

ADONIS & ABBEY PUBLISHERS

Contributing to Africa's knowledge base since 2003!

Webinar on:

Scholarly Publishing in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities (Q & A Session)

Q: Srila Roy

Is global North and South sufficient here, as an explanatory device for epistemic inequalities? There is much work that shows how semi-peripheral countries like in Eastern or even Southern Europe are not privileged; in fact an elite institution like Wits in Joburg would have better resources than a non-elite institution in Poland. Thoughts? Thanks, Srila

A: Dr Savo Heleta

I agree about the limitations that North-South terminology brings. Your own work is very important in this and I have cited it in my forthcoming research (Coloniality and the failures of South-South collaboration). Since we wrote the bibliometric coloniality paper, I have done a lot of work on thinking critically about Global North-South terminology and its shortcomings. We definitely have to dig deeper and show the regional and even national complexities behind these often simplified divisions of the world.

Q: Dr. Clara Ijeoma Osuji

Thank you. I'd like to raise a question regarding the financial barriers in academic publishing, particularly for authors from the Global South, such as Nigeria.

Given the significant impact of exchange rates and the rising costs associated with publishing—often tied to currencies like the dollar or pound—how can we address the disparity that prevents high-quality research from being disseminated?

For instance, many researchers may produce valuable knowledge but find themselves unable to publish due to prohibitive fees. This raises critical questions:

How can we create more equitable funding models or institutional support that enable researchers from lower-income countries to publish their work without facing financial strain?

What role should academic publishers play in addressing these disparities to ensure that the quality of research, rather than the financial capacity of the author, dictates publication opportunities?

This is for David Mills.

A: Professor David Mills

Thanks Clara, you are right that the finances are so key and why equitable funding models are important. You can see why Taylor and Francis attract too many authors because it waives its APCs (Article Processing Charges) for Africa authors. It is why we need universities to fund their journals and support their editors with recognition for all their work and efforts

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Q: Hannah Tarindwa

Hello All.

Hannah Tarindwa from Zimbabwe, studying at Daystar, Kenya.

I am very happy and sad to hear this conversation occurring in 2025. I am also wondering, how long discussions will be before the new journals are available and attitude towards African research as being inferior will change?

I hope to contribute to this change.

A: Professor David Mills

Hi Hannah, yes, it is really important that attitudes change. It is about seeing beyond the global 'brands', as Prof Adibe says...

Q: Greanious Alfred Mavondo

Publishing in Africa definitely has a colonial hegemony surrounding it and suffocating whatever enthusiasm that may be rising in Africa. In Zimbabwe, there has been policy directive to direct 1% of the GDP directed to research and publication. This, however, has remained a policy directive with no movement towards implementation. 1% of GDP is a very large amount that will be able to drive publication of research and research itself in the country. My question is how can this political will to drive research and publication into a reality that can have a push and pull factor on the publication in Africa?

A: Professor David Mills

I think government research funding is really key...but it is also about universities recognizing the importance of supporting their institutional journals, and their editors, but also changing the promotion requirements to publish only in certain journals..

Comment: Adelakun Ojo Johnson

I am Adelakun Ojo Johnson, from the National University of Lesotho, southern Africa. I think the way forward is in finding solutions to the already identified issues by the papers presentation.

Q: John Alabi

I am John Alabi, Prof of Entrepreneurship & corporate strategy, Prince Abubakar Audu University Anyigba Nigeria.

Great webinar. How can we bring all stakeholders - academia and administrator together to re-orient mindset on International only in the context Europe and America? Happy birthday Adonis & Abbey and thanks to all speakers.

A: Professor David Mills

This year, South Africa is chairing the G20. There is a lot of conversation about the G20 taking a stronger line in support of a non-commercial Open Science including diamond Open Access publishing.

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Comment: Prof. Chinwe Ezeani

Congratulations to Adonis & Abbey on this huge milestone. I am Prof. Chinwe Ezeani from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. I am happy to be here. I have learnt a lot about some of the constraints African authors face and some measures to ameliorate these constraints. This has been worth my while. Thank you.

Q: Ali Oublal

I am Ali Oublal, from Moroccan university, faculty of letters and humanities, Ibn Zohr Agadir.

It is a pleasure to attend this priceless event.

Appertaining to publishing issues in Africa, do not you think that African journals do require a novel policy to better run their academic affairs?

