

*REVIEW OF COMMUNICATION*  
THEMED ISSUE CALL FOR PAPERS

(Re)Theorizing Communication Studies from African Perspectives

GUEST EDITORS: Godfried A. Asante and Jenna N. Hanchey

Recently, communication studies has found itself at an important crossroads. After the publication of #CommunicationSoWhite,<sup>1</sup> the forum on #RhetoricSoWhite,<sup>2</sup> the controversy regarding the racialized selection of NCA's Distinguished Scholars, and the walk-out of the 2019 NCA Organizational Communication Division's Top Paper Panel, the discipline is finally beginning to recognize its longstanding racial-colonial structures. Communication scholars have turned to theories of anti-Blackness and de/coloniality to understand the ontologies and epistemologies of the modern world system, and how the discipline is ensconced within it. This work attends to how the colonial-modern subject, what Sylvia Wynter terms "Man," is rendered ontologically human and epistemologically intelligent only by assigning decreasing gradations of humanity and intelligence to racialized and colonized others.<sup>3</sup> In the logics of Man, the lowest rungs are reserved for Africans. Africans are produced by colonial-modernity as non-beings, figures of total erasure against which the white, Western world can assert itself in opposition.<sup>4</sup>

African forms of theorizing and philosophical approaches thus hold a unique position in the work of decolonizing communication studies. In this themed issue, we seek essays that center African continental perspectives, values, beliefs, experiences, and philosophical thought as the grounds for (re)theorizing communication studies, such as the works of Joëlle M. Cruz; Godfried Asante; Jenna N. Hanchey; Kundai Chrindo; Donald S. Taylor, Peter Ogom Nwosu, and Eddah Mutua-Kombo; and many others demonstrate.<sup>5</sup> We welcome essays centering African continental thought, while recognizing that African epistemologies are not geographically bounded by the borders of the continent and may also engage with the cultural dynamics shaping Africanness within the context of diaspora.

Submitted essays may be theoretical in approach, or may use African epistemologies and/or lived experience to undergird qualitative, rhetorical, or quantitative empirical studies. All submissions should focus on African forms of theorizing and philosophical approaches, and how such approaches dialogue with scholarship produced in the communication discipline. We are particularly interested in submissions that address (but are not limited to) the following themes:

- Rethinking/amending/extending/challenging "canonical" communication theory
- Knowledges obscured or dismembered by colonialism
- Rethinking subjectivity and/or identity
- Approaches to feminism/womanism/nego-feminism
- Approaches to queerness, non-binarism, and trans\* issues
- (Re)conceptualizations of whiteness, race, and racialization; globalization and migration
- Africa's postcolonial/neocolonial/settler colonial condition(s)/decolonial approaches
- Approaches to and ways of rethinking cultural citizenship; social movements; humanity, personhood, and rights; ecocultural issues and identities; pedagogy
- Connections between African approaches and other historically marginalized knowledges
- Cultural dynamics shaping Africanness within the context of the diaspora

## SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND GUIDELINES

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Manuscripts must be submitted electronically through the *Review of Communication* submission site: <https://rp.tandfonline.com/submission/create?journalCode=RROC>

Authors should identify which themed call their paper is responding to by selecting the relevant drop-down option in ScholarOne.

Manuscripts should be prepared in Microsoft Word using a 12-point common font, double-spaced, no more than 6,000–8,000 words, inclusive of all matter (abstract, keywords, notes, etc.).

*Review of Communication* follows the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th ed., endnotes style.

## REVIEW PROCESS

In keeping with the journal's current practice, submissions will undergo rigorous peer review, including screening by the guest editors and review by at least two anonymous referees.

Please direct questions about submissions to this themed issue to:

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<sup>1</sup> Paula Chakravartty, Rachel Kuo, Victoria Grubbs, and Charlton McIlwain, "#CommunicationSoWhite," *Journal of Communication* 68, no. 2 (2018): 254–66.

<sup>2</sup> See the forum introduction: Darrel Wanzer-Serrano, "Rhetoric's Rac(e)ist Problems," *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 105, no. 4 (2019): 465–76.

<sup>3</sup> Sylvia Wynter, "Unsettling the Coloniality of Being/Power/Truth/Freedom: Towards the Human, After Man, Its Overrepresentation—An Argument," *CR: The New Centennial Review* 3, no. 3 (2003): 257–337.

<sup>4</sup> Achille Mbembe, *On the Postcolony* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001).

<sup>5</sup> Joëlle M. Cruz, "Invisibility and Visibility in Alternative Organizing: A Communicative and Cultural Model," *Management Communication Quarterly* 31, no. 4 (2017): 614–39; Godfried Asante, "Decolonizing the Erotic: Building Alliances of (Queer) African Eros," *Women's Studies in Communication* 43, no. 2 (2020): 113–18; Jenna N. Hanchey, "Reframing the Present: Mock Aid Videos and the Foreclosure of African Epistemologies," *Women & Language* 42, no. 2 (2019): 317–45; Kundai Chirindo, "Bantu Sociolinguistics in Wangari Maathai's Peacebuilding Rhetoric," *Women's Studies in Communication* 39, no. 4 (2016): 442–59; Donald S. Taylor, Peter Ogom Nwosu, and Eddah Mutua-Kombo, "Communication Studies in Africa: The Case for a Paradigm Shift for the 21st Century," *Africa Media Review* 12, no. 2 (2004): 1–23.