



Southern African Association for Institutional Research

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

23rd SAAIR Conference 2016

***Considering the #mustfall campaigns - New opportunities
for Southern African Higher Education Institutional
Research***

Hosted by



Venue: North-West University, Potchefstroom.

www.saair-web.co.za

Important dates:

The submission deadline for outlines and abstracts is **Friday 20 May 2016**. Those whose proposed contributions have been accepted for presentation at the Conference will be notified by **Monday 27 June 2016**. In the case of accepted contributions, an electronic copy of the presentation should be submitted to the SAAIR office (admin@saair.net) not later than **Friday 9 September 2016**.

Please send your abstracts and outlines to the SAAIR Office (Carin Strydom) admin@saair.net and Jannie Jacobsz (2016 SAAIR Conference Chair) Jannie.jacobsz@nwu.ac.za by **Friday 20 May 2016**.

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW

The Southern African Association for Institutional Research (SAAIR) is holding its 23rd annual conference in Potchefstroom, South Africa from **18 October 2016 to 20 October 2016**. The conference will be hosted by North-West University, on its Potchefstroom campus.

A pre-conference SAHELA (South African Higher Education Learner Analytics) workshop will be held on Monday 17 October 2016 at the same venue.

The SAAIR annually convenes a community of scholars, academics and higher education practitioners as well as institutional researchers dedicated to converting data into useful information that can serve as intelligence for the purpose of decision-making and informing the way institutions function and serve their staff, students and overall strategic trajectory. The SAAIR encourages proposals from, and attendance of, all those interested in institutional research, learning analytics, quality assurance, strategic and academic planning, as well as related areas such as teaching-learning and all its associated sub-disciplines and fields of study.

We hereby invite you to submit a proposal for a paper or other type of contribution at the Conference.

THEME

Our theme for the 2016 SAAIR Conference is
Considering the #mustfall campaigns - New opportunities for Southern African Higher Education Institutional Research

The theme talks to the core business of all academics, academic advisors, academic support, student support, teaching-learning scholars and institutional researchers, to name but a few. Providing information, or evidence, that can be converted into “business intelligence” in support of informed decision-making is key in moving beyond the #mustfall campaigns.

...” And while we are at this, maybe we can reflect on just how useful hashtags and social media in general have actually proven to be in terms of activism. A quick scan of the global horizon shows that “the Twitter revolutions” have been highly effective at collectivising emotion but almost universally counter-productive in their outcomes.

The much-trumpeted Arab Spring provides the low-hanging fruit for this argument. Across the Middle East, crowds gathered, shared, tweeted and “liked” their way into global consciousness. They filled squares and toppled governments but in their place has come chaos and, in many cases, regression. Bulgarian political scientist, Ivan Krastev stated that Societies are not made up of disrupters and protesters alone. The vast majority are intimidated by what Krastev calls “the demand for constant change and the hosannas for creative destruction” and will support the conservative option when it really matters. Hashtaggers forget that tweets do not equal election votes” .

Mike Wills, Cape Argus, 25 November 2015

Students throughout the country mobilized in their masses to protest the proposed university fee increases for 2016 that were announced in October. The hashtag #FeesMustFall gave birth to a nationwide movement with universities across South Africa joining the campaign which was started at Wits University. The hashtag saw social media come alive with students and those who supported the campaign used the hashtag to spread their message on platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, including students and those not studying but empathising with the students. The push from the students led to President Zuma announcing a 0% increase of fees for 2016. As a result of the campaign and the zero fee increase a new hashtag trending #FeesHasFallen became the new trending topic for the students whose protests in South Africa actually got a positive response from government.

<http://www.vocfm.co.za/hashtag-trends-2015-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly/28> December 2015

In addition, the theme reflects the international aspirations of SAAIR, with the emphasis on *Southern African* higher education.

