



Ethnocultural and Political Interactive Research in Tanzania

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Introduction I

There is a Swahili proverb which reads: *Mficha Uchi Hazai*
(One who hides her/his private organs won't give birth)

Summary: There is increasing interest in the geographic analysis of urban demographic and cultural studies, but such studies have been relatively limited in many African countries.

- Unlike in Western societies like the US, African population and cultural studies have been, arguably, mostly limited by political restrictions and fear.
- In Tanzania, analyses of urban demographics, especially those related to religion, migration, and race, have been invisible in the country's population census throughout independence/revolutionary period.
- National census data deliberately avoids showing the growth pattern of pop. variables (i.e. people's ethnicity, marriage, migratory trends, and religious affiliation). Even within the two sides of the union, Zanzibar and Tanganyika.

Reasons: 1) Nationalization of (the Swahili) Culture, (2) desire for ethnic harmony, and (3) the immaturity of democratic politics....

Introduction II

However, our view is that ethno-cultural information of this nature is important to facilitate better planning services; it helps to make everything and everybody visible.

Continuous omission of this data from the country's census data could confuse, deceive/cheat, or destroy the various projects from harmonizing, or nationalizing cultural patterns.

Here are a few examples:

1. Community confusion/uproar due to return of *Waqf* lands to owner in Kariakoo, Dar es Salaam last year
2. Motion to ban Tanganyikans from securing jobs in Zanzibar (defeated by 1 vote)
3. Islamic/Christian congregations being discouraged in both parts of the union
3. Destruction of churches/mosques and burning/tearing of Qur-an/Bibles by some opposing believers
4. Refusals of marriage proposal due to religious, ethnic reasons, etc.

So, here are our main research questions/objectives for this proposal....

Research Question(s)...

Our main question is: Why is ethno-cultural data politically sensitive and not visible in the Tanzanian population census? In other words...

- Why did the nationalization project of the Swahili culture have to abandon such key ethno-cultural variables as of no importance to the nation?
- Specifically, how could religious and other ethnic information *not* be incorporated into assessment of migration as part of the Tanzanian population census since the independence of Tanganyika (mainland Tanzania) in 1961 or since the 1964 Zanzibar revolution?
- To what extent does the existing population census allow government institutions to develop effective databases for current and future population demands and assessments?
- Is the existing census tradition the best approach to encounter prevailing population and cultural challenges nationally?
- Or, is there another way for making it stronger to harmonize the growing Tanzanian communities on both two sides of the union?

Project Objectives

- The aim of this research is to inspect population topologies and their characteristics in two selected major Tanzanian cities of Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam;
- This includes the evaluation of the gradual process of cultural change and ethnic situations experienced in those cities since the last 20 years, and then,...
- Study the characteristics of a sampled Tanzanian diaspora community and its assimilation trajectories in the US city of Seattle.
 - *Why Seattle? It is the 15th Metropolitan Area in the US and a major destination among many different immigrant populations;*
... it is also a leading US urban node for Tanzania's diaspora from both Zanzibar and Tanganyika.

Facts About Tanzania



- Tanzania = United Republic formed by Zanzibar + Tanganyika
- Socialist dominated since Independence/ Revolution in 1961/1964
- Lived in peace throughout indep. period
- **Total Population = 34,569,232** millions (2002)
- Projected Population: 43,601,796 (April 2012 est.)
- Quick Population Facts:
 - Distribution of ethnic/racial communities not outlined in population census since the 1960s.
 - No migration numbers by region/ethnicity
 - No outline of political/religious affiliation, etc; &
 - No data on Tanzanians in diaspora visible
- Aimed for nationalization of Swahili culture which encounters political/economic/religious challenges

