



FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS AND WORKSHOPS 2024 ALASA CONFERENCE

The 25th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN LANGUAGES ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (ALASA) in collaboration with the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) will be hosted by the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in Durban.

DATE: 8-12 July 2024

VENUE: Durban

CONFERENCE THEME:

Re-imagining the role of African languages for social justice and transformation in the digital age

The 25th ALASA conference invites a collective exploration of the role of African languages for social justice and transformation at the intersections of tradition and technology. Our conference invites participants to envision a future where African languages are dynamic tools for reshaping (academic) narratives by fostering inclusivity and empowerment through linguistic and technological innovation. Join us in this transformative conversation as we chart a course toward a more equitable and digitally vibrant future by exploring how African languages can unlock new opportunities in various sectors, including education, business, and technology, ultimately contributing to economic empowerment, social justice and sustainable development.

Delegates are particularly encouraged to engage with the overarching conference theme. In addition, this conference intends to address a range of critically important topics in the various fields of literature, linguistics, applied linguistics and sociolinguistics.

Our keynote sessions will be delivered by some of the world's leading thinkers in the humanities. The purpose of the conference is to attract scholars and researchers from a variety of disciplines and to bring together a cohort of established and emerging researchers in one assembly to deliberate on topics at the intersection of the conference theme and various sub-themes. Sub-themes include (but are not confined to) the following areas:

Sociolinguistics

- Language policy and planning
- Language, culture, and identity
- Language, sexuality, and gender
- Queer Linguistics
- Language contact and change
- Onomastics
- Dialectology
- Language and transformation
- Language policies and social inequality
- Intersectionality and language

Translation, Interpreting, Terminology, and Lexicography

- Translation and language practice
- African languages and translation
- African languages and lexicography
- Language editing techniques and African languages
- Terminology development
- Interpreting
- Subtitling

Language Practice and the Workplace

- Language and law (Forensic linguistics)
- Language and politics
- Language and governance
- Language and business
- Language and health
- African language teaching and literacy

Literature

- Literature in African languages
- Colonial and postcolonial literature in Africa
- Conflict and post-conflict narratives
- Teaching African languages literature (including literature in education)
- Literary theories in African languages
- African Feminist Literature
- Oral tradition and storytelling
- Literary activism and social justice

General Linguistics

- Phonetics and phonology
- Morphology, syntax, and morphosyntax
- Semantics and pragmatics
- Translanguaging and codeswitching
- Text and discourse
- Historical Linguistics
- Cognitive Linguistics
- Language Typology

Digital Humanities

- The role of digital humanities for inclusive pedagogies
- Perspectives for local and international collaboration in digital humanities
- Intersectionality and the digital humanities
- Social change and activism through digital resources
- Bridging the gap between academia and marginalised communities through digital tools and resources;
- Digital archives, corpora, glossaries, and term banks
- Critical approaches to digital humanities
- The role of digital humanities the preservation of marginalised voices and indigenous perspectives

SUBMISSION DATES

Abstracts for workshops and papers: **Tuesday, 31 January 2024**

Final notification of acceptance of abstracts: **31 March 2024**

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

Abstracts of 250-400 for *workshop presentations and 150-250 for paper presentations should be submitted by e-mail as **MS Word files** accompanied by the following information:

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- Title, full name(s), and surname
- Institutional affiliation (i.e., position of the delegate, institution's name, faculty/school, department, and location)
- E-mail address (if paper has multiple authors, please state name of corresponding author)
- Contact details (mobile and/or office number)

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- Full title of the paper
- Abstract

* A workshop is an opportunity for a group of interested delegates to be engaged in intensive discussion and activity on a topic and innovative research on any area relating to the Conference theme.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING

- Abstracts must be submitted in any official South African language with an English translation.
- No references, tables or graphics should be included in the abstract.
- When using abbreviations within the body of the abstract, please spell out the name in full at first mention and follow with the abbreviation in parenthesis.
- Please make sure that you submit an abstract that has been text edited.
- An hour (60 minutes) will be allocated for workshops, and each should have a minimum of two authors. Only four workshops will be accepted.

- Paper presentations will be limited to 20 minutes plus a 10-minute question/discussion session.
- All abstracts will be adjudicated.
- No changes will be made on abstracts once they had been adjudicated.
- No abstracts will be accepted after the deadline.

Submission of workshop and paper abstracts should be sent by e-mail to:
alasa2024@ukzn.ac.za

REGISTRATION WITH AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP

For *students

Early bird registration: R2 050 (R1 750 + R300 ALASA membership fee) – **closes on Sunday, 31 March 2024**

Registration after 31 March 2024: R2 250 (R1 950 + R300 ALASA membership fee)

* For the purposes of the conference, a **student** is a person who has registered for a Master's or Doctoral degree at a recognised institution of higher learning in 2024, and does not hold a permanent position at a recognised institution of higher learning. Proof of registration should be sent to: alasa@ukzn.ac.za (Ms Nokuthula Mtembu).

For non-students

Early bird registration: R4 150 (R3 850 + R300 ALASA membership fee) – **closes on Sunday, 31 March 2024**

Registration 31 March 2024: R4 350 (R4 050 + R300 ALASA membership fee)

No refunds. Substitutes are welcome at no extra cost (if it is a student for a student or a nonstudent for a non-student).

If membership for 2024 had already been paid, please send proof of payment to: alasa2024@ukzn.ac.za (Ms Nokuthula Mtembu).

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Delegates will be requested to fill in electronic registration forms after acceptance of their abstracts. An invoice will be created and sent to individual delegates with personal details, registration amount and banking details. It is only after this process that delegates will be able to deposit registration fee into the university account. The conference organisers will handle no cash at the registration desk at the conference.

DAILY PROGRAMME

Day 1: REGISTRATION: Conference programme: Conference opening. Evening Reception

Day 2: Conference programme: GALA dinner

Day 3: Conference programme: Book launches

Day 4: Conference programme: Book launches

Day 5: Conference programme: Closing of the conference. Departure. * Tour of Durban

** Tour of Durban is optional and the further information about costs associated with it will be communicated in due course.*

COSTS

Travel, accommodation, subsistence, etc. related to delegates' participation in the conference must be covered by the delegates or their institutions, regardless of the proposal acceptance. ALASA and its conference organisers are not liable and hold no responsibility for any of these costs.

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

1. Conference Chairperson: Dr Sanele Nsele
2. Conference Deputy Chairperson: Prof Nobuhle Hlongwa
3. Chairperson of the scientific committee: Prof Nogwaja Zulu
4. Deputy Chairperson of the scientific committee: Prof Heike Tappe
5. Conference Coordinators: Dr Gugu Mazibuko and Dr Muhle Sibisi
6. Finance & Operations: Dr Phindile Dlamini, Dr Nsele & Prof Nobuhle Hlongwa
7. Media and Communications: Dr Thulani Mkhize & Dr Gugu Mazibuko
8. Advisor: Dr Tebogo J. Rakgogo & Lisa Combrinck
9. Conference Administrators: Ms Nokuthula Mtembu

ENQUIRIES:

General and Registration

Conference Administrator: Ms Nokuthula Mtembu