A: Professor David Mills

Yes, journals need good policies re peer review and copy-editing etc. But they also need support from universities or scholarly associations and from the publishers themselves.

Q: Golda Ekenedo

I am really glad to be a part of this interesting webinar. I want to particularly thank Adonis and Abbey for this landmark endeavor.

I am very much concerned with the role of institutions of higher learning in Africa regarding academic publishing especially for promotion. The insistence that academics must publish a huge percentage of their works in "foreign journals" is a setback for African publishers. I want to suggest that the criteria should include that academics must have a certain percentage of their publications in indexed African journals. Thank you.

A: Professor David Mills

Yes, in China, Universities require their scholars to publish also in Chinese journal as well as internationally. African universities could do the same.

Comment: Golda Ekenedo

I am strongly in support of establishing an African Indexing system.

A: Professor David Mills

There have long been debates about this. CODESRIA considered funding this. Do contact Toluwase Asubiaro, who is based in Canada, as he is leading the African Research Visibility Initiative, an African index and publishes a lot on scientometrics

Comment: Nontsikelelo 'Ntsiki' Mapukata

This has been an insightful conversation. The funding crisis borne out of withdrawal of funding by the US government is forcing us to review who we entrust with our intellectual property. We need to be intentional about citing each other's work, focusing on finding solutions for our continent and exploring approaches that are aligned to indigenous knowledge systems of our people.

A: Professor David Mills

Yes, agree totally!

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Q: Oluwafemi Folaranmi

Can't journals get grants from abroad to publish?

A: Professor David Mills

There are sometimes grants, but they are usually for research, and not publishing.

Comment: Golda Ekenedo

Thank you, Adonis and Abbey for providing thousands of African academics a credible and affordable platform for publishing their research.

A: Professor David Mills

Hear hear!

Q: Ali Oublal

Surely David, support is mandatory, but do not you think that the quality conceptions of the expected authors will certainly instigate authors, associations and other structured institutions to be engaged in an academic and professional exchange?

A: Professor David Mills

Yes, I agree, we need high quality work...that's the task of the editors to ensure that the journals publish strong work.

Comment: Nontsikelelo 'Ntsiki' Mapukata

This has been an insightful conversation. The funding crisis borne out of withdrawal of funding by the US government is forcing us to review who we entrust with our intellectual property. We need to be intentional about citing each other's work, focusing on finding solutions for our continent and exploring approaches that are aligned to indigenous knowledge systems of storytelling and oral histories.

A: Professor David Mills

Yes, there is a politics to citation - I agree totally. We need to be much more thoughtful about this.

Q: Anonymous Attendee

Given your three-phase review process, what is the average turnaround time from submission to publication at Adonis & Abbey?

A: Adonis & Abbey Team

Dear sir/ma

Our target is to get a decision on any paper submitted to us within 8 - 12 weeks. However given that we depend on the generosity of reviewers, this time frame could be unrealistic for some of our journals with huge submissions.

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Q: Zibusiso Moyo

The discussion on funding of research activities and output in Africa is not only a problem for state-owned universities but is very acute for privately owned universities in countries such as Botswana where there are private players in the provision of tertiary education. How can researchers from privately owned universities be funded to promote research output

A: Professor David Mills

Do have a look at the book by Edward Mboyanga on the role of private universities in Zambia - he shows the importance of private universities in supporting access.

Q: Stephen Oteng

Could it be possible for reviewers to get certificate of appreciation?

A: Adonis & Abbey Team

Dear Dr OTeng,

Yes, reviewers are offered certificate of review after completion of the review.

Q: Dr Nwaigwe Hope Chinenyenwa

I appreciate you for the great effort and work, I plead that you help many universities in Africa by collaborating with them to have our journal in impact factor journal with your publications. Dr Nwaigwe Hope Chinenyenwa . Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu Alike. Ebony State Nigeria.

A: Professor David Mills

Yes, well done Adonis and Abbey..!

Q: Bulelwa Maphela

This is so true, as they write about Africa, and still be the masters of publishing houses writing about Africa.

A: Professor David Mills

If only Binyavanga Wainaina was still alive, and he could write about 'how to publish about Africa'
<https://granta.com/how-to-write-about-africa/>

Comment: Joseph Dzavo

I am Dzavo Joseph, I benefited quite a lot.

Comment: Yusuf Umar Gabarin

Thank you, Prof for the giant stride and also for giving us the chance to be part of this event.