Population Facts About Tanzania

Population of the United Republic of Tanzania by Sex and Number of Households

Selected Regions		Population (Number)			Households	
S/#	Region/City District	Males	Females	Total	Number	Average Size
	<i>Country Total</i>	16910321	17658911	34569232	6996036	4.9
I						
	<i>Dar Es Salaam</i>	1261077	1236863	2497940	596264	4.2
1	Kinondoni District	549929	538938	1088867	260269	4.2
2	Ilala District	321903	315670	637573	148386	4.3
3	Temeke District	389245	382255	771500	187609	4.1
II						
	<i>Zanzibar Town</i>	190937	200065	391002	74363	5.3
1	West District	91429	93281	184710	37244	5
2	Town District	99508	106784	206292	37119	5.6

Source: United Republic of Tanzania, 2002 Population and Housing Census

Why Population Data?

3 Main Reasons:

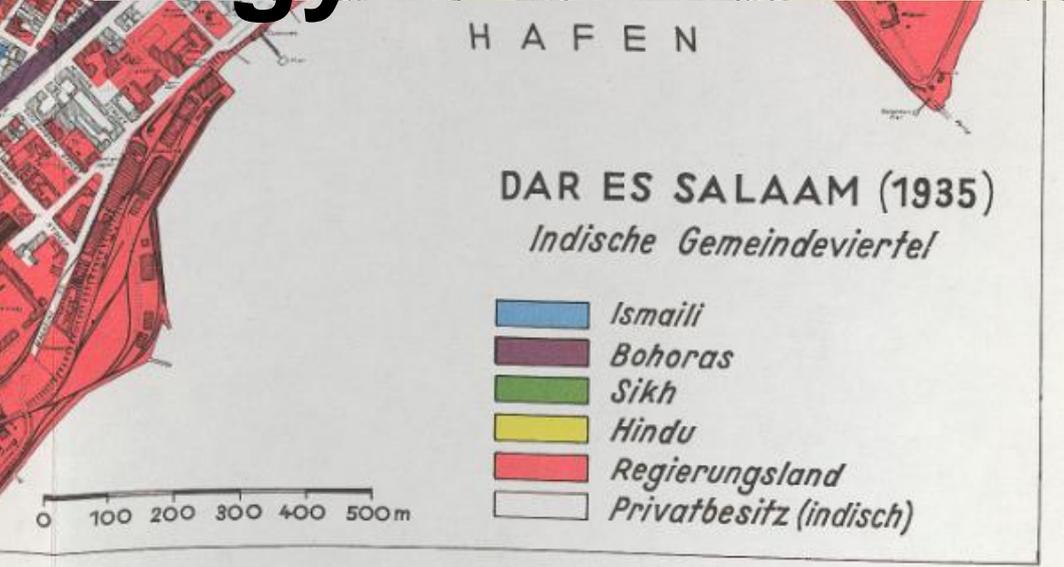
1. Investigate the level of ethno-cultural drift & related challenges in urban Tanzanian demographics and polity.
2. Outline the existing statistical gaps & limitations within National population census:
i.e.: whether it came about because of, or causes political restrictions, fears, etc. but **also**: demonstrate trends for (i) the political culture's maturity, (ii) level of democratic politics, and (iii) desires for political harmony.
3. Analyze Nationalization of Culture: i.e.: demonstrate current moment of ethnic change and related marriage/religious patterns between the two city communities (and in Seattle, US in a separate sampled analysis of Tanzanian diaspora community - esp. about people's background, place of origin, migratory trends, place of arrival, urban/land occupancy, etc.).

Our Assumption...

Therefore, this project intends to delve into the analysis of these research questions for Tanzania in the recent post-independence era with the following assumption:

...that “the enumeration of the above identified variables is needed within any population census to keep pace with the fast-changing geographical and societal patterns of modern life and for regulating and improving societal needs and related political processes” in the country.

