

**Call for Papers**  
**Special Issue of *Journal of Business Ethics***  
**ADVANCING BUSINESS ETHICS RESEARCH ON AFRICA**

Submission Deadline: August 31, 2018

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**Introduction**

There has been a considerable increase in interest in Africa in professional and academic circles in the last decade or so, as the continent experiences profound social, political and economic changes. The surge in economic and social growth across many Africa countries present interesting prospects but whether this growth contributes ethical, social and environmental value in the Africa continent is a research agenda. In the broad areas of business ethics, corporate social responsibility (CSR), governance, environmental management and sustainability, a burgeoning literature on Africa is emerging. The extant literature has especially enriched our understanding of CSR issues in Africa: the nature and challenges of CSR activities, CSR reporting of multinational corporations, the impact of the national institutional context on CSR, as well as responsible investment and fair trade (see, for example, Amaeshi, Adegbite and Rajwani, 2016; Nyuur, Ofori and Debrah, 2014; Kuhn, Stiglbauer and Fifka, 2015).

However, as a recent exhaustive literature survey on Africa-focused business and society concludes, the potential of Africa-based research has still not been fulfilled, and more attention needs to be paid to understanding the extent to which African contexts can contribute to the broader business and management literature (Kolk and Rivera-Santos, 2016). We believe that the African case offers an interesting opportunity to extend present theorizing and advance global ethics, governance, sustainability and management research due to its distinctive richness, complexities and challenges. The overarching goal of this special issue, therefore, is to advance discussions on how the richness, complexities and challenges of the African context (for example, resource constraints; political, economic and governance complexities of market entry; embedding ethics and values, achieving inclusive growth, and managing employee behaviours) (George *et al.*, 2016) can contribute to our understanding of under-researched, as well as newly emerging phenomena.

## **Possible Themes and Topics**

We particularly wish to draw attention to four important, under-researched and newly emerging phenomena:

- I. African Leadership: Philosophical Perspectives & Models in Action**
- II. Philanthropy, Social Entrepreneurship & Responsible Investment in Africa**
- III. Organizational Ethics & Responsible Management Practices in Africa**
- IV. Corruption, Anti-Corruption & Governance in Africa**

In line with the Journal of Business Ethics' commitment to broadening the journal's intellectual base (Greenwood and Freeman, 2017), we also welcome contributions from across a wide range of business, humanities and social science disciplines – including, Sales & Marketing, Operations & Supply Chain Management, Strategy & Innovation, Accounting & Finance, International Business, Sociology, Politics, Philosophy, Psychology, Economics, Critical Theory and Postcolonialism – as long as the central focus is on ethics. Submissions should make substantial theoretical contribution to business ethics research on Africa and the broader (global) literature.

We especially welcome papers that address some of the imbalances and gaps in the extant literature (in terms of topics covered, theoretical approaches, types of firms, countries/regions covered, and empirics). A major objective is to provide more coverage on indigenous African theories, models and firms. This is important given the changing dynamics of business on the continent, with the rise of African firms within the region and globally. We also aim to provide more coverage on Chinese and other emerging market multinationals, as there has been a substantial increase in their presence and power in the region in recent years. We encourage prospective contributors to this special issue to first read the virtual special issue on Africa, a collection of exemplary Africa-focused papers previously published in JBE. This virtual issue will be available by December 1, 2017 on the JBE website, and should provide useful ideas on paper development.

## **Guidelines for Submission**

Authors should refer to the *Journal of Business Ethics* website and the instructions on submitting a paper. For more information see: <http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/applied+ethics/journal/10551>.

Submission to the Special Issue is required through Editorial Manager at: <http://www.editorialmanager.com/busi/>. Upon submission, please indicate that your submission is to this Special Issue.

**The submission deadline is August 31, 2018.**

**Please address all inquiries regarding this special issue to the Guest Editors.**

## **References**

- Amaeshi, K., Adegbite, E. and Rajwani, T. (2016) “Corporate social responsibility in challenging and non-enabling institutional contexts: Do institutional voids matter?”, *Journal of Business Ethics*, 134 (1): 135–153.
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- Greenwood, M. and Freeman, R.E. (2017) “Focusing on Ethics and Broadening our Intellectual Base”, *Journal of Business Ethics*, 140: 1-3.
- Kolk, A. and Rivera-Santos, M. (2016) “The State of Research on Africa in Business and Management: Insights from a Systematic Review of Key International Journals”, *Business and Society*, 56 (7): 1-22.
- Kuhn, A.I., Stiglbauer, M., and Fifka, M. (2015) “Contents and determinants of corporate social responsibility website reporting in Sub-Saharan Africa: A seven-country study”, *Business and Society*, Advance online publication. DOI:10.1177/0007650315614234.
- Nyuur, R., Ofori, D. and Debrah, Y. (2014) “Corporate social responsibility in Sub-Saharan Africa: hindering and supporting factors”, *African Journal of Economic and Management Studies*, 5 (1): 93-113.