

First Call for Papers

Abstract deadline: 31 May 2017

Conference Theme

*Rethinking social work in Africa:
Decoloniality and indigenous knowledge
in education and practice*



Welcome from the Conference Chairpersons

The major theme of the conference . decoloniality and African indigenous knowledge in education and practice . is indeed not new, but one that in the African context dates back to the independence and liberation movements. Yet, in contemporary times, the need for decoloniality has lost nothing of its urgency. The call for the decolonisation of higher education has gained particular prominence and renewed energy in South Africa, along with the 2015 #RhodesMustFall and #FeesMustFall movements.

Previously taken-for-granted assumptions and forms of thinking and working that have been imported from the Global North need to be questioned, and their continued relevance re-explored. This conference provides a space for robust debate, deliberations, critical reflection and thinking about decoloniality and indigenous knowledge in social work education and practice in Africa.

This conference draws together social work educators, researchers, policy makers, managers and practitioners, as well as people from other related social service professions and disciplines across Africa and beyond. Social work students will be specifically invited and assisted to participate, to give voice to their views on a decolonised and indigenous social work education.

The main theme and the sub-themes of the conference will provide delegates with key opportunities to network and deliberate around a range of issues, pertinent to social work education (particularly concerning the development of decolonial curricula and the identification of teaching methods that facilitate decoloniality, indigenous knowledge and contextual relevance for Africa) and practice (particularly concerning the construction of policy, programme and practice that is decolonised, indigenous and relevant for African and local contexts).

We welcome you to this international conference and invite you to submit an abstract to present a paper or poster, and participate in what is sure to be a vibrant and challenging conversation.

Prof Adrian D. van Breda
President: ASASWEI

Dr Gidraph Wairire
President: ASSWA

Conference Chairpersons



Conference Co-Chairman

Prof Adrian van Breda

University of Johannesburg / President: ASASWEI

Dr Adrian van Breda is professor of social work at the University of Johannesburg and President of ASASWEI (Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions). He was a social worker in practice for 17 years, during which time he specialised in clinical and occupational social work. His research interests then were family resilience, deployment resilience and scale development and validation. These topics converged in his doctoral thesis, completed in 2004. He joined the University of Johannesburg in 2007 as a senior lecturer and was made full professor in 2016. He has 33 accredited publications, 19 of which are in international journals or books. He has been a key note or invited speaker at international conferences in Paris, Canada, Lebanon and Romania. His research focuses on resilience and youth transitions, with specific attention to the transition out of care into young adulthood. He was Head of Department of social work at the University of Johannesburg from 2014 to 2016, and chaired the Faculty of Humanities Higher Degrees Committee from 2011 to 2016. He is Vice President of Resilio, an international association for the promotion and dissemination of research on resilience, and principle investigator on a longitudinal study on the resilience of young people leaving residential care in South Africa.



Conference Co-Chairman

Dr Gidraph Wairire

University of Nairobi / President: ASSWA

Dr. Gidraph G. Wairire is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Social Work, University of Nairobi, Kenya where he teaches different social work units. He is also engaged in supervision of Post graduate students and field work supervision for social work students. He regularly consults for different organizations engaged in social service and social welfare responsibilities in Kenya. In addition, he engages in social work research in Kenya and in the East African region and also serves as a reviewer for different social work journals. His main areas of interest : Social work theory and practice, international social work, developmental social work, community development, social law, social work with minorities and social action for social change.

The Role Players and AGMs

ASASWEI (Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions)

AGM: Monday, 9 October 2017 (13h00 – 15h30)

The vision of ASASWEI is to be the leading association in the promotion of social work education, training, research and practice in South Africa in collaboration with the international community in pursuit of enhanced psychosocial functioning of individuals, families, groups, and the development of organisations and communities, and of human rights, social justice and equality of all the people of South Africa. ASASWEI's mission is to maintain and support a community of social work educators who are committed to the continuing development of social work education, training, research and practice in South Africa.

