

# Strengthening African scholarly journals through the Directory of Open Access Journals

**Oluchi Okere**

DOAJ Ambassador for West Africa

**Angela Aikins**

DOAJ Ambassador for West Africa



## African academics are being caught in the predatory journal trap

Published: October 29, 2015 6.30am SAST

<https://theconversation.com/african-academics-are-being-caught-in-the-predatory-journal-trap-48473>

## Nigeria's academic journals have a quality issue. This can be fixed

Published: April 14, 2020 5.15pm SAST

<https://theconversation.com/nigerias-academic-journals-have-a-quality-issue-this-can-be-fixed-135107>

## Researcher's Need



Researchers require access to **trusted, credible resources**. Strong research depends on reliable knowledge.



## Author's Responsibility



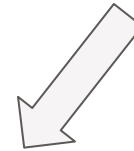
Authors should publish in **trusted, open access journals**. Removing barriers ensures research is visible and accessible.



## Journal Publisher's Role



Publishers of open access journals need recognition, visibility, and indexing. Being seen as trusted outlets attracts quality submissions.



## Shared Impact



The more authors publish in, and readers access, credible journals, the higher the chances of finding **local solutions for local problems**.

"How can trusted journals  
be identified?"  
"How can awareness be  
created?"



Through publishing in  
DOAJ listed journals.  
Through getting journals  
listed in the DOAJ.



**Strengthening African scholarly research articles, journals**

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# What is the Directory of Open Access Journals?



Open Access is **immediate and free access** to the reader to scholarly material (books, journals) without any barriers (e.g. pay a fee, delayed access)

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# About DOAJ - Directory of Open Access Journals

**1**

A unique and extensive index of diverse peer-reviewed open access journals.

**2**

Mission to raise profile, visibility and impact of all quality OA journals, globally regardless of discipline, geography or language.

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## About DOAJ - Directory of Open Access Journals

**3**

Our criteria are an unofficial gold standard for open access journal publishing, trusted across the scholarly community.

**4**

Our services and metadata are provided completely free of charge to all.





89

languages

139

countries

Established in 2003  
Today ...

