



African Christian Theology
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African Christian Theology (ISSN 3006–1768; e-ISSN 3007–1771) is the academic journal of the **Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa** (ACTEA). ACTEA is active across the continent and is known in francophone Africa as *Association Chrétienne de Théologie et d'Éducation en Afrique* and in lusophone Africa as *Associação de Teologia e Educação em África*. The mission of ACTEA is to strengthen theological education through accreditation, scholarship, and support services to serve the church and transform society. The journal is one way in which ACTEA engages theological educators and church leaders in addressing relevant issues facing the church and society in Africa. African Christian Theology is multidisciplinary. Reflecting the journal's pan-African commitment, it is also registered with a French title, *Théologie Chrétienne Africaine*, and with a Portuguese title, *Teologia Cristã Africana*.

Like ACTEA, the journal's editorship has a committed evangelical perspective, but the journal is broader in scope and welcomes articles from scholars from various Christian traditions. This ecumenical commitment is reflected in the constituency of our editorial board. *African Christian Theology* serves the whole of Africa and provides a venue for conversations between different regions of Africa, as well as being an organ through which African voices can address World Christianity at large. Following in the footsteps of Athanasius, Antony the Great, Augustine, Kwame Bediako, Bénézet Bujo, Clement of Alexandria, Cyprian of Carthage, Giyorgis of Segla, E. Bôlaji Idowu, Ogbu U. Kalu, Byang Kato, Kä Mana, Teresia Mbari Hinga, Afua Kuma, Anne Nasimiyu Wasike, Laurenti Magesa, John S. Mbiti, Charles Nyamiti, Origen, Pachomius, Lamin Sanneh, Tertullian, Andrew F. Walls, Yared the Melodist, and Isaac Zokoué, the journal promotes World Christianity perspectives through deep engagement with African contextual realities. Because, as Mercy Amba Oduyoye reminds us, "a bird with one wing cannot fly," the journal actively promotes the voices of women equally with those of men.

Scope

In scope, *African Christian Theology* is concerned with matters of Christianity in Africa, e.g.:

- Christian theology arising from/for African contexts and/or articulated by Africans (including the Diaspora)
- Christian praxis in African contexts
- theological pedagogy in Africa
- public theology, political theology, pastoral theology, practical theology
- Christian ethics
- missiology and ecclesiology
- Christology, pneumatology, soteriology, eschatology, etc.
- Christian history in Africa
- African biblical theology, African hermeneutics, and African homiletics
- Bible translation into African languages
- Biblical Studies (OT or NT) addressed to African contexts
- vernacular theology and vernacular hermeneutics
- orality in African Christianity
- Africa in World Christianity
- theology and development
- Ethnomusicology in African Christianity, vernacular hymnody
- Ecotheology / Creation Care in African contexts
- African Christianity and other religions (ATRs, Islam, various Asian religions with communities in Africa)

General Editorial Policy

The articles and reviews published in *African Christian Theology* (ACT) solely reflect the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Editors and reviewers, nor of the publisher, the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA). Authors and reviewers bear sole responsibility for their work published in the journal. Current Editorial Team members are listed on the journal's website.

Articles and book reviews are published as open access under the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\) licence](#). Authors retain copyright of their work published in the journal but grant first publication rights to the journal; ACT retains publication rights for nine months after publication before authors can republish or reprint their material elsewhere; after nine months the authors may republish or reprint their material provided proper attribution is given to the original publication in ACT. Articles are free to use with proper attribution and licensing. Immediately upon publication, however, authors are encouraged at their own discretion to share copies of the PDF(s) of their work in institutional repositories or other repositories of their choice, on social media, on platforms such as Academia.edu, AMRI Connect, and ResearchGate.net, with their colleagues or students, and across their networks. Outside of Africa, however, articles and issues should not be printed for public display; when physical copies are needed outside of Africa, they may be purchased from Wipf & Stock; their Pickwick Publications imprint has distribution rights for physical copies outside of Africa. Outside of Africa, journal issues and articles may be printed for private use. All ACT content is available online in open access format worldwide, both inside and outside of Africa.

Editorial board members and potential authors are encouraged to be registered with ORCID (<https://orcid.org>). When authors have an ORCID number, their article or review published in ACT includes their ORCID number in the metadata. ACT publications are fully integrated with the ORCID platform and, through our registration with CrossRef, the DOI reference system. Each ACT editorial, article, and review is assigned a unique DOI number.