The *#mustfall* campaigns, especially those campaigns impacting on higher education, necessitate further scrutiny and analyses by all relevant stakeholders in an attempt to positively move beyond the notion of “fall-ism”. Questions in this regard are far more numerous than answers: What is being done within your institution, or your region, to assist moving beyond the *#mustfall* campaigns – in a positive way? Do we really grasp the implications of issues and opportunities that need to *#fall* in our endeavour to plan for the future and move forward? Are the voice and momentum of the *#mustfall* campaigns incorporated into our research in support of so-called efficiency and effectiveness in our institutions of higher learning?

What new initiatives are you and/or your institution engaging in that can in any way be associated with, implicated in or impacted on by the *#mustfall* movement as portrayed in social media? Initiatives can be strategic or operational. Initiatives can possibly be related to, but not limited by, the generating and analysis of Management Information (MI) or business intelligence, surveys, quality assurance, academic planning, teaching-learning related activities such as access; retention and success; student experience; enrolment planning; curriculum design; teaching; assessment; student attributes; facilities/infrastructure; and access to technology.

How far, for example, has this dynamic, modern-day social media phenomenon, and its consequences and opportunities, been incorporated into and catered for in your institution? What have been the results, output or outcome? What has been the impact of that output or outcome?

What do South African Higher Education Institutions know about similar research activities or initiatives of their counterparts and peers in other parts of the world, and vice versa? What do we know about the trends in institutional research in similar environments elsewhere in the world?

What are the constraints under which institutional researchers and scholars work when providing information to support decision-making? Is anyone listening? How can we

encourage our institutions to use and interpret information? Are the decisions informed by the evidence provided by, *inter alia*, IR professionals? Are there examples of best practice?

All the above are questions to which you may already have some answers, and this SAAIR conference offers you the opportunity to share these and related inputs with colleagues in the field.

SUB-THEMES

- 1) Sustainability (financial sustainability as well as sustainability in a broader sense) of Institutions
- 2) Perspectives on Student Experience, Student Activism and Student Leadership in the #mustfall era and beyond
- 3) Evidence-based Curriculum Transformation prompted by the #mustfall movement.
- 4) Perspectives on Institutional Governance, Leadership and Management in the #mustfall era and beyond
- 5) Turn-Around Institutional Research and Real-time Decision-making
- 6) Impact of the #mustfall movement on the Quality of Teaching-Learning

Important dates:

The submission date for outlines and abstracts is **Friday 20 May 2016**. Please send your outlines and abstracts to Jannie Jacobsz (Conference Chair 2016, NWU) at Jannie.jacobsz@nwu.ac.za and the SAAIR Office (Carin Strydom) at admin@saair.net.

All proposals will be subjected to a double-blind peer review process.

Contributors whose proposed contributions are accepted for presentation at the Conference will be notified by **27 June 2016**.

In the case of accepted contributions, an electronic copy of the comprehensive presentation should be submitted to the SAAIR office (**admin@saair.net**) not later than **Friday 9 September 2016**.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Distinguished experts will deliver keynote addresses and or facilitate at the 2016 SAAIR Conference.



Linda Brown

Some people resist shaking things up, but I think differently: it's my responsibility to question, and to fight for what's right. Education can and should change the world, but it won't if change is met with 'Why?'. Instead, I prefer to ask, "Why not?"

Linda Brown joined Think as Chief Executive Officer on 1 May 2013. Linda is recognised at state and national levels as an innovative strategic thinker with leadership skills to drive exceptional business performance and is passionate about education and training for all.

Linda was previously Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Director TAFE at Swinburne University, Melbourne. She had responsibility for maximising the dual sector advantage, driving the sustainability and social inclusion strategies across the University and managing the TAFE Division, one of Victoria's largest

VET providers and recognised in 2009 as the National Large Training Provider of the Year. Prior to Swinburne, Linda held the position of Director of the Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE in Brisbane and was a senior Queensland Government executive with the Department of Education, Training and the Arts.

