

The University of Pretoria invites you to participate in a multi-disciplinary conference titled:

Black Economic Empowerment in South Africa: A Critical Review of its Implementation

17 – 19 August 2022

University of Pretoria

Abstract submission deadline: 06 April 2022

Overview and Objectives

The democratic government of South Africa inherited a highly unequal economy from the apartheid regime when it took power in 1994. As part of addressing historical injustices and inequalities, the new government established several policies to drive economic redistribution and build an equitable society. The Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) programme was one of many such policies and initiatives. The BEE initiative entailed the transfer of equity from a company owned by white owners to a black person or black owned company in an effort to empower the country's majority population.

The South African government initiated the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) Act (Act 53 of 2003) aimed at bringing previously disadvantaged individuals into the economic mainstream of the country. The BBBEE Act was introduced as one of the many vehicles for achieving economic emancipation of black people by promoting higher growth rate, increasing employment, and creating a more equitable income distribution.

Despite its implementation and evolution since 2004, it is not clear how much the BBBEE policy has truly benefited its intended beneficiaries. The literature on



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BBBEE does not seem to agree on what the full impact of the policy has been on the South African economy. There is very little systematic information on how and who has benefited from this policy, who has not and what the barriers have been. Importantly, it is not yet fully clear how BEE has contributed to the transformation of the South African economy for its intended beneficiaries.

This conference aims to evaluate in a multi-disciplinary manner, the evolution of the BEE programme and subsequent policy, and analyse how various groups and sectors have been impacted by this initiative. The conference also aims to present evidence on how BEE could best achieve the goal of economic transformation and black participation as it was designed, whilst also identifying what the major stumbling blocks have been and how these can be overcome at different levels and within different disciplines. It will contribute to a broader discussion on how South Africa as a country, should be transformed in a meaningful, inclusive, and sustained manner.

Call for Academic Papers:

The University of Pretoria invites abstracts from high quality, original papers that can be presented at the conference. Authors are required to submit an abstract that briefly describes the topic, research, or case study to be presented. All presentations will be 20 minutes (including presentation and Q&A session).

The abstract must be no more than one page (maximum 500 words) and should include the following sections: 1) Title; 2) Overview or summary of the topic including its background and potential significance; 3) Description of the context, data (to be) used, or illustrative example of the topic; 4) Summary of key insights, results, or further questions and 5) Conclusions: Lessons learned, recommendations for further research and the way forward.



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All abstracts should be submitted [here](#). Please note that abstracts will go through a blind peer-reviewed process by expert reviewers in the field. At least one author from an accepted paper must register to attend the conference. The lead author submitting the abstract must provide complete contact details – phone, e-mail, etc.

Submissions

Abstract submissions on the following (but not limited) sub-themes are welcomed:

- BBBEE from different academic disciplines (Economics, Sociology, Politics, Law, etc) and the role of specialists in the different fields
- Origins and rationale of BBBEE (historical development of BBBEE policy Acts, Score Card, Charters, etc.)
- Economy-wide effects of BBBEE (implementation and compliance in various sectors and government entities) including sectoral impacts of BBBEE
- Influences of BEE on the South African education sector
- BEE and gender inclusion
- South African labour law and its linkages to BEE
- Affirmative action policies internationally, including different policies that promote minorities' economic empowerment

Format of the Conference:

Given COVID-19, the conference aims to take place in a hybrid format to increase attendance and enable participants from around the world to attend the conference virtually. The face-to-face segment of the conference will take place at the University of Pretoria, Hatfield Campus in Pretoria, South



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Africa. The exact venue and online platform to be used during the conference will be shared in due time with the registered participants.

Key dates and deadlines:

- Abstracts submission deadline: 06 April 2022
- Notification of abstract acceptance: 06 May 2022
- Paper submission for accepted abstracts: 25 July 2022
- Final day for registration: 01 August 2022

Registration Fee:

The conference is sponsored by the University of Pretoria. However, spaces are limited, and priority will be given to those who submit an abstract and those whose papers are accepted.

Publication opportunities

All accepted papers submitted and presented at the conference will be peer-reviewed by a selected panel and the top papers will be selected for publication in an accredited journal (to be announced).

Other key articles not accepted for publication in the accredited journal will be published in a peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary book that will use the multiple disciplines within the University of Pretoria to research the impact of BEE in transforming the South African economy.

For more information or enquiries email beeconference@up.ac.za



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