



## **African Journal of Rhetoric (AJR)**

### **Call for Papers: Special Edition on COVID 19**

#### ***Rhetoric in the times of COVID-19: Global African Perspectives***

#### **Volume 15**

The year 2020 has so far been riddled with all forms of social and political convulsions. The major health crisis that characterizes this *annus horribilis*, COVID-19, forms the backdrop for the various events taking place. The high infection rate is unabating in some places, and aggressively changing how different systems operate. Government and sectoral responses have been diverse. While some nations have managed to contain the spread, others are struggling with ideological and political conflicts over the management and containment of the pandemic. The impact on commerce has been remarkable. Global health systems have been under significant pressure, and Africa is still caught in the throes of competing and conflicting global trends. At the intersection is rhetoric. America's 2020 election will also intensify the situation given her critical role in global politics.

Since independence, very few African countries have seen any major improvement in their development projects. The effects of HIV/AIDS are still being felt. Corruption is unabating. Electoral malpractices are still a major cause for concern and COVID 19 seems determined to complicate the situations even further. But the following questions need to be asked: How has Africa coped with the unsolicited crises that are compounding already difficult circumstances and deplorable conditions under which Africans live? Have African countries strengthened their health systems following the havoc wrecked by HIV/AIDS? How should African countries construct a new rhetoric that not only help to galvanize different aspects of Africa's economies, but also establish Africa as a major force to be reckoned with? Can we exclude China's influence from any discourse on Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Is Africa protected from negative neo-colonial global trends? How effective are African Governments' responses to the COVID-19 epidemic? What is the emerging rhetoric in this health crisis? Are there reliable safety nets for Africa's poorest of the poor in these hard times?

This proposed publication is an interdisciplinary multisectoral project that seeks to examine critically the impact of COVID-19 and the attendant rhetoric (s) on Africa and Africans in the diaspora. The journal encourages submission of original papers that have not been published elsewhere.

The following subthemes have been suggested for the development of ideas and composition of insightful original papers on global African Perspectives on COVID-19. Topics need not be limited to the suggested sub-themes:

- Neo-colonial discourse and COVID 19

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century governance trends in Africa
- Africa and the Rhetoric of Global Pandemics
- Journalism, Media Rhetoric and COVID-19
- Drug Development and Conspiracy Theories
- Africa's Health Systems and Lessons Learnt from HIV/AIDS
- COVID-19, Social Unrests and Social Memory
- Health, Human Rights and Racial Identity
- Conflict between Age and the Meaning of Life
- Pandemic and Citizen Social Responsibility
- COVID -19 and Survivor Rhetoric
- COVID -19, Global relations and Global rhetoric
- Rhetoric of Economics and COVID-19
- COVID-19, Medical Knowledge, and Rhetoric
- Rhetoric of Social Distancing: Implications for African Social relations
- Corporate Rhetoric and COVID 19
- Digitizing Commerce: New Dimensions to Online Marketing in the Era of COVID 19
- Africa's Coping Strategies in Global Crises: How sustainable?
- Health Crises and the Failure of Development Economics in Africa
- Digital Rhetoric, COVID 19 and Information Dissemination
- Understanding National Health Disparities and the African Diaspora
- Rhetoric, Medical Humanities and the Invention of a Healthy State

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**Abstract:** 250 words Submission date; October 30, 2020

**Paper:** 6000 words: Submission date: April 30, 2021

**Publication Date:** May 2022

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**AJR URL:** <https://www.afrhet.org/publications>