

SANORD International Symposium

Aarhus University, Aarhus 6-7 June 2012

Call for papers

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES AS HUBS OF DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE SOUTHERN AFRICA-NORDIC UNIVERSITY NETWORK

Proposals are invited for plenary papers and poster sessions for the 3rd SANORD International Symposium to be held at Aarhus University during 6-7 June 2012.

While competition between universities has increased dramatically at a global level, international collaboration among universities is both a competitive criterion and a measure to strengthen the capacity of the universities that are successful partners in global knowledge networks.

Accordingly, there may be a direct link between a university's international networks and its performance and contributions to the development of the surrounding society at the national and regional levels. This year's SANORD symposium seeks to address three important questions in the context of collaboration between universities in Southern Africa and the Nordic countries.

1. University governance: Building institutional capacity for participation in international knowledge networks

University organization and governance structures may be structured in ways that facilitate international collaboration and partnering. Universities may actively improve their own capacity to contribute and learn, as organizations, from interaction with other universities around the globe, and they may encourage researchers to be involved in international networks; or, at times, there may be a need to establish such structures, or there may even be identifiable structures that establish barriers for international collaboration within the university. What are the lessons learnt (successes and failures) from initiatives that have been developed at the university level to optimize international collaboration in general and North-South collaboration in particular?

2. *Synergies in North-South collaboration: From bilateral collaboration to knowledge coalitions?*

The potential number of university collaborations that any given university is involved in is very large and it may be difficult to avoid duplication of efforts that are addressing similar or identical needs at different levels or in different parts of the 'host' university. There is a clear global trend to move from bilateral partnerships to strong functional partnerships between multiple universities. This holds true for both research, education and outreach activities. In projects that seek to strengthen institutional capacity there is a clear need to ensure that projects that are funded are relevant in terms of existing needs and that they are aligned with similar initiatives that may already take place. What is the distribution of roles and responsibilities in this area in the context of North-South collaboration and how can SANORD actively and strategically contribute to strengthen coordination and alignment?

3. *Tomorrow's common research priorities for Nordic and Southern African universities*

Papers in this session are encouraged to present visionary papers for multidisciplinary areas of research that are considered of particularly high importance for SANORD's member universities and member countries and where the collaboration between Southern African and Nordic universities has special merits in a global context.

Each of the above three sessions will allow for a limited number of presentations and posters.

Method of submission

All proposals/abstracts should be 250 words or less and should be submitted electronically to 2012sanord@hum.au.dk with "SANORD 2012 Abstract" in the subject line. Indicate the following in your proposal;

1. Name of session:
2. Title of your presentation:
3. Main Presenter: Name, Surname, Designation, Department, Institution, email address
4. Co-Presenters: Name, Surname, Designation, Department, Institution, email address

All proposals to be received on or before **31 January 2012**.

Decision on the proposal and request for full papers to be made by **2 March 2012**

Full papers to be submitted by **1 May 2012**