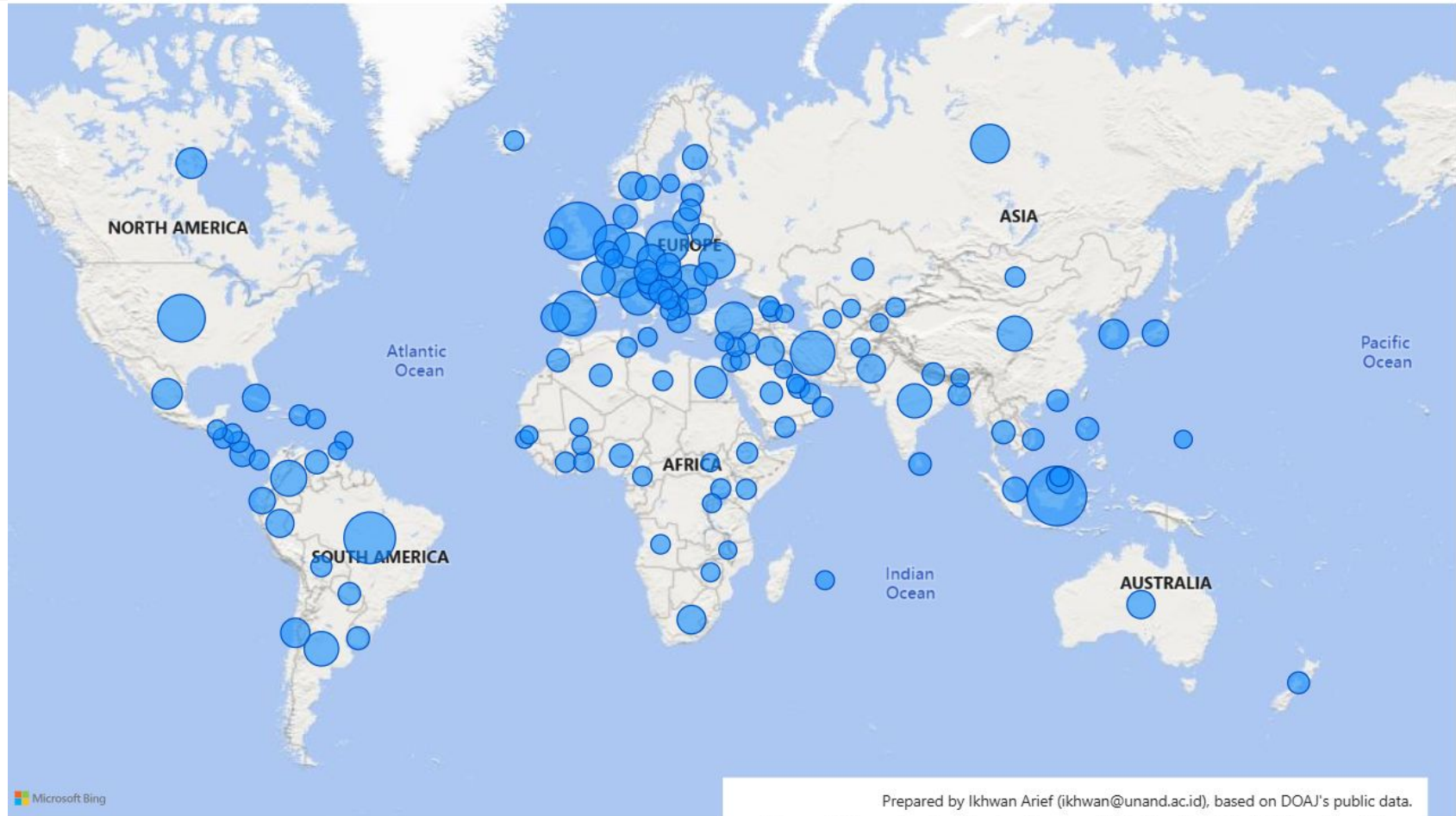
More than

21,000

journals



## Geographic spread of journals in DOAJ





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## Editorial statistics 2024

Almost **8300**  
applications &  
nearly **4000** update  
requests from  
journals

**23%** of  
applications  
accepted for  
inclusion

**13** editorial staff,  
plus over **100**  
volunteer editors

# Why index journals in DOAJ?



Demonstrate your journal meets good publishing standards



Attract more authors and readers locally and from around the world



Inclusion of Journals in local languages



Increase discoverability of your journal in search engines and indexing services



Enhance the reputation and societal impact of your journal (also in your country)



DOAJ index included in government lists like DHET(South Africa)



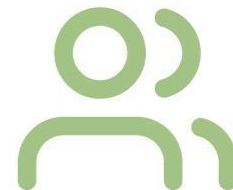
Journals from  
societies and  
university  
presses



Journals from  
areas and  
languages under-  
represented in  
other databases



Library discovery  
systems, services  
and advice



Diamond / S20  
journals



# What is the DOAJ?

A closer look at the DOAJ community



Researcher	Librarians	Publishers & journal managers	Aggregators	Government and assessment
<p>A place to find an OA journal to publish in</p> <p>A database of OA articles to browse</p> <p>Metadata to be used for research</p>	<p>A tool used for funding decisions</p> <p>A tool used for teaching and educating about OA</p>	<p>An index where their journal can increase visibility and reputation</p>	<p>Metadata to be integrated into their own databases and tools</p>	<p>Integration into processes, policy and guidance to aid verification of quality OA journals</p>

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## DOAJ as an open scholarly infrastructure...

- 1**  
cannot be bought or sold.
- 2**  
is committed to openness, diversity and accountability.
- 3**  
has adopted the Principles of Open Scholarly Infrastructure in 2022.
- 4**  
collaborates with other open infrastructures to drive change towards an open and transparent culture.

