

AESIS

NETWORK FOR
ADVANCING & EVALUATING THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF SCIENCE

Societal Impact of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts

The international conference on creating, improving
and evidencing inclusive societal impact through
engaged research with policy, industry and the public.



HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council



**National
Research
Foundation**

16 - 18 October 2024

Cape Town, South Africa

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

In 2017 AESIS organised the very first international conference on **Societal Impact of Social Science, Humanities and Arts (SSHA) in Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom**, bringing together stakeholders such as research managers, administrators, evaluators, policy makers, funders, entrepreneurs, publishers, NGO's, media and many more. During this conference they exchanged experiences and good practices in order to catalyse developments in strategies, policies, methods, tools and approaches that were being used to make sure that SSHA, in collaboration other disciplines and societal partners, could have the most positive and inclusive impact on wellbeing, culture, economy, environment, health, education, and all kinds of challenges that are being faced in the world.

In the past years, the call to transform interdisciplinary research evidence into accessible, understandable, trusted and useable knowledge for societal stakeholders has been of utmost importance amidst persisting global challenges such as the pandemic, climate change, poverty, other inequities and more. The Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts (SSHA) disciplines are able to offer much value in addressing these challenges yet are often undervalued; therefore it is necessary to enhance supporting structures, policies and strategies, develop a more robust framework for assessing impact, foster coalitions with parties from business, government, and not-for-profits, and engage with the broader public in order to generate a profound impact of SSHA on society.

To facilitate this aim, AESIS is proud to announce that the next edition of our **'Societal Impact of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts on Society' Conference**, will be hosted in **Cape Town, South Africa!** The conference will be focusing on the three main themes of: from Engagement and Communication, Policy, Funding and Recognition, and Infrastructures, Facilities and Tools. It will comprise of experts from all around the world delivering presentations, interactive round tables, teaching workshops and more. This international gathering will bring together research managers, science policymakers, funders, knowledge exchange experts, and other relevant impact professionals from around the world to share good-practices and discuss topics such as: How can we foster trust in and credibility of SSHA research?; What does impact mean in the context of different segments of society, and through which robust and valid indicators can you assess it?; What opportunities for collaborations with societal partners are there, and how may co-creation of knowledge with other disciplines and sectors play a role in stimulating impact?

Come join this conference full of presentations, workshops, round tables and social activities, meet your peers from all over the world and accelerate your work in the field of Societal Impact of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts. We look forward to seeing you there!



Research managers
& administrators



Policymakers &
Science funders

TARGET GROUPS



Other interested
professionals in science
and society



Researchers



Publishers, SME's
& NGO's

ABOUT AESIS

The Network for Advancing and Evaluating the Societal Impact of Science (AESIS) is an international, open community for professionals working on stimulating and demonstrating the impact of science on economy, culture and well-being. Members come from all over the world, where they are involved in the evaluation of impact, research strategy and policy making, science funding, scientometrics, research administration, business creation, public engagement, and many more. We pursue a multi-stakeholder, system-wide approach on an international level, because we believe that stimulating dialogue between different sectors and regions, beyond the project level, will catalyse further development of effective instruments for evaluating and advancing the societal impact of science.

ADVISORY & ASSOCIATION

AESIS Advisory Board

Koenraad Debackere	Executive Director of KU Leuven Research and Development & Chairman of Board of Directors, KBC Group NV, Belgium
Genevieve Simpson	Director, Planning & Development, National Research Foundation, South Africa
Luke Georghiou	Vice-President, Research and Innovation and Professor of Science and Technology Policy, University of Manchester, United Kingdom
Barend van der Meulen	Professor Institutional Aspects of (Higher) Education, Director CHEPS, Twente University, The Netherlands
Andrew Plume	Senior Director, Research Evaluation, Elsevier, United Kingdom
Susan Renoe	Associate Vice Chancellor, University of Missouri & Executive Director, NSF Center for Advancing Research Impact in Society, United States of America
Toby Smith	Vice President of Policy, American Association of Universities, United States of America
David Sweeney	Former Executive Chair, Research England, United Kingdom
Paul Wouters	Dean of Social and Behavioural Sciences & former Director, CWTS, Leiden University, The Netherlands

Conference Programme Advisory Committee

Heidi van Rooyen	Group Executive: Impact Centre, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa
Genevieve Simpson	Director, Planning & Development, National Research Foundation, South Africa

LOCATION

Cape Town, South Africa

South Africa has three capitals, **Cape Town** is the legislative one, Bloemfontein is the judicial, and Pretoria is the administrative capital also being the one used as a single capital. The reason behind this interesting and unusual structure is given the countries' historical and colonial background. This conference will take place on the southern coast of the country, and only 50 kilometer from the lowest point of the continent, Cape of Good Hope. The climate in Cape Town is Mediterranean, being around 20 degrees in October.

VENUE



Graduate School of Business is **University of Cape Town's** conference venue located at the Protea Hotel, Cape Town Waterfront Breakwater Lodge.

