

[Call for Contributors: Oxford Handbook of African American Women's Writing](#)

As editor of the *Oxford Handbook of African American Women's Writing*, I invite 300-400 word abstracts for 6,000-8,000 word articles (excluding bibliography).

Consistent with the general mission of *Oxford Handbooks* to be multi-contributor volumes designed to provide a "state of the field" overview for scholars, graduate students, and advanced undergraduates, this volume seeks to account for the creatively diverse forms of writing African American woman have produced from their arrival in what is now the United States of America through the contemporary moment. The concept of *writing* in the collected essays represents an understanding of creative narrative and rhetorical expression that extends beyond poetry and prose and includes various other creative forms of written and oral expression. This approach to African American women's writing recognizes the synergistic relationship between literature and other creative and expressive forms. For this reason, in addition to the traditional forms of literature, this Handbook explores popular forms of writing such as comics, song lyric composition, and television and film script writing alongside political oratory, essays, and memoir. And because sight and sound have been so integral to many African American women writer's creative process, this Handbook also attends to the visual and aural.

The Handbook is designed thematically around the following themes:

Writing Political Thought & Activism: explores the transhistorical ways in which African American women have used writing in explicitly political ways through oratory, expository, literary, and narrative non-fiction forms.

Writing Throughlines: considers the ways African American women writers rely upon and invoke the past when addressing contemporary themes and plots

Writing Home Spaces: attends to the ways *home* is constructed and takes on a multiplicity of meanings, particularly when pursued and constructed through an intersectional lens.

Writing as Craft and Aesthetic: insists upon recognizing style and form as integral to African American women's writing even if the themes and function are often politically inspired.

Writing for Ourselves: thinks about agency in the context of African American women's writing and considers how they have constructed narratives of their interior lives, as well as been in conversation with one another.

Writing for the Senses: continues with the notion of agency and incorporates pleasure through a multisensory exploration of African American women's writing practices that invoke the visual, aural, and kinesthetic/tactile.

If you are interested in contributing, please send abstracts that indicate your intended theme to me at: drake.194@osu.edu. **Abstracts will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until March 1, 2023.**

Upon acceptance, **full drafts of articles are due October 2, 2023.** *OHB* are published in print and electronically, allowing for an *online-first workflow*, meaning as articles are approved for publication they will first appear online in advance of the print publication.

Inquiries and questions can be sent to Simone Drake at: drake.194@osu.edu.

I am excited about the important work this project will produce!