

Paper: “Suspensions of Occult Medicine Murders in the Context of Democratic Elections in Contemporary Côte d’Ivoire”

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Peer review:

Reviewer 1: Ferenc Dávid
University of Pécs, Hungary

Reviewer 2: Blinded

Reviewer A:

Recommendation: Revisions Required

The TITLE is clear and it is adequate to the content of the article.

Yes, the Title is good.

The ABSTRACT clearly presents objects, methods, and results.

Yes, the Abstract is good.

There are a few grammatical errors and spelling mistakes in this article.

Overall, the paper is well-articulated.

The study METHODS are explained clearly.

Yes, the methodology has been properly explained.

The body of the paper is clear and does not contain errors.

Overall, the paper is well-articulated.

The CONCLUSION or summary is accurate and supported by the content.

Yes, the conclusion has been adequately described.

The list of REFERENCES is comprehensive and appropriate.

Yes, references are appropriate.

Please rate the TITLE of this paper.

[Poor] 1-5 [Excellent]

4

Please rate the ABSTRACT of this paper.

[Poor] 1-5 [Excellent]

4

Please rate the LANGUAGE of this paper.

[Poor] 1-5 [Excellent]

3

Please rate the METHODS of this paper.

[Poor] 1-5 [Excellent]

2

Please rate the BODY of this paper.

[Poor] 1-5 [Excellent]

2

Please rate the CONCLUSION of this paper.

[Poor] 1-5 [Excellent]

3

Please rate the REFERENCES of this paper.

[Poor] 1-5 [Excellent]

3

Overall Recommendation!!!

Accepted, minor revision needed

Comments and Suggestions to the Author(s):

The study aims to contribute to contemporary discourses on so-called occult medicine practices and the associated human murders in Côte d'Ivoire, by examining the perception of occult medicine murders as being ontologically motivated. Overall, the paper is well-explained. However, it is more suited for a regular social science journal. I nonetheless have a few suggestions that might help fit the paper within the aims and scope of this particular journal:

(1) As described in the paper, Occult medicine practices remain alive and active in rural and urban areas alike, addressing and resolving contemporary issues and problems. The belief in occult forces is still deeply rooted in many African societies, and is increasingly being exploited for political purposes. The occult medicine complex is not limited to Africa, and Africans living and working outside Africa, including migrants, refugees, victims of sex-trafficking, and experts in occult forces Islamic knowledge, travel between West Africa and Europe, the United States and Asia. In the Introduction section, please elaborate on the significance of these data in current research fields related to statistical modeling objectives (with a mention of certain attributable studies, for instance: <https://doi.org/10.1017/crj.2022.2>, etc.).

(2) The article aims to contribute to contemporary discourses on occult medicinal practices and human murders in Côte d'Ivoire, by analyzing information from local and international media. It reveals that politicians are accused of utilizing occult medicine to empower themselves and secure success in elections. In Côte d'Ivoire, anxiety about medicine murder typically occurs during political upheavals, and the number of occult medicine murders tends to increase in number during electoral periods. A few corroborative studies (e.g., <https://doi.org/10.1017/asr.2020.87>, etc.) should also be discussed in the 'Occult medicinal practices in Côte d'Ivoire' Section so as to affirm the reliability of the principles behind considering these key observations.

(3) According to several scholars, ritual killings can be classified as medicine murders, if the victims are killed so that their body parts can be used in magical concoctions that are supposed to guarantee strength, courage, and political success. In sub-Saharan Africa, presidential elections are only organized with the assistance of marabouts or féticheur, and even coups are planned and carried out only after consultation with the "workers of the invisible world". From a sociological, how effective or useful can such aspects be in fostering novel social values in public health policy schemes (e.g., <https://doi.org/10.14445/22315381/ijett-v70i12p223>, etc.), should also be substantially elaborated in the 'Discussion' section onwards highlighting the scope field-scale applicability of the paper's key highlights across geographic spectrums.

Reviewer D:
Recommendation: Accept Submission

The TITLE is clear and it is adequate to the content of the article.

Yes, it is OK.

The ABSTRACT clearly presents objects, methods, and results.

Yes.

There are a few grammatical errors and spelling mistakes in this article.

I am not a native speaker, but I think is OK. I could understand easily.

The study METHODS are explained clearly.

Yes.

The body of the paper is clear and does not contain errors.

It is OK.

The CONCLUSION or summary is accurate and supported by the content.

Yes, it is OK.

The list of REFERENCES is comprehensive and appropriate.

It is more than enough.

Please rate the TITLE of this paper.

[Poor] 1-5 [Excellent]

5

Please rate the ABSTRACT of this paper.

[Poor] 1-5 [Excellent]

4

Please rate the LANGUAGE of this paper.

[Poor] 1-5 [Excellent]

5

Please rate the METHODS of this paper.

[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]

3

Please rate the BODY of this paper.

[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]

5

Please rate the CONCLUSION of this paper.

[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]

5

Please rate the REFERENCES of this paper.

[Poor] **1-5** [Excellent]

5

Overall Recommendation!!!

Accepted, minor revision needed

Comments and Suggestions to the Author(s):

Your article is interesting. But a methods part is missing, and in my opinion you should put to the article some table, picture, map etc. whatever, which makes "colourful" the article.
