

REVISITING AFRICAN NARRATIVES

Call for Articles



Africa Rising, African Renaissance, Africa's century... So many notions are circulating trying to encapsulate Africa's prospective economic and political ascent into the first row of the international arena. Yet, they also insinuate that Africa so far is not participating in international politics and instead fixate on a distant prosperous future. **How would you challenge these paradigms and critically reflect on the continent's current position in the world?**

IFAIR is looking to revisit existing African narratives. As a young think tank, we want to open a dialogue between young voices to envision future perspectives. Your submission should deal with under-explored topics, reflect on existing debates and propose new paths.

Analyses (ca. 1,500 words) and opinion pieces (ca. 500 words) on current affairs should engage critically with narratives on Africa.

Send us your article that can explore **politics and society but can also draw on economic questions or international law**. There are **no limits regarding the focus of your work** – as long as it centers around the above-mentioned theme. After a peer-reviewing process with IFAIR's regional division of 6 to 8 weeks, a series of successful articles will be published on IFAIR's website. In addition, *Revisiting African Narratives* will be part of a broader IFAIR project with online events and further content over the course of 2021.

*Please see the guidelines attached for further information. Article submissions are accepted on a rolling basis until **June 1, 2021**. Send your submission (English or German) in Microsoft Word Format to IFAIR's Regional Director for Sub-Saharan Africa Gelila Enbaye, at gelila.enbaye@ifair.eu.*



IFAIR

Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs and International Relations e.V.

Formal criteria for contributions to the Think Tank on IFAIR.eu

These formal criteria are valid as of 1st November 2019, but do not apply retroactively.

All contributions have to be assigned to one of IFAIR's **regional divisions** and conform to one of the following **categories**:

1

Analysis

- **Tone:** analytical, critical
- **Length:** 1500 words **max.**
- **Examples:**
 - Short versions of term papers
 - Analyses of current issues in International Relations
 - Work linking research and practice
- **Images:**
 - Please provide a portrait picture of yourself
 - Please also provide a photo accompanying the article (public domain source or picture copyrighted by the author that can become public domain), © photographer/picture database (if applicable)
- **Structure:**
 - Up to two levels of structure
 - Use „1., 2., ...“ (bold) for subdivisions on the first and „a), b), ...“ (italics) for subdivisions on the second level
- **Sources** (works and data cited in or inspiring the contribution):
 - In the text: (Last name Year: Page)
 - Bibliography: Last name, first name Year: Title, in: Last name, First name (ed.), Book title, Location: Publisher (or in: Journal title (Volume/Number)), pages x-y.

2

Short Article

- **Tone:** descriptive, commentarial
- **Length:** 500 words **max.**
- **Examples:**
 - Statements on current topics
 - Policy advice
 - Book or video reviews
 - Field reports
 - Interviews
 - Recommendations about jobs or events
- **Images:**
 - Please provide a portrait picture of yourself
 - Please provide a photo accompanying the article (public domain source or picture copyrighted by the author that can become public domain), © photographer/picture database (if applicable)
- **Structure:**
 - Up to one level of structure
 - Use „1., 2., ...“ (bold) for subdivisions
- **Sources:** no references are required

In case of questions, please contact Johanna Hartz-Goiteom (chief editor) at johanna.hartzgoiteom@ifair.eu

10 Tips for writing an IFAIR article

1 Think about the purpose of your text!

Why is your idea important? What do you want to achieve with your article? Do you want to analyze a problem, develop solutions or raise awareness on an issue?

2 Connect it to politics and real-world issues!

Make sure your article tackles topics that are – in a broad sense – related to international relations, global affairs or politics.

3 Narrow your topic!

Your analysis gains in clarity if the scope of your article is focused. For instance, instead of writing about global inequality, maybe focus on economic inequalities within one specific region.

4 Have a clear structure!

You probably already know it: Have an introduction, main body and conclusion. State the issue in your introduction, develop your argument or analysis in the main body and finish with a concrete message (maybe even recommendations).

5 Do not just shorten your term paper but adapt it to our format!

A think tank article substantially differs from an academic term paper. The aim is NOT to contribute to a highly specialized academic discourse or test a theory but to deal with a real-world issue in a pragmatic and easily digestible way.

6 Avoid making it too theory-oriented!

While theories are surely important in an academic context, you do not need to have a guiding theory to make your point. Of course, if it makes sense, use one. Generally, however, focusing on your analysis is sufficient – and more interesting.

7 Do not write to specialists/scholars but to a broad audience!

Keep in mind that the people who will read your article might not have heard about your topic before. You should keep it simple and try to avoid abbreviations so that every reader can understand your article.

8 Use common English!

Avoid overly complicated terms and expressions and make your text as easily understandable as possible.

9 Keep your sentences short and simple!

One sentence should not contain more than one idea. Try to avoid long sentences and overly complex structures.

10 Do not hesitate to state recommendations (at the end)!

Policy-oriented papers usually contain concrete recommendations to solve problems. Feel free to state your own. However, this is not a must!

More information
& resources

<https://infusion.media/blog/george-orwells-six-rules-for-writing/> / <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/policy-briefs/>
/ https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/files/hks-communications-program/files/lb_how_to_write_pol_mem_9_08_17.pdf