African Journal of Rhetoric

Special Edition on Digital Rhetoric

Volume 19

Call for Papers:

Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Rhetorical Communication:
Global African Perspectives

Overview:
The rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has brought incessant transformative shifts in various sectors, including orality, rhetoric, and communication broadly. As AI continues to influence content generation and how information is produced, disseminated, and consumed, its impact on rhetoric—both in its history, theory, methods, and practice—becomes increasingly significant. The intersection of AI and rhetorical communication is not just a technological concern but also a cultural, ethical, and global one, with distinct implications for (global) Africa's unique social, political, and economic landscape(s).

This Special issue of the *African Journal of Rhetoric* (AJR) seeks to broach a global African engagement on this important topic, given rhetoric's centrality to public and private human affairs. This call invites scholars, researchers, AI developers, and practitioners to explore the evolving relationship between AI and rhetorical communication from Global African Perspectives. We seek papers that address how AI intersects with traditional and contemporary practices of rhetoric in Africa and the African diaspora, considering its potential and challenges for African societies, politics, media, and culture. Submissions may engage with theoretical, practical, AI Infrastructure, AI and Venture Capital, AI governance, AI explainability, ethical, and socio-political dimensions of AI in rhetorical communication.

Submissions should address, but are not limited to, the following subthemes:
1. **AI and Rhetorical Practice in African Media:**
    - How are African media outlets incorporating AI technologies in their communication strategies?
    - What impact does AI have on the authenticity, diversity, and inclusivity of African media narratives?

2. **AI's Role in Shaping Political Discourse in Africa:**
    - How does AI shape political rhetoric in Africa's digital landscape, particularly in the context of elections, social movements, and governance?
    - Exploring AI's ethical considerations and challenges in political campaigns and public opinion formation in African nations.

3. **Artificial Intelligence and Public Persuasion in African Contexts:**
    - How can AI be leveraged for persuasive communication in African public spheres, including health campaigns, education, and economic development?

o Investigating the potential risks of manipulation or bias in AI-powered communication strategies.

4. **Rhetoric, Ethics, and the African Experience of AI:**
   o Examining the ethical implications of AI in African rhetoric, including privacy, surveillance, and the representation of African identities.
   o How does AI reframe African ethical norms and values in the realm of rhetorical communication?

5. **AI and African Languages: Impact and Future Prospects:**
   o Exploring AI's potential to preserve and promote African languages in digital and rhetorical communication.
   o Can AI-powered technologies like natural language processing bridge or deepen language gaps in African communities?

6. **Digital Activism and Rhetoric in the AI Age:**
   o How does AI affect African digital activism, particularly social justice, environmentalism, and human rights?
   o Rhetorical strategies used by African activists when employing AI tools in their campaigns and protests.

7. **AI, Rhetoric, and Education in Africa:**
   o How can AI revolutionize rhetoric and communication education in African universities and institutions?
   o What are the implications of AI-driven education platforms for the development of rhetorical skills in African youth?

Submission Guidelines: We welcome abstracts and full papers (4,000–6,000 words) on any of the above subthemes or related topics. All submissions will undergo a peer review process.

- **Abstract Submission:** Please submit a 300–500-word abstract outlining your paper's theme, methodology, and key arguments. Include a brief bio of the author(s) (100 words).

- **Full Paper Submission:** Selected authors will be invited to submit full papers after abstract acceptance. Papers will be reviewed anonymously [**Length**: 6000 words maximum]

- **Titles** should not be more than 94 characters.

Important Dates:
- **Abstract Submission Deadline:** July 30, 2025
- **Notification of Abstract Acceptance:** September 30, 2025
- **Full Paper Submission Deadline:** February 2026
- **Proposed Publication date:** December 2026

For inquiries, please contact: Dr Segun Ige (aar.southafrica@gmail.com; aar@afrhet.org}

We look forward to your contributions and a robust discussion on how Artificial Intelligence shapes the future of rhetorical communication from a global African perspective.