

CALL FOR CHAPTERS



COMBER
Community-Based
Educational Research

The Footprints We Leave Behind

Academic Narratives of Reimagining Education in Africa

ABSTRACTS DUE | 15 OCTOBER 2026

An edited volume centered on African educational knowledge, lived experience and transformative practice

INVITATION

We invite higher education practitioners, academics, researchers, and community partners to contribute chapters that share lived experiences, research insights, and critical reflections on how education can foster transformation, sustainability, and inclusion across Africa.

The volume foregrounds innovative, creative, and community-engaged approaches that challenge dominant educational paradigms and recognize African educators as knowledge producers. Contributions should be contextually grounded, critically reflective and attentive to the continent's diverse educational realities.

CREATIVE

Arts, innovation and
imagination

CONTEXTUAL

African realities and
knowledge systems

TRANSFORMATIVE

Sustainability, inclusion and
social cohesion

Edited volume • English • APA 7th edition

BOOK FOCUS

Why this volume matters

Education in Africa is at a critical juncture. This volume responds to the need for locally relevant, inclusive and future-oriented approaches by bringing together scholarship that:

- advances contextualized pedagogies rooted in African realities;
- recognizes Indigenous knowledge systems and their contribution to sustainable futures;
- highlights the role of creativity, community, and context in reimagining education as a catalyst for decolonial practices; and
- creates a space for interdisciplinary and cross-cultural educational practices.

By centering narratives from the continent, this book offers an alternative discourse that challenges dominant global frameworks and positions African educators as knowledge producers. The book offers the following interconnected themes:

THREE INTERCONNECTED THEMES

01

Art, creativity and community engagement

- Arts-based pedagogies and creative teaching practices
- Service-learning and community collaboration
- Storytelling, performance, music and visual arts as narrative research methods
- Social entrepreneurship and creative practice in education

02

Environment, sustainability and place-based education

- Environmental and eco-pedagogies
- Place-based and outdoor learning
- Indigenous knowledge systems and sustainability
- Creative responses to climate change
- School and community initiatives for sustainable development

03

Identity, belonging and decolonizing higher education

- Teacher and learner identity and professional development
- Decolonial and Afrocentric curriculum approaches
- Language, culture and representation
- Narrative inquiry, embodied research and self-reflection
- Inclusive pedagogies, diversity and responsive professional frameworks

CONTRIBUTION OPTIONS

What we welcome

Submissions may take the form of:

- empirical research studies;
- conceptual, theoretical or philosophical chapters;
- case studies and reflective practice narratives; and
- arts-based or visually analytical narratives.

The call is open to academics across African universities, education practitioners, development professionals, and community partners working collaboratively with higher education institutions.

ABSTRACT REQUIREMENTS

Length	280-300 words
Chapter length	6,000-7,000 words
Language	English
Referencing	APA 7th edition
Keywords	5-8 keywords
Author details	Name, affiliation and area of expertise

Your abstract should also:

- state the proposed chapter title and selected theme;
- explain the chapter's focus and methodological or reflective approach; and
- identify its original contribution to reimagining education in Africa.

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT

Complete the online submission form

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdoeX4qex-XEqVmPhtiLYwaeEozcFY_XxP_y9SBsLTV9AfzbQ/viewform?usp=dialog

On the form please fill in author's name, affiliation, ORCID iD, a short biography, a selected theme, an abstract, and keywords

PUBLICATION TIMELINE

Important dates

15 OCT 2026	Abstract submission deadline
30 NOV 2026	Notification of acceptance
31 MAR 2027	Full chapter submission
APR-AUG 2027	Peer review and author revisions
SEP 2027-JAN 2028	Copy-editing, language and reference review
FEB 2028	Submission to the publisher

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The edited volume will pursue umbrella ethical clearance for the reflective narratives included in the collection. Contributors remain responsible for identifying any additional institutional permissions, participant consent, confidentiality measures or project-specific ethical requirements relevant to their chapters.

EDITORS

Merna Meyer, Mlamuli Hlatshwayo & Fiona Blaikie

Enquiries: Dr Merna Meyer

merna.meyer@nwu.ac.za

Leave a footprint that informs, challenges and inspires

We welcome bold, reflective and practice-grounded chapters that help shape equitable and sustainable educational futures across Africa and beyond.

CALL FOR CHAPTERS

FOR AN EDITED VOLUME

THE FOOTPRINTS WE LEAVE BEHIND:

*Academic Narratives of Reimagining
Education in Africa*



EDITORS

Merna Meyer • Fiona Blaikie • Mlamuli Hlatshwayo

We invite higher education practitioners to share lived experiences, research insights, and critical reflections that demonstrate how education can foster transformation, sustainability, and inclusion.



1 ART, CREATIVITY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Arts-based pedagogies
- Service-learning and community collaboration
- Storytelling, performance and visual arts
- Social entrepreneurship and creative practices in education



2 ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY, AND PLACE-BASED EDUCATION

- Environmental and eco-pedagogies
- Place-based and outdoor learning
- Indigenous ecological knowledge systems
- Creative responses to climate change
- School and community initiatives for sustainability



3 IDENTITY, BELONGING, AND DECOLONISING EDUCATION

- Teacher and learner identity
- Decolonial and Afrocentric approaches
- Language, culture and representation
- Narrative inquiry, body mapping and self-reflection
- Inclusive pedagogies and diversity in classrooms

WE WELCOME

- Empirical research
- Conceptual, theoretical or philosophical chapters
- Case studies and reflective practice narratives
- Arts-based or visually analytical narratives

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Abstract: 280-300 words
- Full chapter: 6,000-7,000 words
- Referencing style: APA 7th edition
- Language: English
- Include title, theme, approach, contribution and author details



SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT

Scan the QR code to open the online submission form

FOR ENQUIRIES, CONTACT:

Dr Merna Meyer • merna.meyer@nwu.ac.za

Draft Book cover

