An introduction to Africa Spectrum

Tim Glawion, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA)
Leonardo R. Arriola, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Member of Leibniz Association

Overview of the session

- Aims and scope
- Article types and editorial process
- Open Access
- Challenges and Potentials
- (Individual) questions

Background

- Peer-reviewed; SSCI-ranked.
- Published since 1966 by the GIGA Institute for African Affairs (IAA) in Hamburg.
- Since 2003, close collaboration with the African Studies Association in Germany (Vereinigung für Afrikawissenschaften in Deutschland, VAD). Members of the VAD contribute to the journal's success by serving as authors and referees in the peer-review process.

Aims and scope

- Scientific knowledge: data-based, theory-driven analysis
- Topics: politics, societies, and development economics
- Region: sub-Saharan Africa, including Africa's role within the international system
- Disciplines: Social sciences (mostly political science, sociology, development economics, history)

-> desk-reject by editors if not fitting these key pillars

Article types

- Original **research articles**: 8,500 words, double-blind peer review
- **Analytical reports** (including conference reports and discussion pieces): 4,500 words, editorial review
- **Book reviews**: 1,000 words, editorial review by book review editor
- **Special issues** : minimum of 4 research articles (double blind-peer review and introduction (editorial review)
  - Special focus = 'mini' special issue, 3 research articles or analytical reports
- We accept French- and German-language articles during the review process. Accepted articles must be translated into English before publication.

Open Access (Gold/Diamond)

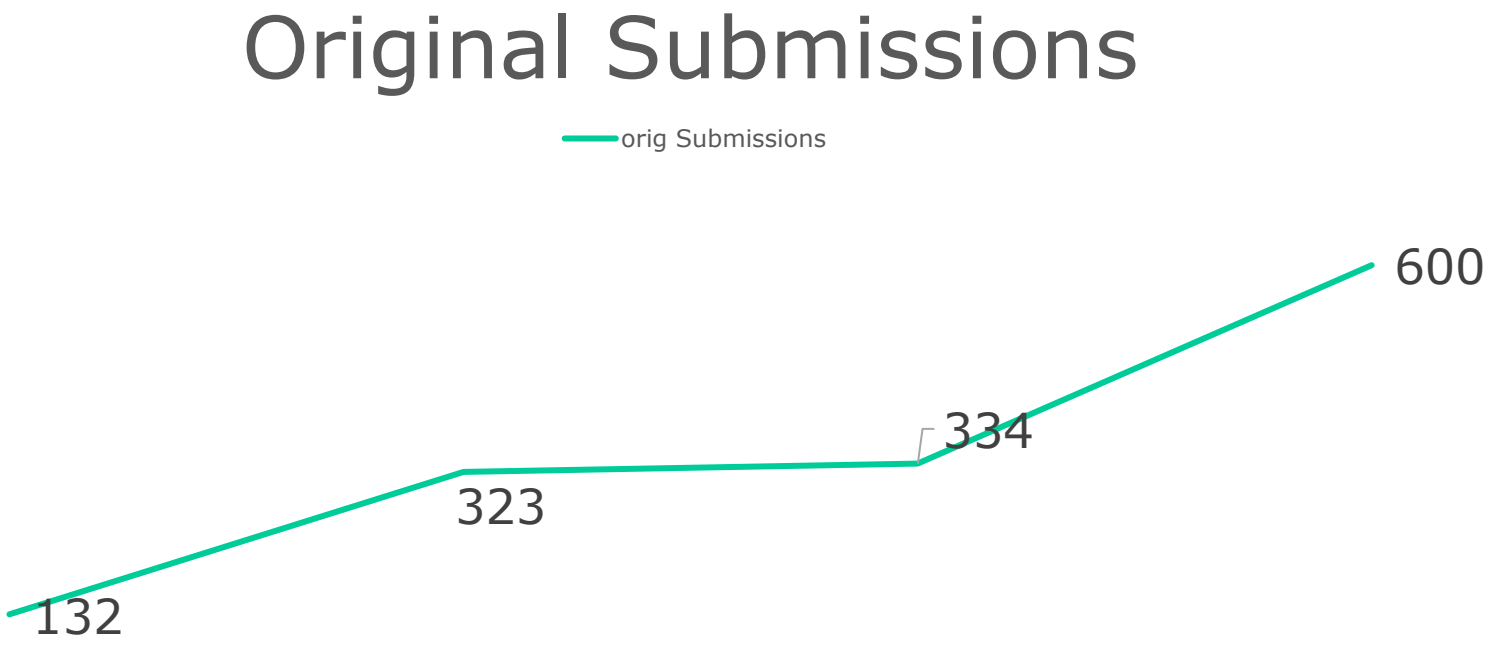
- Absolutely no charges:
  - No article processing charges for the author.
  - Anyone can read and download published version.
- Peer-review:
  - Highest standards, high-ranking (important for academic careers).
  - Pre-review: helping promising authors improve their manuscript.
- Support for Global South scholars:
  - Network of researching and writing funding.
  - Translation assistance.
  - Copy-editing.
- More coming!