Her global business and educational experience, including Corporate CEO, Futures Stockbroker, Managing Director Dartington Tech UK and Director of Stoke-on-Trent FE College, strengthens her ability to provide leadership and outcomes. Linda was also part of the UK Government's rapid response team for the Further Education Funding Council, utilised to turn around failing colleges, and was part of the UK 'think tank' on education as a global business whilst Director, Ayr College UK. Linda has presented nationally and internationally on leadership and female diversity and was identified by Management Today as one of "25 Australian women to watch" – a great achievement for a Scot!

Dan Kgwadi



Vice-Chancellor of the North-West University: Prof Ntate Dan Kgwadi

Prof Dan Kgwadi is deeply committed to academic excellence, community service and partnerships with the public sector and industry. He is passionate about empowering and motivating underprivileged youth, and has personally sponsored the college and university education of a number of students.

Prior to his appointment as the NWU's Vice-Chancellor and before that as Mafikeng campus rector, Prof Kgwadi served as a senior manager/assessment coordinator at the National Nuclear Regulator; head of the Physics department at the Vaal University of Technology; lecturer and head of the Physics department at the University of North-West, and research and teaching assistant at Ball State University. He started his career as a physics teacher at Phatsima high school.

He has been the recipient of various scholarships and awards. Early on in his academic life, he obtained the Educational Opportunities Council scholarship (EOC), the United Nations scholarship and a work-study scholarship (Ball State University) to pursue his physics studies in the USA. While at Ball State, in recognition of his high scholarly achievement in physics, he was admitted to the sigma-pi-sigma honour society.

Prof Kgwadi has been a member of numerous professional bodies and chaired the education sub-group of the South African Institute of Physics (SAIP). He supervised and served as an external examiner to master's and PhD students in the fields of physics education and radiation physics. He was appointed to the Umalusi Council, and served as chairperson of the Assessment Standard Committee. He has also been appointed as chairperson of the Economic Advisory Committee of the North West Premier.

His academic credentials are extensive and he has the following degrees: BSc (physics and chemistry, University of Bophuthatswana, RSA); MSc (physics, Ball State University, USA); MPhil (environmental law and management, University of the North, RSA); PhD (Physics Education, PU for CHE, RSA); PhD (management – honorus causa – Hanseo University, South Korea).

On 22 November 2013, the NWU Council announced Prof Kgwadi's appointment as the next Vice-Chancellor of the North-West University. He took up this position on 1 April 2014, for a period of six years.

This academic and dynamic leader has a passion for skydiving and has been awarded a certificate by the American Parachute Association for completing a number of successful jumps.

"Like a real traveller, Dan Kgwadi does not believe in arriving."



Theo Venter¹

Theo Venter is a political and policy specialist at the NWU School of Business & Governance and also acts as special advisor to the Vice-chancellor of the North West University. In this capacity he advises on politics, strategy and planning. He is also a political commentator on South African politics in the media, especially on radio and TV. He has been part of the SABC election broadcasting teams in all elections since 1987. He teaches a course in the formulation of strategy at the NWU School of Business & Governance. Theo Venter was born on 27 November 1955 in Modjadiskloof (former Duiwelskloof), Limpopo Province, but he grew up in Vanderbijlpark and matriculated in 1973 from the Transvalia High School. He then studied at the Potchefstroom University and obtained a master’s degree in Political Science in 1982.

From September 1982 to January 1984 he studied in the USA as a Fulbright Scholar at the Nelson Rockefeller School for Public Management at the State University of New York in Albany, NY obtaining a second master’s degree in Comparative Politics. Theo Venter has received acknowledgement as one of the most quoted staff members at the NWU from 2011 to 2015. Apart from his academic activities he also acted as facilitator in several environments, including local governments, universities and civic society. Theo Venter is an outdoors person who loves nature, photography and wildlife. He is married to Thildé and they have four children.

The Student Voice (Representatives from 3 Universities²)



“Protest movements are manifestos of a sort. Like manifestos, both political and aesthetic, they usually aim to create the support they need by seeking to identify a wrong, then proposing a way of righting it.

