

# Review of: "Contentious Biometric Voters Registration and Democratic Politics under COVID-19: The Myth of 'Social Distance' in an African State?"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The study seeks to implement [Gauging the Implications of the Voters Registration on the Containment of the COVID-19 Pandemic], as the author aptly indicate in part of the chapter title. The story in this paper is informative in terms of the evolution of Ghana's electoral system and interesting from a journalistic point of view. However, as a paper that assesses the impact of the Biometric Voters Registration on the number of infections from an academic perspective, which is its original purpose, it is too naïve and descriptive, and lacks rational persuasiveness due to a significant lack of original data.

The author states that ["strict" observance of the social distancing protocols during the registration procedure remained a "delusion" or a "myth"] and points out that the problem is not the Voters Registration itself, but the failure of the administration to maintain social distance in its implementation. This is inconsistent with the title [Contentious Biometric Voters Registration and Democratic Politics under COVID-19] and may misinform the reader about the main content being addressed.

The data used in the impact assessment are already published by administrative bodies such as UNICEF and the GHS and are not original to the author (at least the processed data necessary for an objective assessment are not presented as figures or tables). The increase or decrease in the number of deaths and infections discussed in the above chapters is influenced and fluctuates by various complex factors other than the factors claimed by the author (Voters Registration), and should not be based solely on naïve numerical increases or decreases. At the very least, efforts could have been made to increase the persuasiveness and originality of the study by conducting a mathematical comparative analysis of the fluctuations in the number of infected people in neighbouring countries/regions other than Ghana and those in Ghana.