Instructions for Authors

Scope

Afrika Focus (AFOC) promotes critical and worldly debates with Africa at the centre. It accepts scholarly contributions dealing with current trends and new developments at both empirical and theoretical levels, and encourages the submission of work from new generations of researchers based in the continent. The articles should offer original research and address the interdisciplinary readership of this well-established journal. The editorial committee decides on acceptance following international and double-blind peer-review. The main languages of publication in Afrika Focus are English and French, but African languages (including Portuguese, Arabic and Afrikaans) are also accepted where editorial expertise allows. Apart from papers, the journal publishes book reviews, reports on noteworthy intellectual events concerning Africa, exhibitions and artistic interventions with strong conceptual focus. Submissions should adhere to the general guidelines for authors (including abstract, keywords and reference list).

Ethical and Legal Conditions

The publication of a manuscript in a peer-reviewed work is expected to follow standards of ethical behaviour for all parties involved in the act of publishing: authors, editors, and reviewers. Authors, editors, and reviewers should thoroughly acquaint themselves with Brill’s publication ethics, which may be downloaded here: brill.com/page/ethics/publication-ethics-cope-compliance.

Online Submission

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Prior to submission, authors are strongly encouraged to read the 'Instructions for Authors’. When submitting via the website, you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of the various files. A revised document is uploaded the same way as the initial submission. The system automatically generates an electronic (PDF) proof, which is then used for reviewing purposes. All correspondence, including the editor’s request for revision and final decision, is sent by e-mail.
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Double-Blind Peer Review
Afrika Focus uses a double-blind peer-review process. To facilitate anonymity in peer reviewing, the author’s name or similar identification marks should not appear on any page of a manuscript other than on a separate title page file, with the title of the article, the name(s) of the author(s), contact addresses, abstract, keywords, and a short biographical note.
Initially, the Chief Editor receives a manuscript and does an in-house review to ensure it conforms to the scope and policies of the journal. If the manuscript is in conformity to the scope and policies of the journal, the editor sends it out to two reviewers who are anonymous to the author. The review focuses on the quality of the manuscript in terms of its scholarly content, structure, and originality. This process takes a minimum of eight weeks. Depending on the outcome of the review process, the author will be required to undertake major or minor corrections as suggested by the reviewers. In case major corrections are suggested, the author is supposed to resubmit the revised work and this will be sent back to the reviewers for vetting. In some cases the manuscript may be rejected outright. Once the review process is over, the editors make the final decision.

File Format
Authors should make use of Apple Macintosh or PC format and Unicode-friendly fonts. Word and Mellel are preferred word processors. The files should be submitted in RTF or Word format.

Contact Address
For any questions or problems relating to your manuscript please contact: Annelies.Verdoolaege@UGent.be. For eventual questions about Editorial Manager, authors can also contact the Brill EM Support Department at: em@brill.com.

Submission Requirements

Types of Manuscripts
The journal carries full length articles (7,000 -10,000 words, including notes and references), as well as shorter contributions (maximum 5,000 words), book reviews and some creative work in different formats.
Afrika Focus does not accept manuscripts simultaneously under review elsewhere.

Language
The journal uses English (British) and French and occasionally other African languages (including Portuguese, Arabic and Afrikaans).

Non-Roman Fonts and Diacritics
If you have need of special diacritics, then Brill suggests the Brill font (brill.com/about/brill-fonts).
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Length
Articles should not exceed 10,000 words, including notes and references.

Manuscript Structure

It is the responsibility of authors to ensure that their manuscripts strictly adhere to the journal style. Manuscripts which do not conform to the journal style will not be accepted. The main text is single spaced with one-line space between paragraphs. Authors are responsible to ensure that their papers are readable and their academic content is fully understood by the editor and reviewers. It is therefore advisable for authors to take their papers to professional language editors before submission. The journal uses a system of endnotes (not footnotes), which should be kept to a minimum.

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On the title page file, immediately below the title on the first page, the authors name should be given in italics flush left, followed by the author’s position and institutional affiliation (in roman); followed by their e-mail address, the abstract and keywords, and any eventual acknowledgement texts.

Abstract and Keywords
Each article should be accompanied by an abstract of about 150 words and five keywords.

Headings
All headings should be flush left, and not numbered, using headline style for titles, headings and subheadings. The first level heading should be in bold.

The Myth of Zheng He: Kenya-China Encounters in Yvonne Owuor’s The Dragonfly Sea
The text.

Second level headings are bold italic.

The other lessons from the Tanzania coffee industry
The text.
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In-Text Citations
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The author-date referencing style should be used. In-text citations should be indicated in the text by giving the author's name, with the year of publication in brackets, e.g. Mushi (2003) or (Mushi, 1997), or (Clay, 1997: 123; Juma and Wachira, 1967: 23; Pot, 1888: 45), (Bayart et al, 1997: 53).

Interviews
For interview if respondent's identity is not disclosed (Interview, 20.12.2015) or if identity is disclosed (John Doe, Interview, 20.12.2015) or if end note is preferred, then the citation should indicate name (in case identity is disclosed), position of the respondent, place and date of interview.

Newspapers
(Daily News, 10.5.2021).

Endnotes
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The author can add brief acknowledgements as a first endnote.

References
All references cited in the text should be listed in full at the end of the paper. The reference section should be 2 line spaces below the conclusion of the article. Authors should make absolutely sure that all reference information is complete. References should be in the following standard form:

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Chapters in Edited Book
Instructions for Authors

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Website References

Interviews
Interview with Mr. E. Mshiu, Director of Marketing, Business Times, 17.10.2004, Arusha, Tanzania.
Interview with youth group leader, 17.8.2017, Nairobi, Kenya.

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Per cent' should be used where the figure preceding it is given in words: “two per cent”; % where it is given in numbers: 25.1%.
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All quotations, except those set off from the text by indents, should be enclosed by quotation marks. For quotes over three lines in length, indent, single-space, and do not use quotation marks. Single quotation marks should be used only for quotations within quotations. The closing punctuation of the quote should be outside the quotation mark unless the quoted matter is a full sentence.
As Nnoli (2003: 128) said: "... the basis of constitutions shifted from arguments about natural law to the functional utility of these constitutions".
As Nnoli (2003: 128) explained:...

Block Quotations
Longer citations of three full lines or longer are given as a block quote, without quotation marks and indented, with one white line of space above and below the quote.

Thus, the dominant social class has, throughout history, manipulated the political system to ensure outcomes that favour their material interests. This stands in direct contradiction to pluralist or liberal democratic notions of the state as an impartial referee deciding political contests on the basis of logic as opposed to the power of the conflicting parties.

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