

RESEARCH PAPER COMPETITION

The International Communication Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication invites entries for its research paper competition. Papers are sought on any topic within the general framework of international communication. Best papers will be presented at the AEJMC 1984 Convention at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Aug. 5-8, 1984.

Four copies of each entry must be received by the chair of the competition no later than April 1, 1984. Papers may be of any length, but they must be typewritten or printed by word processor, double-spaced.

Papers will be judged anonymously, and the results of the judging will be reported by mid-May 1984.

Submit papers to: Professor Owen V. Johnson, School of Journalism, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405.

JAMES H. ROBINSON AWARD

The African Studies Association, in cooperation with Operation Crossroads Africa, announces the second annual competition for the James H. Robinson Award. The Award will be granted to the author of the best essay or creative work (tape, film, photo-essay or pictorial art) based upon a first experience in Africa not exceeding six months in duration. Competition is open to anyone who can document such an experience whether undertaken individually or under an organized program such as Operation Crossroads Africa. The experience should have occurred within the last three years and it alone, as opposed to any subsequent visits to Africa, must be the subject of the work submitted. There is no limit on the length of submissions although the relationship of proportion to content will be taken into account when evaluating them. The award is two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00).

Essays will be judged by a committee consisting of two representatives from the Board of Directors of the African Studies Association and one representative from Operation Crossroads Africa.

For the 1984 competition, submissions must be sent by August 1, 1984 to:

Ralph A. Austen
Committee on African Studies
University of Chicago
5828 South University Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637

Letters

Iberophonic Challenge

Dear Dr. Cosentino:

Since Arabic, English, and French are the official languages of the Organization of African Unity, and Black Africa has adopted French and English as its principal intra- and inter-state languages, I am concerned about the anachronistic position of the five Portuguese and solitary Spanish-speaking states of Africa.

Such urgent practical considerations as communications, planning, and development, as well as the long-range objectives of Pan-African solidarity and greater continental political and economic integration are obstructed by the perpetuation of the Portuguese and Spanish languages in Africa.

The continuation of these languages needlessly alienates parts of Africa from the whole. It isolates and indefinitely separates six countries from the other 44. This situation can only benefit those who oppose a free, united, and prosperous Africa.

Even from a pragmatic viewpoint, maintaining the use of Portuguese and Spanish serves no useful purpose. Portugal is the poorest country in Western Europe. The condition of Spain is not much better. Neither possesses the vital resources, i.e., financial, technological, industrial, scientific, etc., necessary to adequately assist in the economic development of either Africa or their former colonies.

Do you believe there is any possibility that these six countries will change their official European language to either French or English? What steps can be taken to persuade the governments of these states of the practical necessity for such a switch?

The precedent has already been established. Indonesia replaced Dutch with English. In Africa, English superseded Italian in Libya, Ethiopia, and Somalia. (Ethiopia alone has a greater population than the combined population of the six former colonies of Portugal and Spain.) There is no justification for the five Portuguese and single Spanish-speaking states of Africa not to follow the lead of their sister republics of former "Italophone" Africa.

Please understand that I am not attacking or denigrating the Portuguese or Spanish languages, or those countries which have them as their official state languages.

If 44 countries in Africa spoke Portuguese and Spanish with only six speaking either French or English my position would be the same. It would be imperative for those six countries to switch their official European language to either Spanish or Portuguese.

What is your opinion on this particular issue?

Sincerely

Joseph E. Fallon

EMK on African Food Crisis

Dear Friends:

Thank you very much for your kind invitation to attend the African Studies Association Conference. I regret that I will not be there to meet with the distinguished members of academia, business, and public policy groups who are deeply concerned with issues pertaining to Africa—especially the food crisis and world hunger.

I share your concerns over the food crisis in Africa. As one of the first advocates in the Senate, I called in 1974 for the establishment of a world food reserve to deal with famines and to give the international community a margin of safety during food deficit periods. I also supported the World Food Conference and legislation that was introduced—especially foreign assistance bills—to implement many of the recommendations and goals of the conference.

Much more must be done to achieve food security for all. I, therefore, pledge my continuing efforts in this Congress to encourage a stronger humanitarian leadership and a more viable international food policy by our country, which will not only help relieve the appalling human tragedy of world hunger and famine, but also will support reasonable measures to bring new hope to developing nations which are striving to meet their basic food needs.

To achieve this, I will continue to resist unwarranted cuts in our Nation's foreign assistance programs, especially food assistance to those millions who daily confront the deadly hand of starvation. We simply cannot turn our back to the world's hungry majority. We must continue to do all that we can to fight against famines, starvation and poverty throughout the world.

Once again my warmest greetings and thanks for thinking of me, and wishing you all the success at your conference.

Sincerely,
Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senate

KUDOS FOR PIX PROGRAM

December 17, 1983

Dear Don:

The film program at the Boston ASA meetings is the most successful that I can recall. The participation of the University of Illinois Audio-Visual Services and Bob Bailey certainly had a lot to do with the success. There was someone to supervise the film showings, there were lots of new films, and Africanists had an opportunity to evaluate new films for the University of Illinois film rental collection. I hope that the participation of the University of Illinois Audio-Visual Services this year will set a precedent for the future. I'm sure that their continued participation would benefit Africanists interested in films and slides.

Sincerely,
Nancy J. Schmidt
Librarian
Tozzer Library—Harvard University
21 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
Telephone (617) 495-2253

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