The best and most durable manifestos seek to provide an explanatory framework that brings the wrong in question into sharp focus. The manifesto draws on the resources of history and theory to promise an increased capacity for human agency and control over – or at least positive intervention in – the existing state of things...” (The Conversation, Africa Pilot, 27 November 2015)

TYPES OF CONTRIBUTIONS

The conference aims to attract institutional research professionals and higher education scholars to share their knowledge and expertise in the field of higher education management, with a specific focus on institutional research, management

¹ Theo Venter will also act as facilitator for the student leader panel discussion
² Pictures and Abridged Resumes will be made available in the final programme

information, business intelligence, quality assurance and enhancement, and statutory reporting.

The following types of contributions will be considered for presentation at the conference:

Contributed paper (CP)

This is a scholarly paper in which the author or authors share research results. Such a paper may draw from a research report, a case study or the use and application of a particular research methodology, or may address particular theoretical and conceptual issues relevant to the theme of the conference. The proposed paper can be based on original data collection or secondary data analysis and can be based on quantitative, qualitative or mixed methodology. Contributed papers will be scheduled in 40 minute slots of which at least 15 minutes should be dedicated to discussion.

Panel discussion (PD)

This is a collegial discussion of a single topic relevant to the theme of the conference by several discussants. The outline for such a presentation should describe the topic and the central issues that will be explored. It should also describe how the differing perspectives of each participant will contribute to the development of the topic. The total time allowed for a discussion panel will be 60 minutes.

Conference workshop (CW)

A workshop should be aimed at facilitating active involvement by participants in deliberations around a topic relevant to the theme of the conference. It should generally consist of a brief introduction followed by planned activities/processes of engagement. The outline for a proposed workshop should describe the topic, the participant activities, the audience that will be targeted through the workshop and its intended outcomes. The outline should also specify any special requirements that may be needed for the workshop (e.g., individual laptops for participation, venue specification, etc.). Please note that such specifications will need to fit in with the overall logistical arrangements for the conference. The total time allowed for a conference workshop will be 90 minutes.

Poster presentation (PP)

A poster presentation is a visual presentation for viewing by conference attendees. Posters can depict research or evaluation findings, outline a research process, or describe a program. Specific time will be allocated when the presenter(s) should be available at the poster for discussion.

Demonstration (D)

A demonstration displays materials related to a project having to do with research or practice. These may include a variety of formats, such as computer programs or multimedia presentations of a project.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCESS

The evaluation of proposals is an important activity in the run-up to the annual conference. The SAAIR Exco remains committed to coordinating the evaluation process in a fair, objective and rigorous manner whilst also considering issues such as the spread of proposals from institutions across Southern Africa and all types of institutions.

In facilitating this, the following should be noted:

- 1) A panel of experts will be constituted to assess proposals against a pre-determined list of quality criteria (see below).
- 2) All evaluations are undertaken through a double-blind review process.
- 3) Where proposals are rated at roughly the same level of quality, the evaluation committee appointed by the Exco will consider the number of proposals by an individual researcher, and the type of institution to which the individual researcher(s) are affiliated in order to ensure a reasonable spread without neglecting the quality requirements as evaluated by the peer review panel.
- 4) Contributions that seek to make a scholarly contribution to addressing the theme of the conference will be given first priority of acceptance. However, submissions that do not directly address the theme of the conference will also be considered, provided that they have a clear focus on one or more of the objectives of the SAAIR, namely “to benefit, assist and advance institutional research leading to improved understanding, planning and operation of institutions of higher education”.

