

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.



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



National
Research
Foundation

25



THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS
CENTER FOR
AFRICA



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



Evaluators



Researchers

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

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, quality and accessibility of research. Additionally, the track will explore how to foster trust and build meaningful connections that ensure SSHA contributions are both recognised and utilized in addressing pressing global challenges.



Policy, Funding and Recognition

Focused on the critical elements of science policy-making, funding frameworks that increase awareness and successful impact, and building in rewards and recognition to incentivise for impact, this track will delve into the strategies necessary to elevate SSHA research. Discussions will centre around the development of impact assessment, the role of government and private sector partnerships, and the importance of advocating for SSHA 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 demonstrated 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 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



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

Michael Gastrow

Conference Chair

Daya Reddy

Professor Emeritus, University of Cape Town, South Africa

9.40-11.00

TRANSITIONING TO IMPACT - WHY AND WHERE ARE WE?

- AUDITORIUM -

9.40

Sarah Mosoetsa

CEO, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

9.55

Mlungisi Cele

CEO, National Advisory Council on Innovation, South Africa

10.10

Melanie Knetsch

Deputy Director: Financial Sustainability & Impact, UK Research and Innovation United Kingdom

Topic: Transitioning to an eco-system where SSHA disciplines have stronger impact on society

10.25

Panel discussion and Q&A

10.50

Good Practices of Societal Impact of SSHA

11.00-11.40

COFFEE, TEA & GROUP PHOTO BREAK

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

- Ground floor -



The app also allows for communicating with other attendees through chat

- AESIS App -



11.40-12.55

PARALLEL SESSIONS

▼ Driving impact through business development and collaboration with SMEs

Venue 4

Creating Impact through collaborations with business

Irene dal Poz (Chair)

Managing Consultant, Head of Impact Strategy, Oxentia, England

Norah Clarke

Founding Partner, Afralead, South Africa

Wilfred Mijnhardt

Honorary professor at Edinburgh Business School, Heriot-Watt University, Policy Director at RSM, Erasmus University, Netherlands

▼ Longterm regional collaboration structures

Venue 5

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

Ted Knight

Director of Strategic Initiatives & Impact; Special Assistant to the VP for Research, Division of Research and College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland, USA

▼ Assessment frameworks of Impact

Auditorium

Using assessment to plan for impact, identify impact, and communicate impact'

Genevieve Simpson (Chair)

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

Chris Brink

Former Vice Chancellor, New Castle University

Vhonani Netshandama

Director Community Engagement, Entrepreneurship, Inclusive Innovation and Commercialisation, University of Venda, South Africa

Open Science & Impact

Venue 6

How would having more access to scientific data and research affect scientific credibility and societal impact?

Lucila Del Buono (Chair)

Senior Project Manager, AESIS (Advancing and Evaluating Societal Impact of 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, South Africa

Ricardo Hartley Belmar

Researcher, Universidad Central de Chile, Data Observatory Foundation, Chile



▼ = 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 *Key challenges in Social Challenges, Humanities and Arts*

Mlungisi Cele

CEO, National Advisory Council on Innovation, South Africa

Heather Young-Leslie

Senior Research Partner, Portfolio of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation, University of Alberta, Canada

Nomfundo Makhubo

Stakeholder Manager, South African Radio Astronomy Observatory, South Africa

15.15 **Closing words from the conference chair: Michael Gastrow**

15.25-15.45

REFRESHMENT BREAK

15.45-16.00

WALKING TOGETHER TO SOCIAL PROGRAMME

16.00-17.15

SOCIAL PROGRAMME (Pre-registration required)

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

Boat departs at 16:15

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

Michael Gastrow

Conference Chair

9.40-10.50

PLENARY OPENING: SOCIETAL IMPACT - GLOBAL SOUTH PERSPECTIVES

9.40

Chris Brink

Former Vice Chancellor, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

Topic: Myths, Misunderstandings and Mistakes about Societal Impact

9.55

Soledad Quiroz Valenzuela

Deputy Director of Knowledge Management, Universidad Central de Chile, Chile

Topic: The Role of Global South Researchers in Shaping Global Science

10.10

Imtiaz Ismail Sooliman

Chairman & Founder, Gift of Givers Foundation, South Africa

Topic: The Impact of the Global South on Humanitarian Affairs Internationally

10.25

Panel discussion

10.50-11.15

COFFEE & TEA BREAK

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

- Venue 12&3 -



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

Auditorium

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

Soledad Quiroz Valenzuela (Chair)

Deputy Director of Knowledge Management, Universidad Central de Chile, Chile

Frank Zwetsloot

Founder & CEO of ScienceWorks, Netherlands

Jeremy Bingham

Junior Researcher, SACEMA (DSI-NRF CoE in Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis), South Africa

▼ Impact in an institutional strategy

Venue 4

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?