The journal and ACTEA abide by the standard ethical practices outlined by the [Core Practice guidance](#) and [guidance](#) documents of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). The journal and ACTEA recognize that COPE's promotion of integrity in peer-reviewed research publications accords with our Christian ethical commitment to integrity, excellence, and accountability. The editors and editorial board of *African Christian Theology*, together with ACTEA, therefore endeavor to identify and prevent the publication of articles resulting from academic malpractice or research misconduct. Articles and reviews composed by AI (Artificial Intelligence) programs or apps or services should not be submitted; these are unacceptable. Software may be used to detect plagiarism and AI composition.

All submissions are subject to double-blind peer review by at least two reviewers. Unsolicited submissions are encouraged, though not guaranteed of publication in the journal. Abstracts should be between 100–150 words. Articles should fall within the range of 5,000–6,000 words, including footnotes but excluding bibliography and abstract. The editors retain discretion to publish articles outside this range. The editors reserve full rights to accept or reject submissions.



Manuscripts and reviews may be sent to submissions@AfricanChristianTheology.org or made on the [submissions page](#) of the journal's [website](#). Queries and other communications may be addressed to the managing editors at Editors@AfricanChristianTheology.org. Authors should allow up to a two week period for an initial response from the journal. If an author has not heard back after that time, he or she should send a followup inquiry via email. If the submission goes to peer review, it may take 3–5 months for a final decision; sometimes more than one revision is required. The journal publishes two issues a year; at the discretion of the editors additional special issues may be published.

Submissions are welcome in one of three languages: English, French, or Portuguese. All articles and essays are published with a trilingual abstract in English, French, and Portuguese.

Those interested in submitting an article in an African vernacular language (e.g., Amharic, Hausa, Igbo, Lingala, Malagasy, Oromo, Shona, Swahili, Yoruba, Zulu, etc.) should make inquiry of the Editors via email at Editors@AfricanChristianTheology.org; this inquiry must be sent in either English, French, or Portuguese. The journal is open to accommodating the publication of such articles. In these cases, following the standard double-blind peer review process and usual editorial procedures, the article would be published in the original language of submission, accompanied by a quadrilingual abstract in the language of submission, as well as in English, French, and Portuguese. The journal, however, does not guarantee that it will have the capacity to process any such submission.

As a matter of style, English submissions do not need to sound like the dialect of scholars from Oxford or Chicago, French submissions do not need to sound like the Sorbonne, and Portuguese submissions do not need to sound like Lisbon. Instead, regional African dialects of these languages may be used (though not Creoles nor urban street slang). In keeping with ACTEA's positionality within contexts of African orality, the journal welcomes submissions which attempt to maintain the style of oral African communication. This does not mean an abrogation of academic standards, however, as the journal concurrently insists that the highest international academic standards be maintained.

Submission Policy

Authors are invited to make a submission to this journal. The journal maintains an ongoing open Call for Papers. All submissions will be assessed by an editor (either a regional editor or a managing editor) to determine whether they meet the aims and scope of this journal. Those considered suitable will be sent for peer review before determining whether they will be accepted or declined.

African Christian Theology is African, and so bibliographies of submissions should richly engage with Africana sources (albeit not precluding engagement with relevant contextual works written from European, American, and Asian theological perspectives), is Christian, and therefore maintains a high view of Scripture as central to its foundation and takes allegiance to and alignment with Christ seriously, and is theological, and therefore submissions should include reflections which contribute to the edification and benefit of the Church. ACT is multidisciplinary and has a broad scope encompassing intersections between Christianity and African contextual realities.

Africana means “having to do with Africa,” and refers to materials (e.g., artefacts, handicrafts, books, documents) which are related to, or which originated in,



African culture and/or history and/or languages; “African” here includes both the continent of Africa and the Black Atlantic — Africana is inclusive both of the peoples and traditions of Africa and of those of African descent. In terms of academic scholarship, an Africana work is knowledgeable of and pertinent to African cultures, contexts, and languages. It might be written by a non-African, but includes African perspectives. Similarly, some work by Africans is completely written from a Minority World (i.e., the ‘West’ or ‘Global North’) perspective and does not engage with African contextual realities: such work is not part of Africana scholarship. Engagement with, or application to, African contexts is crucial.

Before making a submission, authors are responsible for obtaining permission to publish any material included with the submission, such as photos, documents, and datasets; copies of such permissions must be provided with the submission. All authors identified on the submission must consent to be identified as an author. Where appropriate, research with human participants should be approved by an appropriate ethics committee in accordance with the legal requirements of the country in which the study takes place.

