

SAAIR PURPOSE

The Southern African Association for Institutional Research (SAAIR) is a dynamic association with vision of promoting institutional research, training and development, and the exchange of information in the context of an effective Institutional Research unit in each institution of higher education.

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Membership of SAAIR is usually between 300 and 400 members from some 45 different institutions mainly from South Africa, Namibia and Botswana.

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25TH ANNUAL SAAIR CONFERENCE - DURBAN

The SAAIR conference is arguably Southern Africa's largest gathering of higher education professionals working in institutional research, assessment, planning, quality and related postsecondary education fields. The 25th Annual Conference of the Southern African Association for Institutional Research (SAAIR) was no exception.

Hosted by the Durban University of Technology on the eastern seaboard of South Africa (13-15 November 2018) with three pre-conference workshops on 12 November at the DUT Conference Centre, Ritson Campus. This conference theme was, *Re-imagining our universities, the role and impact of institutional research in times of disruption*. **One hundred forty-four delegates** from **42 institutions** attended in 2018.

This theme is a natural progression from the 2016 and 2017 conference themes, *Considering the #FeesMustFall campaigns & New opportunities for Southern African Higher Education Institutional Research* and *Rethinking university engagement in Africa*. The 2018 conference theme centred on the uptake of Higher Education (HE) research, through HE scholarly outputs, including grey literature in the form of policy documents and reports which is often produced with Institutional Research.

The delegates were warmly welcomed by Prof Sibusiso Moyo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, Durban University of Technology. She spoke passionately about creating enabling environments for people to flourish in Higher Education Institutions.

SAAIR is involved in many initiatives to promote capacity development in the Higher Education sector in Southern Africa. One such initiative, *The scope, synergy and uptake of research into higher education in Southern Africa*, was show-cased at the conference with eight papers pertaining to the study presented. This project pairs emerging researchers with established researchers on joint research projects.

As part of further capacity development, the outgoing SAAIR president, Dr Juan Claude Lemmens, announced the 2018 SAAIR Conference Scholars:

- Agnes Ulipamwe, National Council for Higher Education, Namibia
- Chinaza Uleanya, University of Zululand
- Curwyn Mapaling, Nelson Mandela University
- Elizabeth Boo, University of the Western Cape
- Mbali Blaai, Monash South Africa



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The Annual General Meeting of SAAIR, as well as the elections of the new Executive committee was successfully completed (See page 3). Our largest sponsors were also provided with an opportunity to address the conference. Thank you to our long-term and new sponsors, for making these events possible.

The conference was very well organised in terms of both logistics as well as the range and quality of presentations, panels, workshops and other engagements. Delegates could relax and network, establishing new relationships and catch up with new ideas, successes and

practical advice from colleagues, turned friends over the years, from all over Southern Africa

The most telling indicator of the success of the conference was the almost full-house that attended the conference in the last session, a remarkable occurrence at any such event. We wish to extend our gratitude to the remarkable [conference team](#) for all their efforts, and we look forward to the next big SAAIR conference hosted by the Tshwane University of Technology (TuT).

Only a week to go




SAAIR
Learner Analytics Workshop
18-19 March

Learner Analytics Workshop



[Click for fun photos](#)

SAAIR forthcoming events 2019

- **Learner Analytics Workshop**  18 & 19 March 2019 | [University of South Africa](#) | Pretoria
The invite was sent out and it was so popular and already fully booked! Sorry you missed this one, but you can look forward to the following events, make sure you are in the front of the queue to get your tickets for the next event!

FULLY BOOKED!

SORRY WE'RE FULL



Don't get caught without a ticket again!

- **Quality Forum**  3 & 4 July 2019 | University of Johannesburg | Johannesburg
A general introduction to the practice of quality assurance (QA) in HE. Advancing, better practice and benchmarking in the area of QA. Sharing valuable experience gained over time.
- **Hemis Institute**  6 to 8 August | Wits | [Rural Campus](#) | Limpopo
This includes the Foundations workshop on the first day, followed by a Forum on the subsequent days. It is located on a 315 hectare estate of savanna woodland in the central Lowveld region of Limpopo province.
- **IR Institute**  25 to 27 September 2019 | University of Zululand | Richards Bay
Addresses the needs of both young and established institutional researchers through a foundational workshop followed by the IR forum.
- **The 26th Annual SAAIR Conference**  4 to 7 November 2019 | and will be hosted by Tshwane University of Technology at their Mbombela (Nelspruit) campus.

MEET THE SAAIR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCO)



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