This issue of *Language Typology and Universals* assembles a collection of papers that deal with the analysis of a variety of gender systems in African languages. Most contributions arose from the international workshop “Gender across Niger-Congo” held in November 2018 at the Institute of Asian and African Studies (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin). While the meeting focused on Niger-Congo languages, a few presentations also dealt with languages of different genealogical affiliation.

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In order to make the language-specific descriptions maximally comparable, we urged the contributors to employ or at least engage with our cross-linguistically oriented analytical approach to gender outlined here in the introductory article. We want to thank all authors for their willingness to do so. The similar outline in description and analysis makes the differences and similarities between the individual gender systems described here more visible. Regarding the majority of contributions treating Niger-Congo languages, a high degree of uniformity also sheds light on the origin and subsequent dynamics of the so-called “noun class” systems of this family.

*Corresponding author: Ines Fiedler*, Department of Asian and African Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany, E-mail: ines.fiedler@staff.hu-berlin.de

**Tom Güldemann**, Department of Asian and African Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany; and Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany, E-mail: tom.gueldemann@staff.hu-berlin.de
Map: African languages treated in this volume.
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