ASSWA (Association of School of Social Work in Africa)

AGM: Monday, 9 October 2017 (15h30 – 17h30)

ASSWA's vision is to attain the highest level of excellence in social work education and research in Africa, where ideals of social justice and human rights are upheld. ASSWA's mission is to provide opportunities for mutual dialogue, exchange of ideas and channelling resources amongst social work education institutions across Africa. ASSWA strives to implement the four pillars enshrined in the Global Agenda on Social Work and Social Development within the African context; while promoting inter-regional and international co-operation in social work education.

DSD (Department of Social Development: South Africa)

Vision: A caring and self-reliant society.

Mission: To transform our society by building conscious and capable citizens through the provision of comprehensive, integrated and sustainable social development services.

Values: *Human dignity* is a fundamental human right that must be protected in terms of the Constitution of South Africa and facilitates freedom, justice and peace. *Respect* is showing regard for one another and the people we serve and is a fundamental value for the realisation of development goals. *Integrity* is ensuring that we are consistent with our values, principles, actions, and measures, thereby generating trustworthiness amongst ourselves and with our stakeholders. *Accountability* refers to our obligation to account for our activities, accept responsibility for them, and to disclose the results in a transparent manner. *Equality and equity* . we seek to ensure equal access to services, participation of citizens in the decisions that affect their lives and the pursuit of equity imperatives where imbalances exist.

Principles: We seek to embody the Batho Pele Principles in our efforts so as to ensure that our service provision is done in humane ways and results in positive and sustainable outcomes for the citizens of South Africa.

Conference programme outline

Sunday 8 October	
11:00 . 18:00	Registration
18:00 . 21:00	Opening ceremony and cocktail function
Monday 9 October	
07:00 . 08:30	Registration
08:30 . 10:00	Welcome and Keynote address
10:00 . 10:30	Tea/Coffee
10:30 . 12:30	Paper Presentations
12:00 . 13:30	Lunch
13:00 . 15:30	Paper Presentations
15:00 . 16:00	Tea/Coffee
15:30 . 17:30	Paper Presentations
17:30	NASW-SA General Assembly
	Free evening
Tuesday 10 October	
08:00 . 08:30	Registration and Tea/Coffee
08:30 . 09:30	Roundtable . Decolonising Ethics (ASSWA)
09:30 . 11:00	Paper Presentations
11:00 . 11:30	Tea / Coffee
11:30 . 13:30	Paper Presentations
13:00 . 14:30	Lunch
14:00 . 16:00	Paper Presentations
15:30 . 16:30	Tea / Coffee
16:00 . 17:30	Paper Presentations
17:30 . 19:00	Free time
19:00 . 23:00	Gala Dinner (for own account)
Wednesday 11 October	
08:30 . 09:00	Registration and Tea/Coffee
09:00 . 10:00	Keynote address
10:00 . 10:30	Tea/Coffee
10:30 . 12:00	Paper Presentations
12:00 . 13:00	Conference Closing
13:00	Lunch

Letter of invitation

The Conference Secretariat will send a letter of invitation to delegates who request this service. Please note that the letter of invitation does not obligate the Conference Organising Committee or the Conference Secretariat to provide any financial support to attend the Conference. Letters of invitation will not be issued unless we are in receipt of your registration form and payment of registration fees. Registration details will be included in the 2nd Call for Papers.

Venue

The Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre is located just 10 minutes from OR Tambo International Airport and is easily accessible from 3 major highways. The Birchwood is conveniently located for all commuters and provides both accommodation and conferencing facilities.

Viewpoint Street,
Bartlett,
Boksburg,
1459

<https://goo.gl/maps/BHGd5vK73Cm>

Conference theme:

Rethinking social work in Africa: Decoloniality and indigenous knowledge in education and practice

Sub-themes:

There are 11 sub-themes for scientific presentations of 20 minutes (plus 10 minutes discussion) or poster presentations:

