

Editorial

African and Afrodescendant literatures are in a phase of greater projection, both within and outside the African continent. The strength of their cultures, which make up a broad and complex mosaic of plural and diverse voices, suggests the need to approach them, and specifically their literary works, from open methodological approaches that contribute to an advance in their knowledge, highlighting the connections between the theoretical assumptions born in Africa and those of their diasporas in Europe and Latin America.

The study of the complex realities of African and Afrodescendant literatures, as well as their relationship with other Afro-Latin American and Afro-European cultural or artistic manifestations, including Afro-Peninsular ones, may contribute to the formation of a greater critical mass, in the academic sphere and beyond it, ready to face the cultural and literary challenges that arise in the present and are projected towards the near future in our societies.

These are the premises with which *Africanías, Revista de Literaturas*, a scientific publication based at the Complutense University of Madrid, has been launched. It includes original research papers, translations and reviews –all of them subject to a peer-review process– and a section of original creation entitled African Voices.

This journal is designed to be a vehicle for the dissemination of the results of studies on African and Afrodescendant literatures, including the Hispanophone world –where studies of this type are not abundant in Spanish as a language of academic research. This space is therefore open to the reception of contributions (scientific and artistic) from authors based on the African continent and in the geographical and linguistic spheres of creation and study of the Afro-Latin American and Afro-European literary phenomena in their multiple meanings. These literary studies should find in this journal a platform for dialogue, as it is open to scientific contributions in Spanish, Portuguese, French and English. Likewise, thanks to the plurality of approaches it aims to achieve, one of its main objectives is to open new avenues of research into the literary and cultural phenomena of the African continent and its diaspora, from an interdisciplinary perspective.

This journal thus gives continuity to the work of the Grupo de Investigación Complutense *Voces Africanas* (*African Voices* Complutense Research Group) active since 2020, which represents the initial nucleus of studies on African literatures and cultures at the Complutense University of Madrid.

After the publication of three monographic volumes and numerous scientific articles, the Group is now making its experience available to the academic world so that *Africanías. Revista de Literaturas* may become a platform for original research and the exchange of knowledge between researchers of the African and Afrodescendant literary phenomenon.

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