

## **National Scholarly Editors' Forum meeting: Motion to discuss**

Some universities require that their MA and PhD students publish in peer-reviewed journals in order to graduate.

Proposers: Editors of *Critical Arts* and *African Journalism Studies* (UNISA Press / Taylor & Francis).

### **Considerations**

Many South African universities are now implicating so-called accredited journals into their MA and PhD assessment criteria and procedures. This is done by requiring students registered at their respective institutions to obtain publication from their theses (up to two articles) either during or shortly after their registration periods. This degree requirement co-opts journals into assessment procedures that have nothing to do with journals and their publishers, editors or peer reviewers. We are not opposed to journal submission as an assessment requirement as such, but we do not support the co-optation of journal editors into the assessment procedures and the producing of letters on demand required by students wanting to graduate.

Proposal: Universities must assess theses and degrees on their own merits. Journals should not be co-opted into degree assessment procedures.