# Community projects to support OA journals



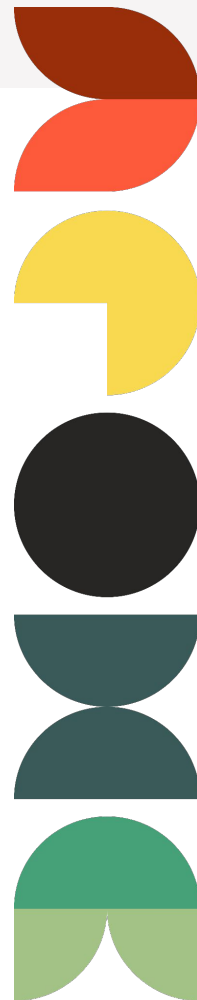
Through a range of tools and practical resources, this international, cross-sector initiative aims to educate researchers, promote integrity, and build trust in credible research and publications.



JASPER is an initiative to preserve OA journals



The OA Journals Toolkit is an online resource that provides guidance for new and established OA journals





# Basic criteria for scholarly journals to be included in DOAJ



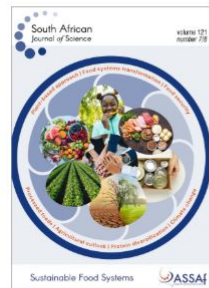
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## Journal website

- **Dedicated journal URL** (Uniform Resource Locator)/domain name address/web address; secure website (https) recommended
- Each article available as a **standalone full-text page** (html or pdf) with its own unique URL
- **No intrusive advertising**
- **Language** across journal website must be **consistent** throughout. If in multiple languages, apply multiple languages consistently throughout

## CURRENT ISSUE

Vol. 121 No. 7/8 (2025)



A sustainable food system provides food security and nutrition for all, without compromising the environmental, social and economic foundations for future generations.

This special issue entitled 'Sustainable Food Systems' draws on a range of disciplines to present a comprehensive overview of articles that reflect on the importance of local food systems to stimulate the production of healthy, safe and sustainable food resources.

Cover image: Nadia Grobler

Full online issue available [here](#).

PUBLISHED: 2025-08-11

## FULL ISSUE

FULL ISSUE 121 7/8 | PDF

FULL ISSUE 121 7/8 | EPUB

## GUEST LEADER

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DIAMOND  
OPEN ACCESS



Easy and clear  
navigation

<https://sajs.co.za/>

## Impact factor

Journal Impact Factor™ from Clarivate™ 2022 = 2.4  
CiteScore™ from Elsevier™ 2022 = 2.5  
[released in 2023]

https://sajs.co.za/article/view/21341

Article landing page URL



HOME ABOUT SUBMIT GUIDELINES AND POLICIES ARCHIVES CONTACT US

SEARCH

HOME / ARCHIVES / VOL. 121 NO. 7/8 (2025) / Research Article

## Palm oil in salty snacks: A South African labelling audit on sustainability communication

Check for updates

**Manzimase Sishi-Vilakazi**

Department of Consumer and Food Sciences, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

<https://orcid.org/0009-0000-1071-8815>

**Henriette L. de Kock**

Department of Consumer and Food Sciences, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3660-233X>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.17159/sajs.2025/21341>

### Keywords:

palm oil, sustainability, Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, salty snack, SDG12

### METRICS

Citations 0

Altmetrics 7

PDF

EPUB

XML

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

### VIEWS

Abstract

302

SUBMIT

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SAJS IN THE NEWS



Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

Links to standalone full-text article page (html or pdf) each with its own unique URL



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## DOAJ position on Journal Impact Factors

As a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), DOAJ **does not endorse using Impact Factors or other bibliometrics to assess the quality of journals or researchers**. However, journals may display widely adopted metrics, including Clarivate's (e.g., the Journal Impact Factor), Scopus' (e.g., CiteScore, SCImagoJR), official national accreditation lists such as Qualis in Brazil or the Norwegian Register, the Eigenfactor, Google Scholar's h5-index, or article-level metrics including Altmetric and Crossref Event Data. Journals must not display any reference (images, links, logos) to Impact Factors or ranking metrics from any other service. Journals must avoid being listed in unreliable indexes.