Anika Duut van Goor (Chair)

Director of AESIS (Advancing and Evaluating Societal Impact of Science)

Michael Gastrow

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

Nosisa Dube

Director: Evaluation of Impact Assessment, National Research Foundation, South Africa

Teams and Interdisciplinary

Venue 5

Himla Soodyall

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

Sally O'Connor

Director of Operations for the Social Science Research Park (SPARK), Cardiff University, United Kingdom

▼ Workshop: How to build and shape innovation ecosystem

Venue 6

Irene dal Poz

Managing Consultant, Head of Impact Strategy, Oxentia, England

▼ = Engagement & Communication

▼ = Policy, Funding & Recognition

▼ = Infrastructures, Facilities & Tools

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

Venue 4

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

Rick Delbridge

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

▼ Bridging gaps within the institution

Venue 5

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?

Ricardo Hartley Belmar

Researcher, Universidad Central de Chile, Data Observatory Foundation, Chile

▼ Inclusiveness in engagement

Venue 6

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

Diana Carolina Sanchez Betancourt

Research Manager, Human Science Research Council, South Africa

Precious Lukhele

Policy Specialist, National Advisory Council on Innovation, South Africa

Plenary session: The power of storytelling

Auditorium

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

Renira Narrandes

Program Manager, Knowledge Translation, SickKids, Canada

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

Jean McGloin, Georg Russegger, Simon Lotz

Team #2

Rick Delbridge, Precious Lukhele, Ricardo Hartley Belmar

Thursday, 17 October

WALKING TOGETHER TO SOCIAL PROGRAMME

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:** Michael Gastrow

9.40-11.15

PLENARY OPENING: TRANSDISCIPLINARITY FOR MULTIDIMENSIONAL CHALLENGES

9.40 **Anna Taylor** Researcher, African Climate and Development Initiative, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Topic: Building receptivity for transdisciplinarity: principles and practices for moving people, ideas and data in and out of the academy

10.00 **Farieda Nazier** Curator and Senior Academic (FADA Gallery), University of Johannesburg, South Africa

10.20 **Rolf Hvidtfeldt** Associate Professor, Aalborg University, Denmark

10.40 **Panel discussion**

11.15-11.45

COFFEE & TEA BREAK



11.45-13.00

PARALLEL SESSIONS

▼ Co-creation and communities

Venue 4

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

Vhonani Netshandama

Director Community Engagement, Entrepreneurship, Inclusive Innovation and Commercialisation, University of Venda, South Africa

Farieda Nazier

Curator and Senior Academic (FADA Gallery), University of Johannesburg, South Africa

▼ Methods and tools for demonstrating impact

Auditorium

Monitoring & demonstrating impact, responsible metrics, methods & tools

Anika Duut van Goor (Chair)

Director, AESIS

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

Edmore Marinda

Research Director, Impact Assessment, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa

▼ Incentivising impact, policies, culture and skills

Venue 5

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

Vusi Gumede

Professor & Dean: Faculty of Economics, Development & Business Sciences, University of Mpumalanga, South Africa

Irene dal Poz

Managing Consultant, Head of Impact Strategy, Oxentia, England

Workshop: Mobilizing evidence-based solutions for societal benefit: challenges and opportunities

Venue 6

This interactive session explores how universities design and operationalize initiatives intended to drive societal impacts from research and innovation activities. In small groups, we will explore themes of incentives and rewards, infrastructure and institutionalized supports, and grassroots initiatives with bold intent

Rick Delbridge

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

Jordana Lynn Armstrong

Strategic Advisor, Social Innovation, University of Maryland, United States, University of Calgary, Canada

▼ = 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

Professor Emeritus, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Renira Narrandes

Program Manager, Knowledge Translation, SickKids, Canada

Trevor Parry-Giles

Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Research, University of Maryland, United States

15.15

Closing remarks

Michael Gastrow

Conference Chair

Mosa Moshabela

Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Cape Town, South Africa

15.30-16.30

CLOSING RECEPTION

16.30

END OF CONFERENCE



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