Challenges and potentials

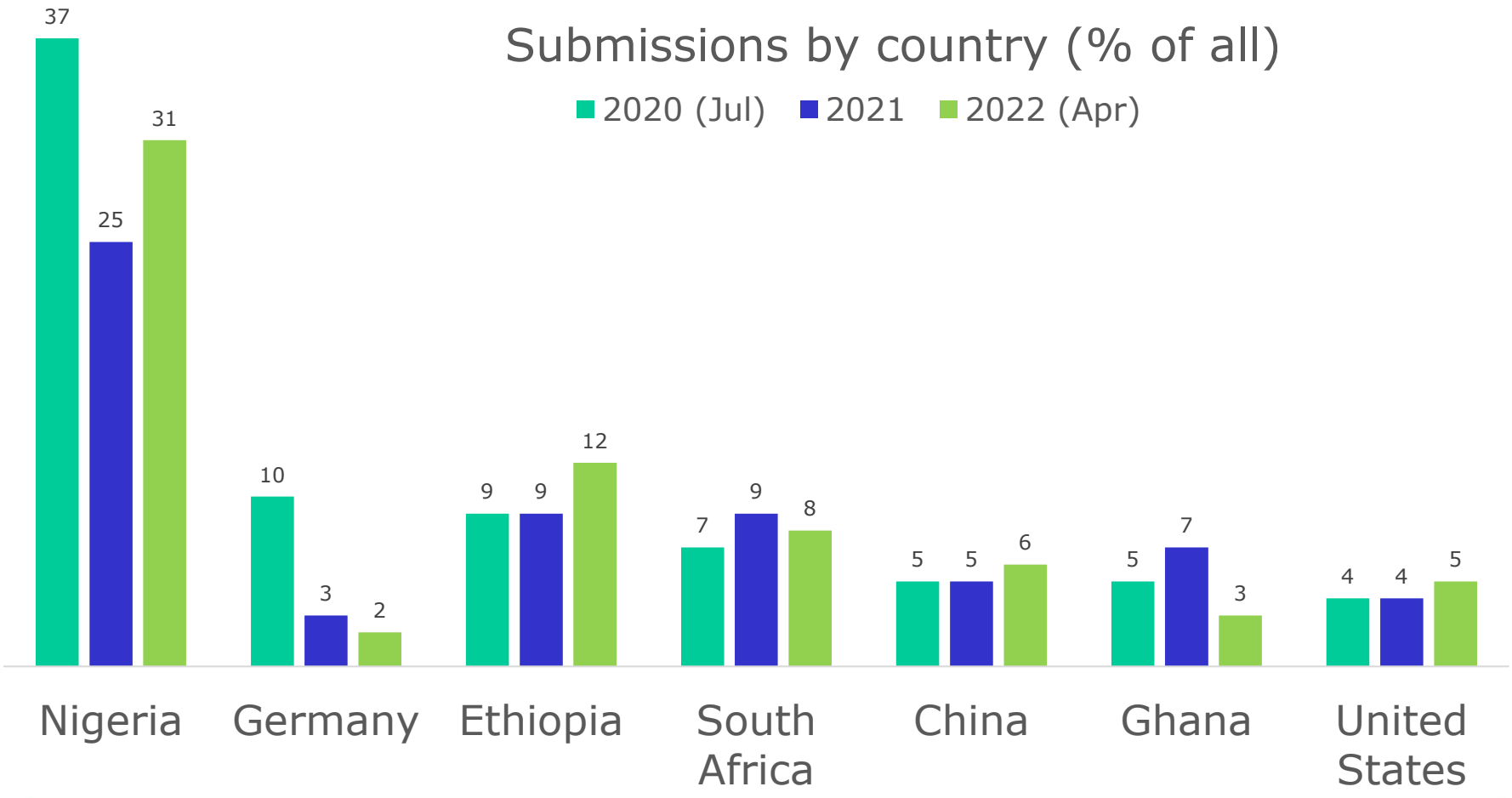
	African Affairs	Journal of Modern African Studies	Africa Spectrum	Total
Author based in Africa*	18.18%	4.17%	33.33%	13.64%
Author with African origin*	51.52%	25.00%	38.89%	30.30%

Source: Basedau (2020); abstract coding by Sarah Wenzel. * In articles with multiple authors, “yes” was coded even if only one of the authors is African or based at an African university.

