

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

Ishmael Hlovor¹

¹ University of Cape Coast

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an interesting enquiry into the controversies of the biometric voter registration under Covid-19. The introduction to the paper gives an account of the many issues that erupted during the process of compiling Ghana's biometric registration under conditions of Covid-19. However, the objectives of the paper have to be more precise. Its current form is too general and makes assessment of specific issues difficult.

Equally, the paper seems to be anchored on an understanding of health security, which the paper hardly engaged in any detail. The current format lacks theoretical rigor. To make a case for the implications of the registration for health security, the concept of health security needs to be elaborated and key aspect highlighted. This will allow the paper to assess the conduct in line with various aspects of health security.

The attempt to relate increased Covid-19 cases to biometric registration is not convincing. As contained in the work, other countries which have cancelled their elections also had more cases than Ghana. To demonstrate the link, the paper must necessarily provide evidence of cases where people contracted the sickness from engaging in the exercise. An alternative way to approach the current issue is to conduct interviews with people who took part in the exercise and find out how the registration affected their health both psychologically and physically. The interviews may also include health facilities to ascertain how they assess the impact of the registration on the Covid cases.

The paper also lacks critical engagement with prevailing literature on Covid both in Ghana and the rest of the World. The paper is replete with citations of web materials without any engagement with the many scholarly publications on Covid and electoral politics. the paper must review some literature on covid and electoral management in order to provide proper empirical context.

In addition, the methodology of the paper needs to be highlighted. The current write up leaves the reader to assume the methodology. This is not appropriate.