An editor may “desk reject” a submission if it does not meet minimum standards of quality or if it is beyond the journal’s scope. Before submitting, authors should ensure that the study design and research argument are structured and articulated properly. The title should be concise, though subtitles are acceptable, and the abstract should be able to stand on its own. This increases the likelihood of reviewers agreeing to review the paper. When satisfied that a submission meets this standard, authors should follow the checklist below to prepare their submission.

Editorial Guidelines

- Submissions must meet the requirements outlined above and in the journal’s style guide. Note especially the following:
 - The journal uses footnotes, not inline parenthetical references. (Parenthetical references should be used, however, for biblical citations.)
 - Citations should use full names of cited authors, not initials with the surname.
 - In the first volume of the journal, longer abstracts than indicated above were accepted. However, as each abstract will be published in three languages — English, French, and Portuguese — the editors value concision. Each submission should include an abstract in the language of the submission.
 - If the author(s) is able to do so, the editors would appreciate if the author(s) also provides an abstract in one or both of the other two languages. Otherwise, the editors shall provide a translation of the abstract as necessary.
 - The editors may at their discretion accept and publish longer abstracts and articles outside of the preferred range (100–150 words for abstracts; 5,000–6,000 words for articles, inclusive of footnotes but exclusive of bibliography and abstract).
- Submissions must fit within the declared scope of the journal, as published on the journal’s website, in the front matter of each issue of the journal, and in the journal’s Style Guide. Submissions for themed issues will have a more limited



scope; such themed or special issues are announced with a unique Call for Papers. All other issues are eclectic with an ongoing open Call for Papers.

- Submissions should be accompanied with an abstract.
- Submissions should not have been previously published, nor should they be before another journal for consideration nor before another publisher for consideration as a book chapter.
 - The editors reserve the right to occasionally solicit permission to reprint a previously published article or chapter when they deem that work to be both particularly important and generally inaccessible to readers on the African continent. Thus the inaugural issue of the journal (vol. 1, no. 1, March 2024) featured an article by Mercy Amba Oduyoye that was a lightly edited reprint of a chapter of hers published in an edited volume that is not accessible to most African readers. In any such case, the republished work would be adapted to follow the journal's style guide and be published with notice of permission, licence, and full citation of the original publication.
 - Generally, however, submissions of previously published work will be automatically declined.
- All references in the submission have been checked for accuracy and completeness.
- All tables and figures, if any, have been numbered and labeled.
- Due permission has been obtained to publish all photos, datasets, and other material provided with this submission; these permissions should be properly cited.

Submissions are checked for plagiarism, accuracy of citations, and for AI composition. Software applications may be used to detect plagiarism and AI composition. Plagiarism and AI composition are grounds for rejection.

Fees

There are no fees required to submit to the journal and no fees required to publish in the journal: no submission fees, no page fees, no publication fees.

Archiving Policy

All issues of *African Christian Theology* are available at AfricanChristianTheology.org and are archived at AMRI Connect, www.amriconnect.net/. Applications are pending for the journal to be archived at AJOL.info and EBSCOHost as well.

Repository Policy

The journal both allows and encourages authors to deposit versions of their work, including the published version, in an institutional or other repository of their choice.



Peer Review Policy

Articles

African Christian Theology practices double-blind peer review. The lead managing editor anonymizes each submission and sends it to one of the other members of the editorial team (either another managing co-editor or one of the regional editors) for an initial “desk decision.” The assigned editor decides whether the submission should be declined or forwarded to reviewers. This is a double-blind decision.

When a submission is sent to the review process, it is sent to at least two peer reviewers (sometimes more). All reviews follow a double-blind policy. The reviewers are asked to answer within a week whether or not they can review the submission at this time. If they can review it, they are asked to return the review within another three weeks. If they cannot review it, other reviewers are asked in their stead. Reviewers follow the published reviewing guidelines of the journal. Reviewers are requested to return the review with one of five recommendations:

1. **Approved:** “I recommend the article for publication in *African Christian Theology*. It should be accepted as it is.”
2. **Approved with Minor Corrections:** “I recommend the article for publication in *African Christian Theology* if the minor corrections indicated are made in consultation with the corresponding journal editor.”
3. **Approved with Major Corrections:** “I recommend the article for publication in *African Christian Theology* if the major corrections indicated are made in consultation with the corresponding journal editor.”
4. **Resubmit:** “I do not recommend the article for publication as it is. I recommend that the author rewrite/reformulate the article and resubmit it for review.”
5. **Decline:** “I do not recommend the article for publication in *African Christian Theology*.”

