

Special Issue 2 (2021):

Religion, ethics and communication in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a number of challenges in the areas of religio-socio-political and economic activities globally. Notably, Africa was not spared from this crisis. In light of these challenges brought by the coronavirus disease in contemporary period, the main goal of this Special Issue is to cast critical theoretical, conceptual and methodological reflections on the intersections of religion, ethics and communication in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. In so doing, the Special Issue underscores the importance of an interdisciplinary study of religion ethics and communication and their implications in the era of COVID-19 pandemic in Africa. The call invites researchers to interrogate behaviours, attitudes, values, lifestyles, expressive modes and practices of people in relations to the religious, ethical and communication patterns in the context of COVID-19 pandemic.

The complex nature of religion provides what Appleby (2000) refers to as the 'ambivalence of the sacred.' Put differently, religion is an avenue for good morals but at the same time it has been fingered in atrocious activities. It is imperative to evaluate the ambiguous function of religion in light of the responses to COVID-19 pandemic. Religion and ethics become handy to assess the level of tolerance to the affected and infected as well as the dissemination of information where there is mis/information in light of coronavirus in Africa.

This Special Issue invites scholars in the fields of religion, ethics and communication to reflect on these issues mentioned and create academic conversations that can shape the post-COVID-19 future. Contributors should grapple with the questions like: What conceptual, theoretical, methodological and epistemological questions does COVID-19 pandemic invoke in 21 first century African societies? How can we progressively understand and dialogue about the interactions of religion, ethics and communication in light of COVID-19 without reifying and essentialising them? Thus, contributions deriving from and reflecting such an interdisciplinary orientation are welcome. Abstracts are invited from, but not limited to, the following thematic categories:

Biblical studies, politics and COVID-19 pandemic

Religion, communication and COVID-19 pandemic

Biblical studies, ethics and COVID-19 pandemic

Linguistics/communication, ethics and COVID-19 pandemic

Indigenous communication and African indigenous religions

Biblical studies, Gender dynamics and COVID-19 pandemic

Contributors may suggest other titles within the broad theme of religion, ethics and communication in the era of COVID-19 pandemic. Interested contributors should submit **250 words** abstract to the addresses below. **The correct journal format and style of referencing are essential for any submission to be considered. There are also the usual processing fees to be paid if articles are accepted after double blind-peer reviewing.** Word count -5000 to 6000

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