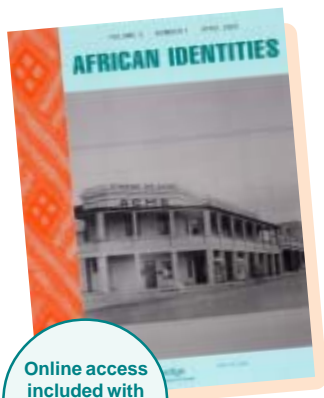


AFRICAN IDENTITIES

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Special Issue: Amilcar Cabral

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African Identities provides a critical forum for the examination of African and diasporic expressions, representations and identities. The journal aims to encourage the development of theory and practice in a wider spread of disciplinary approaches; to promote conceptual innovation; and to provide a venue for the entry of new perspectives. With an emphasis on gender, class, nation, marginalisation, "otherness" and difference, the journal explores how African identities, either by force of expediency or contingency, create layered terrains of (ex)change and decentre dominant meanings, paradigms and certainties.

Guest Editor: Carlos Lopes, *United Nations Development Programme, Brazil*

In 2004 Amilcar Cabral, the revolutionary hero for the emancipation of African people, founder and leader of the independence movement in Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde, would have been 80 years old had he lived. Unfortunately Cabral was assassinated in Conakry on 20 January 1973 by some of his own companions who betrayed him, acting on behalf of the Portuguese colonial regime.

When the Amilcar Cabral Foundation, based in Praia, decided to celebrate Cabral's 80th birthday, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) and other partners responded to the call. From 9 to 12 September 2004 more than 100 specialists, including an impressive list of African scholars, discussed Cabral's impact on today's Africa. The key papers presented at the conference have been included in this special issue. Each one of them represents a different angle from which we can assess Cabral's innovative thinking and relevance for contemporary African political, economic and cultural challenges.

Featured Articles:

Amilcar Cabral: a contemporary inspiration
Carlos Lopes

Amilcar Cabral and the liberation of Guinea-Bissau: context, challenges and lessons for African leadership
Peter Karibe Mendy

Challenges to state building Africa
Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja

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