When reviews are returned, one of the editors will evaluate the reviews. If a regional editor evaluates the reviews, he or she will recommend which of the five responses above the journal should return to the author(s), and one of the managing editors will make the final decision. If a managing editor evaluates the reviews, he or she will make the final decision. The managing editor will then record the decision in the journal’s database. One of the editors (either a managing co-editor or a regional editor) is then assigned to compile and anonymize the reviews and return them to the contributor(s) and convey the journal’s decision to the author(s). This editor may add additional suggestions to help the author(s) improve a revision.

When authors return their revised work, the editor who had initially evaluated the reviews will evaluate the article to determine whether the reviewers have adequately addressed the concerns of the reviewers (and of any of the editors). This editor is the *corresponding* editor for this article. The corresponding editor may be one of the managing editors, including the lead managing editor, or one of the regional editors. If a regional editor, this editor will decide, pending consultation with a managing editor, whether

1. the submission should now be accepted as-is;
2. returned to the author(s) for additional corrections;



3. returned to peer reviewers for another round of double-blind peer review evaluation; or
4. declined.

If a managing editor, this editor will make this decision which will then be recorded in the journal's database. Generally, the corresponding editor will communicate with the author(s). Occasionally, communication will be sent by a managing editor even if he or she is not the corresponding editor for that submission.

If a revised submission is not received after two months, the corresponding editor or the lead managing editor will write to the author(s) with a reminder. If a revised submission is not received after three months OR if the editors have not received any communication from the author(s) for a period of three months, the original submission is marked as *declined*. If a revision is submitted after this action, it is treated as a completely new submission for purposes of tracking and metrics.

If a submission is accepted for publication, the corresponding editor will provide a final editorial review. This editor may have additional required corrections or editorial recommendations. When the corresponding editor(s) and the author(s) are both satisfied, one of the other editors will serve as a copyeditor. Once the article has been copyedited, the article is typeset (this is currently done by the lead managing editor). Once the article has been typeset, the proof is checked by both an editor other than the typesetter and by the author(s).

Book reviews

African Christian Theology publishes both short BookNote reviews and longer full-length critical book review essays. The journal accepts unsolicited submissions of these for consideration but encourages contributors to communicate with the Editors prior to submission. Whether solicited or unsolicited, the Editors reserve the right to accept or decline submitted book reviews.

Book reviews must follow the guidelines presented in the journal's Style Guide, which is available online on the journal's website.

If the journal currently has a book review editor, he or she is responsible for reviewing and editing submitted book reviews and has authority to accept or decline a submission. If the journal does not currently have a book review editor, one of the regular editors (either a regional editor or a managing editor, including the lead managing editor) will be assigned as the corresponding book review editor for a given review. This editor is responsible for reviewing and editing submitted book reviews and has authority to accept or decline a submission. Once accepted, a book review goes through the same editorial processes as an accepted article, and therefore revision may be required.



Contributions from Editors

Following standard industry practice, the journal does not generally publish the work of its own editors, with these exceptions:

- One or more editors compose the short introductory editorial of each issue; other editors will serve as editors for such contributions;
- Editors may occasionally compose an editorial essay; this will be published clearly marked as an editorial; all such essays are subject to the same double-blind peer review policy outlined above for submitted articles and another editor will serve as editor for such contributions;
- Editors may submit book reviews; these are also subjected to double-blind peer review and the usual editorial process for book reviews and thus may be declined;
- Occasionally an editor may serve as a secondary or tertiary author of a submitted article; this is done as a mentoring service to less experienced writers; such articles remain subject to the full double-blind peer review process and thus may be declined;
- As a service to the community, the editors may occasionally publish topical bibliographies to showcase important Africana texts, making the academic community aware of resources that might otherwise be overlooked.

Selection of Reviewers

The editorial board members serve as the primary pool of reviewers. The initial editorial board members were selected by the managing editors subject to approval by the publisher, the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA). The journal maintains a pool of other potential reviewers who are established experts in their fields. These have generally been recommended either by one of the editors (managing or regional), by one of the editorial board members, by senior academic staff at the publisher, or by senior faculty at ACTEA member institutions.



