

# 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 reimagining 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@af rhet.org](mailto:aar@af rhet.org); [aar.southafrica@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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

For more information, visit: [www.afrhet.org](http://www.afrhet.org)