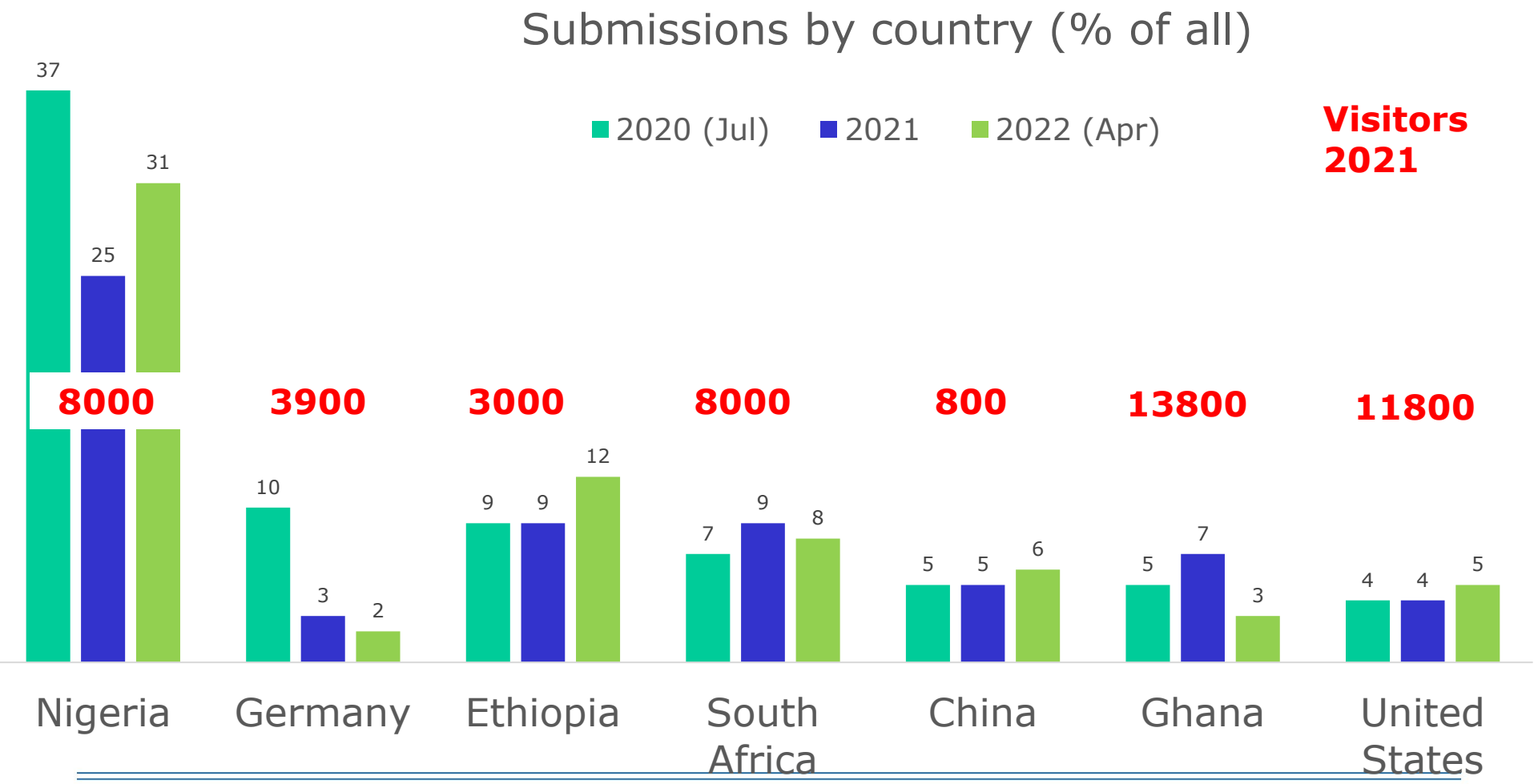
Challenges and potentials



Challenges and potentials



Challenges and potentials



Outlook

Opening editorial access: Diversification of Editorial Team

Opening linguistic access: Translation services

Opening research access: Networking with funders & institutions

Opening epistemic communities: Targeted outreach

What other doors can/should we open?

Questions?

Tim.glawion@giga-hamburg.de