Research Organization, Approach & Methodology



Specific Project Structure/Organization

This Project proposal is structured into five (5) key sections:

1. Overall Research Overview / Project Summary
2. Project Objectives
3. Model Approach and Methodology
4. Implementation Strategy that also includes a collaborative research framework
5. Proposed Timeline

Literature Background

1. **Key References:** We will build on Thomas Spear's (2003) critique of instrumentalist, constructivist, and primordialist approaches to understandings of ethnicity in Africa. Also Anthony Marx's (2003) "Nationalization" theory that "Elites group their nations and consolidate supporters based on similarities against an ethnic "other". The elites then drive this "other" out to create a harmonious population...."

2. Aided by Eric Hobsbawm (1994): "Nationalism and the Nation - An Invented Tradition" ... exploring the sense of nationalism that parallels religious, demographic, political, and through non-violent [sometimes violent] means... to establish a territory or a national autonomy....

3. F. C de Beer (2001) will be consulted to explore nation-building and the ethnic landscape in Africa and Steven Thomson (2011) will also be consulted while discussing the ethno-cultural drift in Africa and on issues of assimilation, acculturation, and unification policies.

3. Other literature on EA includes Thomas Burgess (2005) talking about the Revival of Citizenship in Revolutionary Zanzibar; Laura Fair's (2001) Pastimes and Politics; Abdi Kusow and Stephanie Bjork's (2007) "From Mogadishu to Dixon;" etc.

Methodology: Case Study Areas

There will be two case studies for the first two phases of this proposal, namely:

1. Dar es Salaam

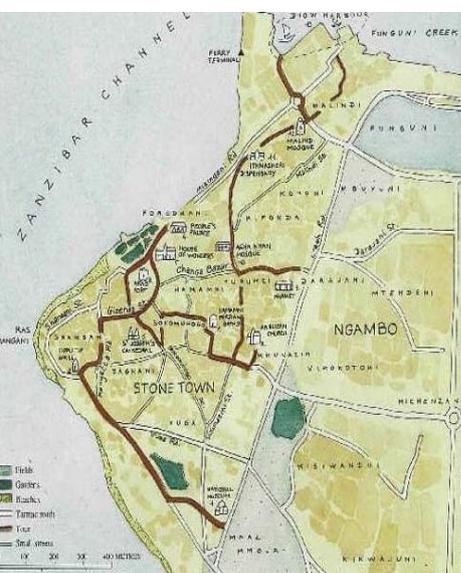
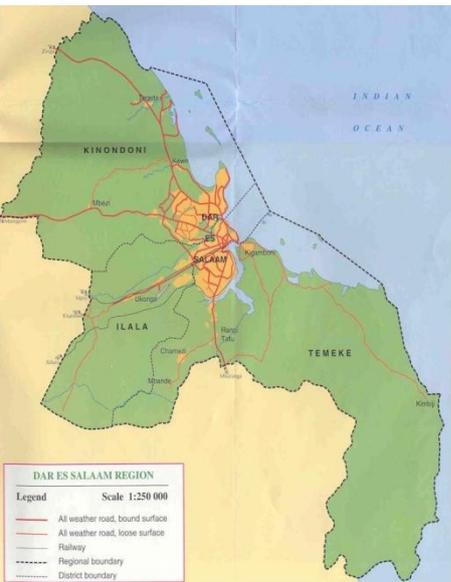
(Kariakoo (Commercial/Residential) Area:

- Assess cultural change, nationalization and ethnic pluralism (including measuring level of religious diversity, marriage patterns and ethnic identities - Change of entrepreneurial, entertainment, (music, foodstuff, clothing, etc) practices

2. Zanzibar

(Ethno-cultural/Demographic Survey of Stone Town (and coastal) tourism area(s)

- Assess all of the above, including who does what in terms of tourism security, trading, and political role.



Methodology: Model Approach

Research Approach:

- Initially, it starts as a one-year project – with a possibility for extension.
- It involves **3 major parts**:

Part 1: Development research plan and design.

