

Utambuzi – Guidelines for Authors

Utambuzi is a peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to advancing scholarship on the study of religions in Africa and its diasporas. We welcome original, high-quality contributions that explore religious beliefs, practices, histories, and influences from various (inter)disciplinary perspectives.

Utambuzi is published open access with the support of the [African Association for the Study of Religions](#). Authors will not be charged a processing fee for publication in the journal, but are encouraged to join the Association and help us make the journal financially viable.

General Submission Guidelines

1. **Scope:** Manuscripts should align with the journal's focus on religions of Africa and its diasporas. Discipline-specific and interdisciplinary articles are encouraged.
2. **Originality:** Submissions must be original, unpublished work not under review elsewhere.
3. **Language:** Submissions should be written in Oxford English. Authors whose first language is not English are encouraged to seek professional editing services before submission.

Types and length of Contributions

1. **Research Articles:** Comprehensive studies that contribute new knowledge or interpretations (6,000–8,000 words, including references).
2. **Review Essays:** Analytical discussions of recent publications or major developments in the field (3,000–5,000 words).
3. **Book and Film Reviews:** Critical evaluations of recently published books (800–1,500 words).

Formatting and Style

1. **Manuscript Preparation:**
 - Use Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or a compatible file format.
 - Double-spacing and 12-point Times New Roman font throughout the document.
 - Include page numbers in the bottom-right corner.
2. **Title Page:**
 - Title of the manuscript (no more than 15 words).
 - Author(s) name(s), affiliation(s), and contact information.
 - Acknowledgement of funding sources or sponsors, if applicable.

3. **Abstract and Keywords:**

- Provide an abstract of 150–200 words stating the study’s methods, findings, and significance.
- Include 4–6 keywords reflecting the main topics of the manuscript.

4. **References:**

- Use the Chicago Manual of Style (author-date system, see instructions here: https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html). Ensure that all in-text citations have corresponding entries in the reference list, and all items in the reference list are cited in the text.

5. **Figures, Tables, and Illustrations:**

- Include these in the main manuscript file, numbered sequentially.
- Provide high-resolution images in a separate file if applicable.
- Include descriptive captions and credit sources where appropriate.
- Secure relevant copyright permissions where appropriate, and provide this to the journal editor.

6. **Headings:**

- Use a clear and consistent hierarchy of headings (e.g., bold for primary headings, italics for secondary).

Submission Process

1. **Online Submission:** Submit manuscripts via the journal’s online submission portal: <https://journals.uj.ac.za/index.php/ujsrad/about/submissions>
2. **Peer Review:**
 - All submissions undergo a double-blind peer review process, meaning that the names of the author(s) and the reviewer(s) are not shared.
 - Please, remove identifying information from the manuscript before submission.
3. **Response Time:** We aim to provide authors with initial feedback within 10 weeks.

Ethical Considerations

1. **Plagiarism:** Manuscripts must be free of plagiarism.
2. **Research Ethics:** Studies involving human participants must adhere to ethical research standards, including obtaining informed consent.
3. **Conflicts of Interest:** Authors must disclose any potential conflicts of interest.

Post-Acceptance

1. **Copyright:** Upon acceptance, authors will be required to sign a copyright agreement granting *Utambuzi* the right to publish. Authors retain rights to their work for non-commercial use.
2. **Proofs:** Authors will receive page proofs for review before publication.

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Contact Information

For inquiries, please contact the editorial team here:

<https://journals.uj.ac.za/index.php/ujsrad/about/editorialTeam>

Or the Managing Editor: managingeditor.utambuzi@protonmail.com

Website: <https://journals.uj.ac.za/index.php/ujsrad/index>

We look forward to your contributions to *Utambuzi*. Thank you for advancing the study of religions in Africa and its diasporas.