## Abstract and Indexing Sources

The *South African Journal of Science* is accredited by the Department of Higher Education and Training of South Africa as it is indexed by the following collections:

- [Norwegian Registry for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers](#) (Norwegian List)
- [SciELO SA journals](#) indexed by the [Web of Science SciELO Citation Index](#)
- [Scopus](#) (Elsevier)
- [Web of Science:](#)

Science Citation Index  
Science Citation Index Expanded  
Current Contents - Agriculture, Biology & Environmental Sciences  
Current Contents - Life Sciences  
Zoological Record  
BIOSIS Previews

- [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) (DOAJ)

The journal is also included in:

- [ScienceOpen](#)
- [EBSCOhost](#) (from 1995)
- [Online Computer Library Center](#) (OCLC) through [Sabinet](#)
- [Sabinet:](#)

Journal is indexed by trusted, verifiable, known indexes, with links to entries for journal on respective indexes

<https://sajs.co.za/abstract-and-indexing-sources>

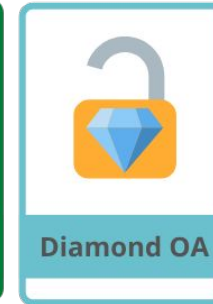
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## Journal must be fully open access

- No embargo/delay; no registration to access, read
- Open access statement or policy displayed on website
- Journal has implemented an open license (Creative Commons or equivalent)



Self-archiving in compliance with publisher's policy



Full, immediate OA publishing, without Article Processing Charge - APC



Full, immediate OA. Author pays an APC

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## Example policy aligned with DOAJ definition of Open Access

The journal is a peer-reviewed, open access journal, supporting the [Budapest Open Access Initiative](#) principles: "By 'open access' to this literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, is to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited." Therefore, copyright remains with the author(s) of the article(s).





[HOME](#) / [Editorial Policies](#)

## Editorial Policies

Disclaimer: The following policies of the *South African Journal of Science* are intended to guide authors and reviewers of our Journal. While other journals are welcome to adapt and implement these policies, they do so at their own discretion and assume full responsibility for any consequences arising from their adoption. When using or adapting any of our policies or guidelines, please include an acknowledgement in your policy, along the lines of: This policy has been reproduced/adapted from the [South African Journal of Science](#). The *South African Journal of Science* and its publisher, the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), accept no responsibility for the accuracy, applicability, or outcomes resulting from the use of these policies by other journals.

### Index

[AI and large language models](#)  
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[Inclusivity and accessibility](#)  
[Media embargoes](#)  
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[Peer review mentoring](#)  
[Peer review process](#)

<https://sajs.co.za/editorial-policies>

# Editorial Team

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- Details of **Editor** (title, name, surname, affiliation/s, country)
- **Editorial Board** (with affiliations, countries)(normally  $\geq 5$  qualified members; appropriate qualifications and expertise. It is recommended that board members should not all come from the same institution)
- **Publisher name/address** (physical)(postal is optional)
- Link to **publisher website**
- **Journal contact person** and dedicated **journal email address**
- Publisher country on journal application and journal website must be where publisher is registered and carries out business activities

## Editorial Team

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**Editor-in-Chief Mentee:** [Doniwen Pietersen](#) ✉ 

**Managing Editor:** [Linda Fick](#) ✉ 

**Online Publishing Systems Administrator:** [Nadia Grobler](#) ✉ 

**Online Publishing Administrator:** [Phumlani Mncwango](#) ✉ 

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### Archaeology, Anthropology and Palaeontology

[Jemma Finch](#) ✉  School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa


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## Aims/focus & scope

- Disciplinary focus, region/s
- Actively publish **scholarly research** (any field, language), aimed at **researchers and practitioners**
- Publishes **≥5 research articles per year**
- New/flipped journal titles: >1 year publishing history *or* ≥ 10 OA research articles consecutively published before applying

# Editorial process/peer review

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- Journals that display a list of **reviewers** must include their names and affiliations
- Journals must apply a **rigorous review process - all research articles**
- Peer review by at least **two independent reviewers**
- Editorial review allowed only for journals in arts and humanities
- Faculty oversight required for student journals
- **Peer review policy:** type and details of the peer review process must be stated clearly on the website, including the process for special issues, if applicable.