- 5 weeks of fieldwork: semi-structured interviews and focus groups, ethnography and participatory observation is planned for this summer by the PI and Researcher.
- 1-2 week social survey of sampled Tanzanians in Seattle.

Part 2: Involves running the designated seminar courses, conducting workshops, and colloquia for presenting research findings.

- It also involves development of a peer-reviewed paper for journal publication.

Part 3: Involves fellowship evaluation, report submission, and submission of grant application for research extension.

Project's Implementation Strategy

1. Fellowship Engagement to perform the first two phases (This project is part of the larger Minerva proposal, *Social, Spatial, and Cultural Topologies of African Villages* Project in geography at USMA)
2. Collaborative Research Implementation Framework between the targeted local host/institutions and the USMA.
3. African Partnerships: This will be part of the 3rd phase for this proposal involving:
 - African Partners include...
 - Academic institutions: UDSM, SUZA; NGOs: ZIORI, ZIRPP, NGORC
 - Government institutions: Bureau of Statistics, DOSUP

Scheduled Activities/Expected Results

➤ **June-Dec. 2012:**

1) Fieldwork in Tanzania, (2) Seminar Course #1 (Topics in African Geography) & related colloquia, and (3) presentation of Field notes at USMA and Minerva conference – Paper on Tanzania completed - Mentorships and other fellowship services continues.

➤ **Jan-June 2013:**

1) Seminar Course #2 (Introduction to Modern Africa) & related colloquia, (2) Fieldwork in Seattle, USA, (3) Development of Grant Proposal, Evaluation, and Approval, (4) Minerva fellowship and related services – Paper on Seattle completed.

➤ **July 2013-June 2014:**

1) Minerva Post-Contract Phase begins; (2) Collaborative Project implementation take-off; includes other EA case study needs.



Thanks!

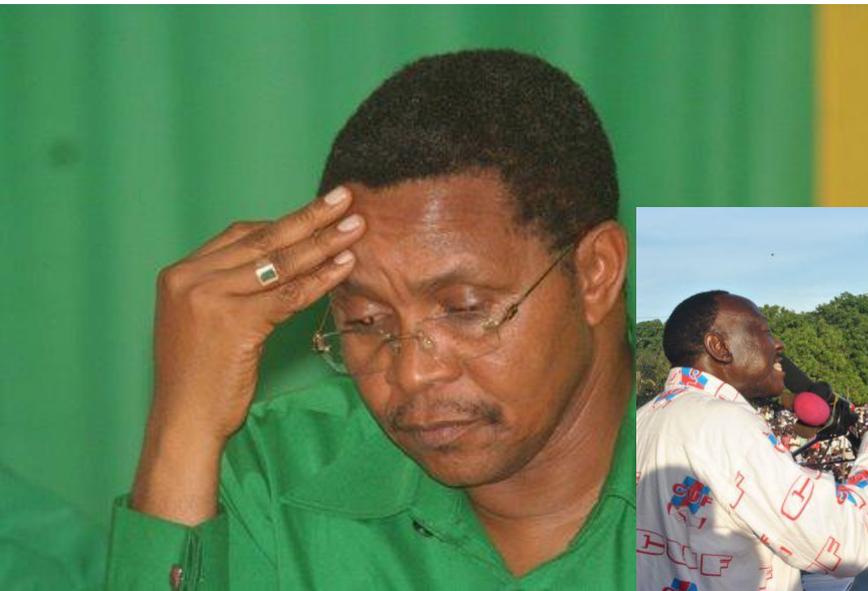


Q/A?



Photos of Tanzania in Different Political and Community Themes

Tanzanian Politics in different scenes



Debating and weighing the union in an on-going constitutional reform process in TZ



Top Slide: Members of the House of Representatives debating tourism employment bill in Zanzibar

Bottom Slide: A young man in police custody accused for burning Qur-an



Tourism in Zanzibar



Tourism in Tanzania



US-Zanzibar and Tanzania's Community of Seattle Diaspora Associations