DIRECTIONS

Landing in Cape Town, South Africa

Cape Town International Airport, is the closest airport which can be reached from many international destinations. Alternatively, you can fly into **O.R Tambo International Airport** in Johannesburg and take a connecting flight.



Getting from Cape Town International Airport to Protea Hotel

From Cape Town International **Airport** you can take a car to Protea Hotel Cape Town Waterfront which depending on the time of the day is a 25-45 minute car ride.


PROGRAMME FORMAT

The three-day programme (detailed in the following pages) includes several types of sessions as well as three “tracks” running through the days to help you choose the relevant elements for your work and get the most out of the conference. To help you decide, we describe the types of formats and tracks below:

Roundtable sessions	At the beginning of the session, the roundtable coordinators will introduce the topic and the discussion points, after which the whole group participates in the hour long conversation, sharing insights and experiences.	Pre-registration required, maximum 20 attendees
Workshops	The workshops offer a more practical experience to specific skills in order to improve and/demonstrate impact. The trainers offer a taste of possible hands-on learnings and potential follow up after the conference.	Pre-registration required, maximum 25 attendees
Other parallel sessions	Most other parallel sessions will include several presentations from different perspectives, followed by a panel discussion and Q&A. Although this is the original format that has been suggested to speakers, some might surprise you...	No limited number of attendees. Also accessible to online participants
Plenary sessions	The plenary sessions are all different from each other in topics and/or formats, but all of them allow for input and questions from the audience. Don't forget to have your phone with the conference app on standby. You will need it!	No limited number of attendees. Also accessible to online participants



**Engagement and
Communication**



Policy, Funding and Recognition



**Infrastructures, Facilities and
Tools**

Not all sessions belong to one of these three tracks as there are many other topics being covered during the conference. You can also choose to follow the whole track, part of them, or none of them — it is up to you!

Wednesday, 16 October

9.00-9.30	WALK IN & REGISTRATION
9.30-9.40	WORDS OF WELCOME
9.40-10.55	OPENING PLENARY
11.00-11.40	COFFEE, TEA & GROUP PHOTO BREAK
11.40-12.55	PARALLEL SESSIONS + WORKSHOP
	▼ Collaboration with SMEs
	▼ Long-term regional collaboration structures
	▼ Assessment frameworks of Impact
	Open Science & Impact
	▼ Workshop: Institution Readiness level
12.55-13.55	LUNCH BREAK + GOOD PRACTICES OF SOCIETAL IMPACT STORIES
13.55-15.25	INTERACTIVE PANEL & <i>Presentation of the recommendations from the parallel sessions</i>
15.25-15.55	REFRESHMENT BREAK
15.55-17.25	SOCIAL PROGRAMME (Pre-registration required)
18.30-20.30	CONFERENCE DINNER (Pre-registration required)



Thursday, 17 October

9.00-9.30	WALK IN & REGISTRATION
9.30-9.40	WORDS OF WELCOME
9.40-10.50	OPENING PLENARY
10:50-11.15	COFFEE, TEA & GROUP PHOTO BREAK
11.15-12.30	PARALLEL SESSIONS + WORKSHOP
	▼ Evidence informed policy making
	▼ Impact in an institutional strategy
	▼ Incentivising Policies (funding focused)
	Teams and Interdisciplinary
	▼ Workshop: Train the Trainers - Impact
12.30-13.20	LUNCH BREAK + GOOD PRACTICES OF SOCIETAL IMPACT STORIES
13.20-14.20	ROUNDTABLES SESSIONS
	▼ International Collaboration
	▼ Bridging gaps within the institution
	▼ Inclusiveness in engagement
	Workshop
14.20-14.45	REFRESHMENT BREAK
14.45-15.45	<p>AESIS FAMILY FEUD & IMPACT DEBATE</p> <p>& Presentations of the recommendations from the parallel and roundtable sessions</p> <p>The impact game show - In this fun and insightful “family-feud” style session, two teams will compete to answer questions about the societal impact of social sciences, humanities and arts, with the winning team earning time between each round to debate and elaborate on these challenges within their own experiences.</p>
15.45-17.00	SOCIAL PROGRAMME (Pre-registration required)
18.00-20.30	CONFERENCE DINNER (Pre-registration required)

Friday, 18 October

9.00-9.30	WALK IN & REGISTRATION
9.30-9.40	WORDS OF WELCOME
9.40-11.15	PLENARY OPENING
11.15-11.45	COFFEE & TEA BREAK
11.45-13.00	PARALLEL SESSIONS
	▼ Co-creation and Communities
	▼ Methods and Tools for demonstrating impact
	▼ Incentivising Policies (individuals focused)
13.00-14.00	LUNCH BREAK + GOOD PRACTICES OF SOCIETAL IMPACT STORIES
14.00-15.30	CLOSING PLENARY & Presentation of the recommendations from all the parallel sessions
15.30-16:00	CLOSING RECEPTION
16:00	END OF CONFERENCE