# Types of peer review on the DOAJ application form

## 1 Editorial review

This means that the peer review is only conducted by members from the editorial team, with no external reviewers. This type of peer review is only accepted for arts and humanities journals.



## 2 Peer review

This means that the author(s), editor and peer reviewers all know the identity of each other. The peer review is confined to only these people.



## 3 Anonymous peer review

This means that the author(s) do not know the identity of the peer reviewers, but the peer reviewers and the editors know the identity of the authors.



## 4 Double anonymous peer review

In this type of review, neither the author(s) nor the peer reviewers know each other's identity. The editor(s) knows everyone's identities, and will remove any identifiable information for both the author(s) and the peer reviewers.



## 5 Post-publication peer review

Instead of doing the review before publication, the journal provides a platform to enable the review to be done in public, with the community acting as peer reviewers. Anyone can make comments on the article published, and identities are not hidden.



## 6 Open peer review

A peer review can be 'open' in several ways with a focus on transparency, for example through publishing the peer review open, the authors, editors and peer reviewers having an open discussion, open peer review via preprints before publication.



## 7 Other

Any other type of peer review that does not fit the definitions of the other categories.



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## Plagiarism/similarity check (optional)

- Plagiarism checking recommended but not required for inclusion in DOAJ
- State name of checking service or protocol used e.g. iThenticate

---

## International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)

- A journal must have at least one ISSN that is registered and confirmed at [issn.org](https://issn.org)
- The ISSN(s) must be displayed on the website
- The journal's name in the application and on the website must match what is shown at [issn.org](https://issn.org)



1996-7489

ISSN or title

Identifiers

ISSN 1996-7489

Linking ISSN (ISSN-L):  
0038-2353

Links

URL

URL

URL

URL

ISNI

x

Key-title South African journal of science (Online)

^

Resource information



Title proper: South African journal of science.

Abbreviated key-title: S. Afr. j. sci. (Online)



Parallel title: Suid-Afrikaanse tydskrif vir wetenskap

Other variant title: Suid-Afrikaanse joernaal van wetenskap

Other variant title: Report of the ... annual meeting of the South Afr

Other variant title: Journal of science (Online)

Other variant title: SAJS

Original alphabet of title: Basic roman

Corporate contributor: Academy of Science of South Africa

Corporate contributor: Academy of Science of South Africa (ISNI: <https://www.wikidata.org/entity/Q4671528>)

Corporate contributor: ASSAF

Corporate contributor: OpenJournals Publishing

Earliest publisher: Johannesburg: National Research Foundation (South Africa)

eISSN

The electronic international standard serial number (eISSN) is 1996-7489.

The abbreviated title is **S. Afr. J. Sci.**

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- Use licensing to:
  - Inform readers how they may reuse content
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- DOAJ recommends use of Creative Commons licenses (or equivalent)
- No charge for using CC Licenses - Choose a CC-license:  
<https://creativecommons.org/chooser/>
- State your licensing terms on the journal website (required); embed in full-text article (optional)

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# Licenses



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Follow the steps to select the appropriate license for your work.

This site does not store any information.

1

## Do you know which license you need?

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☐ No

2

## Which license do you need?

License

3

## Attribution details (optional)

This helps others attribute your work to you, and fills in machine-readable code.

Title of work

Creator of work

Waiting for required fields...

## Confused? Need Help?

► What are Creative Commons licenses?

► How to apply a Creative Commons license

# Copyright

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- Copyright of a published work can be held by the **author or journal/publisher**
- Best practice in open access is for **authors to retain copyright**
- But DOAJ will accept journals where copyright is transferred
- State your **copyright policy** on the journal website; separate from website copyright
- **Copyright terms must not contradict the licensing terms or the terms** of the open access policy
  - “All rights reserved” is never appropriate for open access content

economic sector, Higher Education contributes more to South Africa's gross value added than other economic sectors such as Wood and Wood Products, Textiles, Clothing and Leather Goods, or Paper and Paper Products. It is comparable to sectors such as Gold Mining, and Beverages and Tobacco. Taking into account a number of assumptions, which are explained in the text, for 2018 the total economic impact was estimated at about ZAR513 billion. Governmental expenditure on higher education in that year was ZAR66 billion. These figures produce a cost-benefit ratio for the sector of 1 : 7.7, considering only these four university activities.

