

Call for PDW submissions

Developing Publishable OSCM Papers using African Datasets

Overview

The Africa Initiative of the International Journal of Operations & Production Management (IJOPM), in collaboration with CARISCA, invites researchers based in Africa to submit working papers for consideration for participation in its Paper Development Workshop (PDW), to be held at the 2026 Supply Chain Research Summit in Accra, Ghana, from July 6 to 8, 2026. Summit details and registration information can be found [here](#).

Purpose

The workshop aims to support scholars based in African countries in developing theoretically grounded and empirically rigorous papers with potential for publication in leading logistics, operations, and supply chain management journals. The PDW adopts a developmental orientation in which participants work closely with journal editors (serving as facilitators) to strengthen their manuscripts for journal submission. Feedback is delivered to the participants in three phases:

1. Before the workshop, written developmental feedback on the submitted draft
2. During the workshop, roundtable discussion, and targeted guidance on positioning, contribution, and publishability
3. After the workshop, follow-up guidance on a revised version of the manuscript.

Who should submit

The PDW welcomes scholars at all career stages, including postgraduate research students, early-career researchers, and senior researchers. Participants must be working on a theoretically driven empirical paper with clear relevance to logistics, operations, or supply chain management. Participation is limited to **12 participants**.

Eligibility

1. Participants must be currently based in and affiliated with a research institution in Africa, for example, a university or research institute.
2. For multi-authored papers, only one author may participate in the PDW roundtable. The participating author must be the submitting author and must attend the PDW.
3. The participating author must register for the Supply Chain Research Summit.

Co-authors are welcome to register for and attend the Summit if they wish, but PDW participation and facilitator engagement will be organized around the single participating author due to capacity constraints.

What counts as African datasets for this PDW

For this PDW, African dataset refers to empirical data that is substantively rooted in African contexts, including any of the following:

- Data collected in one or more African countries
- Data about African organizations, whether their operations and supply chains are limited to or extend beyond the continent
- Data about foreign organizations in African countries, whether their operations and supply chains are limited to or extend beyond the continent

- Multi-country datasets that include a meaningful African component
- Cross-border and diaspora-linked supply chain phenomena in which African nodes are central to the research question and analysis.

Paper expectations

Submitted papers must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Empirical and theoretically grounded
2. Clear relevance to logistics, operations, and supply chain management
3. Based on African datasets as defined above
4. Full draft preferred and prioritized
5. Maximum length of 8,000 words excluding references, tables, figures, and appendices
6. Papers whose theorization and/or empirical analysis explicitly engage with contextual factors in African contexts to generate novel and insightful contributions will be prioritized.
7. For guidance on positioning and contextual contribution, authors may consult these open-access articles:
 - [Continental shift: operations and supply chain management research from an African perspective](#)
 - [Editorial: Balancing continuity and change in operations and supply chain management research](#)

Appendices are permitted but should be essential only. Appendices should support transparency and rigour, for example, measurement items, robustness checks, interview protocol, sampling details, ethics documentation summaries, or additional analyses that are necessary to evaluate the study.

How papers will be assessed

Submissions will be assessed using the criteria below. The PDW is developmental, but selection is competitive due to limited capacity. A strong submission does not need to be finished, but it must be coherent, rigorous, and plausibly improvable by July 2026.

1. *Theoretical grounding and positioning*: Clear theoretical lens, appropriate concepts, and a well-articulated placement within existing literature.
2. *Clarity of research question and contribution*: A focused research question and an explicit statement of what the paper adds, theoretically and/or empirically.
3. *Fit with logistics, operations, and supply chain management*: Direct relevance to OSCM phenomena, decisions, strategy, resources, processes, or performance outcomes.
4. *Methodological rigour and transparency*: Appropriate research design and analysis with transparent reporting of data, measures, procedures, and limitations.
5. *Strength of engagement with African contexts and novelty of insight*: Context is treated as theoretically meaningful, not merely a setting, with clear articulation of what is new because of the African context.
6. *Draft maturity and feasibility of improvement by July 2026*: A full draft is preferred. The paper should be at a stage where targeted feedback can realistically lead to a journal-ready submission trajectory.

7. *Alignment with the target journal scope and style:* Evidence that the paper is being shaped to meet the audience, conventions, and contribution expectations of the chosen target journal. It is expected that a submitted paper is formatted based on the target journal's guidelines. The journal must be indicated on the paper.

Submission instructions

Share your working paper via [**ijopmafricainitiative@gmail.com**](mailto:ijopmafricainitiative@gmail.com). Note that this is a developmental workshop rather than a blind review process. Please submit a manuscript that includes author details (e.g., names, institutional affiliations, and emails). If you have a reason to anonymize your submission, you must include a separate title page with full author details in the same email so we can administer the PDW process.

Workshop format

- *Before the workshop:* Accepted participants will receive written feedback from the facilitator team in advance of the Summit, to allow time for preparation.
- *During the workshop:* The lead facilitator will deliver a short session on preparing manuscripts to avoid desk rejections and effectively addressing reviewer comments. Participants will then join small facilitator-led roundtables. Each participant will provide a brief overview of the paper, followed by structured feedback from the facilitator and peers focused on contribution, theory, method, and journal fit.
- *After the workshop:* Participants will revise their manuscripts and share revised versions with their assigned facilitators for further feedback and guidance. Participants should plan to submit a revised manuscript within approximately four weeks after the PDW to maximise the value of follow-up feedback.

Important note on publication

Participation in the PDW does not guarantee publication. Any subsequent submission to any journal, including the International Journal of Operations & Production Management, will be subject to the journal's standard editorial screening and peer review processes.

Key dates

- Submission deadline: **March 31, 2026**
- Notification of acceptance: **April 15, 2026**
- PDW dates: **July 6–8, 2026**

Contact

Send your questions to the organizers via [**ijopmafricainitiative@gmail.com**](mailto:ijopmafricainitiative@gmail.com)