

Call for Papers:

Theme: African Literary Rhetoric and the Compositional Imagination
Special Issue of the *African Journal of Rhetoric*

Overview

From the cryptic allegories of Ifa and the inherited eloquence of the Griot to the deceptive simplicity of Chinua Achebe and the grandiloquence of Wole Soyinka, African literature offers a vast assemblage of rhetorical strategies. Whether through Buchi Emecheta's perspicuity, Ngugi wa Thiong'o's subtle vehemence, or Niyi Osundare's musicality, African writers have consistently deployed cultural and stylistic maneuvers that demand a decolonial reimaging of the creative imagination.

To advance the **African Rhetoric Project's** mission to discover and canonize indigenous rhetorical techniques, the *African Journal of Rhetoric* invites submissions that interrogate the proprietary traditions of African literary expression. We seek papers that move beyond thematic analysis to examine the **how** of African writing: its persuasive power, its structural innovations, and its unique modes of address.

Submission Requirements

- **Abstracts:** 300–500 words outlining the research question, methodology, theoretical framework, and key arguments.
- **Author Bio:** Name and institutional Affiliation.
- **Full Papers:** Selected authors will submit manuscripts of 6,000 words.
- **Style:** All submissions must adhere to AJR style. Please consult AJR Editorial Guidelines.

Important Deadlines

- **Abstracts Due:** June 30, 2026
- **Notification of Acceptance:** August 15, 2026
- **Full Papers Due:** January 15, 2027
- **Target Publication:** Q3/Q4 2027

Contact & Submissions: Segun Ige, aar@afrhet.org; aar.southafrica@gmail.com

Suggested Subthemes for Submission

We welcome papers that engage with, but are not limited to, the following areas of inquiry:

- **The Rhetorical Construction of 'Africa':** Examining how literary texts invent, negotiate, or dismantle cultural identities through narrative.
- **Protest and Decolonial Stylistics:** The use of language and form as a site of resistance and the decolonization of the compositional imagination.
- **Technique and Tradition:** The adoption and deployment of indigenous rhetorical/literary devices (proverbs, oral tropes, call-and-response) in written literature.
- **Rhetoric as Social Action:** African literary works as 'equipment for living,' addressing political exigencies and social transformation.

- **Afrofuturism and Afrocentricity:** Exploring the rhetorical strategies used to envision African futures and center African epistemic perspectives.
- **AI and the African Literary Imagination:** The intersection of digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and the future of African storytelling and authorship.
- **Authorial Peculiarities (Idiosyncratic Rhetoric):** In-depth studies of specific authors' unique rhetorical 'fingerprints' and stylistic innovations.

Proposed Publication Timeline

Milestone	Target Date
Call for Papers Released	Early 2026
Abstract Submission Deadline	June 30, 2026
Notification of Abstract Acceptance	August 15, 2026
Full Paper Submission Deadline	January 15, 2027
Peer Review Decisions (First Round)	April 15, 2027
Revised Papers Due	June 15, 2027
Final Editorial Decisions	August 1, 2027

For more information, visit: www.afrhet.org