

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.



National
Research
Foundation

25



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



SOUTHERN
AFRICAN THINK
TANK FOR AGEING
RESEARCH
DEVELOPMENT



16 - 18 October 2024

Cape Town, South Africa

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

In 2021 AESIS intended to organise their international impact conference in Cape Town, but given the global pandemic which took place, it resulted in an online, though dynamic, conference. This year, AESIS is proud to announce that the next edition of our **‘Societal Impact of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts on Society’** Conference, will finally be hosted in person in **Cape Town, South Africa!** To facilitate the aim of the conference, we will be 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 with societal stakeholders and other disciplines, 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.

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 best-practices and discuss topics such as: How can we foster trust in and the 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 stakeholders 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



KE professionals, and
other interested profes-
sionals in science and
society



Researchers



Evaluators

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	Acting Head: Research, Analysis and Advice, 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
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

Michael Gastrow	Director: Science & Society, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa
Genevieve Simpson	Director, Planning & Development, National Research Foundation, South Africa
Linda Mtwisha	Executive Director: Research, University of Cape Town, 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

This track denotes the importance of engaging with diverse societal stakeholders to amplify the impact of SSHA research. Sessions will highlight how building effective communication strategies with various audiences, including the public and policymakers, can enhance the credibility and accessibility of research. Additionally, the track will explore how to foster trust and build meaningful connections that ensure SSHA contributions are both recognized and utilized in addressing pressing global challenges.



Policy, Funding and Recognition

Focused on the critical elements of policy-making, securing funding, and achieving recognition, this track will delve into the frameworks and strategies necessary to elevate SSHA research. Discussions will centre around the development of robust impact assessment indicators, the role of government and private sector partnerships, and the importance of advocating for such disciplines in policy agendas.



Infrastructures, Facilities and Tools

This track focuses on the critical role of infrastructure, cutting-edge facilities, and advanced tools in driving impactful SSHA research. It will emphasize how robust infrastructure and interdisciplinary collaboration environments can significantly enhance research outcomes. Sessions will also cover the development of tools that support knowledge co-creation and ensure SSHA research is well-positioned to address complex societal issues effectively.

Not all sessions belong to one of these three tracks as there are many other topics being covered during the

Wednesday, 16 October

9.00-9.30

WALK IN & REGISTRATION



You are welcomed at the entrance and coffee and tea are served

- Lobby -

The conference app is available and the helpdesk is open for any technical issues or support

- AESIS App -



9.30-9.40

WORDS OF WELCOME

9.30 Conference chair:

9.40-10.55

OPENING PLENARY: TRANSITIONING TO IMPACT - WHY AND WHERE ARE WE?

9.40 Sarah Mosoetsa CEO, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), South Africa

Topic:

9.55 Australian Research Council

Topic:

10.10 Mlungisi Cele Policy Specialist, National Advisory Council on Innovation, South Africa

Topic:

10.25 Panel discussion and Q&A

10.50 Good Practices

11.00-11.40

COFFEE, TEA & GROUP PHOTO BREAK

Learn more about the partners of this conference, without whom we wouldn't be here

- Lobby -



The app also allows for communicating with other attendees through chat

- AESIS App -



Wednesday, 16 October

11.40-12.55

PARALLEL SESSIONS

▼ Collaboration with SMEs

Location

Creating Impact through collaborations with business

Norah Clarke

Independent Consultant, Former Director: Entrepreneurship,
Universities of South Africa, South Africa

Christoph Koller*

Co-founder & Managing Partner, Görgen & Köller GmbH,
Germany

▼ Longterm regional collaboration structures

Location

*How can policymakers, universities, businesses and communities collaborate
to work in the long-term?*

Rick Delbridge

Special Advisor for R&I, Learned Society of Wales, United
Kingdom

David Safro Ameyaw

CEO/President, International Center for Evaluation and
Development, Kenya

▼ Assessment frameworks of Impact

Location

Topic description the

Genevieve Simpson (Chair)

Acting Head: Research Analysis and Advice, National Research
Foundation (NRF), South Africa

Chris Brink

Former Vice Chancellor, New Castle University

Open Science & Impact

Location

*How would having more access to scientific data and research affect
scientific stakeholders' credibility and trust in science?*

Georg Russegger

Head of Open Innovation in Science Center, Ludwig Boltzmann
Gesellschaft, Austria

Tshiamo Motshegwa*

Director of the African Open Science Platform, National
Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa

