

African Journal of Rhetoric

Special Edition on Gender and Rhetoric

Volume 20

Call for Papers

The Rhetoric of Gender: Africa Edition

Description:

Gender rhetoric has become an increasingly important area of study within African communication contexts, addressing how gender is constructed, represented, and negotiated across different African societies. Gender discourse shapes the lived experiences of individuals, informs policies, and influences cultural practices, and in many African settings, the rhetoric of gender is deeply entwined with traditional, colonial, and contemporary discourses of power.

This special edition of the *African Journal of Rhetoric* invites scholars, researchers, and practitioners to engage critically with the rhetoric of gender in Africa, analyzing how gender identities are constructed, performed, and challenged in various public and private spheres. We seek contributions that address the intersections of gender with culture, politics, law, business, and social movements, focusing on the dynamic and evolving ways that gender rhetoric is enacted within African contexts. Papers may explore theoretical, empirical, and applied perspectives on how gender rhetoric shapes societal norms and drives change.

Subthemes:

We invite papers on, but not limited to, the following subthemes:

1. The Construction of Gender in African Political Rhetoric:

- How do African political leaders and policymakers use rhetorical strategies to construct, reinforce, or challenge gender roles in political discourse?
- The role of political speeches, manifestos, and campaigns in shaping public perceptions of gender equality and women's rights in Africa.

2. Gender and Media Rhetoric in Africa:

- How do African media outlets, including print, radio, television, and social media, contribute to the shaping of gender roles and identities?
- Investigating the representation of women, men, and non-binary individuals in African media and how gendered narratives influence public opinion and social norms.

3. Rhetoric of Gender in African Literature and the Arts:

- Analyzing how African writers, poets, and artists employ rhetorical devices to portray gender in their work, addressing issues such as gender-based violence, empowerment, and identity.

- Exploring the role of African oral traditions and performances (e.g., storytelling, theater, music) in articulating gendered experiences and resisting patriarchal structures.
4. **The Rhetoric of Gender and African Feminism:**
 - Exploring the rhetorical strategies of African feminist movements, both historical and contemporary, in advocating for gender justice, equality, and empowerment.
 - Investigating the rhetoric of prominent African feminist scholars, activists, and organizations in shaping gender discourse across Africa.
 5. **Gender, Law, and Rhetoric in African Contexts:**
 - How does gender inform legal rhetoric in African courts, legislation, and policy frameworks, particularly in relation to women's rights, gender-based violence, and sexual rights?
 - Examining the role of law as a rhetorical tool in both upholding and challenging gender norms in different African legal systems.
 6. **Rhetorical Responses to Gender-Based Violence in Africa:**
 - Analyzing how rhetoric is used to address gender-based violence in African societies, including the roles of activists, educators, media, and government institutions.
 - How are survivors of gender-based violence represented and supported rhetorically in public discourse, and what impact does this have on social attitudes toward such violence?
 7. **Masculinity and Rhetoric in African Societies:**
 - Exploring the construction and performance of masculinity in African rhetoric, including how men navigate, resist, or perpetuate gender norms.
 - Investigating the role of masculinity in political discourse, traditional practices, and modern media, and its impact on gender relations in Africa.
 8. **The Role of Gendered Rhetoric in African Religious Discourse:**
 - How do African religious institutions (including Christianity, Islam, traditional religions, and new religious movements) shape and challenge gender roles through sermons, teachings, and rituals?
 - Examining how religious leaders and communities use gendered rhetoric to either reinforce or dismantle patriarchal ideologies in African societies.
 9. **Rhetoric of Gender in African Education and Activism:**
 - Investigating how educational frameworks and pedagogies in African schools and universities engage with the rhetoric of gender, including gender equality programs, curricula, and activist movements.
 - The rhetoric of gender justice in African grassroots organizations and social movements.

10. The Rhetoric of Gender in Postcolonial Africa:

- Exploring how postcolonial African rhetorics of gender have been shaped by colonial legacies and how they continue to evolve in response to globalization, modernization, and changing societal structures.
- How have colonial discourses of race, power, and sexuality influenced gender rhetoric in contemporary Africa?

Submission Guidelines:

We welcome submissions from scholars, researchers, and practitioners with diverse perspectives. All submissions should contribute to the academic and social understanding of gender rhetoric in Africa and must align with the themes of the special edition.

- **Abstract Submission:** Please submit a 300-500 word abstract, outlining the research question, methodology, theoretical framework, and key arguments of your proposed paper. Include a brief author bio (100 words).
- **Full Paper Submission:** Authors whose abstracts are accepted will be invited to submit full papers (4,000-6,000 words), adhering to the journal's submission guidelines (Chicago Style, double-spaced). All papers will undergo a peer review process.

Important Dates:

- **Abstract Submission Deadline:** January 1, 2026
- **Notification of Abstract Acceptance:** March 1, 2026
- **Full Paper Submission Deadline:** July 1, 2026
- **Proposed Publication Date:** July 1, 2027
- **Titles** should not be more than **94** characters.

Editorial Board:

- Guest Editors: Dr. Tarez Graban & Dr. Nancy Henaku

For Inquiries:

For any questions regarding the submission process or the special edition, please contact Dr Segun Ige (aar.southafrica@gmail.com; aar@af rhet.org).

We look forward to your contributions and to a compelling discussion on the rhetoric of gender in Africa.

This Call for Papers invites scholars to engage with gender rhetoric from diverse angles, promoting an inclusive and expansive exploration of gender-related discourse in African contexts. Through this special edition, we hope to expand the scholarship on how gender is represented, challenged, and transformed through rhetorical practices across the African continent.