FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Call for Abstracts: Artificial Intelligence in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in the Global South

An Edited Book Volume Series

About the Call

Q: What is this call for abstracts about?
A: It invites chapter abstracts for an edited book volume on Artificial Intelligence in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) in the Global South. The volume covers methods, practice, ethics, and innovation, and connects AI to the full MEL cycle: scoping, design, data collection, quality assurance, analysis, interpretation, reporting, learning, and utilisation.

Q: Who can submit an abstract?
A: Academic researchers, MEL practitioners, data scientists working in social sectors, policy analysts, development consultants, donor representatives, government MEL units, NGO practitioners, and institutional leaders engaged in digital transformation and evidence systems. Both established and early-career scholars from Global South institutions are strongly encouraged to apply.

Q: Does my chapter need to focus specifically on Africa or can it cover other Global South regions?
A: The volume welcomes contributions from across the Global South, including Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and other Global South contexts.

Q: I am a researcher based in the Global North. Can I still submit a chapter?
A: Yes. Authorship is not restricted by the author's own location. A researcher based in the Global North may submit, provided the chapter substantively addresses AI in MEL issues, realities, or case studies relevant to the Global South, in line with the volume's Global South focus.

Q: My work is mainly about AI in a specific sector (e.g., health, agriculture). Does it qualify?

A: Only if it has a clear and substantive connection to MEL practice, systems, methods, evidence generation, learning, or utilisation. A chapter describing an AI application in a sector without addressing how it is used within, or affects, monitoring, evaluation, or learning will fall outside the scope of the volume.

Thematic Sections

Q: What are the thematic sections I can submit to?
A: There are eight sections: (1) Foundations of AI in Monitoring and Evaluation in the Global South; (2) AI in Monitoring Systems and Performance Tracking; (3) AI in Evaluation Design and Methodology; (4) Data Collection, Management, and Analytics for MEL; (5) Generative AI in MEL Practice; (6) Ethics, Governance, and Responsible AI in MEL; (7) Sector Applications and Case Studies; and (8) Capacity Strengthening and the Future of the Profession.

Q: Can my chapter address more than one thematic section?
A: Yes, it may

Q: What if I am not sure which section my abstract fits under?
A: We will advise you fill in the form as indicated. You will need to send an email with the same regard.

Abstract Format and Content

Q: How long should the abstract be?
A: Abstracts should be 350-600 words. The proposed chapter title, thematic section alignment, and author(s)/affiliation(s) fields are excluded from this word count.

Q: What elements must the abstract include?
A: Proposed chapter title; thematic section alignment; author(s) and affiliation(s); background/purpose; approach/methodology; key argument or findings; relevance to the Global South; expected contribution; and 4-6 keywords.

Q: What formatting style and file type should I use?
A: Abstracts should be submitted in English, formatted in APA 7th edition style, as a Word document (.docx), using 12-point Calibri font with 1.5-line spacing.

Q: Can I submit an abstract in a language other than English?
A: No

Q: What does 'relevance to the Global South' mean in the abstract?
A: It asks you to explain how your chapter speaks to Global South realities, equity, power dynamics, or context-specific dynamics, rather than treating the Global South as a secondary example.

Q: Can I list more than one author on the abstract?
A: Yes. You should provide the name, institution, country, and contact email for each author, with the lead author listed first.

Review and Selection Process

Q: How will abstracts be reviewed?
A: All abstracts undergo an initial editorial screening for fit with the book's scope and thematic sections. Selected authors are then invited to submit full chapters, which go through double-blind peer review. Editorial feedback focuses on conceptual clarity, methodological rigor, relevance to the Global South, and contribution to the overall coherence of the volume.

Q: What specific criteria will reviewers look for?
A: Reviewers will specifically assess: engagement with ethics, power, and context in the proposed use of AI; critical recognition that AI is not neutral, including the data, assumptions, and power structures embedded in its design; reflection on whether AI risks reproducing Global North knowledge systems and its implications for decolonising MEL; and a clear, substantive connection between the AI application discussed and MEL practice, systems, methods, or utilisation.

Q: Will I be notified if my abstract is not accepted?
A: Yes you will.

Q: Can the editors invite chapters directly without going through the open call?
A: Yes. The editors reserve the right to invite chapters directly from recognized experts to ensure balanced sectoral, regional, and thematic coverage across the volume.

Timeline

Q: When is the call for abstracts released?
A: 21 November 2026.

Q: What is the deadline for abstract submission?
A: 15 November 2026, 11:59pm GMT+3.

Q: When will I be notified if my abstract is accepted?
A: 4 December 2027.

Q: When is the deadline for the full chapter, if my abstract is accepted?
A: 12 March 2027, 11:59pm GMT+3.

Q: When does the peer review and revisions process conclude?
A: By 28 May 2027.

Q: Is there any link between this call and other Evaluation conferences?
A: No

Q: When will the final manuscript be submitted to the publisher?
A: Following completion of the review cycle; a specific date will be confirmed once the review process is underway.

Submission Logistics

Q: How do I submit my abstract?
A: You will click on the provided link.

Q: Is there a submission form I should use?
A: Yes please, click Here

Q: Who do I contact with questions about this call?
A: Please email: CLEAR.AnglophoneAfrica@wits.ac.za

Q: Is there a submission fee?
A: No

Q: What happens after my full chapter is accepted and published?
A: The accepted chapters will be developed into full chapters for peer review and editorial development, culminating in a published edited volume that produces a curated body of knowledge on AI in MEL in the Global South, strengthens professional dialogue on responsible innovation and local ownership in evidence work, and helps shape emerging norms and institutional practices for AI adoption in MEL.