Ricardo Hartley Belmar*

Universidad Central de Chile, Chile

▼ Workshop: Institution Readiness level

Auditorium

Irene Dal Poz

Managing Consultant, Head of Impact Strategy, Oxentia, England

▼ = Engagement & Communication

▼ = Policy, Funding & Recognition

▼ = Infrastructures, Facilities & Tools

* to be confirmed

Wednesday, 16 October

12.55-13.55

LUNCH BREAK + GOOD PRACTICES OF SOCIETAL IMPACT STORIES

13.55-15.25

INTERACTIVE PANEL

13.55 Presentation of the recommendations from the parallel sessions

14.05

Topic description the

David Budtz Pedersen

Professor of Science Communication & Impact Studies, Humanomics Research Centre, Aalborg University, Denmark

Brahim El Morchid*

Vice President, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Professor of Political Economy in the Department of Economics at Cadi Ayyad University, Morocco

Mlungisi Cele*

Policy Specialist, National Advisory Council on Innovation, South Africa

15.15 Closing words from the Chair

15.25-15.55

REFRESHMENT BREAK

15.55-17.25

SOCIAL PROGRAMME (Pre-registration required)

Pre-sunset Boat Cruise - Shop 5, Quay 5, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town, 8002

Join us on a scenic boat cruise, departing from the harbor in the V&A Waterfront. The perfect opportunity to connect in a relaxed setting and reflect on the day's sessions. Enjoy superb views of the coastline and toast table mountain with a glass of local sparkling wine. The cruise will take around 1 hour and set the mood for the subsequent conference dinner in the harbor.



18.30-20.30

CONFERENCE DINNER (Pre-registration required)

Sevruga Restaurant - Shop 4, Quay 5, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town, 8001

Sevruga Restaurant, nestled in the vibrant V&A Waterfront of Cape Town, offers a relaxed yet stylish dining experience with great views of the harbor. Known for its fresh seafood, sushi, and diverse wine list, Sevruga promises a first-class experience. The restaurant's chic yet welcoming atmosphere and scenic setting make it the ideal location to wind down the first conference day.



Thursday, 17 October

9.00-9.30

WALK IN & REGISTRATION



You are welcomed at the entrance and coffee and tea are served

- Lobby -



The conference app is available and the helpdesk is open for any technical issues or support

- AESIS App -

9.30-9.40

WORDS OF WELCOME

9.30

Conference chair:

9.40-10.50

PLENARY OPENING: SOCIETAL IMPACT - GLOBAL SOUTH PERSPECTIVES

9.40

Imtiaz Ismail Sooliman

Chairman & Founder, Gift of Givers Foundation, South Africa

Topic tbd

9.55

Chris Brink

Former Vice Chancellor, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Topic tbd

10.10

Jacqueline Olang Kado*

Executive Director for the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), Kenya

Topic tbd

10.25

Panel discussion

10.50-11.15

COFFEE & TEA BREAK

Interact with fellow participants, speakers and partners while enjoying some refreshments

- Lobby -



Online participants can also visit the online booths of our partners and find out about the work they do

- AESIS App -

11.15-12.30

PARALLEL SESSIONS + WORKSHOP

▼ Evidence informed policy making

Location

How to organise healthy science – policy connections and have a good impact on policy making

Frank Zwetsloot

Founder & CEO of ScienceWorks, Netherlands

Soledad Quiroz Valenzuela

Deputy Director of Knowledge Management, Universidad Central de Chile

Renee Hector Kannemeyer

Deputy Director, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

▼ Impact in an institutional strategy

Location

How can institutions develop strategies for impact that align with potential conflicting priorities and expectations from within the institution as well as the external environment?

Michael Gastrow

Director: Science & Society, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), South Africa

Gabriela Ramos*

Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, France

▼ Incentivising policies for impact on a national & regional level

Location

Topic description tbc

Nardos Bekele-Thomas*

Chief Executive Officer, African Union Development Agency NEPAD, South Africa

Nora Ndege*

Co-Principal Investigator, Science Granting Council Initiative-Africa, Kenya

Teams and Interdisciplinary

Location

Topic description tbc

Himla Soodyall

Chief Executive Officer at Academy of Science of South Africa, South Africa

Alphonus Neba*

African Population and Health Research Center, Program Director, Kenya

Alicia Knoedler*

Office Head, U.S. National Science Foundation, USA

▼ Workshop: tbc

Location

Topic description tbc

Christoph Köller

Co-founder & Managing Partner, Görgen & Köller GmbH, Germany

Thursday, 17 October

12.30-13.20

LUNCH BREAK + GOOD PRACTICES OF SOCIETAL IMPACT STORIES

During this lunch buffet, you will have the opportunity to walk around and view different booths that are located around the lunch area. This will give you the option to listen to different organisations presenting their impact work.

13.20-14.20

ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

▼ International collaboration

Location

Joining forces from different corners of the world, policy-makers, universities, communities and businesses can collaborate on impact

Savathrie Margie Maistry

Director of Community Engagement,
Rhodes University, South Africa

Jacqueline Olang Kado*

Kenya

▼ Bridging gaps within the institution

Location

The quest for better societal impact should not be an add-on to the grounded workings of the scientific world, so how do we make it an integral part?

