

Call for Papers

International Conference on Mediation University of Basel, Switzerland 21-23 June 2016

The Centre for Mediation in Africa (CMA) at the University of Pretoria, the Global South Unit for Mediation (GSUM) at the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, and swisspeace as an associated institute of the University of Basel jointly organize an international conference on mediation from 21-23 June 2016 in Basel, Switzerland. This conference is the second in a series of academic conferences on mediation. The first one was hosted by CMA at the University of Pretoria in June 2015.¹

The conference brings together academics and practitioners from different regions to allow for a better and continued exchange amongst them in the mediation field. The expected outcome is to enhance the practical relevance of mediation research and to contribute to more effective mediation in practice.

The overarching theme of the conference will be to assess current trends in mediation research and practice. More specifically, the conference seeks to analyze the increasing attempts towards professionalization of the mediation field. This trend is for instance visible in the fact that normative expectations towards mediation processes are growing: mediators are no longer only supposed to help end a conflict, but they are also increasingly asked to integrate gender, human rights, justice, and other norms into their overall strategy. The integration of these norms is believed to make mediation efforts more sustainable in the long run. At the same time, a debate has started around the question of how to measure the impact of mediation endeavors. The conference seeks to shed light on these discussions. Proposals for papers are invited on the following themes:

- 1.) What are the current trends and complexities in international mediation and how has the mediation field changed over the past 25 years?
- 2.) What are the (normative) expectations towards mediators and how do they affect mediation processes?
- 3.) What constitutes 'effectiveness' in international mediation and what criteria can be used to measure it?

Please submit your abstract of no more than 300 words to mediation@swisspeace.ch by 29 February 2016. Notification of acceptance will be made at the latest on 15 March 2016. Full papers will have to be submitted by 10 June 2016.

¹ See <http://www.up.ac.za/en/centre-for-mediation-in-africa/article/2101401/conference-on-international-mediation-june-2015>.