

Reviewer Guidelines

Championing Accessible, Ethical and High-Impact African Research

Why Peer Review Matters

At AOPL, peer reviewers are the backbone of scholarly integrity and advancement. By evaluating submissions, reviewers help amplify African research voices and ensure quality across our journals and academic platforms.

Core Responsibilities of Reviewers

- **Evaluate Substance & Relevance**
 - Assess originality, depth and relevance to African scholarship
 - Consider interdisciplinary potential and local/global applicability
- **Promote Ethical Research**
 - Check for plagiarism, data fabrication or ethical breaches
 - Ensure research involving humans, communities or sensitive topics follows ethical norms
- **Encourage Scholarly Equity**
 - Support diverse methodologies and indigenous perspectives
 - Value contributions from early-career researchers and underrepresented institutions
- **Offer Constructive Feedback**
 - Highlight strengths
 - Suggest improvements in structure, clarity, methodology, or citations
 - Stay respectful and supportive, even in critique
- **Maintain Confidentiality**
 - Treat manuscripts as private
 - Avoid sharing or referencing unpublished work
- **Disclose Conflicts of Interest**
 - Be transparent about any affiliations or biases
 - Decline review when neutrality cannot be ensured

Review Criteria

Our journals expect excellence in:

Criterion	Expectation
Originality	Offers new insights or novel approaches
Relevance	Aligns with African contexts or contributes meaningfully to local issues
Methodology	Transparent, replicable and academically sound
Structure & Clarity	Well-organised, readable and logically coherent
Ethical Conduct	Respects communities, participants and scholarly guidelines

Review Timeline

- Reviews should be completed within **3–6 weeks** of receiving the manuscript
- If more time is needed, reviewers are encouraged to request an extension early
- Reminders will be sent periodically to maintain editorial flow

Reviewer Perks

- **Full access to AOPL-published materials**
- **Certificate of Review** upon successful evaluations
- **Recognition** in editorial listings and reviewer boards
- **Priority invitations** to submit papers and attend webinars, workshops or conferences

Guiding Documents

Reviewers should uphold AOPL's editorial and publishing policies:

- Editorial Ethics
- Plagiarism & Retraction Policy
- Open Access Statement
- Terms & Conditions

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