

Australasian Review of African Studies

Call for Papers

<http://afsaap.org.au/ARAS/submissions/>

ARAS is constantly seeking articles in the field of African studies and welcomes contributions from all over the world.

The following formats will be considered for publication:

- Scholarly articles: original, research-based articles between 1000-6000 words. Please include all relevant material such as graphs, maps and tables.
- Generalist articles, opinion pieces or debates between 1000-8000 words, relevant to African studies, African politics, society, economics, religion, literature or other relevant areas of interest to AFSAAP members.
- Field Notes of 1000-2000 words: any African fieldwork experiences or observations that would make an interesting contribution to the field of African studies. Please submit any photos that might be relevant.
- Book reviews between 300-1000 words.
- Review Essays between 1000-2000 words.
- Short notes / news / comments on reports 300-1000 words

Guidelines

From 2014 ARAS will be using the [APA 6th edition citation system](#) (in-text citations) - http://afsaap.org.au/assets/APA_6th_ARAS.pdf

Read the [Ethical Guidelines](#) - <http://afsaap.org.au/ARAS/ethical-statement/>

Please submit 2 copies – one copy with all of your details, and one copy ‘blinded’ (ie. Please remove your name and any identifying features from the article that would suggest the author’s identity).

Send to editor@afsaap.org.au

Book Reviews

The *Australasian Review of African Studies* (ARAS) aims to publish relevant and timely reviews of books dealing with various African Studies issues. However, in submitting book reviews it is important for reviewers to be aware of not only the journal’s style of citations, but also its style guidelines

for the writing of book reviews. [Read the Guidelines Here - http://afsaap.org.au/assets/Guidelines-for-Book-Reviews-1.docx](http://afsaap.org.au/assets/Guidelines-for-Book-Reviews-1.docx)

While some journals aim for publishing largely descriptive reviews which serve to inform the reader about the content of the book and its main ideas, ARAS does not.

Therefore, what we are looking for is:

- An intellectual engagement with the text which should be primarily reflective and critical, rather than a wholly descriptive book review, and
- A critical assessment of the ideas and hypotheses presented in the book

Publishing critical and inquisitive book reviews is an intellectually rewarding endeavour, and more importantly the state of academic inquiry and knowledge in general progresses through the process of discussion and argument, and not regurgitation. The journal welcomes unsolicited reviews. For all book review related queries please contact bookreviews@afsaap.org.au.

Deadlines

ARAS is published in June and December each year. Articles can be submitted anytime. Book reviews, news and opinion pieces should be submitted by March 15th or September 15th.

Read AFSAAP (The Publisher) Ethics Statement in relation to the publication *The Australasian Review of African Studies* <http://afsaap.org.au/ARAS/ethical-statement/>

The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP) publishes the *Australasian Review of African Studies* (ARAS). AFSAAP strives to ensure that we only publish high quality and trusted content.

We ensure this through our rigorous double blind peer-review process and, with only two issues published per year, we allow this process the time it requires. As a result we have a relatively high rejection rate of submissions, for a journal of our size and scope.

AFSAAP also uses text matching software to screen for unoriginal material. Authors submitting to ARAS should be aware that their manuscript may be submitted to text matching software at any point during the peer review or production processes. Below, we provide our guidance for ethics for journal editors, authors and reviewers.

1. Ethical expectations

Editors' responsibilities

- To act in a balanced, objective and fair way while carrying out their expected duties, without discrimination on grounds of gender, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs, ethnic or geographical origin of the authors.
- To handle submissions for sponsored supplements or special issues in the same way as other submissions, so that articles are considered and accepted solely on their academic merit and without commercial influence.
- To adopt and follow reasonable procedures in the event of complaints of an ethical or conflict nature, in accordance with the policies and procedures of AFSAAP where appropriate. To give authors a reasonable opportunity to respond to any complaints. All complaints should be investigated no matter when the original publication was approved. Documentation associated with any such complaints should be retained.

