



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Humanities and Social Sciences Conference

**6 – 8 NOVEMBER 2024** **VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED**

## Theme: Humanities and Social Sciences in the 21st Century: trends, dilemmas, and opportunities

The Centre for General Education, and the English and Communication programme at DUT invite abstracts for the second Humanities and Social Sciences Conference, to be held in Durban in November 2024.

The discourse on the relevance of the humanities and social sciences has sparked debate in the scholarly community. While some scholars praise the disciplines as a foundation for social development and global citizen transformation (Crisolo, et al., 2021), others emphasise the dilemmas caused by neglecting the humanities and social sciences in favour of the Eurocentric science and technology paradigm (Mukherjee, 2013), or at times question whether these disciplines can respond to the new socio-economic realities (Martin, 2011). Africa, as per the Agenda 2063 strategic framework is charting a new development journey with the vision of an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena (African Union Commission, 2013). However, questions remain about whether the humanities and social sciences can lead the continent in achieving this vision and contribute to an Africa that is an influential global player with a strong cultural identity.

The 2024 Humanities and Social Sciences conference aims to provide a deliberative space for scholars to turn a sharp focus on questions, debates and contentions surrounding different disciplines within humanities and social sciences. Scholars and practitioners who wish to join continuing discourses on and have a vested interest in these two fields are urged to submit their abstracts.

### Sub-themes

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| <p><b>African Studies:</b><br/>Indigenous knowledge systems (IKS), decolonization, community engagement, race, gender, culture and religion, politics.</p>  | <p><b>Global citizenship:</b><br/>Collaborations and partnerships, sustainable development approaches, ecologies, peace and transformative studies</p>   | <p><b>Technology:</b><br/>Tele-practices, innovative approaches, digital skills, digital communication and social media impact</p>                                    |
| <p><b>Policy perspectives:</b><br/>Organizational, institutional, state-led strategic perspectives</p>    | <p><b>Pedagogies:</b><br/>Transformative practices, curriculum development, teaching and learning</p>    | <p><b>Multi, inter, trans-disciplinarity:</b><br/>Humanities for the arts, community development, public health</p>   |
| <p><b>Communication:</b><br/>Shifting communication paradigms and social impact</p>   | <p><b>Language and linguistics:</b><br/>Terminology development, new theories and strategies, variation and change, policy and planning, literature</p>  | <p><b>Translation and interpretation:</b><br/>Role in higher education, quality, promotion of indigenous and minority languages, machine translation, challenges</p>  |

### Keynote speakers



#### Professor Ralph Adendorff

Ralph Adendorff is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at Rhodes University. A graduate of Rhodes University, Indiana University (on a Fulbright scholarship) and the University of Natal (now the University of KwaZulu Natal), Ralph was a full professor at Rhodes University for 18 years. He is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAF), on the Board of Directors of the Dictionary of South African English (which he has also chaired), was on the Editorial Advisory Board of the TESOL Quarterly for 2 terms, and represented Africa on the international committee that awarded the inaugural M.A.K. Halliday prize in 2023 to the best Systemic Functional Linguistics book of the year in 2022. Ralph's research interests are pidgin and creole language systems (especially Fanakalo), code-switching, critical ethnographic investigation of literacy practices and, within Systemic Functional Linguistics, Appraisal Analysis. He has published widely (in many instances with Masters and Doctoral students that he has supervised) and has examined many theses. He is especially interested in the social meaning of language and the interactional, micro-political relevance of the choices that people make when they communicate with others.

#### Professor Nirmala Dorasamy

Professor Dorasamy is a Full Professor in the Department of Public Management and Economics at the Durban University of Technology. The focus area of her research is ethics and public sector management, with an emphasis on enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of public service delivery underpinned by a strong sense of governance within a democratic dispensation. Her international linkages involve collaborative research with universities in Australia, Cairo, the Czech Republic, and India. She has successfully supervised and graduated several Masters and Doctoral students, while being recognised as a local and international examiner for postgraduate research. She has co-authored textbooks for senior secondary learners, books for higher education purposes and published in local and international journals as well as presented papers at national and international conferences.

### Who should attend?

- Higher education researchers
- Researchers in government and non-governmental departments
- Practitioners in the relevant fields
- Postgraduate students

### Important dates

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS: EXTENDED TO 30 MAY 2024**

**FEEDBACK: 30 JUNE 2024**

**DEADLINE FOR EARLY REGISTRATION: 5 JUNE 2024**

### Registration fees

- Postgraduate students – **R2000**
- Conference attendance fee – **R3800**

### Abstract submission guidelines

- Abstracts must be between **150 and 250 words**
- Title should be clear and **not exceed 15 words**
- Include indication of author/s and a reliable email address of the corresponding author
- Clear indication of the sub-theme your abstract addresses
- Include a clear problem or research interest, methodology and a summary of findings or preliminary findings

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### References

African Union Commission. 2013. Agenda 2063: A shared strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development. background note. Retrieved from [http://agenda2063.au.int/en/sites/default/files/27%2008%20Agenda%202063%20Background%20Note%20Eng\\_6.doc](http://agenda2063.au.int/en/sites/default/files/27%2008%20Agenda%202063%20Background%20Note%20Eng_6.doc)

Crisolo, O.R., Camposano, S. and Rogayan, D.V., 2021. Relevance of social studies in the 21st century society: Students' perspectives. *International Journal of Didactical Studies*, 2(1), p.101457.

Martin, R.E., 2011. The Humanities Dilemma, Postmodernism and Critical Thinking. *Postmodernism and Critical Thinking* (May 9, 2011).

Mukherjee, A., 2013. Challenges to the Social Sciences in the 21st Century: Some Perspectives from the South. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 48(37), 31–37.