colonialists believed that facilitation of trade and development among the three East African colonies could be achieved through integration. Upon attaining their independence in the early 1960s, the three presidents, Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, Milton Obote of Uganda, and Julius Nyerere of Tanzania committed themselves to formation of East African federation, based on the spirit of Pan-Africanism. However, due to the prevailing political conditions by then, this was not achieved and instead the three East African states signed a treaty that led to the formation of the East African Community in 1967. The entity was primarily a regional economic community. As such it is appropriate to point out that East Africa has the oldest history of integration. East African Community I collapsed in 1977 due to several differences that pitted the East African states and their leadership against each other. The 1999 treaty that ushered in East African Community II provided four pillars through which integration would be achieved. These were the East African Customs Union, the East African Common Market Protocols, The East African Monetary Union, and the East African Federation. While the first three are primarily economic integration, the latter one is the ultimate goal and constitutes political union. This paper analyzes the prospects and challenges of achieving political federation for the East African states. What are prospects of achieving the East African Federation as provided for in the treaty? What steps have been undertaken by the partner states towards actualizing the federation? It is now two decades since the treaty came to force and yet the achievement of the federation does not seem to be nearby. Actually

the fact that the precursor stages have not been fully implemented suggests the possible remoteness of the achievements of the federation. The paper therefore also sets to answer the question, what are the challenges facing the attainment of a federation? The paper sets to analyze the empirical problems that hinder the achievement of a political federation. These are analyzed from political and economic imperatives.

Calvince Omondi Barack, Ph.D.

Maseno University - Kenya

Trust in Multi-Level Governance: A milestone or a misstep for the East African Community Integration Process

The East African Community as a regional organization with several levels and issues of governance and with staff drawn from different countries needs to inculcate some reasonable level of trust among the key actors in ensuring that they can meet their objectives. Trust plays a key role in multi-level governance by providing the reassurance that each party would be able to honor its part of the bargain hence reinforcing the spirit of cooperation among the actors. For regional integration projects to be successful, political trust between political leaders of the member states is very important as well as political trust between the citizens and their elected or appointed representatives. Social trust is equally very instrumental as it reflects on the quality of relationships that individual citizens within the region can enjoy. The defunct East African Community failed partly due to the deficiency in political trust among the key political leaders of that time. However, since the ratification of the charter establishing the East African community in 2001, the community has made progress albeit with challenges some of which revolve around trust among the key political figures representing the member states. This paper, therefore, explores the role that trust has played in fostering or undermining the regional integration efforts within the community. It provides insights on the positive and negative impact of trust in facilitating or crippling the multi-level governance efforts within the community. It particularly focuses on border control measures about the free flow of goods and persons within the community and how trust has impacted the implementation of the common border protocol by the member states.

Peter Oni, Ph.D

Moi University - Kenya

Interrogating the notions of Integration and Supranationality in African Regional Communities

The challenges and crises confronting Regional Communities in Africa in contemporary times bring to bear the interplay between national and regional interests, national and supranational sovereignty. ECOWAS, EAC, SADC and ECCAS among other African Regional communities birthed noble ideas of a broader regional authority. However, long after their creation, these regional bodies are still teething, struggling for the realization of the multinational paradigm of integration. Studies before now have focused on supranationality and integration in various ways but not conceptually examined it on the basis of recognition. Consequently, the *sui generis* of the post-independence African project needs to be reexamined. The aim of this paper is to interrogate the notions of integration and supranationality in leading regional communities. This paper argues that in the euphoria of regional integration, many fundamental principles that would have grounded solid regional structures were ignored. Through constructivism, this paper rethinks the meta-theory underlying the principle of integration. It examines the methods of integration that establishes the supranational structure. Then, it assesses the dynamics of integration from the standpoint of self-recognition and the hermeneutics of mutual recognition.

Serge Hounton

Moi University - Kenya

Trade Dynamic Shocks and Border Closures in Awake of Covid-19 between Kenya and the Rest of COMESA Member States

The economic crisis brought by COVID-19 has had far reaching effect and will take some time to be reversed. The transmission control adopted by various countries has had a substantial negative impact on their economy. The experience seems to pose more challenges to the developing countries. The policy measures to control the spread of the pandemic such as lockdown, restriction of movement and border closures has caused a shortage in the trade flows in Africa regions which had led to increased cost of transport and restriction of movement is a threat to the African economy (Karishma et al. 2020). Therefore, this paper assesses the effect of the COVID-19 outbreak on the trade dynamic between Kenya and the rest of COMESA Countries. By doing so, the study used recent monthly trade statistics data from International Monetary Fund (IMF) to analyse the impact of the pandemic through the COMESA countries border closures. This study used the border closures as a proxy of COVID-19 effect on trade dynamic between Kenya and the rest of COMESA countries. The study also used the gravity model to measure the likelihood effect of border closures on trade in COMESA. The results reveal that the major countries that have huge trade volume between Kenya and the rest of the COMESA countries are Uganda, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Egypt followed by the rest. Therefore, the trade volume has been harmfully impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. That was due to the fact that the COMESA Countries have put in place some restriction of movement and border closures to be able to slow down the spread of the pandemic within and through the borders. The gravity model analysis reveal that the common border between Kenya and the rest of

COMESA countries has positive and significant impact on the trade volumes. Meanwhile, when all the borders have been closed down that positive effect has been changed to negative. This later has adversely impacted the trade volume between Kenya and the rest of COMESA countries.

Keywords: *Border Closures, COVID-19, COMESA Member States, Kenya, Trade Dynamic Shocks.*

Jack Nyaliech

Moi University - Kenya

Theorization of Trade informalities in East African Community

Informal Cross-Border Trade (ICBT) forms a significant part of intra Sub-Saharan African (SSA) trade. Despite being a source of income to about 43% of Africa's population, the informal cross border trade (ICBT) is generally regarded as illegal commercialization of cross border activities. In East African Community, Informal Cross Border Trade accounts for more than 40% of intra-trade share in the region with a number of surveys acknowledging its contribution to increased income, creation of job opportunities and empowering marginalized groups like women in some of the most fragile impoverished communities. Various normative and classical theories have been put forth to explain these phenomenon thereby calling for an interrogation on their relevance, applicability and short comings is analysing informal cross border among EAC member states of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. This theorization of trade informalities in EAC is based on documented literature to reach a logical conclusion.

Keywords: *Transacted, Informal, trade, Cross border, Nature, Theorization, Informality*

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