Sawaba Institute for Critical Consciousness Raising

Liberation Alliance Africa

Sawaba Journal

EDITORIAL POLICY AND STYLE GUIDE

About The Sawaba Journal

The Sawaba Journal is a multidisciplinary journal that houses feminist thought and decolonial praxis. It is a platform for the creation, resourcing, and dissemination of anti-colonial feminist praxis, histories and cartographies of resistance, archival practice, feminist embodied practice, and African feminist knowledge, memories and world-building by scholars, activists, cultural practitioners, knowledge weavers, and communities of care on the continent and in the diaspora. The Journal provides a much-needed critical space for scholars, activists, cultural practitioners, and communities of care to create, share, and amplify knowledge on anti-colonial feminist praxis, histories of resistance, archival work, and embodied feminist practice.

Audience

The *Sawaba Journal* is intended for the readership of:

1. Children of Africa, within the continent and in the diaspora.
2. Individuals interested in anti-colonial approaches to world-building, knowledge production, and knowledge systems.

Our Stance On The Use Of Artificial Intelligence (Ai) Tools

Sawaba Journal does not accept papers produced through generative artificial intelligence (AI). We value knowledge produced through decolonial feminist scholarship and, therefore, discourage the use of generative AI in developing or

producing content submitted for publication.
Authors may use AI tools for limited purposes, such as language editing, proofreading, finding open-source resources or coding assistance; however, the development of ideas, arguments, analysis, and substantive content must remain the responsibility of the human author. Contributors should declare the use of AI for any language improvement or coding assistance.
Peer reviewers are prohibited from using generative AI tools to assess, analyse, or otherwise process manuscripts submitted for peer review. Reviewers must not upload or disclose unpublished manuscripts, project proposals, images, data, or any other confidential or proprietary material to generative AI systems or third-party AI platforms.

Editorial Procedure

The *Sawaba Journal* editorial procedure is rooted in a care-centred and ethical review process. Contributions submitted to the Journal are first considered for publication by the internal editorial team and subsequently shared with external reviewers.
All contributions are subjected to a *double open peer review* process by reviewers with expertise in relevant subject areas. This is to ensure that reviewers engage with contributors empathetically, transparently and with care. It is also our way of recognising and acknowledging the reviewers' labour in the editorial process.
Peer reviewers are selected based on their expertise and availability to comprehensively engage with the contributions.
The Managing Editor is responsible for overseeing the tone and language of editorial feedback, ensuring that comments are constructive, respectful, and appropriately framed, while avoiding harsh or discouraging language toward contributors.

Submission Formats

Original research articles and essays
6,000 - 8,000 words including references and endnotes
Original research articles are scholarly contributions grounded and informed by relevant decolonial scholarship within the specialised focus of the Journal's theme.
Each research article must include an abstract of 100–200 words and 5–7 keywords.

Personal narratives and dialogues

2,000 - 2,500 words including references and endnotes

Personal narratives and dialogues are reflective and experiential contributions that foreground lived experiences, perspectives, and forms of knowledge often underrepresented or absent from conventional academic scholarship. They should engage critically with African feminist thought, decolonial perspectives, and broader African social, political, cultural, or intellectual contexts.

Reviews

1,000 - 2,000 words

Reviews provide critical and contextual engagement with recently published books, articles, films, exhibitions, or other significant works relevant to African feminist, decolonial, and broader African intellectual debates. They should situate the work within its wider scholarly or creative context while offering a balanced and substantive assessment of its key arguments, contributions, and limitations.

Photo essays and visual media

6 - 10 images

Photo essays and visual media are creative and critical contributions that use images, photography, illustrations, or other visual forms to explore African feminist, decolonial, social, cultural, political and the thematic focus of the Sawaba Journal's issues. Submissions should offer a clear conceptual or narrative thread and encourage reflection on the issues, experiences, or knowledge represented.

Photo essays should comprise between 6 and 10 images, with captions. Submissions in this category should harness visual methodologies to illuminate and interrogate the Journal's themes while using imagery as a medium for education, critical reflection and imagination.

Photographers should ensure informed consent from those photographed, respecting their agency, dignity, and right to choose how their images are used. The *Sawaba Journal* will not ask for consent forms or videos because we trust that the photographers did the necessary work to secure consent and communicated with those photographed before the publication of Sawaba Journal.

Poetry and creative nonfiction

Poetry and creative nonfiction that offer thoughtful and critical engagements with contemporary questions of colonialism, anti-colonial and decolonial thought and

praxis.
Contributors may submit up to 3 poems per submission, with each poem submitted as a separate piece. Creative non-fiction should range from 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Style Guide

Text

1. Title page

The title page should include; the author's name, institutional affiliation (if available), email address, and a 100-word bio note.

2. Body

All body text should use Andada Pro font, 12-point size, justified, 1.5 spacing. English submissions should follow British spelling conventions (e.g. 'centre' not 'center', 'marginalised' not 'marginalized', 'behaviour' not 'behavior', etc).

References And Citations

Written sources

Contributions that engage with (written) academic sources must follow the Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) Author–Date referencing system, with in-text citations accompanied by a corresponding reference list.

CMOS has a basic free online guide at
https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html

Oral and indigenous sources

The *Sawaba Journal* recognises citation as both a scholarly and political practice. Conventional academic citation systems have historically privileged Western, male, and institutionally established scholars, often marginalising other forms and sources of knowledge. We therefore seek to adopt citation practices that contribute to the decolonisation of bibliographies by amplifying historically marginalised voices and knowledge traditions.

While retaining the Chicago Manual of Style as a foundation, the *Journal* expands its application to accommodate and appropriately acknowledge oral histories, Indigenous knowledge, community-based knowledge, and other non-traditional sources of knowledge. These practices reflect our commitment to inclusive, ethical, and decolonial approaches to knowledge production and attribution.

For oral knowledge shared through songs, folklore, storytelling, proverbs, oral histories, or similar forms, authors should clearly identify the source of the knowledge, whether an individual or community, and provide relevant cultural and contextual information.

Citations should include the title of the oral work or, where there is no formal title, a brief description of its content. The community may refer to the speaker's ethnic or cultural community or the place where the knowledge was shared. Where available, authors should include the specific date the oral knowledge was recorded, shared, or documented.

All oral sources cited in the text should also be included in the reference list.

The citation should follow this format:

[Speaker's Name], [Community/Location], [Title or Brief Description], [Year or Specific Date].

Atim Lagen, a member of the Acholi community, *Story of Creation in the Luo Tradition*, 12 January 2009, recorded by Alowo Achol for research purposes.