#### Significance:

The South African public higher education institutions form a very significant economic sector within the national economy. In terms of the gross value added, it is very similar in size to the gold mining industry. Taking into account four activities of universities, this sector contributes about ZAR500 billion annually to the economy, which is likely to be an underestimate of the actual contribution. This finding opens the way for policymakers to understand the importance of the sector as an area of investment. Recognising the potential limitations of the use of the modelling developed for other economies, our study indicates the importance of further work to indigenise the economic modelling for local conditions.

#### METRICS

Vol. 119 No. 9/10 (2023)

#### SECTION

Research Article

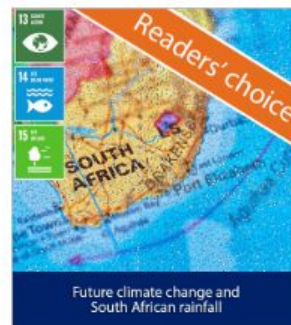
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July/August 2023

#### SAJS Discussion Series



**Discussions on  
Load Shedding**

# Copyright best practice

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## Authors retain copyright of their work

- Publisher has the right of first publication
- Recommended but *not required* for inclusion in DOAJ

## Authors also retain full publishing rights

- Publisher is granted non-exclusive rights to publish and distribute
- Publishers cannot license rights to third parties
- Authors can reuse their work without restriction
- Recommended but *not required* for inclusion in DOAJ

# Author/article processing charges/fees (APCs)

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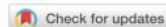
- If a journal doesn't have any charges, then this **must be stated**
- Must include **all fees that may be charged to the author**, from submission to publication, including: submission, editorial processing, article processing charges (APCs), page, colour charges
- Any **fee waiver** must be clearly specified with the conditions of waiver, e.g. amount, time period
- If there are **charges for withdrawing** the article after submission, they cannot exceed the author charges



# Author guidelines

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- **Endogeny should be minimised**
  - The proportion of published research papers where at least one of the authors is an editor, editorial board member, or reviewer must not exceed 25% in either of the latest two issues
  - Where content is not divided into issues, for example in a continuous publication model, endogeny must not exceed 25% in the last calendar year
- It is strongly recommended that articles should display **submitted/accepted/published dates**



#### AUTHORS:

Tim Fry<sup>1</sup>   
Aldo Stroebel<sup>2</sup>   
Sarah Cardey<sup>1</sup>

#### AFFILIATIONS:

<sup>1</sup>School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, University of Reading, Reading, UK

<sup>2</sup>Research, Innovation and Internationalisation Office, University of Mpumalanga, Mbombela, South Africa

#### CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Tim Fry

#### EMAIL:

t.fry@pgr.reading.ac.uk

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#### ARTICLE INCLUDES:

- Peer review
- Supplementary material

#### DATA AVAILABILITY:

- Open data set

## A structural-functional diagnostic of Mpumalanga's agricultural education and training system

Increasing capabilities are required to develop solutions to wicked problems whilst the economic, environmental, and social contexts of farming have become more turbulent. There is a growing focus on developing systemic capabilities that enable the identification, development, and scaling of shared solutions. This requires a cohesive agricultural education and training (AET) system that identifies needs of entire food systems and delivers responsive pedagogies that combine learning sources. However, South Africa's AET system remains in dire need of governance reform directed towards greater integration. This study investigates the performance of the AET system in the Mpumalanga Province, South Africa, utilising an agricultural innovation system (AIS) lens to identify where there are absent or poor-quality infrastructures and interactions, and cognitive, regulatory, and normative institutions that hinder AET-system performance. Evaluations of AET-supportive innovation structures were coupled with articulations of innovation functions that support transdisciplinary demand articulation, knowledge co-development, and networking. Results highlight an absence of communication and coordination mechanisms, hindering vertical and horizontal interactions between multi-actor groups. This absence contributes to a disabling environment for AET-supportive networking, facilitation, and brokerage, leading to missed opportunities to facilitate between food system actors and AET providers to develop transdisciplinary research and pedagogies that harness diverse knowledge, resources, and networks to maximise impact. Whilst there are industry-led needs assessment structures, these operate in silos and lack public sector engagement that could enable organisations with complementary mandates, knowledge, and infrastructures to respond to common priorities.