Reviewers' responsibilities

- To contribute to the decision-making process, and to assist in improving the quality of the published paper by reviewing the manuscript objectively, in a timely manner.
- To maintain the confidentiality of any information supplied by the editor or author. To not retain or copy the manuscript.
- To alert the editor to any published or submitted content that is substantially similar to that under review.
- To be aware of any potential conflicts of interest (financial, institutional, collaborative or other relationships between the reviewer and author) and to alert the editor to these, if necessary withdrawing their services for that manuscript.

Authors' responsibilities

- To maintain accurate records of data associated with their submitted manuscript, and to supply or provide access to these data, on reasonable request. Where appropriate and where allowed by employer, funding body and others who might have an interest, to deposit data in a suitable repository or storage location, for sharing and further use by others.
- To confirm/assert that the manuscript as submitted is not under consideration or accepted for publication elsewhere. Where portions of the content overlap with published or submitted content, to acknowledge and cite those sources. Additionally, to provide the editor with a copy of any submitted manuscript that might contain overlapping or closely related content.
- To confirm that all the work in the submitted manuscript is original and to acknowledge and cite content reproduced from other sources. To obtain permission to reproduce any content from other sources.
- Authors should ensure that any studies involving human or animal subjects conform to national, local and institutional laws and requirements and confirm that approval has been sought and obtained where appropriate. Authors should obtain express permission from human subjects and respect their privacy.
- To declare any potential conflicts of interest (e.g. where the author has a competing interest (real or apparent) that could be considered or viewed as exerting an undue influence on his or her duties at any stage during the publication process).
- To notify promptly the journal editor or publisher if a significant error in their publication is identified. To cooperate with the editor and publisher to publish an erratum, addendum, corrigendum notice, or to retract the paper, where this is deemed necessary.
- All authors submitting to the *Australasian Review of African Studies* are expected to follow the ARAS Ethical Guidelines at <http://afsaap.org.au/ARAS/ethical-statement/> Authors must also demonstrate adherence to the legal requirements of the study country. Authors will be asked to demonstrate and confirm that all the research meets these ethical and legal requirements by completing the Ethical Statement Form supplied to authors upon acceptance of their article for publication.

2. Procedures for dealing with unethical behaviour

Identification of unethical behaviour

- Misconduct and unethical behaviour may be identified and brought to the attention of the editor and publisher at any time, by anyone.
- Misconduct and unethical behaviour may include, but need not be limited to, examples as outlined above.
- Whoever informs the editor or publisher of such conduct should provide sufficient information and evidence in order for an investigation to be initiated. All allegations should be taken seriously and treated in the same way, until a successful decision or conclusion is reached.

Investigation

- An initial decision should be taken by the editor, who should consult with or seek advice from the publisher, if appropriate.
- Evidence should be gathered, while avoiding spreading any allegations beyond those who need to know.

Minor breaches

- Minor misconduct might be dealt with without the need to consult more widely. In any event, the author should be given the opportunity to respond to any allegations.

Serious breaches

- Serious misconduct might require that the employers of the accused be notified. The editor, in consultation with AFSAAP as appropriate, should make the decision whether or not to involve the employers, either by examining the available evidence themselves or by further consultation with a limited number of experts.

Outcomes

(in increasing order of severity; may be applied separately or in conjunction)

- Informing or educating the author or reviewer where there appears to be a misunderstanding or misapplication of acceptable standards.
- A more strongly worded letter to the author or reviewer covering the misconduct and as a warning to future behaviour.
- Publication of a formal notice detailing the misconduct.
- Publication of an editorial detailing the misconduct.
- A formal letter to the head of the author's or reviewer's department or funding agency.
- Formal retraction or withdrawal of a publication from the journal, in conjunction with informing the head of the author or reviewer's department, Abstracting & Indexing services and the readership of the publication.
- Imposition of a formal embargo on contributions from an individual for a defined period.
- Reporting the case and outcome to a professional organisation or higher authority for further investigation and action.

