

Call for Book Chapters

Book Title: Explorations in Forensic Linguistics
Research in Africa: Theoretical Perspectives
and Empirical Evidence



NAMIBIA
UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY





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We invite scholars, researchers, and practitioners to contribute original, unpublished chapters to an upcoming edited volume titled *Explorations in Forensic Linguistics Research in Africa: Theoretical Perspectives and Empirical Evidence*. This volume aims to provide a comprehensive and multidisciplinary research in Forensic Linguistics as it pertains to the African context, offering new insights into both theoretical frameworks and empirical studies.

Scope and Topics:

We welcome contributions that address, but are not limited to:

- Theoretical developments in Forensic Linguistics relevant to the African languages and legal systems
- Empirical studies involving language evidence in African criminal and civil proceedings
- Discourse analysis of legal texts, witness statements, police interviews, courtroom interactions, cybercrime investigations, hate speeches and etc in Africa
- Language policy, multilingualism, and linguistic rights in Forensic contexts
- The role of indigenous and minority languages in Forensic Linguistics analysis
- Challenges and innovations in Forensic Linguistics methodology in African contexts
- Artificial Intelligence and Forensic Linguistics investigations
- Forensic Stylistics and author profiling/identification
- Case studies highlighting Forensic Linguistics applications within Africa's diverse legal settings
- Comparative perspectives between African and global Forensic Linguistic practices
- Digital Forensics and new media language analysis in African criminal justice
- Forensic Phonetics, Forensic Sociolinguistics, Forensic Stylistics, Forensic Pragmatics and etc

Submission Guidelines:

- Chapters should be original and not under consideration elsewhere.
- Word count: 5,000 to 8,000 words including references, tables, and figures.
- All submissions will undergo a double-blind peer review process.
- Please include an abstract of 250–300 words outlining the objectives of your proposed chapter.

Important Dates:

- Abstract submission deadline: **30 November 2025**
- Notification of abstract acceptance: **05 December 2025**
- Full chapter submission deadline: **18 February 2026**
- Peer review feedback: **01 March 2026**
- Final Revised Chapter: **15 March 2026**



Submission Process:

Kindly send abstracts and inquiries to the editor(s) at: hwoldemariam@nust.na with the subject line: "Book Chapter Submission – Forensic Linguistics Africa." This volume seeks to advance scholarly dialogue, support the development of Forensic Linguistics expertise in Africa, and foster interdisciplinary collaboration across Linguistics, Law, Criminology, Sociolinguistics, Linguistic Stylistics and related fields. We look forward to your valuable contributions. Author Guidelines will be shared with contributors.

Profiles of Editors

***Prof Haileleul Zeleke Woldemariam** is an Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) in the Department of Communication and Languages. He has extensive academic leadership experience, including roles as Vice President for Research and Postgraduate Studies, Dean, Research Director, and Board Member. He holds a PhD in Applied Linguistics with expertise in Pragmatic Stylistics, Forensic Linguistics, Cognitive and Functional Stylistics, ELT (English Language Teaching), and ESP (English for Specific Purposes). He also has master's degree in Sociology and a diploma in Advanced Research Methodology, and a professional diploma in Teaching Methods. His research interests cover diverse areas such as revitalising endangered languages, indigenous knowledge systems, forensic linguistics in the Namibian legal system, pedagogical stylistics and literature, cognitive linguistics, Namibian literature, medical sociology, and corpus linguistics. Currently He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the Namibian Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Communication Studies (NJLLCS). Prof. Woldemariam has taught various Linguistics and Research Methodology courses and has been recognised as a leading researcher, including receiving awards for his research contributions. He has a rich career history of academic teaching and research positions primarily in Ethiopia and Namibia, with studies and scholarship connections to India, Germany, and other countries. In summary, he is a distinguished applied linguist and academic leader with deep experience in Applied Linguistics especially within the African and Namibian context.

****Professor Niklaas Fredericks** is an Associate Professor of Linguistics and the Head of the Department of Communication and Languages at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). He holds a PhD in Formal Linguistics, and his research focuses on Khoisan linguistics, including Phonology, Morphology, Semantics, Syntax, language attitudes, child language acquisition, language ideology, and indigenous languages. He teaches courses in Theoretical Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, English Syntax, and Phonetics and Phonology. Professor Fredericks is known for his work on the preservation and revitalisation of indigenous languages, particularly Khoekhoegowab, emphasising the importance of native languages in cultural heritage preservation. He has contributed significantly to the development of orthographies for Khoisan languages and has been active in Sociolinguistic research within the Namibian context.

*****Dr Wellman Kondowe** is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Language, Cultural and Creative Studies at the Mzuzu University in Malawi. He is a Linguist with a strong focus on Forensic Linguistics, legal language, and discourse studies. Dr. Kondowe has published research on issues such as language and access to justice in Africa, highlighting the linguistic challenges faced by vulnerable groups within the legal systems. His book, "Discrimination and Access to Justice in Africa: Language, Vulnerability, and Social Inclusion in Southern and Eastern Africa," provides practical insights into ensuring African legal systems are linguistically inclusive and non-discriminatory. His research addresses communication challenges faced by various marginalised groups, emphasising the role of language in the delivery of justice and social inclusion.

******Dr Gatitu E Kiguru** is a Senior Lecturer in English and Linguistics at Kenyatta University in Kenya. He holds a PhD in Applied Linguistics and has conducted research focusing on language disadvantage in legal settings and Forensic Linguistics. His work includes critical discourse analysis of language used in courts, courtroom interpreter errors, and mainstreaming mother tongue languages in judiciary reforms. He has also contributed to adult education and development research in Africa. Dr. Kiguru has participated in various academic conferences and published studies related to language, law, communication, and education.



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