



2nd Call for abstracts SERA-DEASA Conference 2025

Education in the 21st century: access, affordability, sustainability, innovation and relevance

Date: 21-23 October 2025

Venue: University of Eswatini (UNESWA), Kwaluseni Campus

Host: SERA-DEASA

The Southern Educational Research Association (SERA) and the Distance Education Association of Southern Africa (DEASA) invite academics, researchers, educators, policymakers, industry and other stakeholders in education to submit abstracts for consideration for the joint 2025 Conference.

CONFERENCE MAIN THEME: Education in the 21st Century: Access, Affordability, Sustainability, Innovation and Relevance

SUB-THEMES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emerging Horizons: Transformative Strategies in Education• Nurturing Digital Learning Pathways: Ethical and Inclusive design• Innovative Education Financing• Building Africa's Capacity for Edtech and AI• Role of Industry in Building a Sustainable Education Ecosystem• Mental Health and Wellness for Efficiency in Education• Advancing Sustainable Development through Education• Resilient and Transformative Education• Bridging the Gap in Africa's Educational Development – Strategy, Policy, Implications for Theory and Practice Networking, Collaboration and Community-building in Virtual Spaces | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professionalising Education in the 21st century• Guidance and Counselling Perspectives in Education• ODeL in Evolving Developing Contexts (policy, governance, economics, inclusion, innovation)• ODeL in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (pedagogy, ethics, assessment)• ODeL 2.0: Building Adaptive and Responsive Educational Technologies• Reimagining Online Education: Cycles of Renewal and Impact• Ensuring Quality in Open and Distance Learning (SDG 16)• Special needs in education• Religion, ethics and education• Leadership and conflict resolution in Education• Sustainable environment and education |
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IMPORTANT DATES

- **First Call for Papers Deadline:** 15 July 2025
- **Second and Final Call for Papers Deadline:** 23 September 2025
- **Notification of Acceptance:** Within 2-3 weeks after submission
- **Conference Dates:** 21-23 October 2025

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Abstracts should be between 250-300 words
2. Include 3-5 keywords
3. Clearly indicate the sub-theme your paper addresses
4. Clearly indicate the format of your paper (paper, poster) or workshop
5. Include author name(s), institutional affiliation(s), and contact details (email/s and mobile number/s)
6. Submit using the [Google Form](#)

Selected outstanding papers will be considered for publication in **the Conference Special Edition and the ESWERA Journal**.

REGISTRATION FEES

- Early bird - E2500 / ZAR 2500 / US \$ 150 before 20 Sept 2025
- Late fees: E5500 / ZAR 5500 / US \$ 300 after 20 Sept 2025

Eswatini citizens participating in the conference should pay into the SERA account, while those from outside will pay their registration fees into the DEASA account.

Reference: Name and surname

Email proof of payment to

DEASA - willem.cronje@up.ac.za

SERA - mpumi321nm@gmail.com

- Non-members/ late risers and all conference day payments US \$ 300 / E 5500 / R 5500

Bank: Standard Bank – DEASA

Account Name: Distance Education Association of Southern Africa

Branch Name: Hatfield, Pretoria

Account No: 012135224

Branch Code: 01 15 45 Swift Code: SBZAZAJJ

Bank: Standard Bank - SERA

Account Name: Swaziland Education Research Association

Branch name: Manzini

Account No: 9110007156254

Branch Code: 66-05-64

Swift Code: SBIC SZ MX3

Eswatini MOMO Acc. No: 78290979 If you

need an invoice contact:

Willem Cronje DEASA via email: willem.cronje@up.ac.za Doris

Myeni SERA Treasurer: mpumi321nm@gmail.com 268 76111223 /

268 [WhatsApp – 268 7625 5441]

General

correspondence: seradeasaconference2025@gmail.com

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This international conference is expected to attract all categories of academics from educational institutions and other stakeholders in education globally. The conference anticipates a maximum of 300 attendees.

CONFERENCE OUTPUT

- Electronic conference programme
- Electronic book of abstracts
- Special edition of selected outstanding papers and ESWERA Journal issue

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Please submit your abstract via the above-mentioned [Google Form](#). For more information, please visit the conference websites: <https://www.up.ac.za/deasa>
<https://eswera.org>

[Conference Registration Form](#)

[Conference Accommodation Pack](#)

[Conference Travel Information](#)

[Excursion Information](#)



Inkhosikati Make LaMatsebula is an advocate for women and children's health and education. She is the Patron of Eswatini Education Research Association (ESWERA). As a firm believer in Africana Womanism, she advocates healthy male-female relations and complimentary role playing between men and women for total development. She has previously cautioned that women need to be intellectually empowered first before they can participate meaningfully in national leadership. She has led by example in pursuing academic empowerment as she is a holder of a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Diplomacy, Bachelor of Psychology Honours, Diploma in Law and Master of Arts in History.

Inkhosikati Make LaMatsebula
Guest Speaker



Prof. J. Thuli Fakudze Nhlengetfwa, Ph.D. (Ohio University), is a distinguished educationist whose 38-year career spans curriculum development, international consultancy, and transformative leadership across Africa. Formerly Director of Eswatini's National Curriculum Centre, she advanced primary and secondary education materials across Botswana, Lesotho, and Eswatini, while her international engagements include serving as UNESCO Chief Technical Advisor in Uganda, National Coordinator for UN HIV/AIDS programs, and consultant to the World Bank, African Development Bank, and various UN agencies. Currently lecturing at Bindura University of Science Education, she has pioneered innovative programmes such as the MSU-AMADI Block Release initiative in Eswatini, reflecting her expertise in mathematics and science education, teacher training, HIV/AIDS education, and gender development. Her influence extends into policy and community transformation through leadership in FAWEESSWA, the Eswatini Higher Education Council, and faith- and youth-based initiatives, underscoring her holistic commitment to educational and social progress.

Prof. Thuli Nhlengetfwa
Keynote Speaker



Professor Paul Henry Gundani, Vice Chancellor of the Zimbabwe Open University since November 2019, is a distinguished scholar with 39 years of academic service spanning the University of Zimbabwe, the University of South Africa, and ZOU. Honoured as Emeritus Professor at UNISA in 2020, he is a leading voice in distance education, serving on the governing bodies of DEASA and ACDE. A prolific academic, he has published thirty-one peer-reviewed articles, twenty-five book chapters, one authored book, three co-authored study guides, and two edited volumes, alongside supervising nineteen doctoral and twelve master's candidates and examining twenty-one PhDs. His scholarship—centred on Church-State relations, Church and Politics, Church and Culture, and outcomes-based higher education—has been shared through over fifty conference papers internationally. Holding a PhD and multiple advanced degrees in theology, law, and religious studies, he combines intellectual rigour with leadership in open distance learning.

Prof. P.H. Gundani
Keynote Speaker