

JOURNAL OF AFRICAN BUSINESS

Special Issue: Contextualizing Management and Business Theories for Africa

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This special issue focuses on the question of the applicability of extant theories of management and business to the African context. Implicitly, the hegemonic nature of Western management and business knowledge production suggests there is little room for adding, extending or even refuting its universality. Invariably, scholars writing about African management and business issues face the continuing challenge of proving the relevance of the research to extant knowledge. In this special issue we want to reverse the question and ask instead, to what extent are current management and business theories relevant to the African context? In speaking back to what is assumed to be the whole and universal, we want to start new conversations and debates. But most importantly, we want submissions that will critically and rigorously interrogate the ontologies and epistemologies of dominant theories of management, organizations, and business. Such efforts are not solely for the purpose of challenging Western domination of management and business knowledge. More importantly, there is a critical need for knowledge production that contributes to the advancement of management and business in Africa.

Questions that might be investigated include:

What are the underlying assumptions and prescriptions of dominant management and business theories? To what extent are they relevant to African challenges and issues? How might dominant theories of management and business be reconceptualized as a result of African contextual realities? What are the consequences of hegemonic management and business knowledge for how we do research as African scholars? How can indigenous African management and business practices enhance our theoretical understandings? What are the possibilities for knowledge production from Africa informing extant management and business knowledge? How can those writing from the margins inform the so-called center of management and business knowledge? What are the ways scholars can disrupt what Mudimbe (1988) refers to as the all-embracing marginality of knowledge from Africa, or what Zoogah, Peng, and Woldu (2009) call the myths about Africa?

We particularly welcome theoretical and conceptual pieces that question existing theories and also propose new propositions for future empirical testing. Submissions should focus on in-depth treatments of a specific theory or research topic rather than generalizing across a number of theories or topics. Research that address issues based on scientific realism (i.e., provides a true description of the world of Africa) or develops and applies theory based on the unique context of Africa is particularly relevant for the special issue (Zoogah, 2008). Studies that help define the identity of African management and business scholarship (Zoogah&Nkomo, in press) are also welcomed.

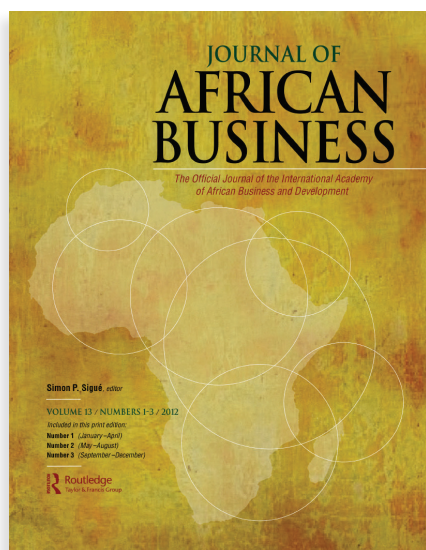
GUIDELINES FOR PAPER SUBMISSION

Papers should be between 5000 and 8000 words, and will be blind reviewed following the journal's standard peer review process. Accepted papers will more likely be published in summer 2014.

For author guidelines, please visit the website of the *Journal of African Business* at:
<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=1522-8916&linktype=44>

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