



## Special Issue for *Journal of International Women's Studies*

### "Intersecting Inequalities: Exploring the Dynamics of Gender, Race, and Class in Africa"

**Special Issue Editors: Tinuade Ojo and Omosefe Oyekanmi, University of Johannesburg**

#### **Introduction**

The intricate interplay of gender, race, and class continues to shape lived experiences, opportunities, and systemic inequities across Africa. Despite the growing acknowledgment of intersectionality as a critical analytical framework (Crenshaw, 1989), there remains a pressing need to delve deeper into how these intersecting inequalities manifest in diverse African contexts. This special issue seeks to advance scholarship by interrogating the dynamics of these intersecting identities and their implications for social, economic, and political landscapes across the continent.

#### **Objectives of the Special Issue**

The primary aim of this special issue is to provide a scholarly platform for examining the multifaceted intersections of gender, race, and class within African settings. Specifically, the issue will:

1. **Illuminate Context-Specific Manifestations:** Explore how intersecting inequalities are shaped by Africa's historical, cultural, and socio-political contexts.
2. **Interrogate Structural Inequities:** Analyze how systemic structures perpetuate inequalities, focusing on key institutions such as education, healthcare, and governance.
3. **Highlight Lived Experiences:** Center narratives and case studies that reveal the lived realities of individuals and communities navigating these intersections.
4. **Advance Policy and Advocacy:** Provide insights for developing transformative policies and interventions to address these inequalities.

#### **Thematic Focus Areas**

Submissions to this special issue will focus on, but are not limited to, the following themes:

1. **Historical Legacies and Contemporary Inequalities:**
  - Examining the enduring impact of colonialism, apartheid, and other historical systems of oppression on intersecting inequalities in Africa.

- Investigating how historical narratives shape contemporary discourses on race, gender, and class.
- 2. **Gendered Dimensions of Economic Inequality:**
  - Analyzing the gendered impacts of poverty, unemployment, and economic marginalization.
  - Exploring the role of women's entrepreneurship and informal economies in disrupting class-based inequalities.
- 3. **Intersectionality in Political Leadership and Representation:**
  - Assessing the challenges and successes of African women and marginalized groups in political spaces.
  - Exploring the role of intersectionality in shaping leadership styles and governance outcomes.
- 4. **Health, Education, and Access to Resources:**
  - Investigating disparities in access to healthcare, education, and essential resources among intersecting identities.
  - Exploring the role of intersecting inequalities in shaping public health outcomes and educational attainment.
- 5. **Cultural Norms, Representation, and Identity Politics:**
  - Examining how cultural practices and representations reinforce or challenge intersecting inequalities.
  - Investigating identity politics and the role of social movements in addressing systemic inequities.
- 6. **Climate Justice and Environmental Inequalities:**
  - Exploring how gender, race, and class intersect in shaping vulnerabilities to climate change.
  - Highlighting African-led responses and advocacy efforts in achieving climate justice.

○

### **Methodological Considerations**

We welcome submissions employing diverse methodologies, including:

- Empirical studies (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods).
- Theoretical and conceptual analyses.
- Case studies and comparative research.
- Policy analyses and evaluations.

### **Submission Guidelines and Timeline**

Interested contributors are invited to submit an **abstract** of no more than 300 words by **January 25<sup>th</sup> 2026** to [tinuadeo@uj.ac.za](mailto:tinuadeo@uj.ac.za). Full manuscripts will be due by April 30<sup>th</sup> 2026, following APA 7th Edition guidelines for citations and references. Submissions will undergo a double-blind peer-review process to ensure academic rigour and relevance.

### **Conclusion**

By foregrounding the dynamics of intersecting inequalities in Africa, this special issue aims to contribute to transformative scholarship that deepens understanding and catalyzes action toward equity and justice. We invite contributions that reflect the diversity and complexity of African experiences while advancing global discourses on intersectionality.

## Instructions for Authors

<https://vc.bridgew.edu/jiws/about.html>

*The Journal of International Women's Studies* is an online, open-access, peer-reviewed feminist journal that provides a forum for scholars, activists, and students to explore the relationships among theories of gender and sexuality and various forms of organising and critical practice. The journal seeks multidisciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives and invites submissions in the form of scholarly articles, essays, book reviews, and works of fiction. We recommend that contributions be less than **7,500 words**, including footnotes and bibliography, but we will consider longer texts if warranted by the subject matter. All submissions must contribute to the feminist mission of the journal, as detailed in "About This Journal" on our website.

- Submit your manuscript, including tables, figures, appendices, etc., as a single file (Word or PDF files are accepted).
- Do NOT include your name on your submission to ensure blind review. Begin with the title only.
- Your document should be in Times New Roman, 12-point font, **single-spaced**, and left/right justified.
- Do not include page numbers.
- Please use standard 1" **margins** on all sides, including tables and figures.
- After your piece's title, include an **Abstract** of 300-350 words that summarizes your article's topic, argument, methodology, and/or conclusions.
- After your abstract, include a list of at least 3 **Keywords** (or phrases) that convey your article's topics, themes, and/or types of research methodology.
- All **heading titles** for major sections within the piece should be in bold face type, with no space between the heading and the paragraph that follows. If there are **subheadings** within the larger heading, use italics for the subheading titles. Insert one space before a new heading or subheading. Do not number headings, but you may number subheadings if there are more than 3 within a section.
- **Literature Reviews:** Please consider whether a "Literature Review" section is necessary or comprehensive enough to warrant such a title. If your review of secondary sources is not comprehensive, offer a more descriptive title for the section, such as "Feminist Theories about Domestic Violence" or "Background to the Current Problem" as relevant to your paper topic.
- All **paragraphs** should be indented. Do not insert extra line breaks (spaces) between paragraphs of text. If you include a long block quotation within a paragraph, please insert one space before and one space after the indented quotation block.
- **Quotations** should be surrounded by quotation marks (" "). Do not use italics for quotations.
- All **illustrations and tables** should be labeled and captioned accurately. To the extent possible, tables and figures should appear in the document near where they are referenced in the text. Large tables or figures should be put on pages by themselves. All tables and figures must fit within 1" margins on all sides.
- **Non-English terms** (in any language other than English) should be set in italics. A definition of all non-English words and terms should be made clear either in parentheses or in a footnote.

- **Titles of books and films** should be set in italics rather than underlined.
- Follow **APA or MLA citation styles**, or a style appropriate to your discipline. Include **in-text citations** in parentheses for all material you draw from your references.
- The **References** (or Works Cited) section should be single-spaced and in 12-point Times New Roman font. Use hanging indents for your reference list (i.e., the first line of the citation should be flush with the left margin and all other lines should be indented from the left margin by a set amount). After the last sentence of your article, please insert a line break—not a page break—and begin your references on the same page.
- Where appropriate, please use **footnotes** (in 10-point font) at the bottom of the page instead of endnotes. Footnote numbers or symbols in the text must follow, rather than precede, punctuation. Given the international nature of the journal's audience, footnoted explanations are necessary for all political, geographic, historical, and popular culture references.
- The document should be carefully **proofread for English grammar, punctuation, and spelling**. Submissions that need extensive English-language editing will be returned to the author, who will be responsible for seeking copyediting services before resubmission. A list of English-language copyeditors available for hire can be found at the bottom of this page.
- **The authors must obtain permission to extensively quote from or reproduce copyrighted material** before submission, and an Acknowledgements section with details should be included at the end of the paper before the references section. Where photographs or figures are reproduced, acknowledgment of source and copyright should be given in the caption.