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Aims, Scope & Editorial Policies

Peer review, open access, copyright, Submission fee and waivers, archiving and journal governance

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> These policies are written to meet the transparency criteria of the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), COPE and major indexing databases.

1. Aims and Scope

The *African Journal of Applied and Theoretical Economics* (AJATE) publishes high-quality theoretical, empirical and policy research that advances understanding of economic problems and solutions, with particular emphasis on Africa. The journal aims to:

- provide a rigorous, peer-reviewed outlet for research on African economies and comparable developing and emerging economies;
- connect economic theory with evidence-based policy;
- promote methodological rigour, transparency and reproducibility in economic research;
- make research freely and permanently available to scholars, policymakers and the public.

Subject areas

Macroeconomics and monetary economics	Growth, inflation, monetary and fiscal policy, exchange rates, public debt
International economics	Trade, tariffs, regional integration (AfCFTA), FDI, capital flows, globalisation
Development economics	Poverty, inequality, unemployment, inclusive growth, human capital, R&D
Financial economics	Financial liberalisation, banking, capital markets, fintech, corporate finance
Sectoral economics	Agriculture, industry, manufacturing, services, energy and natural resources
Public and political economy	Taxation, governance, institutions, conflict and security
Regional and urban economics	Urbanisation, housing, land use, location decisions, transport

Applied microeconomics and business	Consumer behaviour, firm performance, labour markets, accounting
Environmental economics	Climate change, environmental policy, sustainability
Economic theory and methods	Econometrics, modelling and quantitative methods

Papers outside these areas may be considered if they make a clear contribution to economic thought or policy relevant to Africa.

2. Peer Review Policy

2.1 Review model

AJATE uses **double-blind peer review**: the identities of authors and reviewers are hidden from each other throughout the process. Every research article, policy paper and review article that passes editorial screening is reviewed by **at least two independent external reviewers** with relevant expertise. Book reviews and editorials are reviewed by the editors.

2.2 Process

1. **Technical check** by the Editorial Office: completeness, formatting, anonymisation and similarity screening.
2. Editorial screening by the Editor-in-Chief or a Section Editor for scope, originality and basic quality. Manuscripts that are out of scope or clearly below standard are desk-rejected, usually within 2 weeks.
3. **Reviewer selection** by the handling editor. Reviewers must have no conflict of interest with the authors (e.g. same institution, recent co-authorship, personal relationship).
4. Review using the AJATE Reviewer Evaluation Form, with a review decision normally within 21 working days of submission.
5. **Decision** by the handling editor, based on the reviewers' reports: *Accept*, *Minor revision*, *Major revision* or *Reject*. Where reviewers disagree, the editor may consult a third reviewer.
6. **Revision**: authors submit a revised manuscript with a point-by-point response. Major revisions are normally returned to the original reviewers.
7. **Final decision** by the Editor-in-Chief.

2.3 Editorial independence

- Editorial decisions are based only on the manuscript's originality, significance, rigour, clarity and relevance to the journal's scope.
- Decisions are never influenced by an author's nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, institution or ability to pay the submission fee.
- Business staff (including the Business Manager) play no part in editorial decisions.

- Manuscripts submitted by an editor or editorial board member are handled by another editor, and the submitting editor has no access to the review.

3. Open Access Policy

AJATE is a fully **open-access** journal. All articles are freely available online immediately upon publication, without subscription or registration. In line with the Budapest Open Access Initiative definition, users may read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, link to the full texts, use them for text and data mining, and use them for any other lawful purpose, provided that the original work is properly cited.

4. Copyright and Licensing

- Authors **retain copyright** in their articles without restriction.
- Authors grant AJATE a non-exclusive licence to publish the article and to identify itself as the original publisher.
- All articles are published under the **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence (CC BY 4.0)**: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/
- The licence is shown on each article's web page and on the first page of the PDF.
- Third-party material included in an article (e.g. a reproduced figure) remains subject to the original rights holder's terms; authors must obtain permission where required.

Self-archiving (repository) policy

Authors may deposit **all versions** of their paper (submitted, accepted and published) in any repository or website without embargo, provided that the published version is cited with its AJATE article number and web address. AJATE encourages authors to deposit the published version in their institutional repository.

5. Submission Fee and Waiver Policy

AJATE charges no fees for reading. A submission fee is paid when a manuscript is submitted, to cover editorial management, peer review, copy-editing, typesetting, web hosting, archiving and indexing costs.

Category	Submission fee
Corresponding author based in Nigeria	₦35,000
Corresponding author based elsewhere in Africa	30 USD
Corresponding author based outside Africa	30 USD
Book reviews and invited editorials	Free
Page charges / colour figures	None

Waivers

- **Full waiver:** corresponding authors based in countries classed by the World Bank as low-income at the time of submission; papers invited by the editors.
- Partial waiver (25 to 50%): students (corresponding author is a registered postgraduate student) and early-career researchers without research funding, on request.
- Waivers must be requested in the cover letter at submission, before the fee is paid.
- Waiver decisions are made by the Business Manager, independently of the editorial process. Editors and reviewers are not told whether a waiver was requested.

Payment and refunds

Payment is by bank transfer to Access Bank, 2000084826, RYDO DIGITAL SOLUTIONS LTD. Authors email the receipt with their tracking ID to business@ajate.org. AJATE will never ask for payment to a personal account. The fee is refunded in full if AJATE is unable to publish an accepted article, but is not refunded if an article is later retracted because of author misconduct.

6. Article Identifiers, Archiving and Indexing

6.1 Article numbers

Every article is assigned a permanent AJATE article number in the form AJATE-0001, shown on its web page and on the first page of its PDF. Back issues have been numbered in order of publication. AJATE intends to register DOIs through Crossref in future.

6.2 Digital preservation

To ensure permanent access, AJATE keeps permanent copies of all published content on www.ajate.org and is arranging deposit with a digital preservation service. Authors are encouraged to self-archive (see Section 4).

6.3 Indexing and abstracting

AJATE is applying to be indexed in Google Scholar, DOAJ and AJOL (African Journals Online). Only services that actually index the journal will be listed on the website.

6.4 Author identifiers

All authors are asked to provide an **ORCID iD**, which is displayed on the published article.

7. Publication Frequency and Versions

AJATE publishes three issues per year (April, August and December). Accepted articles appear online in final form with an AJATE article number before being assigned to an issue. Once published, the version of record is not changed except through the formal process in the Corrections, Retractions and Appeals Policy. Each article is published only once.

8. Ownership, Management and Funding

Owner / publisher	Department of Economics, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria
Editorial management	Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board (see the *Editorial Board Roles and Responsibilities* document and the board page on www.ajate.org)
Business management	Dr. M. O. Vincent, Business Manager
Revenue sources	Submission fees, with technology and publishing support from RYDO Digital Solutions Ltd
Advertising	AJATE does not accept advertising. Any future advertising will be clearly separated from editorial content and will never influence editorial decisions.
Direct marketing	Invitations to submit or review are sent only by editors to relevant scholars and are never sent in bulk.

9. Privacy Statement

Names and email addresses entered on www.ajate.org are used only for the journal's stated purposes (managing submissions, peer review and publication). They are not passed to third parties or used for any other purpose, in line with the **Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023**. Users may request access to, or deletion of, their personal data by writing to editor@ajate.org.

10. Related Policies

- Author Guidelines
- Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement
- Corrections, Retractions and Appeals Policy
- Reviewer Guidelines
- Editorial Board Roles and Responsibilities