Renira Narrandes

Program Manager, Knowledge Translation, SickKids, Canada

▼ Inclusiveness in engagement

Location

How do we engage societal partners ethically and avoid 'grim-pact' on communities?

Diana Sanchez

Chief Researcher Impact and Research
Development division at DCES, Human
Sciences Research Council (HSRC),
South Africa

Plenary session: The power of storytelling

Auditorium

How to make your research (impact) interesting "the power of storytelling"

14.20-14.45

REFRESHMENT BREAK

14.45-15.45

AESIS FAMILY FEUD & IMPACT DEBATE

14.45

Presentations of the recommendations from the parallel and roundtable sessions

14.55

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.

Host

Anika Duut van Goor

Team #1

Precious Lukhele

Team #2

Rick Delbridge

Thursday, 17 October

15.45-17.00

SOCIAL PROGRAMME (Pre-registration required)

Bo Kaap Walking Tour - Motherland Coffee, Wale St & Georges Mall, Cape Town City Centre, 8000

Learn more about the vibrant Cape Malay culture during a guided tour of the Bo Kaap area. We will explore the colourful quarter and its rich history in groups of 30 participants. Highlights of the tour include the Auwal Masjeed Mosque, the old tailor's house and the Atlas Spice Trading Center. The walking tour will take around 90 minutes and end at the Bo-Kaap Kombuis, the location of our conference dinner.



18.00-20.30

CONFERENCE DINNER (Pre-registration required)



Bo-Kaap Kombuis - 7 August St, Schotsche Kloof, Cape Town, 8001

Experience traditional Cape Malay cuisine at the Bo-Kaap Kombuis. Run by Yusuf and Nazli, two locals who were born and raised in the Bo Kaap area, the restaurant offers authentic Cape Malay curries and flavoursome stews. The panoramic windows offer a beautiful view over Cape Town city centre and table mountain.



Friday, 18 October

9.00-9.30	WALK IN & REGISTRATION
9.30-9.40	WORDS OF WELCOME

9.30 Conference chair:

9.40-11.15	PLENARY OPENING: TRANSDISCIPLINARITY FOR MULTIDIMENTIONAL CHALLENGES
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9.40 **Linda Mtwisha*** Executive Director: Research, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Topic TBD

9.55 **Farieda Nazier** Head of Departement, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Topic: TBD

10.10 **Cheryl de la Rey***

Topic: TBD

10.25

Topic: TBD

10.40 **Panel discussion**

11.15-11.45	COFFEE & TEA BREAK
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Friday, 18 October

11.45-13.00

PARALLEL SESSIONS

▼ Co-creation and communities

Location

Building on involvement and engagement for societal impact while respecting communities and building trust

David Budtz Pedersen (Chair)

Professor of Science Communication & Impact Studies,
Humanomics Research Centre, Aalborg University, Denmark

Vhonani Netshandama

University of Venda, South Africa

▼ Methods and tools for demonstrating impact

Location

Monitoring & demonstrating impact, responsible metrics, methods & tools

Nader Ale Ebrahim

Freelance Consultant, Research Visibility and Impact Center,
Iran

Nelius Boshoff

Associate Professor, Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science
and Technology (CREST), University of Stellenbosch, South
Africa

▼ Incentivising, enabling & training researchers for impact

Location

Encouraging and guiding researchers of all fields with the correct attributes to create their own impact journey

Azwihangwisi Helen Mavhandu-Mudzusi

Head of Research and Graduate Studies, University of South
Africa, South Africa

Abdolbast Greede*

Head of the National Program for Enhancing International
Competitiveness of Libyan Universities, Ministry of higher
Education and Scientific Research,

Impact through business developments

Location

How can researchers and their partners co-design impactful projects and programmes?

Rosemary Wolson*

Univeristy of Johannesburg, South Africa

Wilfred Mijnhardt

Policy Director at RSM, Erasmus University, Netherlands

Lana Elramly*

Executive Director; Association of African Business Schools;
Egypt

▼ Workshop: Creative digital communication

Location

Topic description the

▼ = Engagement & Communication

▼ = Policy, Funding & Recognition

▼ = Infrastructures, Facilities & Tools

Friday, 18 October

13.00-14.00	LUNCH BREAK + GOOD PRACTICES OF SOCIETAL IMPACT STORIES
14.00-15.30	CLOSING PLENARY:
14.00	Presentation of the recommendations from all the parallel sessions
14.30	Panel with: Daya Reddy Emeritus Professor, University of Cape Town, South Africa
15.15	Closing remarks by the conference chair
15.30-16:00	CLOSING RECEPTION
16:00	END OF CONFERENCE

