

# HELTASA



HIGHER EDUCATION LEARNING & TEACHING ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



# NWU<sup>®</sup>

NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY  
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT  
YUNIBESITHI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA

# [UN]CONFERENCE 2023

**Celebrations of Scholarship:**  
Connecting the lights



**Calls for  
Participation**

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**Host:** North-West University

**Date:** 24 to 26 October 2023

**Hybrid Event:** Online platform or In-person (Vanderbijlpark Campus)

Across the Higher Education landscape, institutions are responding to shifts toward new ways of enhancing learning, teaching, assessment, and scholarship. Participate in this year's HELTASA (Un)Conference by spotlighting your contextually relevant practices and scholarship. Shine a light on the learning and teaching experiences in higher education, digital transformation in higher education, scholarship in higher education, and higher education practices for changing times.

Load shedding, generators, and solar panels now feature in higher education planning, learning, and teaching. It is easy to focus on the many challenges and issues that may leave us feeling 'in the dark' but we want to celebrate the achievements and ways of moving forward. Connect with colleagues in dialogue to share lightbulb moments! Join the HELTASA project teams throughout the academic year as we build together in different pathways to our national event from 24 to 26 October 2023.

Is there 'light at the end of the tunnel'? The North-West University (NWU) invites you to submit a proposal and register for the (Un)Conference! Let us spotlight the scholarly engagement of Southern African higher education practitioners and sustain the conversations at the HELTASA (Un)Conference 2023!

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**Three words to describe this year's event:**

English: **Illuminating!**

Afrikaans: **Verhelderend!**

Setswana: **Kgalalelommala!**

English: **Connection**

Afrikaans: **Konneksie**

Setswana: **Kgolagano**

English: **Radiate**

Afrikaans: **Uitstraal**

Setswana: **Galalela**

## A Call for Participation

### Outline

(Un)Conference participants are invited to join us as we connect and together, spotlight learning and teaching institutionally, nationally, and globally, particularly in times of dimming lights. We encourage participants to submit proposals exploring the (Un)Conference sub-themes:

#### 1. Shining a light on the learning and teaching experience in higher education

- Student access, support and success
- Spaces and places for learning
- Innovations in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching
- Decolonial approaches

#### 2. Spotlight on digital transformation in higher education

- A human-centered approach to digital learning environments
- The role of Artificial Intelligence tools
- 21<sup>st</sup> century digital literacies for staff and students
- Digital futures for learning and teaching

#### 3. Illuminating scholarship in higher education

- Bridging the divide between teaching and research
- Expressions and recognition of scholarship
- Enabling university communities (staff, students and other stakeholder collaborations)
- Quality as scholarship in higher education

#### 4. Highlighting higher education practices for changing times

- Higher education practitioner roles and identities
- Curriculum innovations
- Approaches for higher education professional learning
- Agile higher education leadership for changing times

To follow the (Un)Conference approach, participants are encouraged to initiate scholarly conversations in relation to one of our sub-themes. Proposal submissions should include two to three key questions for further engagement that your proposal raises. The HELTASA (Un)Conference provides participants with the opportunity to share ideas, thoughts, research studies, and engage with each other in one of the following formats:

## Oral Presentations

**Presentation time:** 15 – 20 minutes (including Q&A)

Share completed work or work-in-progress. Rather than traditional research presentations, these presentations should be reflective, provocative, inspiring, and focus on findings but also, on questions that have emerged or still remain from a proposal to feed into the facilitated conversation among presenters and participants in the space. We want to aim to foster dialogue and discussion, rather than 'show and tell'. Proposal submissions should end with two-to-three questions to promote discussion.

## Poster presentations

**Presentation time:** 10 – 15 minutes (including Q&A)

Poster presentations are for shorter presentations and are ideal for presenters who want the opportunity for raising conversations and dialogue. The participant shares ideas to others using a combination of visuals and text. Poster sessions facilitate a rich exchange of ideas. We encourage the use of digital posters and creative formats.

## Artistic demonstrations

**Presentation time:** 15 minutes (including Q&A)

These creative contributions can be in poetry, song, dance and/or other creative presentations.

## Critical Dialogues

**Time:** 45 – 60 minutes

Critical dialogues begin with provocations followed by a collective engagement with participants. These can be in the form of critical dialogues or round table discussions (not presentations).

## Workshops

**Time:** 1 – 2 hours

Workshops will be more interactive or 'hands on' and purposefully structured according to the aims of the facilitators.

## Submission of proposal

Include the following when you submit a proposal:

- **Title**
- **Sub-theme:**
  1. Shining a light on the learning and teaching experience in higher education
  2. Spotlight on digital transformation in higher education
  3. Illuminating scholarship in higher education
  4. Highlighting higher education practices for changing times
- **Format:** Oral presentation, poster presentation, artistic demonstration, critical dialogue, workshop
- **Proposal** (Up to 500 words + 3 question(s) for engagement)
- Up to 5 keywords

## Note on proposal acceptance

Speakers / presenters / facilitators are required to participate in person. When you receive confirmation of your proposal being accepted, please ensure your content is uploaded ahead of the event (please revert to the important dates). The technical team will be on standby to support you before you engage with fellow participants.

[Proposal Submission link. \(An account with Oxford Abstracts will be required or sign-in via Google/LinkedIn\)](#)

[Conference Registration link](#)

## Important Dates

**Due date for submission of proposals:** 11 August 2023

**Feedback on proposals:** 30 August 2023

**Registrations close:** 12 October 2023

**Due date for payment:** 13 October 2023

**Upload of presentations:** 20 October 2023

**(Un)Conference:** 24 – 26 October 2023

## Registration 2023

Select the option that will best suit your budget and register!

### **Attend in person – I would like to connect with colleagues face-to-face**

R4 600

Paygate Link

○ **This package includes:**

(Un)Conference bag, lanyard, meal vouchers, ticket to attend the social networking event, and ticket to attend the gala dinner. It also includes HELTASA membership for 2024.

○ **This package does not include:**

Costs and/or bookings for travel, accommodation, shuttle services to/from the Vanderbijlpark Campus.

### **Virtual attendance – I would like to connect with colleagues online**

R1 600

Paygate Link

○ **This package includes:**

There will be an online platform for participants to connect to the programme sessions. It also includes HELTASA membership for 2024.

## More Information

If you would like further information on HELTASA membership, please contact Ms Nomfundo Siqwede: [info@heltasa.org.za](mailto:info@heltasa.org.za)

If you have enquiries about the HELTASA (Un)Conference 2023, please contact Ms Memory Smit: [HELTASA-Conference-Enquiries@nwu.ac.za](mailto:HELTASA-Conference-Enquiries@nwu.ac.za)