#### Significance:

This paper advances scholarly interests in South African agriculture by applying an AIS-diagnostic lens to evaluate Mpumalanga's AET system to identify systemic blockages that hinder multi-actor collaboration within Mpumalanga's citrus and maize subsystems. This research goes beyond previous studies that focus on local-level agriculture, the influence of extension officers, or commodity-specific insights. Further, most agricultural studies in Mpumalanga focus on linear-modelled developmental pathways, whilst this study extends research by evaluating how multi-actor access and capabilities influence outcomes and the development of disabling or enabling environments for AET in Mpumalanga.



## Guidelines for Authors

### Submission

#### Scope

#### Article types

[\*Front section\*](#)

[\*Peer reviewed\*](#)

#### Fees

#### Authorship

[\*Author declaration\*](#)

[\*Publishing agreement\*](#)

[\*Authors' contributions\*](#)

[\*Author information\*](#)

[\*Changes in authorship\*](#)

#### Format

[\*Manuscript structure and templates\*](#)

[\*References\*](#)

[\*Text\*](#)

[\*Figures & tables\*](#)

#### Manuscript specifications

[\*Readability and inclusive language\*](#)

[\*Ethical guidelines\*](#)

[\*Cover letter\*](#)

[\*Title page\*](#)

[\*Abstract\*](#)

[\*Significance of findings\*](#)

[\*Acknowledgements\*](#)

[\*Funding\*](#)

[\*Permissions\*](#)

[\*Permits\*](#)

[\*Suggested reviewers\*](#)

[\*Supplementary material\*](#)

[\*Deposition of new sequences\*](#)

[\*Data availability\*](#)

#### Inclusivity & accessibility

[\*Peer-review process\*](#)

[\*Plagiarism\*](#)

[\*Revised manuscripts\*](#)

[\*Appeals & complaints\*](#)

[\*Submission policies\*](#)

[\*Preprints & digital archiving\*](#)

[\*Confidentiality & media embargoes\*](#)

[\*Conflicts of interest\*](#)

<https://sajs.co.za/guidelines-authors>

# Special issues

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Journals that publish special issues or other content curated by guest editors must adhere to these additional criteria:

- The **Editor-in-Chief must be responsible for the content of the entire journal**, including all special issues, which must fall within the scope of the journal
- Special issue articles must have the **same editorial oversight as regular papers**, including external peer review, and be clearly labelled
- Journals must ensure that **guest editors' credentials** are checked and approved
- The Editor-in-Chief or dedicated board members must oversee the guest editors
- Papers submitted to a special issue by the guest editor(s) must be handled under



**DOAJ** an independent review process and make up no more than 25% of the issue's total

## Best practice criteria (optional)

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- Long-term archiving/preservation (e.g., Keepers Registry services, Internet Archive, PMC)
- Repository/self-archiving policy allowing deposit of all versions (no embargo) in institutional repository/on website
- Persistent identifiers (DOIs/ARK/Handle) - should resolve correctly
- Regular metadata deposits to DOAJ increases the visibility and impact of published research  
<https://doaj.org/docs/faq/#uploading-article-metadata>

---

DOAJ criteria, application process,  
and (sometimes) rejection help  
journals increase their own  
standards.



- 
- Guide to applying  
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  - Register and apply  
<https://doaj.org/apply/>
  - DOAJ helpdesk  
[helpdesk@doaj.org](mailto:helpdesk@doaj.org)

Thank you and happy  
Open Access Week!

