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Foreword to the volume *Developing Autonomous and Relational Identities: A Generative Research Framework*, by A Bame Nsamenang (forthcoming in 2013 - This is a 2011 Bellagio Residency Project)

This volume represents an important landmark in developmental science and in psychology: a research framework for the majority world. Professor Bame Nsamenang, a majority world leader in developmental science, has for decades been systematically identifying how development in Africa (and the rest of the majority world) does not proceed according to theories accepted in minority world, including North America, and Europe. He has made the case persuasively that more theory development is needed. And he has begun to identify where and how the "prevailing" theories are lacking. He has stimulated others, through his writing and presentations, to conduct research needed to build a body of research for Africa (and other countries.)

This volume is presented in five parts, and fourteen chapters. The structure is novel, to my knowledge, but important for such a volume. The five parts involve conceptual framing, basic components of development, overview for and phases of human development, African child development research and African childhoods, and a concluding chapter on human development and wellbeing research considering especially philanthropic resources that might lead to inclusive developmental science. This is a highly ambitious structure, quite comprehensive with the basic developmental portions and more loosely and lightly discussed with related topics such as philanthropy. Taken together it is a tour de force, a significant effort to consider African human development within the context of global research and the many issues that influence it.

In addition to his research on human development from the perspective of Africa, Professor Nsamenang has also been working on developing curricula for training the next generation of African scholars, to build the fields of developmental science and psychology

so researchers at least understand what it would take to have the universal theories that many aim to achieve. This line of his efforts builds from the theoretical work and research described in the present volume, and constitutes an important and essential parallel body of work.

Professor Nsamenang would likely say that he is only doing what is needed, in his modest self-reflective manner. But pursuing these two enormous tasks is a tremendous undertaking for any scholar/scientist. Doing so from the majority world is truly remarkable. Even though I have been learning from colleagues in Africa for a couple of decades, I have only recently learned more specifically about the many weaknesses in the research infrastructure. Scholars in Africa, for example, do not typically have effective libraries, web connectivity (or even consistent power!) or even computers, or research assistance. Because funds are typically lacking for graduate student support, any research assistance is done by the professor. (A corollary is that doctoral students must complete their degrees while supporting themselves - and possibly families -- working one or two jobs, completing the doctoral research only because of tremendous personal motivation and perhaps an understanding family to help make time available.) It is no accident that two of Bame's major books were completed during research fellowships, as described in his Preface to this volume, and thus highlighting the importance of such fellowships for majority world researchers. I emphasize that Bame has never mentioned such impediments to me. He just continues on his quest to improve understanding of African development and psychology. He is truly what we would call a "fire-in-the-belly" researcher!

Professor Nsamenang has taught me - and many others -- a great deal about African human development. Much of my education has been gained through our interactions in the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, where we both have served in the Executive Committee for many years, an organization I had the privilege to serve as President. He and his research are a gift to the rest of us. Through this volume, we have the opportunity to learn a great deal more. While the volume is likely to be of interest to any curious person with interests in human nature and human development, it is likely to be an essential text for students of these areas, which includes all of the human sciences, from biology through psychology to all social sciences, and related applied fields such as education, social work, and health science professions.