1. Critical thinking on **decolonisation** and **indigenisation** (what do these terms mean and how relevant are they in 21st Century Africa?)
2. The ethical dimensions of everyday social work in Africa (what kinds of ethical challenges do social workers face in different African contexts, and how can they draw creatively on both African and non-African value and knowledge systems as they respond?)
3. Indigenous practice theories and models
4. Rethinking social welfare and social development policy for Africa
5. Decolonial and indigenous practice with children, youth, families and older persons (in recognition of International Day of Older Persons on 1 October and celebrated by DSD in South Africa during the week of the conference)
6. Decolonising systems of gender and patriarchy
7. Promoting environmental and community sustainability (Theme 3 of the Global Agenda)
8. International lessons on decoloniality and indigenous knowledge (What can be learned from the experiences of other countries with a history of colonisation, particularly in the Global South, that may be relevant to different African contexts?)
9. Rethinking social work internship (field instruction) and supervision
10. Teaching methods for decoloniality
11. Structural impediments to a decolonial social work education

Special Additional Themes:

There are two additional themes that are based on **practitioner** and **student** experiences, and do not require a research or theoretical foundation, of a 10 minute presentation (plus 5 minutes discussion) or poster presentations:

12. Notes from practice: Local solutions for local challenges (Social service professionals from any setting are invited to do a presentation on a local solution to a local challenge that they have developed or learned through practice.)
13. Students' contributions to a decolonial social work education (undergraduate students are invited to do a presentation on their experience of social work education in relation to decoloniality and indigenous knowledge and/or make suggestions for decolonial social work education for Africa)

Official language of the Conference

The official language of the Conference is English. Please note, all abstracts must be submitted in English.

Conference Secretariat

Artful Conference & Event Specialists (ACES)

Email: swconference2017@gmail.com

Fax-to-email: 0862721843

Conference website: www.swconference2017.wix.com/sw2017

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstract submission deadline . 31 May 2017

Submission Format/Requirements

- A separate Abstract Form must be submitted for each abstract. Please find the Abstract Form at the end of this document.
- Submissions may either be in oral presentation or poster presentation format. Please specify on the abstract form which format your abstract falls into . **if not specified we will assume that your submission is meant for a poster presentation.**
- The organisers would like to note that while we try to accommodate everyone with their first choice of presentation format this is not always possible. When oral presentation slots are full, a presenter who requests an oral presentation may be offered a chance to participate in a poster presentation.
- There will be a time slot allocated for presenters to speak to their posters.
- Please note that it is the responsibility of each presenter to check the date and time of their presentation prior to arrival at the conference.
- All abstracts must be submitted via email in Microsoft Word format. No faxed abstracts will be accepted.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

- Complete the abstract form on the following page. PLEASE NOTE: One form to be submitted per abstract. Please complete ALL information below and submit this form along with your abstract to swconference2017@gmail.com.
- The title of the abstract should be in BOLD CAPITAL LETTERS followed by a blank line
- Authors should be listed as follows: Presenting Author must be underlined and bold (eg. **Presenting Author**; 2nd Author; 3rd Author etc)
- Please list authors as follows: Surname, Initials . eg. **Fitz-Gerald, C**; Mbananga, N; etc
- On the next line list the institution and country of the presenting author
- On the next line provide the email address of the presenting author
- The body of the abstract should contain no more than 250 words
- The font should be 12 pt ARIAL with SINGLE LINE SPACING
- Write the abstract in English
- The final selection of abstracts and format of abstracts will be decided by the Programme Committee

SUB-THEMES

There are 11 sub-themes and 2 special additional themes. Please see page 6 for list and indicate which subtheme your abstract falls into below.

ABSTRACT FORM

PLEASE NOTE:

One form to be submitted per abstract. Please complete ALL information below and submit this form along with your abstract to swconference2017@gmail.com.

PERSONAL DETAILS of PRESENTING AUTHOR

Last/family name	_____	First name	_____
Country	_____	Institution	_____
Email	_____	Telephone	_____

ABSTRACT DETAILS [please mark X next to appropriate format]

Oral Presentation

Poster Presentation

SUB THEME [Please indicate the number of the sub-theme under which your abstract falls. See page 6.]

ABSTRACT [Please complete your abstract in the table below, according to the instructions on the previous page.]

TITLE	
Authors	
Institution	
Email	
Abstract	