

The paper, “Intercultural Miscommunication: Perceptions and Misperceptions between Africans and African Americans,” by Funwi F. Ayuninjam concentrates on stereotyping between continental Africans and African Americans. Such stereotyping is found among a diverse population and included students, faculty, and staff. The author also looks at various forms of stereotyping mirrored in issues of identity and language use. Ayuninjam examines the effects of these stereotypic images on both African Americans and continental Africans. In addition, the author suggests not only coping mechanisms that might facilitate looking beyond stereotypes, but discusses possible avenues to create a closer relationship between both populations, such as traveling to Africa, engaging in more frequent discussions, or reading certain books. The author contends that even though African Americans have lived in the United States of America for more than three and a half centuries, and even though their physical separation from the African continent has resulted in a distinct African American culture, the authenticity of that culture still derives from its African essence, which binds all peoples of African descent. The author hopes that by engaging Africans and African Americans in an open intellectual conversation, they are all contributing toward a better mutual relationship. If Africans and African Americans fail to see the present need to collaborate, they should do so for the sake of their descendants.