

# Editorial

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This issue consists of five articles. The first article by **Aklilu Asha and Matlou Nkwana** is entitled “Complexities in the Case Management of Unaccompanied Minors: Perceptions of Social Workers Practicing in the Polokwane Child and Youth Care Centres”. Using a rights-based approach as a theoretical framework, this empirical research probes the underlying factors that make the administration of unaccompanied children challenging. The participants of the study constituted primarily social workers practicing within the two Centres, including the supervisors and coordinators. These groups were selected purposively because of their extensive knowledge of and involvement in the activities of the Centres. The findings of this research highlight that most of the unaccompanied minors were in dire need and lacked proper documentation. The research argues that a number of perilous child protection challenges existed in the management of the cases of unaccompanied minors. These include the limited capacity of social workers, lack of intersectoral integration and collaboration, and insufficient allocation of resources to tackle the multiple dilemmas that affect unaccompanied minors in the Centres. The research concludes that despite the solid international legal framework and South Africa having a relatively well-developed legal and policy framework governing child protection, there are several critical child protection gaps that exist in terms of the implementation of these frameworks for unaccompanied or separated foreign children, by government officials.

The second article by **Terry-Ann Jones and Tamara Last** is entitled “European Immigrants in Johannesburg: Perceptions, Privileges and their Implications for Migration Experiences”. The research examines the experiences of privileged migration and strategies adopted by European immigrants to navigate South Africa’s immigration regime. Drawing on qualitative data from two independent studies on South African attitudes towards immigrants and European immigration to South Africa, the study also critically explores the interplay of social recognition and legal authorization in relation to privileged migrants. The study discovered that European privileges, such as international mobility and access to resources acquired in and by European governments, are reflected in the opinions of European immigrants in South Africa, which are contextualized in experiences and legacies of the apartheid regime. Furthermore, European immigrants’ beliefs define their privileged experience and enable their social mobility in a deeply segregated country by exempting them from migration politics and xenophobia and facilitating their economic integration.

The third article by **Joseph Inyama** is entitled “Economic and Risk Perceptions Motivating Illegal Migration Abroad: Port Harcourt City Youths, Nigeria”. The study adopted a qualitative research methodology to collect data from Port Harcourt City youths on the lived experiences of irregular migrants in selected countries abroad. Using the Theory of Reasoned Action and the Cultural Theory of Risk Perception, this study investigates the economic and risk perceptions related to the livelihood of male and female youths of Port Harcourt City

about migration to Europe through the Sahara Desert and across the Mediterranean Sea. The outcomes of this study reveal that the prospect of a better life and a steady income motivates people to undertake dangerous migratory journeys abroad, regardless of the hazards. Besides, the survey found that the majority of teenagers who go on perilous excursions lack a thorough understanding of the perils of traveling through the desert and across the sea, including the difficulties of living abroad as undocumented migrants. This empirical study suggests that government agencies and international community partners work together to undertake long-term interventions that will strengthen youngsters' resilience to illegal migration.

The fourth article by **Fatima Khan and Mikhail Kolabhai** is entitled “Bureaucratic Barriers to Social Protection for Refugees and Asylum Seekers during the COVID-19 Disaster in South Africa”. The COVID-19 pandemic represents a major public health challenge with serious economic and social impacts. This research considers the situation of refugees and asylum seekers during the pandemic, as well as their social protection status. The findings of this study reveal that decades of asylum mismanagement have left asylum seekers and refugees without protection at a time when they need it most. The research suggests the reframing of asylum administration as a critical disaster readiness infrastructure and vital service that could help to catalyze the significant reforms needed to protect these vulnerable groups and guarantee that their safety is prioritized.

The fifth article by **Paul Asquith and Richard Neetzow, Julia von Freeden and Paul Schütze** is entitled “The Link between Documentation Status, Occupation Status, and Healthcare Access for African Migrants: Evidence from Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa”. With the objective to examine the link between registration status, employment or occupation status, gender, and (perceptions of) access to healthcare, empirical data was collected from three selected countries in East, West and Southern African regions. To look into the effects of these various traits, a variety of statistical tests and models were used. The findings of this research show that throughout the three sample countries, access for people without any documentation is lower than other groups, not only by means but also within the linear models. As a result, the researchers strongly propose that, even if only temporarily, extending regularization paths in African states would be an effective policy lever for improving migrants' access to healthcare and, by extension, migrants' health. They further note that the effects of employment status and gender on access to healthcare were more ambiguous, and further research in African contexts is required to clarify their impact.

With effective presentations, good organization, and critical argumentation, the writers have created analytical and scientific research outcomes. I believe that the African Human Mobility Review, Volume 7, Number 2, 2021, will be a useful resource for researchers, practitioners, and students.

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