

# Dancing on the Learning and Teaching Waves of Change in Africa

20 -23 NOVEMBER | NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY | PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA



NELSON MANDELA  
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## FIRST CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### Context

Both globally and nationally, there are many **waves of change** that Higher Education (HE) institutions need to navigate at the moment. Some of these are - fee free higher education; financial sustainability in the face of shrinking government funding; producing graduates that function effectively in a globalised, connected world but who are also locally relevant; including the student voice; and Africanisation (decolonisation) and transformation of curricula, academia and academic spaces. In the light of this, the theme that was chosen for the 2018-2020 *Ministerial Statement on the Implementation of the University Capacity Development Programme through Effective Management and Utilisation of the University Capacity Development Grant* is very fitting; namely:

***“Transforming teaching, learning, researching and leading  
towards enhanced quality, success and equity in universities”***

Through scholarly presentations and conversations around how learning and teaching are being transformed at our universities, this conference aims to stimulate and disrupt thinking and paradigms, and gain insight into promising innovations in response to some of the HE **waves of change**.

Complexity science literature suggests that it is no longer fruitful to manage and drive change in the conventional, linear, mechanistic ways – by generating a strategic priority, determining a course of action and implementing it to achieve predetermined outcomes. Instead, new paradigms and novel approaches are needed to effect transformative change in a living system such as a university. In complex, uncertain times that demand new ways of being and doing, a non-linear theory of change and paradigms related to complexity and a living systems approach provide new perspectives for organisational transformation. Working in these new paradigms and approaches unlocks shared envisioning and then requires acting collectively and creatively in fluid and sometimes “messy” ways by “dancing with systems” (Meadows, n.d.) to bring about transformation. So, by focusing on change and transformation with new lenses/paradigms, conference presentations and conversations can provide insight into how academics, academic development professionals and academic leaders are **dancing on the waves of change** in innovative and creative ways to systemically and organically transform learning and teaching.

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# RHYTHMS

When preparing scholarly presentations for the conference, presenters should focus on change and transformation in HE that dances to one or a combination of the rhythms below.

- **Responsive Curricula, and Curriculum and Career Pathways**
- **Higher Education Pedagogies for Sustainable Development**, which includes
  - New/responsive pedagogies (e.g., humanising pedagogy; pedagogy of hope; transformative and transgressive pedagogies)
  - Sustainable assessment
- **Student Access and Success**
- **Learning Analytics to inform transformative teaching, learning and support**
- **Leadership to respond to complexity and uncertainty in novel ways**
- **Transformative teaching development across the academic career trajectory**

# INVITATION TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

You are invited to submit an abstract for the scholarly contribution that you would like to make at the 2018 HELTASA conference. Details regarding the types of presentations and the submission of abstracts are provided below.

## Types of Presentations

- a) **Oral paper** (20 min): That focuses on conveying ongoing or completed work which may include critical reflection, an emerging conceptual understanding/perspective/ idea/theoretical argument or reporting on a research study.
- b) **Flipped paper** (30 min): Scholarly paper made available online to conference participants before the session. The presenter then introduces key points made in the paper and provides a set of questions to stimulate discussion and dialogue with and among attendees.
- c) **Practitioner presentations** (20 min): Sharing an innovation introduced in a module/programme/development initiative by indicating what prompted it, what you did and whether this was based on theory/research, student reactions, self-reflections, lessons learned, its impact and potential scalability.
- d) **Critical dialogue** (60 min): Input on a specific topic related to one or a combination of the conference rhythms by a panel of experts, followed by a group dialogue.
- e) **Digital Poster presentation**: Posters depict a work-in-progress using text and graphics and are concise and thought-provoking. Posters will only be displayed digitally during a specific session. Presenters will have an opportunity to pitch their work to attendees and will be available for discussion and questions throughout the session.
- f) **Pre-Conference Workshop** (range from 120 to 240 min): A hands-on workshop on a topic related to one or a combination of the conference rhythms where participants are actively involved in the session. **Workshops will take place on 20 November.**

## Abstract Submission

All authors and researchers interested in making a scholarly contribution at the conference are invited to submit an abstract by following the procedure described on the Heltasa2018 information website, found at <http://heltasa2018.mandela.ac.za/>. An **Abstract Form** in MS Word can be downloaded from the website. This form can be used for the six different types of contributions that can be made at the conference. Only abstracts submitted by email to [conference@sereni-t.co.za](mailto:conference@sereni-t.co.za) will be accepted.

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# IMPORTANT DATES

<b>14 May</b>	<b>First call</b> for abstracts. <i>The requirements for and procedure to submit abstracts is described on the Heltasa2018 information website, found at <a href="http://heltasa2018.mandela.ac.za/">http://heltasa2018.mandela.ac.za/</a>.</i>
<b>29 June</b>	<b>Deadline</b> for submission of abstracts
<b>31 July</b>	<b>Notification</b> of acceptance of abstracts ( <i>first call</i> )
<b>16 July</b>	<b>Second call</b> for abstracts
<b>14 Aug</b>	<b>Deadline</b> for submission of abstracts for the second call
<b>14 Sept</b>	<b>Notification</b> of acceptance of abstracts ( <i>second call</i> )

## 2018 FEES

Early-Bird Registration ( <i>closing 30 June 2018</i> )	ZAR 4 350.00
Standard Registration ( <i>closing 15 September 2018</i> )	ZAR 4 685.00
Late registration ( <i>closing 15 October 2018</i> )	ZAR 5 200.00
Student fee	ZAR 2 500.00
Pre-conference Workshops	ZAR 950.00
Welcome Cocktail - 20 Nov ( <i>optional</i> )	FREE
Cultural celebration - 21 Nov ( <i>optional</i> )	ZAR 175.00 (delegate) ZAR 250.00 (additional guest)
Gala Dinner - 22 Nov ( <i>optional</i> )	ZAR 375.00 (delegate) ZAR 500.00 (additional guest)

## Additional Information

Information regarding the venues where the conference will be held (on the South campus of Nelson Mandela University in Summerstrand, the city of Port Elizabeth), accommodation, the conference programme and keynote speakers will be made available and updated from time to time on the conference website <http://heltasa2018.mandela.ac.za/>.

For more information contact the conference organisers at [conference@sereni-t.co.za](mailto:conference@sereni-t.co.za).

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