Ethical Considerations: Plagiarism, AI-composition, and Academic Malpractice

The journal, its editors, its editorial board members, and ACTEA forbid its contributors from taking part in misconduct and malpractice and do not knowingly allow malpractice or misconduct to take place.

As noted above, submissions are checked for plagiarism and for AI-composition. Various software or services may be used for this, including but not limited to TurnItIn, GPT Zero, Copy Leaks, CrossCheck, and QuillBot.

Submissions found to include plagiarism or AI-composition will not be published. AI-based services may be used to check language (grammar, spelling, style), but may not be used to generate text or information. As sometimes plagiarism can be accidental, while such submissions are automatically marked as *declined*, authors may revise and resubmit to remove plagiarism and/or to add proper citations and to remove AI-composition. For submissions which pass these tests and which do not receive a “declined” desk decision for other reasons, all citations, insofar as possible, are checked by editors for accuracy.

In the event of discovery of or allegation of academic malpractice or misconduct, including past publication of work including plagiarism, the journal is committed to following the current COPE guidance and Core Practices, as published at <https://publicationethics.org/>.

Upon reception of allegations of such, the editors and/or publisher will conduct a private investigation. The editors and publisher reserve the right to involve the entire editorial board and/or an appropriate third party in the investigation. If evidence is found, the editors will contact and confront the author(s). If the author(s) fails to mount a successful defence, the editors will deem the evidence to be a discovery of academic malpractice or misconduct.

Upon discovery of such, this will be announced to the editorial board and the article or review in question will be withdrawn from publication. ACTEA and the journal are committed to publishing corrections, clarifications, retractions, and apologies as necessary. When an article is withdrawn from publication, an acknowledgement will be printed in the next published issue of the journal; if that issue is already under production, the acknowledgement may be placed in the following issue. The assigned DOI number will remain active and its metadata will remain intact, but the document will be replaced with a pertinent acknowledgement of the issues; this document will include the full citation of the original article or review. The full issue PDF of the affected issue will be replaced with a revised issue in which the article or review in question is replaced by a pertinent notification. The physical hardcopy of the journal available for sale on a print-on-demand basis from Wipf and Stock (for the Global North market) will be withdrawn from the Wipf and Stock catalogue; a corrected issue might replace it, to correspond with the revised open-access PDF issue available online. Copies of the condemned article or review which are available in other repositories (such as AJOL.info or ATLA/EBSCOhost) will likewise be withdrawn.



Ethical Considerations: Corrections and Retractions

If a correction is needed, a corrected article will be added to the digital edition of the original journal issue of that article. This corrected article will be published with a new, unique DOI. As a matter of historical record, the original article will not be withdrawn. The corrected article will cite and link to the original version of the article. The title of the corrected version of the article will be prefaced with a word such as *Erratum*, *Corrigendum*, or *Addendum*. The new document will explain why a corrected version is needed.

Editorial Board Member Roles

The responsibilities of editorial board members are straightforward:

1. Respond to correspondence from editorial team members in a timely fashion:
 - a. This includes occasional requests to review an article (the editors recognize sometimes the answer will be “not at this time”).
 - b. as well as engaging in planning conversations begun by the editors.
2. Participate in called meetings of the editorial board, rendering apologies if unable to attend.
3. Promote the journal:
 - a. Help the journal to attract high-quality submissions;
 - b. Promoting journal at relevant conferences and to colleagues and students;
 - c. Encourage colleagues and (where applicable) students to submit their best work to the journal; and
 - d. Share any Calls-for-Papers in their networks.
4. Read each journal issue in its entirety.
5. Serve as peer reviewers on selected articles.
6. Potentially writing guest editorials upon request.
7. Consider contributing articles or book reviews or serving as a book review editor.
8. Provide feedback and suggestions for improvements to the editors.
9. If necessary, assist in handling investigations of ethical violations.
10. Advise the editors otherwise as necessary.

Editorial board members who either no longer desire or are no longer able to serve in this capacity may resign at will, submitting their resignation in writing to the Editors at Editors@AfricanChristianTheology.org.

Editorial board members who consistently fail to respond to correspondence from the journal editors will be considered to have tendered their resignation, as determined by the managing editors in consultation with the publisher.

Faithful editorial board members receive the heartfelt thanks and appreciation of the journal, its publisher, the editors, and the entire ACTEA community. Editorial board members serve as volunteers and are not paid by the journal or by ACTEA. Current editorial board members are listed as such on the journal’s website.