The following criteria will be used to guide the selection of presentations:

General criteria applicable to all proposals:

- Whether the proposal links to one or more of the SAAIR’s, objectives *namely “to benefit, assist and advance institutional research leading to improved understanding, planning and operation of institutions of higher education”*;
- The degree to which the proposal links to the Conference theme (*Submissions that do not directly address the theme or sub-themes of the conference will also be considered, provided that they have a clear focus on one or more of the objectives of SAAIR*);
- The overall **clarity of the proposal** (e.g., quality of writing, organisation of ideas, clarity of assumptions, logic of arguments; etc.);
- The **importance, significance and relevance of the topic and major issue(s) addressed** for institutional research; and
- The **potential significance** of the contribution.

Specific criteria applicable to contributed papers:

- Appropriateness of theoretical or conceptual framework;
- Soundness of research design;
- Appropriateness of data sources or evidence used;
- Clarity of exposition of ideas, analyses, arguments and conclusions; and
- Evidence that the research is near completion and that the paper will be completed by the time of the conference (e.g., preliminary results).

Specific criteria applicable to panel discussions:

- Overall focus of the panel discussion and major issues/viewpoints addressed;
- How the collective issues/viewpoints fit together to create a coherent whole;
- How the proposed panel will provide a learning experience of value to delegates; and
- Clarity of exposition of ideas, analyses, arguments and conclusions.

Specific criteria applicable to conference workshops:

- Overall focus of the workshop and major issues addressed;
- Soundness of design;
- Appropriateness of data sources or evidence used;
- Clarity of exposition of ideas, analyses, arguments and conclusions to be shared with participants; and

Specific criteria applicable to posters:

- Timeliness and general interest regarding the topic;
- Appropriateness of the theoretical and methodological approaches pursued;
- Clarity of exposition of ideas, analyses, arguments and conclusions;
- Preliminary findings, conclusions and implications; and
- Quality of organisation and format of the proposed content.

Specific criteria applicable to demonstrations:

- Appropriateness of theoretical or conceptual framework;
- Soundness of design;
- Appropriateness of data sources or evidence used;
- Quality of proposed content;
- Quality of organisation and format of the proposed content.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Members of the SAAIR and other interested colleagues are invited to respond to this call for contributions to the 2016 Conference. To assist the organisers in selecting contributions, interested persons are requested to submit the following:

1. A completed **cover page**. The format of the cover page is provided below.
2. An **outline** of their proposed contribution for consideration (see proposal evaluation process above), including an **abstract** for inclusion in the conference programme if the proposal is successful. The format is provided below.

Cover page for proposals:

1. Title of Presentation

2. Sub Theme of Conference linked to Presentation:

- *Sustainability (financial sustainability as well as sustainability in a broader sense) of Institutions*
- *Perspectives on Student Experience, Student Activism and Student Leadership in the #mustfall era and beyond*
- *Evidence-based Curriculum Transformation prompted by the #mustfall movement.*
- *Perspectives on Institutional Governance, Leadership and Management in the #mustfall era and beyond*
- *Turn-Around Institutional Research and Real-time Decision-making*
- *Impact of the #mustfall movement on the Quality of Teaching-Learning*

3. Presentation type:

- *Contributed paper*
- *Panel discussion*
- *Conference workshop*
- *Poster presentation*
- *Demonstration*

4. Presenter(s)/Author(s) – names, institution(s), email addresses, daytime phone number(s) and mobile number(s)

Outlines and abstracts should be submitted in the following formats:

Format for outlines (*required for peer evaluation*):

1. No identifying information about the author(s) (**this should be provided on the cover page**).
2. English language only.
3. MS Word format.
4. Not exceeding **600 words** in length but providing enough detail to evaluate the proposal.
5. Illustrations, graphs or references may be included if these will assist with the evaluation process.
6. It should be evident from the outline how the proposal will meet the general criteria as well as the specific criteria applicable to the type of contribution.

Format for abstracts (*for inclusion in Conference booklet if accepted*):

1. No identifying information about the author(s) (these should be provided on the cover page).
2. English language only.
3. MS Word format.
4. Not exceeding **150 words** in length.
5. No illustrations, graphs or references should be included.

Partner/Platinum sponsor:

