

Elizabeth Booii



SAAIR 2018 Conference Scholarship feedback

Re-imagining our universities: the role and impact of institutional research in times of disruptions was indeed a wonderful learning experience. I am very grateful for the opportunity of being awarded the scholarship. My appreciation goes an extra mile to Carin for the great experience and for making sure our flights, accommodation, shuttle and dinner were organised. For every e-mail and WhatsApp messages when we arrived in Durban to check if are okay. On arrival since I came a day late, I had a pleasure of meeting the outgoing President, Dr Juan-claude Lemmes, Vice President/Conference Chair, Ms Nicky Muller and SAAIR Secretary, Ms Carin Strydom who entertained us as we shared a meal with other scholars. They shared the history of SAAIR which was so fascinating and educational.

I enjoyed all the morning plenary session and the panel discussion on reflections on privacy legislation as a disruptor in the SAHE sector. As IR Practitioners and Data specialist, we need to be aware of data security and disruptive technologies and Governance /legislative in order when we offer the services we do not infringe on the rights of those were are trying to assist.

The keynote address by Angel Calderon did wonders. The presentation was exciting by giving us the landscape of HE and demonstrating that we are really at the crossroads and with the 4th industrial revolution changes indeed HE is in trouble. Institutional research practitioners / Data specialist need to embrace and start to think about the future. They need to be prepared to assist the policy makes with making the right data-driven decision. The Right data can help find the pattern, and it can help foresee the future in order to be ready to address future problems. If the profession is well established can be the agent of change. It was such a wonderful to learn and interact with other colleagues from HE. I hope we can build on from here and embrace & build the community of practice and build IR and data scientist capabilities within our institutions and HE.

Well, wishes to the new SAAIR Executive elected at the Conference.

The conference was great, and I look forward to the Mpumalanga 2019 conference.
