17th DEFSA Conference | September 2023

A HYBRID CONFERENCE HOSTED BY STADIO - Centurion Campus

Vulindlela *making new pathways*

Design education community moving forward socially and environmentally seeking new pathways in a southern African context

DEFSA conferences celebrate new and emerging research by educational practitioners within higher education design contexts in South Africa. The 17th DEFSA conference aims to reflect on current design education practices that foreground *new* and *relevant* research to advance the development and recognition of design education within the southern African context.

THEME

The conference aims to celebrate the broad conceptual theme of moving forward by exploring new pathways open to interpretation and guided through various subthemes. By foregrounding new relevant design education research, we seek to contribute towards discourse and research within a South African context. Furthermore, the conference aims to offer a space to explore student perspectives regarding design education practices within the classroom, curriculum, and broader learning contexts.

Sub-themes for the conference include:

- **Doing:** New pathways in design education

  Doing design changed significantly over the decade, and design educators are preparing students for a world which few educators have experience of. Papers are invited that consider design education and change factors, such as technology (e.g. metaverse, 4IR, 5IR, AI, and VR) economic and business factors; and user needs and design enterprise factors.

- **Learning:** New approaches to design education

  Design teaching and learning happen in a fast-changing environment that challenges the way design is taught and curricula are developed. Papers are invited that critically explore and reflect on these challenges and opportunities, such as the learning experiences of design students, options of hybrid teaching, technology in design education, assessment practices, student success, and possible alternative perspectives.

- **Making:** Practice-based/led or design-led research

  Design is ideally positioned to harness the potential of "making" as part of research. Papers are invited that demonstrate and investigate how design making becomes part of knowledge creation in research and postgraduate studies, as well as the nature of this research and practice, challenges, and the potential of such approaches. In this theme, we welcome creative work and artefacts as submissions that demonstrate innovative ways of doing design.

- **Connecting:** Co-design, co-research and engaging with communities

  Design, design education and design research take place in a networked environment with various participants and stakeholders such as industry, communities, and end-users. How can design educators prepare students for these connections? Are we building pathways for co-research and cross-border or global collaboration to move Afrikan design scholarship and practice forward?

- **Caring:** Inclusivity and design for good

  Topics in this theme extend the concepts of human-centred design to that of humanity and life-centred design. The topics consider educating designers for the planet and all people. Papers are invited that critically explore and develop knowledge in design education in areas such as service learning, community partnerships, design activism, and design for the Sustainable Development Goals, etc.

THE ABSTRACTS

Your abstract should be between 300 and 500 words. The abstract should be a concise statement of the problem, approach, results, and conclusions of the work and should clearly state the paper's contribution to the field. Include three to five keywords with your submission. All references to the author/s in the abstract body should be removed before submission.

POSTGRADUATE CORNER

Master's and doctoral candidates are invited to send abstracts for a ten-minute work-in-progress presentation. These will be presented in a separate session.

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE

International keynote speakers to be announced.
Should you wish to propose a keynote speaker, please mail president-elect@defsa.org.za.

CONFERENCE FEE

Free for paid-up DEFSA members and R500 for non-DEFSA members. A page fee will be charged for accepted papers to cover the production costs of the proceedings.

2023 DEADLINES

12 December	First call for Abstracts
16 January	Second call for Abstracts
20 February	Abstracts uploaded to the www.defsa.co.za website
20 March	Notification of the acceptance of abstracts
19 June	Full papers uploaded to the DEFSA website
31 July	Notification of the acceptance of the full paper
1 September	Video presentation uploaded to the DEFSA website
19-20 September	Conference (TBC)
30 September	Revised and finalised papers uploaded to the DEFSA website
30 December	Publication of the conference proceedings

FULL PAPERS AND VIDEO PRESENTATIONS

Full papers should be between 3 000 and 5 000 words. The DEFSA editors will communicate the technical requirements for the full papers and the video presentations to authors whose abstracts are accepted.

PEER REVIEW

All abstracts and full papers will be subject to a double-blind peer review process. Authors with accepted abstracts will be allowed to present at the conference. The outcomes of the full paper review will be communicated to the authors once the results are verified by the editors of the conference proceedings. Any decision taken by the editors is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

ENQUIRIES

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IMPORTANT

To access links to submit an abstract or a paper, or to review a paper or view papers and reviews, you must REGISTER and LOG IN to the DEFSA website, namely www.defsa.co.za. Usernames and passwords are case-sensitive.